

Week of February 19, 2017

MONDAY

Sir 1:1-10 * Ps 93:1-2,5 * Mk 9:14-29

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Sir 2:1-11 * Ps 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40 * Mk 9:30-37

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

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

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Sir 5:1-8 * Ps 1:1-4,6 * Mk 9:41-50

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Sir 6:5-17 * Ps 119:12,16,18,27,34-35 * Mk 10:1-12

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Sir 17:1-15 * Ps 103:13-18 * Mk 10:13-16

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Is 49:14-15 * Ps 62:2-3,6-9 * 1 Cor 4:1-5 * Mt 6:24-34

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

Parish Activities

- Mon., Feb. 20 6:30pm Choir Practice
9:30am Lenten Bulk Mailing
- Tues., Feb. 21 10:00am Scripture Study
5:30pm RCIA
6:30pm Stations Meeting
- Wed., Feb. 22 3-8pm Parish Blood Drive
- Thurs. Feb. 23 4-9pm AACCS Open House

RITE of SENDING for the CALL to CONTINUING CONVERSION

Next weekend we will celebrate the Rite of sending for the Call to Continuing Conversion. Our prayers continue for Marty Spencer as he continues on his faith journey toward full membership in the Catholic Church.

This rite offers the community the opportunity to express its approval, confirm his readiness, and to send him forth for Recognition by the Bishop. Before Bishop Cistone on Sat., March 4, Marty will declare his intention to seek full communion with us.

Bulk Mailing: We need volunteers to help put together our Lenten bulk mailing on Mon., Feb. 20 at 9:30am. Any amount of time you are able to give is appreciated!

Parish Blood Drive: February 22, 3-8pm in the Social Hall. Don't forget to sign up. Call the parish office at 662-6861 to make your appointment.



Cantors: We will be scheduling for the upcoming Lenten season on Feb. 27 at 6pm in the church. The schedule will be for March 1 (Ash Wednesday) thru April 23. Note: That includes Wed. evening Masses on March 3, 8 & 29. Please check your dates and plan to attend. Unavailable dates can be emailed to Shelley or Sue by Sun., Feb. 26.

Join the Choir: With the Easter Season sneaking up on us, how about considering joining the choir? We meet on Monday evening 6:30-8pm in the church. This would be a great time to join!!!

Baptismal Preparation Sessions are at 7pm at the parish center for families who are asking for baptism for their first child: March 2, May 4 & June 1; for families who have already had one or more children baptized: April 6, August 3 & November 2. Registration is required, please call the parish center at 662-6861.

"If we ever forget that we're 'One Nation Under God', then then we will be a nation 'gone under'." Ronald Reagan

HELPING HANDS is a ministry provided by parishioners to help those who may have just returned home from surgery, home with a new baby, had a death in the family, or has some other need which may make it difficult for them to prepare meals for themselves or their family. One or two volunteers prepare a few meals and deliver them to whomever is in need, over the course of a week or two. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry, or if you would like to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact the parish office at 662-6861. THANK YOU!!

Small Group Sessions for Lent: Have you ever thought about getting together with a few friends to talk about the Sunday readings? At the entrances of church you will find a booklet called, "Around the Lenten Circle." These Booklets are designed for you to do just that, gather with friends and reflect upon and talk about the Sunday readings. This is not a difficult process. It takes anywhere from 1 to 1½ hours a week. The booklets give you everything you need: prayer, scripture passages and questions for reflection and sharing. Even if you don't want to gather with anyone, these booklets can be used for personal reflection too. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$9,534.83
Food Pantry: \$30.00

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
God is holy so we need to be more like God. How can we be more like Jesus here on earth?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus teaches us how to be holy. The examples Jesus uses may seem exaggerated, yet we know that true goodness is a challenge. Jesus is reinterpreting the Mosaic Law when he speaks of nonviolence and loving others despite rejection. We can see that being a follower of Jesus isn't easy, and sometimes we need to ask God for help. Being "perfect" means that being like God is a goal for our lives.

► **Living the Word:** Put forth a challenge to family members to make an effort to love "an enemy." Ask them to write the name of a person with whom they struggle at work, school, day care, or the playground, perhaps even at home. Give everyone an envelope to put their name on and seal another name inside. Put the envelopes in a box labeled, "Be like Jesus." Before next Sunday, pass the envelopes around to their owners. Ask each person to open their envelope and to discard it if they have tried to be more Christ-like. Tape the envelope closed again if another week's effort is needed.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Job Opening:** AACCS 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.

► **Parish Fall Raffle:** We are starting to collect donations for this year's annual raffle. The proceeds will go to our technology and science needs for 2017-18. If you have something that you would like to donate to the raffle, please contact Stephanie Horschig at Stephanie.Horschig@midmichigan.org. Thank you for your support!

► **The 4th & 5th Graders** made 22 fleece blankets that will be donated to Abortion Alternatives in Saginaw. A representative will be coming to collect the blankets and talk to the students about the agency on Mon., Feb. 20.

From Father Tom's Desk

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

One day God told Moses to assemble the entire community of Israel for an important message. So Moses did as he was told and God said: "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." What on earth did that mean? It seems redundant to call God holy; what else could God be? The people sought holiness by obeying God's laws, but how could that make them holy like God?

Jesus issued essentially this same command at the end of today's Gospel, except that Jesus used the word "perfect" instead of "holy." It sounds like an impossible demand. How can we be like God? The minute we ask that question, we hear an echo of the first chapter of Genesis: "God created humankind in the divine image." We must have some potential! Perhaps our major problem has been with our definition of holiness or godly perfection.

If we work backwards in today's Gospel we hear about God's unprejudiced treatment of the just and the unjust, those well-known for their goodness and those known for anything but love of God or others. The measure of God's holiness or perfection seems to be the way God sends sun and rain to everybody. That must be what Jesus meant when he said: "Love your enemies that you may be children of your heavenly father."

Example Given

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

We need to explore the translation that says "offer no resistance to one who is evil." When did Jesus let evil pass untrammelled? A better translation of that statement is "Do not react with hostility to one who is evil." That's an entirely different thing from not resisting evil. So the practical question is how to resist without hostility.

Jesus suggests that when somebody slaps you, you should turn the other cheek. The play in this bit of wisdom comes with the carefully chosen word "slap." Jesus didn't say "When your spouse beats you," or "When the gang bullies you again," instead, he said, "When somebody slaps you." A slap is meant to demean rather than to draw blood. A slap doesn't invite a fist fight; it's a put-down, a power play in the social hierarchy. Note too that the slap Matthew portrays was back-handed (right hand to right cheek). Jesus was describing something intended to put the victim in his or her place rather than to incapacitate her or him.

So too with walking the extra mile. A Roman soldier could force a local resident to carry his pack, but for only one mile. The offer to go a second mile robbed the uniformed bully of the initiative and put him in danger of being reported for going beyond the limits.

In the third example the power imbalance was economic. A poor person had borrowed money and all he had as collateral was his tunic, the outer garment that also served as his blanket at night. If the lender wanted to refuse to return the tunic until the loan was paid, he could get a group of collaborators to make the judgement on his behalf.

Priorities

[Celebration](#)

"Thus says the Lord: 'Be holy for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.'" On one level, there's a socio/psychological theory underneath the idea that we tend to become like whatever god we worship. As human beings we naturally imitate what we admire. We see what others acclaim as desirable and suddenly we can't wait to have it for ourselves. It's as if there's a yawning emptiness in us, a hunger ever seeking satisfaction that impels us to look outside ourselves for more. Thus we wear our team's colors and buy the car that bespeaks our values, be they for the flashy or the ostentatiously ecologically responsible.

This is the tendency that makes us prone to idolatry. We shouldn't think of idolatry just as some ancient pagan ritual of bowing down before a totem, but recognize that every choice we make says something about our ultimate values. We can recognize what we truly worship not so much by where we might go to church but rather by noting on what we spend our energy and our money. We know what has become holy to us by what makes us cheer, by what we strive to be and do.

To Evil with Good

[Celebration](#)

Jesus wanted his followers to circumvent the spirals of hostility in the world, thus he taught them how to respond in a way that decreased antagonism and increases humanity. The "lex talionis," an eye for an eye, recognized objective equality in terms of damage. The alternative Jesus proposed personalized the interaction. In his examples the injured party who refuses to be treated as an inferior human being becomes the greater in terms of humanity, simultaneously inviting the other into a more human milieu. That sounds a bit like "The last shall be first," and it also presages how Jesus would respond to his own arrest, saying that those who live by the sword will die by it.

From the time of Moses on, God has called a people to be holy, which ultimately means to be caught up in and by love. Jesus' message in today's Gospel is that we were made for more than pettiness and futility, and that no power on earth can demean us to the point of erasing our humanity.

**"When faced with evil,
let me not respond in kind."**

C.S.A. Target: The bishop wrote recently indicating our new target will be \$77,551. Last year it was \$76,520. Wonder why tax collectors were never popular? *Fr. Tom*

The Parish in the Community

- ▶ **Auburn Area Quilters** meet Feb. 21, 6:30pm at 1st Baptist Church.
- ▶ **Fish Fry at Auburn K of C Hall** (4760 Garfield): Friday, March 3, 3-7pm. All you can eat buffet. \$11 adults (13+), \$5 children 5-12, under 5 free. Take-outs available. All are welcome!

Amen Corner: The Parish Council recently put together a letter to parishioners indicating the new direction they have given to the parish planning group. That letter has been sent out to each registered household. The council has shown a preference for focusing upcoming efforts in remodeling and/or building to be at the east campus site.

In that regard the council voted to list the west campus with a realtor. The intent is to see what the interest might be in the real estate market. Permission has to be gotten from the diocese and it necessitates sending a copy of the council's minutes with each member's signature attached.

The council has directed the planning group to examine three areas of possible activity: to indicate the remodeling projects discussed for the east campus, to resurface and update projected costs for a social hall/gymnasium, and to do the same for any proposed new church. In the next three weeks to come these activities will be presented week after week. We ask you to take the time to look them over and to report to the council or planning group any questions you may have. *Fr. Tom*

"I've wondered what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."

Ronald Reagan