

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2019

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

Sir 4:11-19 * Ps 119:165,168,171-172,174-175 * Mk 9:38-40

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

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

FRIDAY

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Sir 27:4-7 * Ps 92:2-3,13-16 * 1 Cor 15:54-58 * Lk 6:39-45



PARISH ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Mon., Feb. 25 | 1:00pm | Lenten Bulk Mailing |
| Tues., Feb. 26 | 10:00am | Scripture Study |
| | 6:30pm | RCIA |
| | 7:00pm | Bible Study-WC |
| Wed., Feb. 27 | 1:30-6:30pm | Blood Drive-Auburn Library |
| Sun., Mar. 3 | 9:30am | Rite of Sending at Mass |
| | 10:45am | Religious Education |
| | 6:00pm | Youth Ministry |

New Hire: We are happy to announce that Jill Arndt has been hired as the Secretary/Receptionist (Office Administrator) for the parish. She has already begun to serve in this capacity. Welcome to the Parish Staff!

AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT...

Lenten Bulk Mailing will be prepared on Mon., Feb. 25 at 1:00pm at the Parish center. Everyone is welcome to help. Many hands make light work!!

Palm Collection: We will be collecting palms (to be burnt for ashes) in the baskets by the church entrances through March 3.

Small Group Lenten Reflection Booklets – *Around the Lenten Circle* by Ann Naffziger – are available at the church entrances. These booklets are designed to be used in a group setting with others to reflect and talk about the Lenten Sunday readings. Everything you need is provided: prayer, scripture passages and reflection questions. The booklet can also be used individually for private use.

LENT 2019 MISSION – Eucharist: A Diamond in our Midst

Join our parish community for three evenings and a morning hearing about the Eucharist.

Sunday, March 10 Eucharist: Hunger of the Human Heart 7:00pm

Sunday, March 11 Eucharist: We Are the Body of Christ 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 12 Eucharist: The Real Presence 10:00am

Eucharist: Our Sacred Meal 7:00pm

Mass will be celebrated after the presentation.

Dinner will be served each night at 6pm. There will be child care available for ages 6 months through 5th grade. Sign-up sheets are at the church entrances for those who will be attending dinner, the Tuesday morning session and utilizing the childcare option. Please sign up by March 3.

KITCHEN HELPERS are needed for the Parish Mission dinners. If interested in helping please sign-up at the main entrance of church. You would need to arrive by 5:30pm to set up, then serve & clean up. Questions? Contact Sandy 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.

Be the "GIFT of LIFE" The next scheduled blood drive will be Wednesday, February 27, 1:30-6:30pm at the Auburn Library. Everyone who attempts to donate receives a pair of R U My Type? socks. Schedule an appointment by calling 1-866-642-5663 or go to versit.org/michigan. What type R U?

RCIA RITE of SENDING: Next weekend we will celebrate the Rite of Sending for Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. Our prayers continue for Alyssa, Brookelynn, Maggee and Bella, as they continue on their faith journey toward membership in the Catholic Church. This rite offers the community the opportunity to express its approval and confirm the readiness of our catechumen and candidates and to send them forth to the celebration of the Rite of Election with Bishop Hurley at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. Before the Bishop, they will declare their intention to seek full communion with us.

Congratulations! Completion certificates were awarded to 10 parishioners who successfully completed the 23 session Bible Timeline series. Their dedication and commitment of the reading, studying and sharing of scripture was amazing. All came away with a deeper appreciation of our salvation history and story as it is unfolded in the bible.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$8,551.00

Food Pantry: \$65.00

Children's G@od Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...held the door open for several people at the restaurant.

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What is something nice you did for someone else without expecting anything in return?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** To be a Christian is to go above and beyond the basics. Since we know and hold the light of God in our lives, we are required to do so much more than those who do not know Christ. We have not only the grace to be able to do more but also the responsibility. No matter how hard it is to pray for someone who has harmed us, we must still do so. Such acts soften our hearts and allow grace to fill us. When we open ourselves to follow Christ, the Holy Spirit can work within us.

► **Living the Word:** Through role-playing, help your family find ways to love others when it is difficult. Encourage each family member to be on both sides of a scenario in which one person is rude and the other acts in a loving way. As a family, brainstorm different things the loving person could say or various ways they could react to the difficult situation. Come up with some specific phrases that would be helpful to have on hand when trying to love those who are being hurtful.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **Eagle Palooza:** AACCS would like to thank the volunteers, attendees and donors for a successful Eagle Palooza. The support shown by our Parish and the Auburn Community was overwhelming. Located at the west entrance of the church is a list of event donors. We would also like to thank last minute donors, Outdoor Adventures and Terri Duch, who were not included on the list.

► **Thank You** to everyone who attended our School Open House. We enjoyed meeting so many new families. Open registration for PS-5th grade will begin March. If you would like information about AACCS, please call 662-6431 or visit our website at www.auburnac.org.

► **AACS Homebound Outreach:** Once a month students create cards to send to the Parish homebound and residents of the local

assisted living facilities. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a card from an AACCS student, call 662-6431 or email ckaczynski@auburnac.org. Please include name and address.

"Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the ways you can in all the places you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can."

John Wesley

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Datchuck Sanchez, [Celebration](#)

Love of enemies or the capacity to do so, is not inherited; it is not a function of my genes. Rather, it must be *learned*, just as going the extra mile, turning the other cheek and all the other irrational, illogical and unnatural mandates of the Great Sermon must be learned. Where, you might ask, does this learning take place? Where is the so-called "Hard Knocks University" when the trials of discipleship are taught and mastered? For an answer, we look first to Jesus on the cross and then to Paul.

While he hung, suffering in innocence, the Lucan Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them." Forgive whom? Pilate? The high priest? The rabid crowds who called for his death? Judas? The soldiers who mocked, scourged and nailed him to the cross? The disciples who deserted him? Forgive whom? From Jesus' dying, praying and forgiving, we turn to Paul who reminds us that it was "while we were *enemies* we were reconciled to God through the death of Jesus" (Rom 5:10). From Paul and Jesus, we learn that the enemy is not "them" or "her" or "him" but *us* – you, me and every other sinner for whom Jesus came, conquered sin, died, and rose again to glory.

No doubt, many will counter Jesus' challenge "love your enemies" with the objection that their feelings of hatred and repulsion as regards enemies would be too difficult to overcome. In this regard, believers may need to be reminded that love, i.e., the love that Jesus' disciples are called to live, is *not a feeling* but a deliberate, conscious and free act of the *will*. Love in this passage, is less a noun, a characteristic or an emotional state than it is an action. While it may be impossible to feel love for an enemy, it is not impossible to will to act in certain ways, even toward those whom experience has shown to be the most entrenched of opponents.

Notice, however, that Jesus makes no promises that love will beget love or that love will transform an enemy into a friend, or that love will modify the enemy's behavior. Always the realist as well as the idealist, the Lucan Jesus simply promises that those who love as God loves will become like God. Compassionate as God is compassionate, those who can love even the enemy have consented to live the Christian ethic in its most highly evolved manner.

The Greater Power (1 Sm 26)

[Celebration](#)

This story reveals David's character and theology. There is no doubt that his life was in danger and that Saul would have rewarded anyone who killed him. Nevertheless, when Saul fell unwittingly under David's power, David refused to harm him out of respect for the fact that God had appointed him.

The story of David sparing Saul offers historical background to Jesus' teaching about love of enemies. Although David may not have been full of affection for Saul, he respected God's sole right to give him life or death (26:10). David's clemency engendered greater respect than killing Saul would have brought. David chose the power of mercy and reverence over the lesser power of violence and thereby proved himself the stronger of the two men.

New Life (1 Cor 15)

[Celebration](#)

In this section of his reflection on the resurrection of the dead, Paul is trying to help the Corinthians understand resurrection in ways that go beyond their typical thought patterns. Greek philosophy had a generally poor opinion of the physical world in comparison to what they saw as spiritual.

Therefore, the idea that a dead person would be brought back to bodily life rather than simply freed from the confines of limited, corruptible bodily existence seemed primitive and actually rather disgusting to people who understood resurrection as the revivification of a corpse. (They were thinking more in terms of Halloween than Easter.) Nevertheless, the resurrection of the body – as we proclaim in the Apostles' Creed – was vitally important to Paul. His challenge was to get people to think beyond their crude categories.

Essential to his argument is the idea that resurrection is transformation, not resuscitation. That is what he is driving at in the distinction between Adam and Christ. Adam represents earthly life with all its frailty and potential. That material life is exactly what Christ took on in the incarnation, and frail as it is, Paul wants us to remember that God took it on in love and thereby revealed its value.

No Greater Love (Luke 6)

[Celebration](#)

"To those who hear I say, love your enemies."

In today's Gospel, as last week, we find ourselves listening to Jesus addressing us directly as his disciples. Now, he is giving concrete examples of what he taught with his eight blessings and woes. If those seemed somewhat theoretical, he now gets right down to attitudes and actions, telling us how to respond to the woeful events of life and transform them into occasions of grace and therefore blessings.

One commentator on today's Gospel suggests that it was part of Jesus' autobiography. Thus, if we want to understand what he meant, we can look to how he lived the advice he was handing out. We can find instances to the actions Jesus described at different moments of his life, and especially in the account of his passion when he uttered one of his most famous prayers; "Father, forgive them they know not what they do" (23:34).

For over two millennia, the Lord has addressed his disciples in the words of today's Gospel, "To you who hear I say, love your enemies." We must have the audacity to believe it is possible. Only this love can redeem us and our world.

"LORD, HELP ME RESPOND TO EVIL BY DOING GOOD."

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► **Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Try **REFLECT** weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, March 22-24. Take a chance and get involved. Cost is \$185 for meals & single room. Call 586-770-1772, reflect.michigan@gmail.com or www.ReflectRetreat.com for details.

► **Hospice 411:** Who qualifies and for how long, what are the benefits? Get the answers to your questions Sun., March 24, 2pm at Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 1006 S Wenona, Bay City.

► **Diocesan Lenten Retreats at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw:** "Spirituality of the Martyrs in Everyday Life", Sat., March 15, 7:30pm to Sat., March 16, 3pm.

"Jesus-the Way of Beauty" with Jenny Klement and LeAnne & Dan Osborn, Fri., March 29, 7:30pm to Sun., March 31, 11am.

"If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be."

Yogi Berra