

# Week of January 15, 2017

## MONDAY

Heb 5:1-10 \* Ps 110:1-4 \* Mk 2:18-22

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Heb 6:10-20 \* Ps 111:1-2,4-5,9-10 \* Mk 2:23-28

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 7:1-3,15-17 \* Ps 110:1-4 \* Mk 3:1-6

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 7:25-8:6 \* Ps 40:7-10,17 \* Mk 3:7-12

## FRIDAY

Heb 8:6-13 \* Ps 85:8,10-14 \* Mk 3:13-19

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 9:2-3,11-14 \* Ps 47:2-3,6-9 \* Mk 3:20-21

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Is 8:23-9:3 \* Ps 27:1,4,13-14 \* 1 Cor 1:10-13,17 \* Mk 4:12-23

\*All events take place at St. Gabriel East Campus unless otherwise noted.

## Parish Activities

- Mon., Jan. 16 6:15pm Religious Education  
Tues., Jan. 17 10:00am Scripture Study (Psalms)  
5:30pm RCIA  
6:30pm Auburn Area Quilters-West Campus  
Wed., Jan. 18 10:00am Parish Knitters  
Thurs. Jan. 19 6:00pm School Committee Meeting  
7:00pm PTO Meeting

**Adult Scripture Study:** The Bible is at the heart of our Catholic Faith and our relationship with God. At the heart of the Bible are the Psalms, prayers from God that help us learn to pray. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them. Establish an intimate personal dialogue with God through the Psalms, Tues., Jan. 17, 10am in the Parish Center. We will begin with an introductory session using the DVD set *Psalms: The School of Prayer* presented by Jeff Cavins, Dr. Tim Gray and Sarah Christmyer. Everyone is welcome!!!

**All ministers of the parish -** Ministers of Hospitality, Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers: Fr. Bert Gohm will be presenting a workshop about ministering in our parish on Thurs., Feb. 2 at 6:30pm or Sat. Feb. 4 at 9:30am at East Campus. If you have considered becoming a minister, this would be a great overview! All current and potential future ministers should plan on attending one of the sessions! Please RSVP to the parish office! *The Worship Commission*

**Being Good Neighbors:** Complaints have been received at the Township Hall about the way some parishioners are exiting the lot onto Midland Road. There is a stop sign there for a purpose. STOP, look both ways, then exit. The police may be patrolling the parish, as well as the high school!!!  
*Fr. Tom*

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$10,246.00  
Food Pantry: \$20.00

**Year-end Statements:** On Thursday of this past week, statements of parishioner's contributions for the 2016 calendar year were sent to each envelope holder. If there are any questions about your statement, contact Janet, (our bookkeeper - she's in her office Mon., Wed. & Thurs.).

As indicated in the accompanying letter, the run of statements also reveals those who gave little or nothing during the past year. This number is usually around 35 or so. This group will soon be contacted with respect to their parish participation and support.

Those who do not receive a statement are not "registered" parishioners. If you have been attending this church with some regularity but have not yet registered, let this be a nudge that moves you in that direction. All you need to do is make an appointment with the pastor for a short visit.  
*Fr. Tom*

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
Someone asks, "Whose disciple are you?" How would you respond to this question?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** John the Baptist connected his experience of the Spirit hovering over Jesus with his mission to serve as a baptizer. He was rewarded with the certainty that Jesus was indeed the one "who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." Fearless John the Baptist! As wild and rough as he was depicted to be, he made known a beautiful, gentle truth: Jesus as the Son of God was announced by John to Israel.

► **Living the Word:** Jesus didn't really need to be baptized, but it happened so that he could follow religious history. He also let John publicly introduce him to Israel. Attend a baptism at your parish or a nearby parish; Baptisms are often celebrated during Mass on a weekend. Help the children reflect by asking afterwards: what did you see or hear during the Baptism that announced publicly that the child was now a member of a new family of faith? Was there ever a moment in your life when you felt without a doubt that God loved you?

► **Being a disciple of Christ:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines a disciple of Christ as one who keeps the faith and lives with it, but also professes it, confidently bears witness to it and spreads it. In the Gospels Jesus defined some of the characteristics of a disciple...

† A disciple must love Jesus even more than his immediate family. Luke 14:26

† A disciple requires self-denial, complete dedication, willing obedience, and total commitment – even unto death. Luke 14:27

† A disciple surrenders everything for Jesus. Luke 14:33

† A disciple remains true to Jesus' words and teachings. John 8:31

† A disciple loves others as Jesus has loved him. John 13:34-35

Do you believe you are personally called to be a **Disciple of Christ?**

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Mark Your Calendar:** Kindergarten Round-Up and All School Open House, Thurs., Feb. 23.

► This month the students are learning about the virtue, COURAGE. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."  
*Joshua 1:9*

► **Like Auburn Area Catholic School** on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! We love to share the wonderful things happening at AACSS!!

**Thank You:** On behalf of the countless survivors who come to Bay Area Women's Center for assistance, I would like to thank you for the recent most generous donation of Christmas gifts for several of our families. As these families continue to transition from shelter to being on their own, times are still very difficult and your assistance helped make things a bit easier and brighter.  
*Bay Area Women's Center*

## From Father Tom's Desk

### Ordinary Time

*St. Andrew Bible Missal*

Wasted time is not a prized commodity in American society. We are a people ruled by the clock. Time is money because time is to be filled with purposeful controlled activity which is productive of things which can be sold. We are convinced that we must be in control of time. The last thing the productive American would want to do is waste time playing around with realities that do not produce a

saleable commodity.

But the Creator of heaven and earth is described by the scriptures as the original and the best of players. Creative activity is playful, and creative people do not feel that what they do is a job. Creative people also have a sense that their creativity and all that they fashion in the creative spirit are gifts they have received. The Christian can speak of this and the contemplative vision which sees all reality as gift or grace. Our thankful response we call worship or eucharist.

We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday. The every seven-day celebration of the Lord's Day is the basic structure upon which the Church Year is built. The great liturgical seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter are more expansive celebrations of particular aspects of the one paschal mystery which we celebrate every Lord's Day. These special seasons focus our attention upon critical dimensions of one mystery so overwhelming that we are compelled to separate out its various elements for particular attention. These seasons in no way minimize the critical importance of the Sunday celebration through the rest of the year. Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on the first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a Sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the world what we believe about redeemed time now and forever.

What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Each of the readings we hear this weekend reflects who God created us to be. The first reading reminds us that God called us before we were born. Paul tells us that our vocation is to take up our part in the community God has formed and sent forth for the sake of the world. The Gospel gives us John the Baptist as the model of a servant of God so dedicated that he could recognize God's chosen one and so humble that he could step aside when the time came.

Who are you?

That's the question this week's readings put to each of us individually and as a community that God has called together for the sake of the world. It's a question we need to ask again and again because the meaning of our lives depends on the answers we give. It is only to the extent that we can say who we are that we can also pray, "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will."

## The Baptism as Model

[Celebration](#)

When we meet John the Baptist in this reading he has already proclaimed that he was not the Messiah but the one preparing the way. The fourth Gospel is careful to present Jesus as distinct from and never subservient to John, even to the point of avoiding the mention of a personal encounter between the two. John simply appears as the forerunner of the one to come. Because John recognized the Spirit's presence in Jesus, he called Jesus the Lamb of God. That title, so familiar to us, occurs only here in the Christian Scripture. The unique feature of the Baptist's phase is that Jesus is the *Lamb of God*. As this Gospel describes it, John the Baptist's relationship to Jesus was always, "He must increase, I must decrease," and John's proclamation that Jesus came from God acknowledged that clearly. John recognized that his vocation was different from Jesus'.

While Jesus is the obvious subject of this selection, we might actually learn more about our vocation from John the Baptist. Outspoken and strong as he was, John knew and admitted his limitations. He said, "I did not know him," and yet, he dedicated his life "that he might be made known to Israel." That is a profound expression of humility. It presents John as a servant who knew what it meant to be an apostle. John was simply the one sent to open the way to more than he could imagine.

This week's readings lead us into the season of Ordinary Time with a reflection on who we are called to be as Christians. They remind us that being a Christian is never a solo performance. We are called together, formed by the word of God to become a light to the nations. Like John the Baptist, we are called not for ourselves, but to be able to point out the Lamb of God to others. When we know and accept that vocation, we can call ourselves the church of God in our own hometown and in our world.

## On Being Called

Lorraine Senci, [Celebration](#)

The Scriptures on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time are a reminder of how frequently it is family, friends or mentors who will recognize our latent gifts and offer us a glimpse of where we will be called to serve. Our often-foggy vision gains a bit of clarity when others – through their confident words and actions – empower us to claim our gifts, to take on new responsibilities, and to accept that we, indeed, are being called by God.

As Jesus lived out his call as the "Lamb of God" and "Son of God," he witnessed that God's love, mercy and compassion knew no boundaries. While John the Baptist initially recognized that Jesus "might be made known to Israel," the words of the prophet Isaiah in the first reading attest that God desires salvation for all people and nations. This passage underscoring the servant's awareness that his call had a wider scope than originally anticipated may have been in Jesus' mind and heart as he brought God's tender love and compassionate care to the outcasts, the unclean and the Gentiles. Jesus responded to a "call within a call" – the phrase St. Teresa of Calcutta used to explain how her unique vocation unfolded – as a "light to the nations," as Isaiah foretold, his call extending far beyond Israel.

The Scriptures this Sunday hint that our calls from God are dynamic, and that they often come through the words of others, inviting, encouraging and challenging us to claim our gifts with confidence.

**"Lord, help me recognize  
your call and my gifts."**

"Hide not your talents ~ for use they were made.  
What good is a sundial in the shade?" Benjamin Franklin