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 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal662-6431

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM (Not July)
 Sunday 9:30 AM Thursday 8:00 AM (Not July)

WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday 8:00 AM (Labor Day through Memorial Day)

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated the 2nd weekend each month. (Please check with parish office for current schedule) Must be active, registered member of parish family. Contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made by contacting Parish Office at least six months in advance. Must be active, registered member of parish family.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Notify Parish Office of parishioners experiencing serious illness, injury, or hospitalization. Communal Anointing of the Sick is celebrated annually in the Fall.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available 1st Saturday each month at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish *Please call Parish Office for appointment.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 114 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
 Ph.: 662-6431.....Fax: 662-3391..... www.auburnacschool.org
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 School Office..... schooloffice@auburnac.org

WEATHER POLICY

If Bay City Public Schools or AACCS close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5.

EDUCATION / FORMATION

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021

MONDAY

535: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

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

WEDNESDAY 7 pm Mass

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

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

227: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY 7 pm Stations of the Cross

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

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

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

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

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



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, Feb. 24th – Blood Drive, 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm

There is still time to make an appointment and help us meet our goal this month!

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$9,326

Food Pantry: \$65

We want to acknowledge your generous support of our Parish.

Thank-you so much!

Children Good Deed

...I made a Valentine card for my Mom and Dad...

...I hang my little sister's clothes...I watered the animals...

...I played with my brother...Cleaning the house...

...I gave my little sister hugs...



AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

Every morning our classes come together, in a figurative sense, for morning announcements. While

this used to take part in the hallway, this year we have utilized google meet to facilitate our announcements. The ability to still meet as a group and share our morning prayer, pledge, and mission statement is key for the students to understand the mission and identity of the school. After we have said the three opening parts of announcements, we join in talking about our virtues. Taking those virtues and applying them directly to the children's lives helps them understand how they can use those skills in the future. The goal is to build Disciples of Christ, and the virtues are a great way to help form those moral compasses of our youth.

This week's Gospel marks the beginning of Lent. Jesus goes into the desert for 40 days where he fasted and prayed. During this time of reflection, Jesus strengthened his relationship with God and prepared for the difficult journey ahead of him.

During Lent, I always try to build up my relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It isn't always easy to find extra time to pray, but I do make a concerted effort. This year I am going to say a decade of the rosary every day. I hope you all have a meaningful Lenten journey!



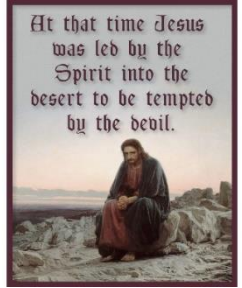
✝ God Bless

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

We are now in the season of Lent. We use the color violet to show repentance and our worship space is now simple and sparse. The signs of festivity that are usually a part of the Sunday liturgy are set aside during the season of Lent.

Reflecting on the Word:

As we prepare for Easter, we are invited to a change of mind and heart during the season of Lent. We are asked to tend to our spiritual wellbeing by asking ourselves how we can be more kind, love, more deeply, follow Jesus more closely and begin a renewed, rejuvenated relationship with god. But we are also reminded by the three pillars of Lent—fasting, almsgiving and prayer—to do more for others, to show solidarity with the poor, and to participate humbly in the works of charity.



Living the Word:

Observe the season of Lent by planning ways your family can give your time and talents to others. Ask your children for their input and suggest other ideas that you can do as a family. Try to plan an activity for each week during Lent. How do these activities turn your hearts and minds toward God?



Sacrament of Reconciliation We will be celebrating the Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation with our parish children this coming week. **Congratulations** to Eva Abraham, Ashlyn Anderson, Grayson Beckham, Miles Bock, Ethan Earle, Arielle Grzegorzcyk, Helena Grzegorzcyk, Harper Hetherington, Addison Horschig, Carly Keller, Elianna Markel, Chelsea Mason, Audrey Muehlenbeck, Macy Pickvet, Carson Pope, Luke Putt and Joseph Rivet. Reconciliation is a beautiful way to grow in love and to be more deeply inspired by the spirit of Jesus given to us at Baptism.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls –

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Through this program more than 159 million people in more than 100 countries are helped with lifesaving support. What you give up for Lent changes lives.

- \$40 – for infant scales to measure baby's growth.
- \$80 – for chickens to provide eggs for protein and income
- \$120 – contributes to a household garden for family nutrition.

What you give up for Lent and give to the rice bowl changes lives. For more information on rice bowls, go to: CRSRicebowl.org Rice bowls are available at the church entrances, in the box outside the Parish Center or inside the Parish Center.

RETURN RICE BOWLS ON PALM SUNDAY: March 27th & 28th





FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

First Sunday of Lent:

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

The action against evil in all its forms is not a swift or easy process. It is moved forward by the fervor we bring to the season of Lent now beginning. We come together, sinners all, to admit the truth of ourselves to God and to one another. We come together to acknowledge responsibility for our world and its ills and evils. We come to pray together and to listen as the sacred texts speak their timeless wisdom and extend their challenges to all of us.

Through the story of Noah and the great flood, the authors of Genesis remind us that no one goes it alone in this world. God has chosen to be bound forever to us and to our world on a covenantal relationship. This bond offers human beings and all living creatures a dignity that is to be respected and preserved. This covenant supersedes all the differences that divide us and all the controversies that place us at odds with one another.

Just as Noah and company were preserved in the ark from the floodwaters, those who are baptized into Christ are saved through the waters of the sacrament. Reflecting on this gift, the author of 1 Peter understood baptism not just as a physical cleansing but also as a spiritual purification that clears one's conscience for right and good.

In a few terse words, the Marcan evangelist has attested to Jesus' own encounter with evil and the fact that he did not struggle alone. With the Spirit to guide and inspire him and with angel messengers to support and strengthen him, Jesus emerged from this sortie with Satan to announce the reign of God, which is to be welcomed in repentance and faith. Today, we are recruited anew in the struggle against evil. To that end, we acknowledge our responsibility for it and our willingness to work toward its transformation.

God's Promise: (Genesis 9)

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 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 a promise of compassion and mercy, pure and simple.

By the Cross: (1 Peter 3)

Celebration

Today's selection from the First Letter of Peter says, "Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God." Many of us will hear that as an affirmation that Christ had to suffer to atone for our sinfulness, to pay the price or take the punishment we deserve so that we deserve so that we would be free to approach God. The inside-out way of understanding that is to perceive that Christ embodied God's original offer of forgiveness to humankind. The first approach understands that God created everything in perfection and when we blew it, God sent the divine son to make up for our failure.

Another perspective perceives that God created everything with a destiny of growth toward union with God and we learn that with as much difficulty and as many falls and mistakes as we make in learning to walk and talk. In the first perspective, Christ's cross brings God's forgiveness for sin. In the second, the cross is the fullest possible revelation of God's desire to be one with us; Christ's free

acceptance of the cross demonstrates that even the ultimate attempt to reject God cannot overcome God's compassion and saving will.

Repent and Believe: (Mark 1)

Celebration

Today we hear the shortest of the three Gospel accounts of Jesus' 40-day sojourn in the desert. Gone are the three temptations and the travels and the dialogue with the devil. Stark Mark gives us 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' shorthanded 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.

Change of Heart: Sr. Mary McGlone, *National Catholic Reporter*

Noah saw creation receive a fresh start and a promise. Eons later, Jesus proclaimed that something utterly new was happening, that something that flowed from God's constant care was about to change everything. He called it the reign of God, the final stage of human history. Jesus invited everyone to *metanoia*, a conversation in which they would drop the myths that stifled their dreams and vision, freeing them to move into the future God desired for them.

The invitation to *metanoia* is classic. It is classic because, no matter which empire tries to control our vision and direct our hopes, *metanoia* calls us to remember the purpose of creation. While Jesus was in the desert, the demon represented the shallow, enticing ambitions of his empire; the beasts and angels imaged creation's potential to fulfill God's will on earth as in heaven. Lent is a classic exercise, always ancient, always new calling us to find new and deeper meaning in life. Lent calls us to listen anew to Jesus' invitation to bring Gospel change to the times in which we live.

Time Out:

Grace Works, Dallas, TX

Forty days. It is a long time out, at least by sporting standards. But the number 40 is intended to remind us of previous seasons of God's protection and provision for His people when they faced other times of trial—the forty days Noah and his family were sustained on the ark during the flood, the forty years in the desert when Israel was wandering between Egypt and the Promised Land, the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments, the forty days Elijah hid from Jezebel in the desert. Forty days is long enough for good habits to stick, long enough to reflect on our direction in life and make necessary changes, long enough to regain our momentum and strength for the moment the whistle blows, and the game resumes at its crucial, cruciform, cross-shaped moment. But for now, in preparation for that moment, our Coach has called "time-out." So, huddle up. 40 days of time out. Let's use it wisely.

"Strengthen me, Lord, on my Lenten journey"

In Memoriam



We have received several “in memory” donations; \$50 from co-workers of Janelle Brzeinski (Eileen Rivard’s granddaughter), \$100 in memory of Eileen Rivard and \$25 in memory of Jim Kilda. Also, on Tuesday, we laid to rest, Harold Perry a former maintenance

person at St. Gabriel. *Please keep the families of all of the above mentioned in your prayers...*

CMA (formerly CSA) Update:

These are the latest numbers for the CMA collection; Our target is \$71,201, as of February 12th, \$65,065 has been pledged. We are at 90% of our targeted assessment by **only** 50% of parishioners! So, if you have not already sent in your pledge card, **PLEASE** do so. Remember that you can mail your pledge directly to the Diocese of Saginaw, drop it in the collection basket at week-end Masses or bring it to the parish office. **Thank you for your support to help us meet our goal!**



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St. Anthony Cemetery

4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn

COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,000	\$1,500
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,400	\$1,750
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 300 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 500	\$1,200
Burial	\$ 650	\$ 850
Burial of Cremains	\$ 150	\$ 175
Saturday Burial	\$ 200 additional	\$ 200 additional
Foundation	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch

Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861

Prices Effective July 1, 2019