

Week of February 5, 2017

MONDAY

Gn 1:1-19 * Ps 104:1-2,5-6,10,12,24,35 * Mk 6:53-56

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Gn 1:20 - 2:4 * Ps 8:4-9 * Mk 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Gn 2:4-9,15-17 * Ps 104:1-2,27-30 * Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Gn 2:18-25 * Ps 128:1-5 * Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Gn 3:1-8 * Ps 32:1-2,5-7 * Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Gn 3:9-24 * Ps 90:2-6,12-13 * Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sir 15:15-20 * Ps 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34 * 1 Cor 2:6-10 * Mt 5:17-37

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

Parish Activities

Mon., Feb. 6 6:15pm Religious Education

6:30pm Choir practice

Tues., Feb. 7 10:00am Scripture Study

5:30pm RCIA

6:30pm Sacramental Prep

Thurs. Feb. 9 6:30pm Commissions Meetings

7:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Next Weekend, February 11/12

Food Pantry Collection is next weekend, and we are low on the following items: deodorant, Kleenex tissue, baked beans, pancake mix & syrup, Mushroom & tomato soup.

☕ **Coffee & Donuts** ☐ will be served after each Mass.

☐ **Scrp** will be available from an AACS representative.

Attention Bulk Mailing Helpers: We will be preparing our Lenten bulk mailing on Mon., Feb. 20 at 9am in the parish center. Your time and fellowship would be greatly appreciated!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$8,507.19

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK - Feb. 17-14

An opportunity to promote, celebrate and strengthen marriage.

Why Marriage Matters <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>

Marriage does matter. After all, we're all in this together. As members of society, we count on each other every day to keep our commitments. We feel more secure when we can depend on others. Although marriage has changed a great deal (see A Snapshot of Marriage in the U.S.), the benefits of marriage endure. Social science research confirms that marriage is an important social good that brings a wide range of positive outcomes for adults and children alike. Read more about these benefits of marriage:

- On average, married people are better off financially.
- Marriage is associated with better health, sex and safety for men and women.
- Children do better when they live with their own two married parents.

For more resources that can help you celebrate marriage this week, go to:

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week-usa/>

"Take it with a grin of salt." Yogi Berra

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Who was the greatest teacher that you have ever known? What did you learn from this teacher?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Through the use of metaphors, Jesus continues to teach his closest followers. If salt loses its taste, it can't be good for seasoning; if disciples are not worthy followers of Jesus, they can't influence other followers. Considering Jesus' metaphor of being "light," the disciples were being told that they should shine forth as examples in the way that they live and how they treat other people. Jesus' teaching must have challenged his disciples.

► **Living the Word:** Share two songs that have an instructive text about what it's like to be a follower of Jesus: "They'll Know We Are Christians" (Peter Scholtes, 1966 @St. Brendan's) and "We Are the Light of the World" (Jean A. Grief, @1966). Teach the refrains first, and prompt the older children who are better readers to sing or say the verses. Both of these songs contain wisdom that emphasizes Matthew's Gospel this week. Encourage the children to think of hand gestures for the songs.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** The students enjoyed their Catholic Schools Week! They made prayer cards for the East Side Soup Kitchen, had a visit from a Tennis Pro, made a "We are the Difference collage," competed in K-5th science challenge, and the 3rd-5th graders had Mass at Blessed Sacrament with St. Brigid & Blessed Sacrament 3rd-5th grade.

While at Blessed Sacrament, the students participated in activities with Father Kevin and Father Steve. They also enjoyed activities with the Chippewa Nature Center and Painterly Pottery.

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

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP & ALL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

► **AACS** would like to invite you to participate in their **Auburn Hotel Restaurant Weekend**, Feb. 10-12. See the coupon below.



Lay Ministry Informational Meeting: Wed., Feb. 8, 6:30-8pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Bay City. The Diocesan Office of Lay Ministry will be accepting applications Feb. 1- May 15, for those who wish to begin the program in September of 2017. It is a 4-year formation experience designed for lay people who wish to expand their knowledge of Scripture and Catholic theology, deepen their relationship with God and fulfill their baptismal call by serving others. This meeting is not only for those interested in applying, but also for anyone interested in learning more about the program. Contact Kellie Deming, Coordinator of Lay Ministry, at kdeming@dioceseofsaginaw.org or 989-797-6609.

AUBURN HOTEL – AACS RESTAURANT DAYS

Friday – Sunday, February 10-12, 2017

Redeem this coupon and AACS will receive 10% of your food & non-alcoholic beverage purchase. Valid for dine-in or take-out, breakfast, lunch or dinner.

From Father Tom's Desk

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Did you ever try to un-salt what you were cooking? It's nigh well impossible. Once salt has permeated the food it's there; the only solution is to try to dilute it.

That's an interesting fact to remember as we hear today's Gospel. When Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world," the "you" he addressed were the disciples who had just heard him say, "Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you because of me." Remembering who is in the audience throws a particular light upon the message we're hearing. To be certain that we understand Jesus' point we should recall that in the first six beatitudes – the Gospel we heard last week – Jesus spoke in the third person (Blessed are the poor in spirit), he didn't get personal (blessed are you) until he talked about suffering for his sake. Jesus was saying that his message is so provocative that those who propagate it will be persecuted, but they will have made a difference. They've salted the situation, and there's no undoing the influence they've had.

Individual or Communal?

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

How did being salt and light go together with Jesus' teaching about not trumpeting your good deeds – even to the extent that your right hand should not know what the left hand is doing? (Matthew 6:1-4). Since much of what Jesus says makes more sense to people who live in a communally oriented culture, we may better understand it through that lens. An individualist culture values independence, personal achievement and success; it thrives on competition. A communally oriented culture values family or community over individual rights; it prizes unity and cohesion, cooperation and the groups' reputation. Both types can be destructive when taken to an extreme: individualist become treacherously egoistic and collectivist can squash the uniqueness of the human person. Each must learn to appreciate the values of the other. As members of an individualist culture we tend to hear Jesus' talk about being the salt and light as calls to each of us as individuals. Jesus' original audience more likely interpreted this as a call to be a light-bearing, salty community. There are some pretty significant implications to taking these words to heart in a communal way.

In It Together

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

There's no doubt that Jesus addressed the Sermon on the Mount to a group, a community of disciples. He was calling on them to join together in the work of welcoming and building up God's reign in their midst. They had to do it together – a grain of salt doesn't make a lot of difference, and one light, even if it's well placed, won't make the city on the hill visible in the dark. Not only could they not do it singly, but living in loving community was a key element of their witness to the world.

No matter our cultural background, we need to be aware that Jesus invites us into a communal movement. He doesn't offer a methodology for individual salvation any more than we can light the world by ourselves. Today's reading from Isaiah describes Jesus' communities of salt and light. They enlighten the world because in them the hungry are fed, the homeless are taken in and everybody watches out for one another. They won't dilute their message, and they don't worry about what it costs because they don't believe they can afford to live in the darkness of another kind of world.

**"Live as if you were going to die tomorrow
and as if you were going to live forever."**

Isaiah Tells What Pleases God

[Celebration](#)

Isaiah's people were not alone in their injudicious attempts to bribe God with sacrifice. In the case of the people who were fasting, God's answer was simple: "You're putting on quite a show, but I'm not entertained." Then because they hadn't seemed to get the message in the first 50 or 100 times it had been delivered, the prophet repeats the traditional teaching about what really pleases God.

God is asking people to offer the needy room and board in their own homes. This is not a case of taking food to a shelter or even covering the bill for a night's stay at Motel 6, but bringing the hungry and homeless to the dinner table with the family. And speaking of the family, the literal translation for "do not turn your back on your own" is more like "don't hide from your family."

When you do these things, says the Lord, you will be healed, and your light will shine, not because of what you've earned, but what you've learned. Being with God's beloved ones, people who hope mightily and see God's hand in every kindness done to them, is the greatest possible tutorial in spirituality. Most simply, this reading tells us that the poor and needy are the people who can lead us to God and reveal where God is at work in our world.

"May my words and deeds give glory to God."

Our Challenge

Ted Wolgamot, [Celebration](#)

When you were baptized, a candle was lit, and the priest prayed over you: "This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly... may you walk always as a child of the light."

God has passed the light of the heavens on to you and to me. Let each of us hold our lives "in the light" and illumine the world we live in by flavoring it with the taste of God.

February Wedding Anniversaries

60 years or more.....	William & Theresa Misze
50 years or more.....	Richard & Barbara LaFramboise Richard & Carol Syring
40 years or more.....	Patrick & Susan Dunckel Clarence & Ruth Boks John & Jane Anne Berry
30 years or more.....	Tom and Char Yurgaites
20 years or more.....	Glen & Mary Tacey
10 years or more.....	Duane & Sherry Sylvester
5 years or more.....	Ryan & Jessica Dallas Dereke & Michele Davis Keith & Jennifer Rosenbrock
5 years or less.....	Anthony & Tiffany Trevino

Bless our Marriage, O God, with Peace and Happiness.

And the Lord said, **GO!** And I said, *Who, me?* And God said, *Yes, you!*
And I said, *But I'm not ready yet, company's coming, I can't leave my family or my job, there is no one to take my place.*
And God said, *You're stalling.*
And the Lord said, **GO!** I said, *But I don't want to.*
And God said, *I didn't ask if you wanted to.* And I said, *I'm not that kind of person, my family won't like it, what will the neighbors think?*
And God said, *Baloney!*
And the Lord said, **GO!** And I said, *Do I have to?*
And God said, *Do you love me?* And I said, *I'm scared, people are going to hate me, I can't do it all by myself.*
And God said, *Where do you think I'll be?*
And the Lord said, **GO!** And I sighed, *Here I am...send me.*