

# Week of February 26, 2017

## MONDAY

Sir 17:20-24 \* Ps 32:1-2,5-7 \* Mk 10:17-27

**TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion**

Sir 35:1-12 \* Ps 50:5-8,14,23 \* Mk 10:28-31

**WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass & ashes**

**12:00pm Scripture & ashes**

**7:00pm Mass & ashes**

Jl 2:12-18 \* Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17 \* 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2 \* Mt 6:1-6,16-18

**THURSDAY 8:00am Mass**

Dt 30:15-20 \* Ps 1:1-4,6 \* Lk 9:22-25

**FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross**

Is 58:1-9 \* Ps 51:3-6,18-19 \* Mt 9:14-15

**SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass**

Is 58:9-14 \* Ps 86:1-6 \* Lk 5:27-32

**SUNDAY 9:30am Mass**

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 \* Ps 51:3-6,12-13,17 \* Rom 5:12-19 \* Mt 4:1-11

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



## Parish Activities

**Mon., Feb. 27 6:15pm Religious Education**

**6:30pm Choir Practice**

**Tues., Feb. 28 10:00am Scripture Study**

**5:30pm RCIA**

**Thurs. Mar. 2 7:00pm Baptismal Prep.**

**Sun., Mar. 5 6:00pm Youth Ministry**

**Lent Begins:** This coming week we enter into the sacred 40-day Lenten journey. A special mailing was sent to each household with the *Little Black Book* and the calendar of activities for the season. Extra copies for friends/neighbors are available at the two main entrances.

**Join the Parish:** If you haven't gotten around to it, all that's necessary is to call the pastor and make an appointment for a brief visit. *Fr. Tom*

**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 Monday evening 6:30-8pm in the church. This would be a great time to join!!



**Bulk Mailing:** A huge thank you to everyone who helped prepare our Lenten bulk mailing! There was a great turnout which make for quick work! Thanks!

**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.

**Small Group Sessions for Lent:** Have you ever thought about getting together with a few friends, neighbors, coworkers or other families 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 other people, 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](mailto:sdesjardins@auburnac.org).

**Announcing St. Gabriel Parish's new website!** The new site will include all the old goodies that were on the original site including the bulletin and parish calendar. But be on the lookout for new additions including the current liturgical ministry schedule, links to daily readings, and places to submit prayer requests, to update your contact information, and to sign up to volunteer in various ministries in the parish! The new site will go live soon, so check out [www.auburnac.org](http://www.auburnac.org) periodically over the next few days!

## Stewardship

**Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$8,699.00**

**Food Pantry: \$20.00**

**Catholic Services Appeal:** We will begin our annual participation in the drive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent. As our target has increased from \$75,000 to \$77,000 we have a big challenge to face – *together.*

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee God gave each of us special gifts and talents. Do we get overwhelmed, worrying about being successful?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** It's difficult to hear "do not worry" in the United States in the twenty-first century. This teaching of Jesus sounds just as radical to us today as it must have to the disciples of the first century. But we can be loyal to God, and we can trust in God. Wealth is something that can distract us from loving God. But many habits can distract too. Jesus challenges the disciples and us to have confidence in the love and care of God.

► **Living the Word:** Challenge family members to "give" rather than "give up" this Lent. Giving and serving can create a new habit. What can you do that is a positive step to being holier?

## Youth Ministry

► **Saginaw Spirit Game:** Today, Sunday, Feb. 26.



## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **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](mailto:Stephanie.Horschig@midmichigan.org). Thank you for your support!

► **March is Reading Month:** During the month of March the students will be celebrating reading by being a Super Reader. Our classrooms will each have a superhero theme, and we will kick off our month by dressing in our favorite superhero outfits.

► **K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades** play intramural basketball on Sunday afternoons through March 12, in the St. Anthony gym. K-1 plays at 1pm and 2-3 grades play at 2pm. Come and root for them!!

► **Thank You** to everyone who was able to attend our Kindergarten Round-Up and All-School Open House. We enjoyed meeting so many new families. If you would like information about AACCS, please call 662-6431 or visit our website at [www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org).

# From Father Tom's Desk

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

In today's segment from the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches about the demands of discipleship. Later on, he will tell the disciples to go out without provisions (Mt 10:9-10) and that giving up home and hearth for him will bring them a hundred fold (19:29). Here, during their early experiences with him it's as if Jesus were giving them their fresh-man orientation, making it as clear as he can that discipleship is an all or nothing venture. Jesus actually uses the vocabulary of slavery to describe their relationship to God – although in this case, the individuals would choose freely which master they would serve.

As he developed this teaching, Jesus continued to use vivid language to describe discipleship. When he said that servants can be "devoted" to only one master, the Greek word Matthew quoted means to cling to something in such a way that the one holding on becomes like that which is held. That's an idea we see repeated in the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30) where the servants who acted like the master were rewarded while the one who feared him was rejected. The strength of this concept translates well into English with the work "devoted." "Devoted" derives from words which mean to make a vow. A synonym for "devoted" is "consecrated." The relationship Jesus expects between disciples and God is uncompromising. There's no wiggle room.

### How Deep Our Trust

McGlone, Celebration

After speaking about the exclusivity of commitment involved in discipleship, Jesus goes on to explain what discipleship offers. We might look at this as part of the longest-lasting and most audacious advertising campaign ever broadcast. For nearly 2,000 years, humanity has heard Jesus say, "You've got nothing to worry about! Clothing? If the birds don't worry, why should you? Food? In case you didn't notice, the earth and its oceans were custom designed to produce and reproduce it for every creature that will every live!" We might ask why it is so easy to believe something like "You're in good hands with Allstate," while we're so reluctant to let Jesus' assurances guide us. Perhaps it's the psychology of a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush; like Isaiah's dejected people, we'll trust the limited warranty on our car brakes more than God's promise of life.

We need to understand the injunction not to worry as an extension of Jesus' teaching about discipleship. He actually claimed that it's pagan to waste our time on concerns about food and drink. According to Jesus, life is all about seeking God's kingdom and if we really do that, everything else will fall into place.

The call of today's Gospel is becoming devoted disciples who trust the God who loves us like a mother and promises that we've got everything we need as long as we are willing to share it.

### The Motherhood of God

Celebration

This very short passage plays with two images for God, one that comes from dejected Zion and the other from the very mouth of God.

Israel's grievance against God compares the people to an abandoned wife. They say "God has deserted me." They're crying out in despair. They were grieving that they hadn't even gotten the respect of the rights that would come with a divorce. They feel abandoned and forgotten as if God simply walked out on them. Like a wife whose husband has disappeared, they feel public shame, almost questioning whether the relationship ever existed.

That's the cue for God to counter their accusation with an entirely different image. A runaway husband? No, not this God! "Can a woman

forget the child of her womb?" If the choice of a spouse is a commitment, how very much more the divine decision to give birth to this people? God's relationship to them can only be compared to motherhood, an intimacy that is unrepeatable and irreversible. But God goes even further. A mother doesn't decide which child shall be hers. God chose this people in particular. God's promise is irrevocable: "I will never forget you."

### Month's Summary

Donna Schaper, Celebration

These late February texts combine to describe the God given gift of trust. The Gospel asks the great question of "why worry?" the wildflowers don't worry. The birds don't worry. Why should you? If God cares for them why would God not equally care for you? The Isaiah text speaks of God's tenderness as like that of a mother towards an infant. A mother gazing into the eyes of a newborn embodies trust – just as the child in that eye-lock is learning how to trust. The Corinthians passage advocates that stewards be "trustworthy," and implies that establishing trust is about taking care of what has been entrusted to us.

## "Let us trust in God."

### March Wedding Anniversaries

60 years or more.....Donald & Margaret Mularz

40 years or more.....Robert & Janice Dzurka

Terry & Monica Hus

Robert & Janie Parks

30 years or more.....Michael & Debra Lawrence

Anthony & Debra Lupo

10 years or more.....Robert Jr. & Cindy Abraham

James & Karen Plant

Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen



### The Parish in the Community

► **Corpus Christi Altar Sodality Dessert Card Party:** Mon., March 13, 6:30-9pm at the Holy Trinity site, 1002 S Wenona St. Donation \$4.

### If God seems far away...guess who moved?

**Amen Corner:** The first concerns of the Parish Council are nice or necessary repairs/replacements that have hung in the balance awaiting a decision on whether or not we would embark on a building project. The following is not an all-inclusive list but it offers a sketch of what might be undertaken at east campus:

* Hand dryers (3 or 5)	\$400 each
* Drinking fountains (3)	\$500 each
** Storage space (12x24)	\$23,000
** Plumbing repairs (kitchen area)	\$8,000 guesstimate
** Boiler replacement/removal	\$40,000
** Windows in church	\$20,000
* Additional parking lot lighting	awaiting bid
** Pavement repairs	\$2,000
** Parking lot striping	\$850
* Nice ** Necessary	

The next concern of the council is an updated cost on a gymnasium/social hall complex. Amen

Fr. Tom

"God gives every bird its food,  
but He does not throw it into its nest".