

* Week of January 21, 2018 *

MONDAY

2 Sm 5:1-7,10 * Ps 89:20-22,25-26 * Mk 3:22-30

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

2 Sm 6:12-15,17-19 * Ps 24:7-10 * Mk 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Sm 7:4-17 * Ps 89:4-5,27-30 * Mk 4:1-20

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Acts 22:3-16 * Ps 117:1-2 * Mk 16:15-18

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

2 Tm 1:1-8 * Ps 96:1-3,7-8,10 * Mk 4:26-34

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

2 Sm 12:1-7,10-17 * Ps 51:12-17 * Mk 4:35-41

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Dt 18:15-20 * Ps 95:1-2,6-9 * 1 Cor 7:32-35 * Mk 1:21-28



"I will make you fishers of men."

* Parish Activities *

Mon., Jan. 22 6:00pm Cantor Practice

6:30pm Choir Practice

6:30pm Bible Timeline

Tues., Jan. 23 10:00am Scripture Study

6:30pm RCIA

Fri., Jan. 26 6:00pm AACCS Family Dance

* Parish Appreciation Night *

* Saturday, February 3 * K of C Hall in Auburn *

Doors open at 5:45pm. Come unite with other parishioners to



enjoy a good meal and a chance to visit with other parishioners. This year's theme is Superbowl LII, so dress casually and wear a football jersey if you have

one! This gathering is intended for any and all parishioners. It's limited to adults because of alcoholic beverages. Reservations are necessary because of menu and because of space limitations. If you haven't signed up in church, call the parish office ASAP.

Liturgical Ministers: Please have your "can't serve dates" for Feb. 14 through May 31 into the parish office by Jan. 29. Also indicate whether you are able to serve at any special Masses (i.e. Ash Wednesday, Wednesdays during Lent, Easter Triduum Masses, etc.).

Baptism Preparation Sessions: First-time parent sessions will be March 1st & May 3rd at 7pm in the Parish center. For those parents who have already attended a session, preparation will be Feb. 1st & April 5th at 7pm in the Parish Center. Contact Sandy at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org to register for a prep session and set your celebration date.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP: All high school and college students (age 20 and younger) are invited to participate in our summer mission trip to St. Vincent Mission in David, Kentucky, where we will be doing home-improvement projects for needy families in Appalachia! We can take a maximum of 16 youth (1st come-1st served) and 4 chaperones. To learn more about the trip, pick up a Summer Mission Trip 2018 info packet available at both church entrances, and prayerfully consider if Jesus is calling you to be his hands and feet in David, KY this summer.

→ Cost is \$250, with the participant responsible for \$50. If any parishioners want to help finance the trip, knowing that those going are representing the parish, your financial assistance will be most appreciated. Contact Christine Sellnow at 662-6861 or parishoffice@auburnac.org.

* Education/Formation *

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
How has God called you to be a fisher of people?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** If you want to catch fish, you need the right equipment, you must go where the fish are and have plenty of patience! We cannot expect people to knock down our door to hear Christ's message, we have to go and meet them equipped with our knowledge of the Bible and our faith. Many will not be interested or ready to hear the Good News, and that is where we practice patience. If Jesus only came for those who were ready to enter heaven's gates, then what would be the point? We must gently and lovingly keep guiding all toward his message of peace and love.

► **Living the Word:** Jesus had so many tools for attracting followers that everywhere he went people listened and left behind all that they knew and loved, to follow him. With yarn or string, the family can create a net of care to attract "fish." Each strand can represent something that would attract people to God. Ask the family members to think of reasons that they practice their faith. Encourage them to discuss what people found and still find attractive about Jesus. As you build your net, feel free to add on to it. Hang it by the door or the ceiling of the entryway to remind you to always be "fishing."

* Auburn Area Catholic School *

► **Mark Your Calendar:** Kindergarten Round-Up and All School Open House, Thurs., Feb. 22 at 6pm. This is an opportunity for potential preschool-5th grade parents to find out about the great things happening at AACCS. Check out our website www.auburnacschool.org or call 662-6431 for more information.

► **The Bookmobile** will be in our parking lot Thurs., Jan. 25, 1:15-2:15pm.

* Stewardship *

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$10,608.80

Food Pantry: \$35.00

Children's GO@D Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...holding a door open for people

...doing my weekly chores

Amended Weather Policy: If Bay City Public Schools close due to inclement weather, then parish activities that happen during the school day (8am-4pm) will also be cancelled. The cancellation of evening activities will be decided by 3pm. Please check the parish website, app, Facebook, or channels 5, 12, 25 or 66 for updates.

* The Parish in the Community *

► **Fish Fry & Bake Sale:** Auburn K of C Auburn, Fri., Feb. 2, 2:30-7pm. We have changed to TAKE OUT ONLY dinner. Cost \$10. Baked goods are sold separately. All are welcome!!

Pre-Lenten Retreat: "Mary in the New Testament" with Fr. Bill Taylor, Fri., Feb. 9-11, 6-11pm at the Center for Ministry. Cost: \$165 semi-private room; \$180 private room. Includes four meals and two receptions; \$95 for commuters (includes lunch & dinner on Saturday) Call 989-797-6607 to register, deadline, Thurs., Feb. 1.

Puns for Thought...

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

They told me I had type A-blood, but it was a Type-O.

I call my iPod the Titanic. It's syncing now.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, & then it dawned on me.

* From Father Tom's Desk *

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus began his preaching after John the Baptist's arrest. Although it was obviously a time of danger, he interpreted it, as what was known in his day, as a time of *kairos*, the opportune time, a moment when God's activity on earth was reaching a peak. Jesus summarized it all by saying, "The kingdom of God is at hand."

The concept of kingdom of God is elusive. Jesus talked about it in parables and analogies that described its great, contagious energy. Rather than being a place like a country or even a grouping like a church, we can describe it as a new state of mind that engenders a new way of living. It grows through a web of relationships in which people experience loving union with one another and with God. Jesus came enthusiastically inviting people into that new way of life. He showed them what it looked like through his interactions with others. He taught his disciples to pray for its coming, and he himself prayed for it during the last supper saying, "May all be one, Father, as you are in me" (Jn 17:10). He knew that once people experienced it, they could never settle for less.

In order to be a part of that kingdom, Jesus called for repentance and belief. For Jesus, repentance referred to a thoroughgoing change of mentality and a commitment to the vision he was preaching. Unlike the king of Nineveh who demanded that the people care for one another and feast together – on an ongoing basis.

Peter, Andrew, James and John were called to leave their boats for the sake of the kingdom. If we wish to understand and implement Jesus' vision today, we must pause from our frenetic activity to contemplate our own reality. Only then will we be able to perceive how the universe is unfolding in God.

Jonah, the Reluctant Prophet

[Celebration](#)

Some describe the Book of Jonah as the comic strip of the Bible. But that doesn't disparage its message, it simply says that the teaching comes in a different, perhaps more entertaining package.

Of course, the end result is transformation. Jonah's full story includes his adventures in the belly of the whale and crossing Nineveh, the people's conversion and devastation that God did not decimate the people and yet destroyed his shade tree. The author doesn't want us to miss the references to three days: Jonah spent three days in the belly of the whale and three days crossing the city. Neither place was to his liking, but both resulted in unexpected salvation.

An ironic dimension of the story is that the power of the message far outshines the messenger. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh at all, but when he was backed into a corner, he went and carried his chip on his shoulder all the way through the great city as he preached. As if to spite him, the people took his message to heart. St. Thomas Aquinas created an axiom to explain this detail: "Whatever is received is received according to the mode of the receiver. Applied to this story, that explains that the people of Nineveh were more disposed to grace than was Jonah. His preaching saved them, even if it didn't affect him. The underlying message is that God calls for conversion while there is still time to change our ways.

Corinthians and Time

[Celebration](#)

To understand this reading better, we should know how Paul understood time. In his conceptual world there were two kinds of time. *Chronos* is the time that passes in regular, measurable intervals, of seconds, weeks and centuries. It is always the same. Then, there is time called *kairos*, the meaning-filled dimension of time. The time Paul

talks about here, is *kairos*, grace-infused time, the kind of time that calls forth life-changing decisions. Paul told the Corinthians that their *kairos* had come: The old world was passing away because Christ was risen. It was time to give all their energy and attention to the new reality happening among them.

Our Call and Our Time

[Celebration](#)

Today's reading from Mark is like a Gospel in miniature. Mark frames John's arrest as the decisive end of the old and the beginning of the new. Jesus began his preaching saying "The time...is at hand." This "time" is *kairos*: the definitive time, not a season of the liturgical year or a lunar month, but the time of fulfillment. There has never been a time like this.

The kingdom of God is a reality that springs from relationship with Jesus of Nazareth. It is a state of heart and mind that comes from getting caught up in his vision of life. The kingdom of God is a way of living and thinking, a radically new orientation toward existence. It affects absolutely everything about a person's life.

Everyone who heard Jesus was called to recognize the *kairos* and make a decision for or against his message. Everyone who accepted him was called to learn a new way of living, a new way of hoping, a new way of understanding life and even death itself. Some were invited not just to live in that way, but to make spreading the news about it the core activity of their life.

Today's Gospel narrative summarizes the entire Gospel and invites us to step into it. The *kairos* time of fulfillment that began with Jesus' preaching continues and everyone is invited to become caught up in it. It is simply a question of allowing ourselves to be so influenced by Jesus that his vision colors everything else. This Gospel also calls us to prayerfully ponder our Christian vocation and to pray particularly for those who may be called to leave everything behind to dedicate themselves to a lifetime of spreading the Gospel. The Gospel calls for a radical response. Not everyone can or should leave their nets and boats, but all of us are called to discern God's will and respond to our *kairos*. Like the people of Nineveh, we have time, but it is running out.

"Lead me, Lord,
into your kingdom."

Amen Corner

The last meeting of the Planning Group and Building Committee found the architect reporting that he sought confirmation of the cost estimates by consulting with Great Lakes Construction of Midland. The report detailed specific costs and they were but a little bit higher than previously announced roughly one year ago. The current figure for building a church and remodeling the current church space is 3.2 million.

Fr. Tom