

* Week of January 28, 2018 *

MONDAY

2 Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13 * Ps 3:2-7 * Mk 5:1-20

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

2 Sm 18:9-10,14,24-25,30 – 19:3 * Ps 86:1-6 * Mk 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Sm 24:2,9-17 * Ps 32:1-2,5-17 * Mk 6:1-6

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12 * 1 Chr 29:10-12 * Mk 6:7-13

FRIDAY

Mal 3:1-4 * Ps 24:7-10 * Heb 2:14-18 * Lk 2:22-40

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

1 Kgs 3:4-13 * Ps 119:9-14 * Mk 6:30-34

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Jb 7:1-4,6-7 * Ps 147:1-6 * 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23 * Mk 1:29-39



* Parish Activities *

Mon., Jan. 29	6:15pm Religious Education
	6:30pm Bible Timeline
Tues., Jan. 30	10:00am Scripture Study
	6:30pm RCIA
Thur., Feb. 1	7:00pm Baptism Prep
Sat., Feb. 3	5:45pm Appreciation Dinner

* Parish Appreciation Night *

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



Doors open at 5:45pm The theme is Super Bowl

LII, so come dressed in your favorite team's gear! Join us for a night of food, music and fellowship with your parish family!

Reservations must be made by 4pm Monday.

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

Souper Bowl Sunday: We are again collecting donations for the East Side Soup Kitchen in Saginaw on Super Bowl Sunday weekend! Youth from the parish will be collecting monetary donations after both Masses next weekend.



Bulk Mailing: We will be preparing our Lenten mailing on Feb. 5 at 9am in the Parish Center. If you can help us stamp, stuff and seal envelopes for any amount of time, we would greatly appreciate it!

* Stewardship *

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$8,754.50
Food Pantry: \$15.00

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...helped Grady on the trampoline ...a surprise party for family
...donated my toys & books to the Midland Women's Shelter

* The Parish in the Community *

► **Nouvel Catholic High School Open House:** 2555 Wieneke Road, Saginaw, Mon., Jan. 29 at 6:30pm, registration starting at 6:15pm. Nouvel offers comprehensive college prep classes, honors and advanced placement classes, and a variety of electives and athletics.

* Education/Formation *

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Where and how did you experience the authority and presence of Christ in the Mass today?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The temptations and trials of daily life felt very much like real entities or "spirits" to contend with during the time of Jesus. When we see vice and sin as formidable entities to contend with, we take them much more seriously. They are not one-time choices, but forces that can hang over us like a cloud and confuse our judgment and decision making. We are not far from Lent. Perhaps now is the time to examine what forces have a hold on our thoughts and actions.

► **Living the Word:** All of us struggle with unclean spirits, but the authority of Jesus says they cannot stay with us if we don't want them to do so. They only stay with our permission. Invite family members to a water ceremony in which each person is invited to wash away something they are struggling with regularly. Each person can write something on a strip of paper with a washable marker, put the paper into a clear bowl with water and watch the colors run and dissolve into something beautiful. Explain that with God, all things can be made whole and beautiful again.

* Auburn Area Catholic School *

► We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week...all week!

The weekend kicked off CSW with our Family Dance. The theme students will be and themed dress-



off CSW with our Family Dance. The theme students will be and themed dress- St. Elizabeth in Reese. While there, students will celebrate Mass, enjoy games, lunch and recess.

► **Canned Soup Drive:** Students are holding a canned soup drive during Catholic Schools Week. Students can show support for their favorite Super Bowl Team by placing their donation in the appropriate bin located in the school hallway. All donations will go to the St. Gabriel Parish food pantry. Please feel free to vote for your favorite team as well. Thank You!

► **AACS will have a ½ day of school** on Fri., Feb. 2. Dismissal is at 11:30am.

* From Father Tom's Desk *

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

In today's Gospel, Mark takes special care to portray Jesus as one who spoke and acted with authority. But Jesus' authority was not derived from something else. Unlike the scribes, who called upon scripture or upon famed rabbis or knowledgeable scholars, Jesus possessed authority that was his own, by virtue of who he was.

Indeed, Mark made Jesus' identity clear to his readers from the beginning. In Mark 1:1, we read, "Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." While Jesus' contemporaries and disciples often appeared to be uncertain about his identity; and although Jesus' identity was fully revealed in Mark's Gospel only as he hung on the cross ("Clearly, this man was the son of God," Mark 15:39) – Mark kept his readers in the know by including in his Gospel little glimpses at Jesus, Son of God. The first glimpse came at Jesus' baptism. Another glimpse is offered in today's Gospel reading, where Jesus is recognized and acclaimed as "the Holy One of God" (v. 24). Besides

teaching with authority, Jesus also acted authoritatively, proving that he, as Son of God, was more powerful than any evil spirit.

We who have been called to follow Jesus are also called to enjoy a share in his authority. When we speak and act and do all things in his name, ours is an authority authentically derived from his. But if we use that authority unworthily to press for power, wealth and control over others, then our authority is not true, nor does it reflect our belonging to Jesus. But how do we strike the proper balance?



Perhaps we might take a cue from the people in the synagogue at Capernaum so long ago. They were open to listening to Jesus. They recognized he was offering them “a new teaching with authority.” They were simple and humble enough to be astonished – some translations say “spellbound!” in their amazement at what they had seen and heard, they also acknowledged Jesus’ power over evil or unclean spirits. And, in the aftermath of that event, they talked about Jesus; they were his witnesses throughout all of Galilee.

What the people experienced that day in Capernaum is also available to each of us. Each time the Gospel is proclaimed, it is deserving of our attention and respect. But that news also comes with a challenge. Will we listen and then go away unchanged, or will we listen, learn and be transformed by its power, grace and authority?

The Need for Prophets

[Celebration](#)

To be a prophet is to be a mother or father; brother or sister to another person. To be a prophet means to care so deeply about the well-being and integrity of another that you are willing to risk your own safety and security in the process. Prophesying is not a 9-to-5 job. It is a calling that consumes every aspect of your existence and every breath you take. Prophets do not have a 401k or a place in Florida where they will retire, because the job of a prophet is never done. Human beings will always need someone who is willing to lay everything on the line in order that the truth be heard. Prophets are not perfect, but they are persistent.

God continues to speak to humankind through the living works of scripture as well as through individuals who have been grasped by the Spirit to communicate God’s truth. In order to discern true from false prophecy, the community of believers is also graced by the Spirit of God. True prophets always raise important questions. They are always countercultural. They oppose destruction, the killing of innocents, death and poverty. Their messages may seem simplistic, but they come out of a long tradition, and we do ourselves no favor to ignore them. Prophets may make us angry and uncomfortable, but out of this discomfort comes self-awareness, God-awareness, other-awareness.

Our Prophet

[Celebration](#)

Contemporary readers might wonder why everyone present at this remarkable scene did not repent, believe and follow Jesus. But obviously, responses to Jesus cannot be coerced. Those who heard Jesus’ words and witnessed his works that day were free to respond – or not. Like them, we who hear his words and works proclaimed today are also challenged to respond. Like those who gathered to pray in the synagogue in Capernaum, we who gather in our respective holy places are to ask, “What does this mean?” (v.26). What place do I give Jesus in my life? Do I allow him to help me with my personal demons? Or do I assert my independence and forgo his power and grace?

If we in the community of believers give Jesus a positive response, we can continue to preach his word and teach his way to others. In so doing, the believing community becomes in itself an authoritative teaching and an act of powerful goodness that continues to wage the battle against the forces of evil that was initiated in Jesus, raised up by God to speak God’s truth.

Paul’s Biased Perspective

[Celebration](#)

Paul expected the end time, and his teaching might best be regarded as “crisis advice.” Such advice would be radical. All else pales into insignificance before eternal realities. What purpose could be served, reasoned Paul, by entering into a temporal union with all of its obligations and responsibilities, when before you know it, the end will be upon us? A practical man, with his priorities well-ordered, Paul thought it would be wiser for people to get busy preparing for an eternal relationship with Christ.

But, some may ask, what do we do with Paul’s advice in this ever-lengthening interim between the comings of Christ? Paul’s teachings about eschatology are timeless and valuable in that they enable us to look to the future with hope and trust, fully aware that our salvation depends not on our efforts at restructuring the world but on the loving mercy of God. Paul’s ideas also encourage us to find our identity in Christ rather than in whatever roles society assigns us. If we make the effort to grasp these truths, we will be ready to make our way more gracefully through all the exigencies of life in this world. Paul did this, as did Jesus before him.

The Big Picture

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

Six blind men encountered an elephant for the first time, and they began to feel it in order to learn what it was. Each had his own description: The leg felt like a pillar, the tail felt like a rope, the trunk like a tree limb, the ear like a fan, the belly felt like a wall and the tusk like a pipe. They argued about whose description was correct until a wise man passing by explained that they had all touched different parts of the elephant. Putting them all together would reveal the truth.

In today’s Gospel, the healing of the possessed man revealed the truth of Jesus to those in the synagogue. Like blind people, they could not see the reality of Jesus in their midst. But from that day forward, they saw through new lenses, and Jesus’ reputation began to spread throughout the land.

The Question

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

According to Mark, Jesus’ authority came from the simple fact that his word was borne out in deed. That’s what we see in the expulsion of the unclean spirit. He preached about the kingdom of God and his word made it appear. His word was like the divine word of Genesis, creating the very reality of which he spoke.

As Mark weaves his Gospel message, he shows that the people who saw Jesus were amazed and questioned one another. They saw his authority, but didn’t know what to make of it. At the same time, the unclean spirit, a representative of the demonic world, knew right away what Jesus was all about. The question “Have you come to destroy us?” suggests what the next phrase makes explicit. The demons recognized that Jesus had been sent by God and their power was impotent against him. It would take the disciples a little longer to answer the question of what Jesus meant for them.

“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” Mark puts this question before every reader of the Gospel. He invites us to journey with him through the rest of the story to learn just what it means that Jesus’ word and deed brought the time of fulfillment.

“Help me, Lord, to hear your word and to speak it.”