

Week of January 22, 2017

MONDAY

Heb 9:15,24-28 * Ps 98:1-6 * Mk 3:22-30

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Heb 10:1-10 * Ps 40:2,4,7-8,10-11 * Mk 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

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

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Tm 1:1-8 * Ps 96:1-3,7-8,10 * Mk 4:21-25

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Heb 10:32-39 * Ps 37:3-6,23-24,39-40 * Mk 4:26-34

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 11:1-2,8-19 * Lk 1:69-75 * Mk 4:35-41

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 * Ps 146:6-10 * 1 Cor 1:26-31 * Mt 5:1-12

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

Parish Activities

Mon., Jan. 16 6:15pm Religious Education

6:30pm Choir Practice

Tues., Jan. 17 10:00am Scripture Study

5:30pm RCIA

Thurs. Jan. 19 7:00pm Baptism Class

Ever thought of helping out at the Mass you attend?

Have you said to yourself "I could do that"? The Parish is having Fr. Bert Gohm come and speak about Ministries, namely Extraordinary Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality and Ministers of the Word. Extraordinary Ministers are the people who offer the Body and Blood of Christ to the Body of the Church (us), Ministers of Hospitality are the first people who greet you, take up the collection and keep order in the church at weekend liturgies, Ministers of the Word are the ones who proclaim God's Word to us. If you have thought about helping, this would be an excellent opportunity to come and get an overview of the ministries. Training for the ministries is available. The presentation will be on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 6:30pm or Saturday, Feb. 4 at 9:30am. Please RSVP to the parish office at 662-6861. Is God calling you to get involved? *The Worship Commission*

Cancellations: The weather of late has raised havoc with the parish calendar of activities. In general, cancellations are problematic because they necessitate re-scheduling on top of events that are already on the calendar. The Parish Council has decided to stick with the current policy of "no school, no activities" but we also recognize there can be occasions when activities could occur if the weather dramatically improves throughout the day. Check out the parish app for updates or call the parish office. Know that decisions to close are not made lightly. If we do err, it will always be on the side of caution. We prize your safety. *Fr. Tom*

Baptism..

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I dedicated you." Jeremiah 1:5

Anthony Walter Milkowski

son of Brandon Milkowski & Amanda Okowit

Congratulations!!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$10,745.00

Food Pantry: \$25.00

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

I wonder what you would do if Jesus phoned you to be a disciple. How would you respond to his call?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Although John's imprisonment coincided with the beginning of Jesus' public life, Jesus didn't leave Nazareth to avoid the implications of John's arrest. The New Age had finally arrived. The image of Jesus as the "great light" that Isaiah spoke of is clear. Equally obvious is the mission of Jesus to preach repentance and anticipate the Kingdom of God for those who would become disciples. Jesus came to proclaim the Good News, the news that this Kingdom was at hand. How radical was Jesus' notion!

► **Living the Word:** Ordinary Time isn't really "ordinary." It comes from the word *ordinal* and is the way we count the weeks of the liturgical year that are outside the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The beginning of Ordinary Time is generally during the winter throughout the United States. Anticipate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on February 2 by collecting candles for your table. Call the "family of disciples" together for a reading of Psalm 27 several times during this week, even as mealtime or bedtime prayer. God lights the way for disciples!

Auburn Area Catholic School

► Did you know...

... AACs has before and after care available for all Students ... AACs offers free sports, starting in 4 yr-old preschool – 5th grade.

► **Catholic Schools Week** will kick-off with our school Dance on Friday; January 27.

► **Scholastic Book Fair** will be available after both Masses January 28/29 and February 4/5.



January Wedding Anniversaries

40 years or more.....James & Paula Zoller

30 years or more.....William & Janette Deshano

Jon & Mary Carpenter

Jimmy & Ann Wegener

10 years or more.....Buddie & Karen Jasman

5 years or more.....Todd & Lisa Schmalbeck

Eugene & Brandy Martin

We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen

The Parish in the Community

► **Nouvel High School Open House:** Mon., Jan. 30. Registration beginning at 6:15pm, program begins at 6:30pm.

► **Grief Recovery Series:** Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one at least 3 months ago is invited to participate Tues., Jan. 31, 6:30-8:30pm at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Center, 619 Main St., Essexville. The group will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 6:30pm through March 14. To register or for more info, call Kathy at the parish office 894-2701 ext. 110.

From Father Tom's Desk

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary M. McGlone, [Celebration](#)

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Peter and Andrew and said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They left their nets. A little further down the way he saw James and John and called them. They, too, left their boat and their father and followed him.

What was happening on that seashore? How can anybody explain the fact that four grown men simply left behind everything they had worked for to follow Jesus. What did their wives say?

Many will read the story of the fishermen as a pious tale, an exaggeration that doesn't reflect the details of any real event. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor executed by the Nazis, would tell us that's heresy, an example of cheap grace, a degradation of the Gospel. Bonhoeffer, with strong backup from Matthew and Mark, insists that when Jesus said "Follow me," the disciples did just that. He says in *The Cost of Discipleship*: "Until that day...they could remain in obscurity, pursuing their work...observing the law and waiting for the coming of the Messiah." But, he says, with Jesus' call they had to get up and go. They could have stayed as they were, and Jesus could have been their friend, even their consoler, but he would not have been their Lord.

The Call to Change

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus' call to conversion is described with the Greek term *metanoia*, a word which means much more than the English "repent." *Metanoia* as an invitation to an alternative reality, a new kind of existence, Jesus named that new existence the reigning of God, or in Matthew's words, the kingdom of heaven. It is not a place, but a way of being. Jesus showed what it was like in everything he said and did. Matthew gave it a shorthand description saying that Jesus went all around, proclaiming the kingdom, making it present by curing every disease and illness – making everything the way it ought to be. An encounter with Jesus was an encounter with the reigning of God and an instant invitation to *metanoia*. It set people on fire.

The greatest obstacle to *metanoia*, Jesus' greatest adversary, was not the demons or the power of oppression. It was an attitude of submission to the way things had always been, the belief that nothing can really change, that heaven might be different but that history will always repeat itself.

Metanoia is not something the disciples could achieve, they could only be open to it. When it was offered, they had to make a decision, the most important decision of their lives. They had to decide whether to believe in what Jesus offered, to accept him as Lord, or simply respect him as another interesting philosopher whose ideas they could talk about when the seas were calm. We hear about the fishermen who decided to leave behind everything that tied them to "normal life." They would no longer be fishermen. Rather than catch food to sell to nourish others, they themselves would become the nourishment others needed.

Their radical decision was not irrevocable. They had to renew it time and again. Day by day they had to bet their lives on what they know of Jesus' kingdom of heaven. They had to believe that God's reigning was manifest in their relationship with Jesus and the life he shared with them and that its power overruled everything that could rise up against them.

"Lord, help me hear your call."

From Prophecy to fulfillment

[Celebration](#)

The essential reason for choosing this passage from Isaiah for this Sunday is that it is part of a messianic promise and it specifically mentions the place Matthew identifies as the area where Jesus began his ministry. The tribal regions of Zebulun and Naphtali became known as upper and lower Galilee after Assyria conquered the territory around 740 B.C.E. The name change was the least of their problems. Foreign occupation of the promised land was so serious that it caused Israel to question the power of God who had brought them to that land. Isaiah reinterpreted their conquest by insisting that the foreigners themselves were under God's power and the occupation was God's will for an unfaithful people. The oracle we hear today announced the promise of a new Davidic king in whom the people placed their hopes for restoration. The point of the reading is that God is still in charge of history. God degraded the land but will glorify it.

Isaiah's prophecy describes a time of joy that the people can imagine because it is the inverse of what they have known. They will rejoice as at the harvest, that moment when abundance overflows and the memories of drought and hunger fade. They will party just like their enemies did while plundering Israel's homes and Temple. Finally, the people who were victimized by armed bullies will see the torturers' instruments shattered so that cowering servitude becomes a thing of the past.

Those visions articulate the hopes of any exploited people and can be analogously applied to any situation of injustice and oppression. When Matthew cited this prophecy in the opening of his Gospel it fell on the people's ears like a song of freedom, a remembrance of God's loving concern and will to save. Framing his Gospel against the backdrop of Galilee helps make sense of the disciples' radical response to Jesus' call. Matthew set up his story so that Jesus would appear on the turf of the long-awaited savior, the one who would bring light to the land once known as Zebulun and Naphtali.

Unity is Essential

[Celebration](#)

In Paul's mind the problem of a divided community was no playground quarrel! It was such a scandal that Paul saw it as inhibiting Christ's presence in the world – which was simply the other side of the coin of his calling the community the body of Christ.

Paul judges the divisions in the community as rifts over secondary issues. The task of the Christian community is to be the body of Christ. That means its members are to be ready to pour out their lives for the Gospel and in love for each other. When that is their attitude toward one another they will learn how to allow diverse opinions to become sources of truth and grace rather than community cancers.

God Calls us, Now

Sue Robb, [Celebration](#)

Throughout our lives, the tension between dark and light, division and unity, withdrawal and leadership is one way God draws us into a deeper relationship. As we go forth this week, let us look at our lives and contemplate how God is calling us from our own physical, mental or spiritual darkness into light, from our unthinking words and actions that divide to words of peace that have the power to heal and mend relationships. And let us to consider the gifts and talents we can share with others who are struggling.

How many of us can honestly say we are "perfectly united in mind and thought" with one another and with God? That is today's challenge.

*We either ask to be a part of his reign
or we choose to try to save ourselves.*