



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611  
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[www.auburnac.org](http://www.auburnac.org)  
 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan  
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

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**LAY MINISTERS**

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	Pam Graul-Gwizdala

**PRAYER LINE**

Mary Jane..... (989) 513-5137 [vicmaryj@hotmail.com](mailto:vicmaryj@hotmail.com)

Sisters of St. Clare ..... [srsclare.com/prayer](http://srsclare.com/prayer)

**BEFRIENDER**

Mary Ellyn Gushow ..... (989) 662-6745

**COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND**

Pam Graul-Gwizdala ..... (989) 513-3027

**MASSES**

Saturday 4:30 PM      Wednesday 8:00 AM (Not July)  
 Sunday 9:30 AM      Thursday 8:00 AM (Not July)

**WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Tuesday 8:00 AM (Labor Day through Memorial Day)

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend each month. (Please check with parish office for current schedule) Must be active, registered member of parish family. Contact the Parish Office.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Arrangements should be made by contacting Parish Office at least six months in advance. Must be active, registered member of parish family.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Notify Parish Office of parishioners experiencing serious illness, injury, or hospitalization. Communal Anointing of the Sick is celebrated annually in the Fall.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Available 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish \*Please call Parish Office for appointment.

**AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
 114 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611  
 Phone.: (989) 662-6431 Fax: (989)662-3391  
[www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org)  
 Clark Switalski, Principal ..... [cswitalski@auburnac.org](mailto:cswitalski@auburnac.org)  
 School Office..... [schooloffice@auburnac.org](mailto:schooloffice@auburnac.org)

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal..... (989) 662-6431

**WEATHER POLICY**

If Bay City Public Schools or AACS close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5.

## Week of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### MONDAY

305: 1 Sm 1:1-8 Ps 116:12-19 Mk 1:14-20

### TUESDAY

306: 1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8 Mk 1:21-28

### WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

307: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10 Mk 1:29-39

### THURSDAY 8 am Mass

308: 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45

### FRIDAY

309: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12

### SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

301: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 14-19; 10:1a Ps 21:2-7 Mk 2:13-17

### SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

66: Is62:1-5 Ps96:1-3, 7-10 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

### Reflecting on the Word:

The baptism of Jesus reminds each of us of our own baptism. The people gathered heard with words, "You are my beloved Son." At baptism, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and become beloved children of God. After his baptism, Jesus began his ministry to bring about the kingdom of God. Receiving God's own life has lit an unquenchable fire in us, God's beloved children, and kindled our desire to know God and tell other about him.



### Living the Word:

Many families keep and treasure the symbols of their baptism. Continue your conversation by sharing pictures or video of each person's baptism, along with their candles and white garment, if you have them. Explain why each godparent was specially chosen. Tell your children about their names. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for being called to be a child of God.

### Congratulations on your baptism!

**Valorie Marie Robbins**

*Daughter of  
Jonathon & Kendra Robbins*



### UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

*Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – RCIA 6 PM*

*Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Commission Meetings – 6:30 pm*

*Parish Council Meeting – 7 pm*

*Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – School Mass – 9 am – ½ day of School*

*Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Baptism – 11 am*

### STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$10,598.85

Catholic Relief Services: \$500

Religious Retirement: \$70 Food Pantry: \$120

Children Good Deeds

... I made my bed when my Daddy told me...

...I cleaned the kitchen floor and got a hug after...Fed my dog...

...Got the mail...I stacked firewood...

### AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



The students returned to school this week to a new year and new virtue. This month we are talking about **docility**. Docility is the willingness to learn or be taught or accept direction,

being open and receptive. This is the perfect virtue to focus on for a school as we continue to build Disciples of Christ!

This week Mrs. DesJardins also came into the school to bless all our rooms! It was great for the children to see all the people who want them to be successful and grow in their faith. God is good and we have the great task of showing the children on a daily basis of how good he is in our lives. Have a great week!

...God Bless...

### Scrip Sale this Weekend!

Don't forget we are having our monthly Scrip Sale after masses **this weekend** in the Social Hall! Help our school by purchasing gift cards to many local and online businesses!



### Knitting Club Update...

We will be meeting on the third Thursday of every month at the parish center. Our first get-together will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. New members are welcome! It is a great time to meet new people and make projects for our community, especially in the wintertime.



### Of Note...

*Yearly contribution statements will be mailed out the middle of January. If you have any questions please call the office, (989) 662-6861, to speak with Janet our bookkeeper for clarification.*



## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### **Baptism of the Lord:**

Patrick Marrin, *Celebration*

Amid powerful signs, what is most startling, apparently even to John the Baptist, is that Jesus's messianic identity is to be tied not to political revolution but to Isaiah's suffering servant. The inaugural sign, which will be repeated later, mid-course in Jesus's ministry at his Transfiguration is the opening of the skies—a sign that accompanies divine prophecy—a brilliant light and a heavenly voice. God's intentions are made transparent in Jesus, who is the visible image of the invisible God. Jesus will proclaim God's generous mercy over God's demanding justice. An unprecedented offer is being extended to a sinful world—the full forgiveness of sins. Jesus will take the old, as represented by John, the last Old Testament prophet, and push it forward to the next level. Even John will not be able to follow for a time and does not understand what Jesus is doing. What John is given is Jesus' mysterious name as “the Lamb of God”—the paschal victim and sacrifice who is source of atonement with God. Jesus will take on himself the just punishment for the sins of the world. By his death the enormous burden of evil generated by human sin and selfishness will be absorbed and vanquished so that we can go free.

What kind of Messiah do we want? Are we willing to accept and follow Jesus, who responded to violence by absorbing it into himself, transforming evil by the power of sacrificial love and forgiveness? We have been baptized into Christ, into the same cleansing, defining waters he entered to emerge as God's suffering servant. We find our identity and mission, spiritual and temporal, as his followers. If we accept such a baptism, everything will be different.

### **Ministry of Service (Isaiah 42):**

*Celebration*

Believers are offered today the example of the Isaian Servant, featured herein the first of the four songs that celebrate his mission. That mission would bring about the healing for the sick, wholeness for the broken, justice for the oppressed and salvation for all. During the period of the exile in Babylonia, when they are thought to have been composed, these songs carried a message of encouragement that sustained the exiles and kept their hope alive. They had looked for God's intervention on their behalf and had previously hung their hopes on a political and/or militaristic figure. But God, who is never predictable. Offered leadership in the form of a servant who would heal and instill hope.

When the servant songs are paired with today's Gospel, the early believers in Jesus recognized him as the promised servant. This role was ratified by the “voice from the heavens” who claimed Jesus as Son and Servant. At baptism, believers, too, are claimed as sons and daughters of a loving God. We are also claimed by God's Son and our Brother, who makes us sharers in this ministry of service. For that reason, our lives are to be spent as his was, in being healers, people of hope, preachers of good news and faithful servants of all.

### **No Separations (Acts 10):**

*Celebrations*

Two millennia ago, the world into which Jesus was born and in which the church began to develop could have been characterized by varying degrees of separation. Among the Romans, there were distinctions between patricians and plebeians; in the army in which Cornelius was enlisted, men were distinguished and separated by rank. Culturally and academically, the Greeks thought themselves to be a step ahead of all other human cultures, whom they referred to as barbarians. Among the Jews, there were both legislated and

traditional separations between themselves, as God's chosen peoples, and the gentiles; between men and women; between clean and unclean; between slave and free.

Rather than support or affirm any of these separations or the superior ethnicity of one group over another, Jesus, as described here by Luke, “went about doing good.” That goodness was not reserved for a few but was intended for all of humankind in the form of healing and welcoming forgiveness. When Jesus interacted with those in need, he did not ask to see their credentials before extending God's love to them. Nor did he judge their worthiness or lack thereof. He saw the need and extended himself in service.

### **Way of Life (Luke 3):**

*Celebration*

Luke's reference to the opened sky was intended to remind readers of the prayer of those awaiting God's messianic intervention: “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down!” (Isa 64:, or in some translations, 63:19). In the Spirit's descent on Jesus, readers were encouraged to recognize his anointing, not only in preparation for his roles as king, priest, prophet and savior but also as the servant featured in the Isaian songs. Only later in his ministry would Jesus' mission as servant be fully revealed as he innocently suffered for the sake of sinners. This aspect of his servanthood would affirm the ambivalent and ironic character of baptism as a complete immersion in water and life as well as in suffering and death.

As members of this new people of God, all baptized believers in Jesus are also anointed for service. This means that we are to hear with his open and undistracted ears; we are to see with his clear and unbiased eyes. We are to reach out with hands and hearts that refuse no one and welcome all. In this way, baptism becomes not just a single rite or sacramental celebration, but a way of life inspired and empowered by Jesus, by God, in the Spirit.

### **Immanuel:**

*Grace Works, Dallas Texas*

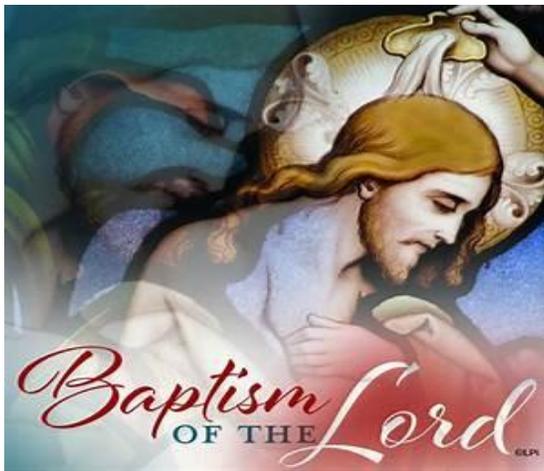
Disarming expectations is an invitation God delivers to us on this Sunday when we remember again the baptism of the Lord. If the people of that day had it all wrong about John and what to expect from him, how are we missing the gift God would bring us? Perhaps we would re-visit the expectations we have placed on each other and remember that in so many areas of our lives, God can meet our deepest needs. Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ comes as the only one worthy of our life's full devotion.

Simply put, what we may be expecting of others may only be met by rightly relating to God in Jesus Christ. He is One who can fully bless us so we can genuinely bless others. He is the One who can satisfy the deepest hungers of our souls so we can walk faithfully with others who have lost their way on life's road. He is the One who can care for us as the gentle shepherd empowering us to care for others by giving his generous grace.

Disarming expectations is not a story trapped in the pages of Luke's Gospel. No, not at all! Dear ones, by disarming our shallow and misplaced expectations, God summons to us this Lord's Day to take our focus off what others can do for us and, in their place, see what God comes in Christ to do within us. And his work of Holy Spirit and fire, is nothing less than God's good news to us who place on others and ourselves expectations only God can meet. Unrealistic expectations? Disarm them today with God's help. And in so doing, find again the One who is the Messiah.

*“Help me remember,  
Lord, baptism is my call  
to service”*





**Update for CMA...**

Here is the latest update for CMA A recent report from the diocese indicates that **\$51,720.52** approximately **74%** of our target has been pledged/donated toward our parish target of **\$69,796**. With **226** of our parishioners that have participated. We would like to be just as successful in reaching our goal as we have always done in years past.

John D. McNally 989-662-6952



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**St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn**



COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,000	\$1,500
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,400	\$1,750
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 300 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 500	\$1,200
Burial	\$ 650	\$ 850
Burial of Cremains	\$ 150	\$ 175
Saturday Burial	\$ 200 additional	\$ 200 additional
Foundation	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch

**Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861**