

Week of January 29, 2017

MONDAY

Heb 11:32-40 * Ps 31:20-24 * Mk 5:1-20

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Heb 12:1-4 * Ps 22:26-28,30-32 * Mk 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 12:4-7,11-15 * Ps 103:1-2,13-14,17-18 * Mk 6:1-6

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

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

FRIDAY

Heb 13:1-8 * Ps 27:1,3,5,8-9 * Mk 6:14-29

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 13:15-17,20-21 * Ps 23:1-6 * Mk 6:30-34

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Is 58:7-10 * Ps 112:4-9 * 1 Cor 2:1-5 * Mt 5:13-16

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

Parish Activities

Mon., Jan. 30 6:15pm Religious Education

Tues., Jan. 31 10:00am Scripture Study

5:30pm RCIA

Thurs. Feb. 2 6:30pm Ministry Workshop

7:00pm Baptism Class

Sat., Feb. 4 9:30am Ministry Workshop

Have you downloaded our parish app? Our app offers great features such as daily readings, our Mass schedule, parish calendar, and maybe the most convenient for this time of year: instant weather cancellation updates! Scan the QR to download the parish app today!

Did you know that our ministry scheduling program has an app? Now you can download MSP to your phone and instantly see your ministry schedule, request subs, and more! In your phone app store, download the Ministry Scheduler Pro App and find St. Gabriel Parish. Our ID code is stgabrielparish.

Assisted Listening Devices are available in the church. These pocket size devices ensure the user receives direct and clear communication during our worship services. Please ask an usher for any assistance needed. The listening devices are located at the usher table at the southwest entrance.

In-Home Communion with the Sick: Do you know someone who cannot attend Mass because of illness? Our parish has available in the Sacristy, A PYX (a vessel to carry communion) for you to sign out and use to take the Eucharist to the homebound. Please return the PYX to the Sacristy when you no longer need it and sign it in. Questions? Contact the parish office at 662-6861 or see Fr. Tom after Mass.

Fish Fry at Auburn K of C Hall (4760 Garfield Rd.): Friday, Feb. 3, 3-7pm. All you can eat buffet. Take-outs available. Adults \$11 (13+), Children \$5 (5-12 yrs.) under 5 free. All are welcome!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$10,941.00

Food Pantry: \$10.00

"We could learn a lot from crayons...some are sharp, some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colors; but they all have to live in the same box."

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee I wonder how our family can learn more about being disciples. What would Pope Francis say to us about this?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** In giving the disciples the Beatitudes, Jesus is showing them a new way of living. These teachings have set the standard of what a Christian should do to enter heaven. Living these Beatitudes could not have fallen easily on Jesus' listeners, but were held out as a model of life. We understand the word "blessed" as "you will be blessed," indicating grace in the future rather than a consequence for the present time.

► **Living the Word:** Play a calming instrumental CD and invite the children to put on a pretend "religious imagination hat." Set a timer and give the children eight minutes to think of one or two new beatitudes. Think: Blessed are the thoughtful, for they will be God's best friends in heaven, or Blessed are those who are sick, because they will have perfect health in heaven. Applaud each now beatitude and recognize the shared wisdom about discipleship.

► **Beatitudes for Families** Tom McGrath, Loyola Press, A Jesuit Ministry

1. Blessed are the families who live simply, for they will taste the joys of living in God's kingdom.

2. Blessed are the families who make time and space for each family member to mourn life's sorrows and losses, for they will receive God's comfort and consolation.

3. Blessed are the families who humbly receive life's gifts rather than grasp at power and possessions, for they will discover they have been given everything they need.

4. Blessed are the families who nurture a hunger and thirst for fairness so that others will know the justice of God's ways.

5. Blessed are families in which mercy is abundant and forgiveness is given freely so that God's mercy will be readily available to all.

6. Blessed are families who ground their lives in God and rise above the lures of temptation, for God will shine his face upon them.

7. Blessed are the families who create peace at home, at school, at work, in the community, and in the world, for they will be God's very own.

8. Blessed are the families who strengthen one another, encourage compassion, and desire to do good despite life's blows and setbacks for they help bring about the Kingdom of God.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** The students will be enjoying several activities throughout the week. Something new this year is the 3-5 grades will be joining Blessed Sacrament & St. Brigid students for 8:30am Mass at Blessed Sacrament and will continue throughout the day with fellowship, faith & fun activities.

► **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** will be available after Masses Feb. 4/5.

► **The BOOKMOBILE** will be in our parking lot Thurs., Feb. 2, 1:15-2:15pm.

► **Mark Your Calendar:** Thurs., Feb. 23.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP & ALL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

► **Did you know...**

...90% of our 1st-5th grade students scored proficient or advanced in Reading, according to our spring 2016 NWEA Summary Report

...on average, over half of our graduating 5th grade students qualify for 1 or more honors classes at WMS

...AACS alumni are frequent recipients of many citizenship related awards at WMS.



If you think education is expensive,
try ignorance.

From Father Tom's Desk

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Sanchez, [Celebration](#)

From Zephaniah, Paul and the Matthean Jesus, we hear words today like “humble,” “lowly,” “a remnant”; we listen as justice is promised for the oppressed, the hungry, the captive, the stranger, the widow, the orphan. We will squirm as the despised, the foolish and those of no account are described as God’s chosen ones. Then we will be confronted yet again with the slogans of the kingdom: “Blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful. Blessed are those who are starving for justice; blessed the peacemakers and the persecuted.”

These slogans challenge believers to accept the reign of God and live accordingly. They attest to the great paradoxes of our faith: I am richest in the ways of the kingdom when I am poorest in the ways of the world. The poor ones of the kingdom do not glory in destitution; rather, they value the wealth that cannot be counted – that is, belonging to God, bearing God’s image and being the heirs of all God’s blessings. I am most free when I am totally given to the Other and to all others in Christ. My will is strongest when I surrender to the will of God. My convictions are truest and firmest when suffering and persecution cannot wrench them from me. My faith, both professed and lived, is most real when outward circumstances suggest that it is futile or foolish to believe. My hope is deepest when, even though all else in my life dictates despair, I am aware that God has my back. I am nearer to the all-powerful God when I am the least powerful and the most vulnerable. I am at my greatest when I am smallest and humblest.

Great Reversal

Fr. James Smith, [Celebration](#)

The most obvious thing about the beatitudes is the reversal of roles in some of them: The hungry will be satisfied, the mourning will be comforted, the merciful shall be shown mercy. We should recognize this as a common theme of scripture. Sterile Sarah is given a son, David is God’s favorite king in spite of his lecherous ways, the virgin Mary bears God’s own Son, childless Abraham becomes the father of a great nation, poor Lazarus gets heavenly riches, the humble are exalted.

What does this role reversal mean? Probably it means that the values of the Kingdom are at odds with the values of this world, or that there is some hidden purpose in sorrow, some unknown value in poverty, some precious ingredient in humility. But most of all, the beatitudes offer hope to disenfranchised people and a promise that God does notice their plight and will take care of them.

Difficult Choice

Fr. Roger Karban [Celebration](#)

Today’s Gospel is Matthew’s introduction to his Sermon on the Mount: a three chapter collection of some (but not all) of Jesus’ moral teaching. The evangelist wants his community to know that if they’ve agreed to buy into Jesus of Nazareth’s dreams, then this is how they’ll make those dreams a reality. If, for instance, they want world peace, they’ll achieve it only by building loving relationships with their enemies, not by being more powerful than they are.

Matthew is convinced that only a remnant willing to look at people and situations with different eyes than the majority of people look at them will actually carry out Jesus’ demands. This unique group experiences a blessing in being poor, in mourning and being meek. They strive daily to do what God expects them to do: to show mercy, be single minded and bring peace. They’re always looking beyond the present to the future Jesus promised. Obviously such a radical belief isn’t for everyone.

What prompts a particular person to choose a commitment to God,

to become part of the remnant? I’m convinced, among other traits, a person’s willingness to evolve and adapt is a key element in those who form the remnant.

It’s clear, especially from the synoptic Gospels, that the historical Jesus’ basic “stump speech” revolved around *metanoia*: the determination to change one’s value system. In Mark 1:15, he begins his public ministry by proclaiming. “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.”

Scholars tell us that in this context the “kingdom of God” refers to God present and working effectively in our everyday lives. This Galilean carpenter shuttered his Capernaum workshop and began his itinerant preaching ministry based on his insight that what everyone wanted – God in their lives – wasn’t an event to nostalgically reflect back on, or project forward to some ideal day in the distant future. It’s a present reality.

On Being Humble

Tony Butel, [Celebration](#)

A priest friend shared that when visiting with his spiritual director he disclosed some of the struggles of his spiritual life. His director responded that a source of his struggles was his arrogance. The priest thought, “I’m not arrogant.” His director told him that the arrogance stemmed from his desire to not have to depend on God for help with his faults.

As my friend shared this conversation I was struck by the awareness: “That’s me.” I desire to not have to depend on God’s help with my faults’ instead, I prefer to overcome my inadequacies on my own. However, my memory bank can find multiple examples for each beatitude of where I have failed. *Blessed are the poor in spirit*: How often am I filled with a sense of self-righteousness when I think I’ve been slighted or treated rudely resulting in a less than Christ-like response? *Blessed are the meek*: How often has pride kept me from helping someone in need because I don’t want to get involved or I am in a hurry? *Blessed are they who show mercy*: How often am I incensed about the stories of injustice that are broadcast on a seemingly daily basis, and yet don’t take the time to do anything in response? With each example of failure on my part I can lose a sense of hope that I am loveable. It is in these times that humility will allow me to know that I need God’s love and forgiveness to be more Christ-like, to become more the person God has created me to be. Is this true for you, too?

Administrative Matters: As I had indicated earlier, letters went out this week to parishioners who gave less than \$50 to the church this past calendar year (86 individuals or families, 15% of the total of envelope holders). I indicated that overhead cost for the parish plant, costs for staff and programs and especially the per envelope tax in determining our CSA target (\$135) necessitates a greater sacrifice. As I don’t know the financial capabilities of these people, nor do I know whether or not they have left the church or the parish, I asked them to fill out an enclosed form indicating their status. If we don’t hear from them in two weeks, they will be deleted from the parish roster.

In that vein, I encourage, once again, those who are attending the parish but have not yet registered, to please consider doing so. We need your charitable gift to meet the material needs of the parish.

As the Council debates future priorities we know that we need asap to deal with matters that have been shelved pending decisions about the future. We have serious problems at the West Campus with the gym floor and lights. The hot water heater failed last week. At the East Campus, there is a serious plumbing problem that needs to be fixed. An upgrade in parking lot lighting has been considered and needs to be acted upon. The boiler too, after this heating season, should be replaced for a much more efficient system. A preliminary estimate is around \$50,000.

I received word that the sale of the old St. Anthony Rectory has been finalized for \$225,000 but no one has shown me the money! *Fr. Tom*