

✠ Week of February 18, 2018

MONDAY

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 * Ps 19:8-10, 15 * Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

Is 55:10-11 * Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 * Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Jon 3:1-10 * Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 * Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Pt 5:1-4 * Ps 23:1-6 * Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Ez 18:21-28 * Ps 130:1-8 * Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Dt 26:16-19 * Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 * Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Gn 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 * Ps 116:10, 15-19 * Rom 8:31-34 * Mk 9:2-10



✠ Parish Activities

- Mon., Feb. 19** 6:15pm Religious Education
6:30pm Bible Timeline
6:30pm Choir Practice
- Tues., Feb. 20** 10:00am Scripture Study
6:30pm RCIA
6:30pm Sacramental Prep
6:30pm Quilters-Faith Baptist
- Wed., Feb. 21** 10:00am Parish Knitters
1:30-6:30pm Blood Drive-Auburn Library
6:00pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Nourished by the Word
- Thur., Feb. 22** 6:00pm AACS Open House
- Sun., Feb. 25** 6:00pm Youth Ministry

Soup Suppers Are Starting! Join us for our first soup supper and *Nourished by the Word: Breaking Open the Sunday Readings* this Wednesday, starting at 6pm. We will have a table discussion about the Sunday reading, a large group discussion, and then close with prayer.

Rice Bowls: Jesus gives us the example of the Good Samaritan. With CRS Rice Bowls as our guide we set out to encounter and love our neighbor. Check out these amazing facts about how we can help those served by Catholic Relief Services:

- * 1 in 8 people go to bed hungry each night. We can fast so that they may eat.
- * \$20 = 1 month of food for a family.
- * It costs just 25 cents per day to provide a child with the nutrients he/she needs.
- * \$25 provides health exams for 13 kids.
- * \$50 provides clean water for 500 families.



CRS Rice Bowl provides a tangible way for us to help those in need. For more information on rice bowls go to CRSRicebowl.org. Rice bowls or envelopes are available at the church entrances. Please return them on Palm Sunday.

Blood Drive: Our next drive is on Feb. 21, 1:30-6:30 at the Auburn Library. Sign up on the sheet at the main church entrance or call the parish office at 662-6861.

Parish Fall Raffle: We are starting to collect donations for this year's raffle. The proceeds this year will go towards the parish. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Sally Czabala at 274-9956 or Mary Ellyn Gushow at 662-6745.

*Why didn't Noah play cards?
Because he was always standing on the deck!*

Thank You Knights of Columbus for graciously allowing us to use the hall for the Appreciation Dinner. Thank you Knights of Columbus Council #3590 for your generosity!



✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$11,092.14
Food Pantry: \$25.00

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

- ...I held the door for people.
- ...ate all my breakfast and prayed for Buschia.
- ...shovel driveway & keeping shoes neat & clean toys

✠ Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Have you ever experienced something good in the midst of a bad experience?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** "Believe in the gospel." In the middle of temptation and wild beasts, Jesus was still in the presence of angels. Perhaps this is where belief in the Gospel is at its fullest, right in the middle of both the good and the bad. Our belief calls us to truly change and grow, no matter what surrounds us. St. Paul reminds us that a faith without works is essentially dead. Lent is a special time to examine how we live out our faith among the good and the bad and to do something about it.

► **Living the Word:** Ask the family: How are we going to show our belief in the Gospel during this Lenten season? Are there things that we can do in our home to show that this is a time of renewal? While each person may have something specific in mind, see if there is anything you can do as a family as well. Perhaps it is a simple prayer in the morning or giving up television, computers and iPads for a few days a week to spend time volunteering or being together as a family.

✠ Youth Ministry

► **Join us this Sunday, Feb. 18** as we discover how to make this the best Lent ever! We will be discerning what to give up and take up during Lent, creating sacrifice bracelets/keychains to help us stay faithful to our Lenten goals, preparing for the Shadow Stations, and playing some Jackbox games! Bring a smart phone or tablet.

✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thank You to Everyone** who was able to support our Auburn Hotel Fundraiser last weekend.

► **OPEN HOUSE:** Help spread the word! Our Kindergarten Round-Up and All-School Open House Preschool-5th grade is on Thurs., Feb. 22 at 6pm in St. Gabriel's social hall.

► **During the Lenten Season** each teacher will take a turn organizing a weekly school-wide prayer service during our school day.



✠ The Parish in the Community

► **Check Out the Adult Formation Café Kiosk** for information on the Lenten Retreat "*The Way of Trust and Love*" with Fr. Jacques Philippe, Fri., March 16-Sun., March 18, at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. Internationally renowned spiritual author and retreat leader Fr. Philippe will lead a 3-day Lenten retreat exploring the spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. All are welcome! **Note: This retreat is expected to fill up quickly, so please register early to reserve your space.**

✝ From Father Tom's Desk

The Season of Lent

"The Spirit of Lent", Mark Searle, Notre Dame

In the cycle of weekday readings, Lent falls into two parts. The first part, including the "Pre-Lent" of Ash Wednesday and the rest of that week, runs through to Saturday of Week 3. In these three and a half weeks, the Gospel texts are taken from the Synoptics. The message running throughout is a call to a life of Gospel conversion. They speak of beginning anew, of conversion; of mutual forgiveness; of love of enemies; of absolute claims of justice and love; of the call to holiness.

The readings for the second half of Lent are taken from the Gospel of John, beginning on the Monday of the fourth week of Lent at 4:43 and going through to chapter 13. It is clear that these readings from John do not constitute a kind of "crash course" in the life of Jesus, so much as a presentation of the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of whom John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

How do these two sections of the lectionary fit together and what can they tell us about the spirit of Lent? The purpose of the first part of Lent is to bring us to compunction. "Compunction" is etymologically related to the verb "to puncture" and suggests the deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to any self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus. By hitting us again and again with demands which we not only fail to obey, but which we come to recognize as being quite beyond us, the Gospel passages are meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves.

It is an answer to this profound awareness of need that the lectionary shifts from the Synoptics to John, from the demands of discipleship to the person of Jesus. John presents Jesus as the savior, but Jesus can only save those who know their need for salvation. Confronted with our sickness and powerlessness, we pray for our salvation.

1st Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Today we hear the shortest of the three Gospel accounts of Jesus' 40-day sojourn in the desert. Gone are the three temptations, the travels and the dialogue with the devil. Stark Mark gives the simplest, bare bones account – one in which every word counts.

For the first time, we hear Jesus' voice. He makes four brief statements, two descriptive and two imperative. In the moment of terrible crisis, just as someone he respected has been taken by the Roman authorities, Jesus speaks his first words: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand." The time (*Kairos*) refers not to a clock hour or calendar day, but to time as the convergence of grace and nature, everything is prepared and ready for the fulfillment of the promises God has made since the time of creation.

Jesus' shorthand description of everything he means by that *kairos* of fulfillment is "the kingdom of God is at hand." The rest of the Gospel will fill out the meaning of that phrase. In short, God's reign is becoming present in the person and mission of Jesus. God is entering human history as never before.

This *kairos* demands a response, and Jesus describes that response with his two imperatives. First, "repent." As we know, that is not a call to sorrow, but to joy. "Repent" (*metanoeo*) might be likened to an invitation to come to our senses, to appreciate what life is really about. It is an invitation to perceive all of existence from a different perspective, a vantage point that notes God's nearness.

The second imperative is "Believe in the Gospel." Believe that God is good and has chosen to be with you in this time and place. Believe in God's compassion so much that you receive it and share it. Then you will know that the reign of God is indeed near.

"Help me, Lord, to change my heart."

God's Covenant (Noah)

[Celebration](#)

The Sunday readings from the Hebrew Scriptures in this Lenten liturgical cycle reflect on the covenants God has offered humankind through the ages. The covenant God makes with Noah, his family and the creatures, is God's promise that divine wrath will never destroy creation as a result of human sin. That doesn't mean that human sinfulness will not bring chaos to the world – even on a cosmic scale. Humanity is daily becoming more capable of that. The covenant, the promise God gave Noah, is that God will not destroy creation, that there is no one-to-one correspondence between human evil and divine punishment. The symbol of God's promise is the rainbow, a visible sign that the ancients read as God's weapon that had been put aside. It is the sign that God will never be humanity's adversary. Like the unilateral covenant, the sign is in the heavens, it has nothing to do with reciprocity but is a promise of compassion and mercy, pure and simple.

Our Covenant

Joan DeMerchant, [Celebration](#)

Lent is a time to remember that God first reached out to *us*. This was not a meager, one-time gesture like those we often make and withdraw, but a profound, lasting and healing covenant. During this season, we reflect on and ask forgiveness for our own alienating, sinful actions. We ponder in deep prayer and silence that God has invested everything, including a beloved Son, into this relationship.

A Lenten Challenge for Youth

Jim Auer, [Celebration](#)

Lent: Give up candy? How about something more meaningful. Give up dating? Maybe not wise if you have a relationship going, unless it's a mutual decision. If Lent has to mean giving up something, how about complaining? Try accepting, without complaint, the ordinary things that sometimes frustrate you: whiny younger siblings; school, especially nagging teachers and irritating peers; work, especially demanding bosses and irritating co-workers. Instead, (now that you have the time you formerly spent complaining) pray for all those people. Yep, pray for them. Perfectly normal people have actually tried this, and said it was a positive experience!

A Desert Journey

Richard Gribble, CSC, The Lit. Press, Colleagueville MN

In our daily lives God sets before us many challenges, many situations which appear to be great trials. Like Jesus' journey to the desert our Lenten journey, if accepted properly, will be a great challenge, a desert experience. The challenge we will face will make us better and more complete people. Our lives are filled with trials. There are challenges at work with our business associates, with the boss, with our duties. There are challenges at school, with classmates, teachers and homework assignments. There are trials and challenges in life, with problems, illness, suffering, and death.

How do we handle all these trials, these challenges from God? The answer is to go to the desert. The solution will be found there. The solutions to life's trials are found in prayer, works of mercy, and fasting – the traditional Lenten observances. None of these works change God, for the Lord is all knowing, all loving, and immutable. But through prayer, works of mercy, and fasting we change. We can then accept the trials and challenges of life, and more importantly, God's will in our lives. Through trial and challenge we grow; through prayer we learn acceptance.

