

Week of February 12, 2017

MONDAY

Gn 4:1-15,25 * Ps 50:1,8,16-17,20-21 * Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10 * Ps 129:1-4 * Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Gn 8:6-13,20-22 * Ps 166:12-15,18-19 * Mk 8:22-26

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Gn 9:1-13 * Ps 102:16-23,29 * Mk 8:27-33

FRIDAY

Gn 11:1-9 * Ps 33:10-15 * Mk 8:34 - 9:1

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 11:1-7 * Ps 145:2-5,10-11 * Mk 9:2-13

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Lv 19:1-2,17-18 * Ps 103:1-4,8,10,12-13 * 1 Cor 3:16-23 * Mt 5:38-48

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

Parish Activities

- Mon., Feb. 13 6:15pm Religious Education
Tues., Feb. 14 10:00am Scripture Study
5:30pm RCIA
7:00pm Planning Group Meeting
Wed., Feb. 15 9:00am Parish Knitters
Thurs. Feb. 16 6:00pm School Committee Meeting
7:00pm PTO Meeting

Liturgical Ministers: Please submit your "can't serve dates" for March 1 through May 31 to the parish office no later than Wed., Feb. 15 at noon. If you'd like to serve at any Masses during Lent or Holy Week, please submit those preferences to the parish office as well.

Palm Collection: We will be collecting palms (to be burnt for ashes) in the baskets by the church entrances through February 19.

Blood Drive: Our next blood drive will be on February 22, 3-8pm in the Social Hall. To make your appointment, please call the parish office or sign-up on the sheet at either church entrance.

Thank You to everyone who donated to our Souper Bowl collection last week! We raised \$1,115.85 for the East Side Soup Kitchen in Saginaw!

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Job Opening:** AACS is looking for a kitchen cook/manager for the 2017-18 school year. The job is 20 hrs./week, (9:15-1:15). A job description is available in the school office. If interested, please submit a resume with letter of interest and three references to Attn: Mrs. Reder, 114 W Midland Road, Auburn 48611.

► **Labels for Education** program has been discontinued. AACS will no longer be collecting these. Thank you for supporting this program throughout the years. (The school will continue to collect Box Tops for Education.)

► **Auburn Hotel Restaurant Weekend:** There is still time to participate this weekend, Feb. 10-12. See the coupon below.

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.

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Jesus is teaching his disciples about good behavior. Did the disciples need religious education?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** In Matthew's account of the Gospel, Jesus continues to teach his closest disciples about the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven and about making the right choices. When Jesus says, "Amen," he emphasized that what he says is the truth, and "I say to you" means that he is the authority on the teaching. As he teaches the disciples, Jesus is taking the old law and reimagining it in the new order. Clearly, the disciples are hearing radically new teaching from the Master.

► **Living the Word:** The Gospel according to Matthew is addressed to people who have already experienced the Good News of Jesus. Beginning today, make each day this week a "Good News day." Every family member should have one piece of good news ready; pick a different person each day, and ask, "What's your Good News?" The individual should identify something good he or she has done as well as explain why the act was a good thing to do. Something kind that was done to/for them also could be shared. Sharing individual experiences can shape our good behaviors.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$14,299.25

Souper Bowl Collection: \$1,115.85

Monthly Target: \$50,000.00 * January Offering: \$50,504.19

Annual Target: \$600,000.00 * Collected YTD: \$326,674.96

► **Lenten Retreat:** Living a Life of Love & Holiness, presented by Sr. Sarah Burdick, SGL, March 31- April 2 at the Center for Ministry. Registration and social begin Friday at 6pm, 1st session at 7:30pm; concludes Sunday at 11am. Cost: \$165 semi-private room; \$180 private room (includes 4 meals and 2 receptions); \$95 for commuters (includes lunch & dinner on Sat.). Registration deadline Wed., March 22.

VALENTINE'S DAY FACTS

♥One Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who was persecuted by the emperor Claudius II for marrying Christian couples.

♥St. Valentine was said to be interred north of Rome on February 14. Valentine's feast day has been celebrated as a lovers' holiday and a day of romance since the 14th century, when the date was thought to be the beginning of the mating season for birds.

♥About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year, the 2nd largest seasonal card sending time of the year. Teachers receive the most cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

♥Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s. More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day (and 189 million stems of roses).

♥220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day.

From Father Tom's Desk

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Today's readings talk about an appreciation of divine law. The selection from the Book of Sirach, a collection of Jewish wisdom, claims that obedience to God's law leads to genuine quality of life. The law turns out to be more of a revelation than a demand. God's law offers the pathway to a life full of blessing. When we appreciate that following the law of God leads to tranquility, it makes philosophical sense.

For Paul, divine wisdom refers to neither legal nor philosophical concepts but comes from knowing the mystery of Christ. Paul understands wisdom as the consciousness that comes from allowing the Spirit of God to enlighten us. It's the result of a relationship of love, and therefore it's impossible to understand outside of the context of being caught up in God's love.

Jesus applies the law of wisdom to the everyday relationships of people in community – and what he says applies as startlingly now as it did on the day he first uttered these things. Jesus reminds us that the anger which leads someone to demean a brother comes from the same root as Cain's murder of Abel. And just in case people missed that subtle reference, he doubled down on it by talking about making peace before you presume to offer anything to God, reminding people that the first murder took place in the context of making an offering to God (Genesis 4:1-10). Jesus capped this teaching off with the warning that if we can't figure out how to make peace among ourselves we'll start taking one another to court and end up imprisoned by our own systems of retribution.

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus as a new Moses, not as the lawgiver but a guide who shows the way to a life full of blessing. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses told the people that through the covenant, God was offering them life or death, blessing or curse. When Jesus interpreted the Mosaic Law, he refused to get lost in juridical minutiae but went to the heart of the matter. Fulfillment of the law is simply a question of love.

From Sirach

[Celebration](#)

Today's reading from Sirach is part of an exploration of questions of God's omnipotence and omniscience in the face of human free will. The verses which precede today's reading insist that people cannot blame God for their own failures: God created humanity with free will, and they are responsible. In these lines the sage echoes Moses' speech in Deuteronomy 30:11-20 insisting that human beings have the ability to choose good or evil, that which leads to life or that which causes destruction. This reading presents God's law not as a legal system but as a way of wisdom. This approach is far closer to Native American traditions than to the U.S. judicial system.

The second part of the reading offers great comfort to any who seek God's will. In the midst of extolling God's wisdom and power it assures the reader that God comprehends the human heart. "Fear of the Lord" includes the assurance that God watches over beloved humanity and will never ask for anything harmful. The last line assures anyone who suffers injustice that no matter what the aggressor's legalistic claims might be, nothing that does harm to another is the will of God. Regardless of what authorization people in power might claim, they have no license either to injure others or to demand that others do what is not right.

The life you want may not be the one you expected — it could be even better.

Paul to the Corinthians and Us

[Celebration](#)

Paul describes the wisdom at the heart of Christianity as something incomprehensible to the "rulers of this age," and yet something that the community already grasps as a "mystery." This implies that they accept it and that as they live into it, they comprehend its truth ever more deeply. The point of this part of the letter is that God's wisdom is grasped by grace rather than through any intellectual accomplishment. To emphasize that, Paul paraphrases and reinterprets Isaiah 64:3 with this statement: "No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you working such deeds for those who wait.

Paul is picking up on Isaiah's idea that the eye and ear and heart are receptors of knowledge. We tend to believe in most of what we see, we judge what we hear on the basis of our trust in the source, and while we may not consciously admit it, most of us come to final conclusions under the strong influence of the heart. With his poetic rendering of "eye" has not seen..." Paul is saying that there is no human sense or resource capable of discerning God's plan. Only the Spirit of God can reveal God's heart to limited human beings.

Paul's teaching about the mystery of God's plan for humanity is not so much about grasping for understanding as it is about being grasped by love. The experience of God's great love has reordered Paul's whole being and overridden every other kind of knowledge.

Paul assures us that from the beginning of creation, God's plan has been to entice us into participation in this mystery. Everything prepared for it until it came to fulfillment in Christ. We can know this only through the influence of the Spirit who communicates from the very depths of God. Paul's talk about this mystery is nothing short of an invitation to share his mysticism. As he told the Corinthians, he tells us that in Christ we are invited to live this mystery.

Women's Rights

[Celebration](#)

On the topic of relations between the sexes, Jesus stood up for vulnerable women. First of all, he said that regarding a woman as an object of pleasure denigrates her personhood. At a time when adultery was considered a crime against the woman's husband, Jesus described both the lascivious gaze and the adulterous act as an offense against the woman herself, pointing out her primary significance in the whole matter. The same holds with the question of divorce. Because only the man could decide on divorce, it often left the woman without any honorable means of support. If a man puts a woman in that position, says Jesus, he will incur the guilt for whatever happens as a result. No man is free simply to wash his hands of a situation that doesn't please him.

"Give me the heart of Jesus."

Amen Corner: All registered parishioners have received a letter from the parish Planning Group explaining the report given recently to the Parish Council. This, in turn, is soon going to be followed with a letter from the Parish Council explaining their response to the planning group. The council believes the best way to secure the future of the parish community is to offer at one site what is needed to meet the community needs. This they believe can best be accomplished by building a new church and remodeling the current church space into a gym/social hall, which would serve the school for athletics, programs and gatherings and the community for funeral luncheons.

It will be the task of the planning group and council to resurrect facts and figures or costs (the bulk of which never got shared with the university) and then seek to convince the majority of the parish of the merit of the proposal. The desire is to not delay in representing the proposal, so the flow of information that is coming to you will be followed with much more in the weeks and months to come.

Fr. Tom