

✠ Week of February 25, 2018

MONDAY

Dn 9:4-10 * Ps 79:8-9,11-13 Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

Is 1:10,16-20 * Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23 * Mt 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mass ←

Jer 18:18-20 * Ps 31:5-6,14-16 * Mt 20:17-28

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Jer 17:5-10 * Ps 1:1-4,6 * Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-28 * Ps 105:16-21 * Mt 21:33-43,45-46

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Mi 7:14-15,18-20 * Ps 103:1-4,9-12 * Lk 15:1-3,11-32

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Ex 20:1-17 * Ps 19:8-11 * 1 Cor 1:22-25 * Jn 2:13-25



✠ Parish Activities

Mon., Feb. 26	6:15pm Religious Education
	6:30pm Choir Practice
Tues., Feb. 27	10:00am Scripture Study
	6:30pm RCIA
	6:30pm Planning Group
Wed., Feb. 28	6:00pm Soup Supper & Mass
Thur., Mar. 1	7:00pm Baptism Prep
Sun., Mar. 4	1-3pm AACCS K-3 Basketball games - West
	6:00pm Youth Ministry



R.C.I.A. Penitential Rite for Catechumens/Candidates: Next weekend at the 9:30am Sunday Mass, we will celebrate a Penitential Rite. This Rite has a 2-fold meaning: initiation and reconciliation. We are all in need of transformation, conversion and reconciliation in light of our Lenten journey and in the spiritual journey of our catechumen, Chris Krueger. This Rite is intended for all of God's people, recognizing the need we all share for protection and freedom from sin and its effects.

✠ Youth Ministry

► **Chaperones Needed:** We are still looking for a couple chaperones for the **Summer Mission Trip**, if any adult parishioners are interested in joining us! Chaperones must be at least 25 years old, be able to clear a background check, and must attend a VIRTUS session before leaving. To keep expenses minimal, we are also hoping to borrow vehicles. Contact Christine Sellnow at 662-6861 if you are interested in being a chaperone or are willing to let us use your vehicle!



✠ Education/Formation

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

If you had been there with Jesus on the mountain, would you have been like Peter and wanted to stay there? Or would you have been excited to come back down and do the work?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Who were you created in the image of and what are you here to do? Jesus and his disciples come face to face with this question as he was transfigured before their eyes. We finally see Jesus in all his splendid glory. However, he's not just called to be that dazzling figure on the mountain, he is also called to come down and be the Jesus who was crucified. This is often the way it is with us too; we are not called to be just one thing. It is never all glory or all suffering. Life is both.

► **Living the Word:** Encourage your family to try to see the fullness of those around them, instead of only as they usually think of them (as

father, mother, sister, brother, etc.) As they look at family members more fully today, invite them to tell each other about the gifts that they notice that each possesses. At the end of the day, bring everyone together and ask if another's notice of a gift has changed how anyone feels about him or herself. Does this appreciation for a gift help anyone want to grow that gift and make it stronger? Would the family like to do this exercise again?

► JOY DURING LENT

Take Out: Family Faith on the Go, March 2018

Just because Lent is a time of sacrifice doesn't mean all six weeks need to be filled with sorrow. As Matthew 6:16-18 says: "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Four Simple Ways to Bring Joy into Lent This Year:

1. Try new recipes for meatless Fridays. Some may end up family favorites.
2. Remember beauty. Put a small bouquet of flowers or pick evergreens from the yard to bring spring's hope into the house.
3. Celebrate new life. Visit a farm or zoo to see the new baby animals and thank God for His gifts of creation.
4. Dress up. Wear your best clothes to Mass on Sundays.

✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **March is Reading Month!** During the month of March the students will be celebrating reading by learning about different vocations. We will have special guest speakers and assemblies centered on vocations/careers.



► **K-3rd plays intramural basketball** on Sunday afternoons in St. Anthony gym, through March 11. K-1 plays at 1pm, and grades 2-3 play at 2pm. The 4th/5th grade girls also cheer during the 2nd/3rd grade game. Come check them out!!

► **Thank You to Everyone** who attended 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.

✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$12,537.70
Food Pantry: \$135.00

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

- ...helping babysit my cousin Bennett.
- ...cleaning the basement.
- ...to clear my plate after dinner.
- ...played church.
- ...listen to teacher and did good on my homework.

✠ The Parish in the Community

► **Fish Fry & Bake Sale** at Auburn K of C, 4760 Garfield, Fri., Mar. 2, 2:30-7pm. We have changed to TAKE-OUT ONLY dinner. Cost \$10. Baked goods sold separately. All are welcome!

The Iceberg Law: 7/8^{ths} of everything can't be seen.

Amen Corner: On February 27th, the architect, Fred Dice, will present the Planning Group with a three-dimensional drawing of the proposed project. After receiving it, the drawing will be placed for parish viewing. A sub-committee of the Planning Group is working on a feasibility study to be conducted by a professional fund raiser. You'll be asked to indicate your preference for the direction we take in the future. That should take place sometime in May.
Fr. Tom

✝ From Father Tom's Desk

2nd Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Today we hear the Genesis account of God's test of Abraham. Often when we think of Abraham as the man of great faith, we are remembering his leaving everything behind in order to go to the land God was preparing, in order to receive the promise that his descendants would be as uncountable as the stars. It is easier to think of that than of the day when God tested Abraham's faith by asking for Isaac.



We might see Abraham's test as inhuman, too great a demand. Most parents would say, "I would give my life for my child," but would balk at giving their child. The message of this story, the example of Abraham is one that has been pondered in the Scriptures, the Christian tradition and in world literature. It leads us to the core question of discipleship: What does God ask of us? Just how sovereign is God?

In the reading from Romans, St. Paul turns this story inside out. While Genesis asked us to ponder what God can ask of us, Paul proclaims what God offers us. When Paul says, "God did not spare his own Son," he is implicitly comparing God to Abraham. Yet, whereas Abraham's test probed how much a creature might be asked to give the sovereign God, what humanity owes its Maker, Paul says that the God who owes us nothing sacrifices everything for us. In Paul's mind, God is the sacrifice. Genesis presented us with the test of faith: How much do we owe God, how much are we willing to give God? Paul says that God's love, God's self-giving for humanity is immeasurable and that Christ's death and resurrection are the proof of that.

Today, this reading prepares us to hear the story of the Transfiguration, and challenges us to allow our concept of God to be transformed and amplified. The dazzling appearance of Jesus on the mountain is a sign of all the good God offers us. This week's reading gives us a Lenten invitation to contemplate the image of God they present. Instead of calling us to say "Here I am," God tells us "Behold me in the Son." Then, God gives us the same command that came from the cloud: "Listen to him."

Put to the Test

[Celebration](#)

The story of God's test of Abraham is a classic which asks some of the hardest questions people of faith ever encounter. What is God like? What does it mean to worship God and God alone?

God called to Abraham, and he replied, "Here I am," or literally, "Behold me." That's a fairly common phrase in the Hebrew Scriptures which can simply indicate that the person heard their name or it can carry the full weight of saying I am really here, listening and ready to respond.

Who was it that God was to behold? This was a new Abraham, more than the one who abandoned his homeland for God's promise, more

than the one who begged God for a child, more than the one who received God's messengers and bargained for the life of a town. This was Abraham, the man so devoted to God, so obedient and faithful that he would give up everything at God's command.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, Job is the person whose situation most compares to Abraham's. Job, too, was tested. He lost everything, railed against God and through it all came to a new depth of faith and trust in the God he could not understand. So, too, Abraham was a new man at the end of this ordeal. He, too, had learned the depth of his devotion to God. Obedience, trusting God and giving everything to God were more important than all the blessings he received. That's a faith that must be experienced. That depth of faith is the result of going through the trial. There is no other way.

The Greatest Gift (Romans)

[Celebration](#)

In this remarkable passage, Paul compares God to Abraham. We read that God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to give up everything God had given him. Abraham proved to himself and to God that his relationship to God, listening to God and responding to God's call, was more important to him than everything else he had and was and hoped for. Isaac was Abraham's future and he was willing to sacrifice that future to be faithful to God. Although it is extreme, we recognize that is a correct description for what humanity owes to God.

Christianity goes far beyond such correctness. Abraham recognized God as sovereign, the one to be obeyed, regardless of the cost. Christianity is based on the teaching that God so loves the world that there is no limit to what God will sacrifice on our behalf. That is the inversion of ancient understanding of the gods and creatures. Yet, that is what Christianity teaches and what Paul says here. God handed his Son over for us, thus God's approach to us is to give us everything.

Mountaintop Experience

[Celebration](#)

This scene on the mountain is narrated carefully to illustrate how it was the climax of salvation history: All that God had done through Moses and the prophets was coming to its fulfillment in Jesus.

As the disciples watch between terror and amazement, they hear a voice come from the cloud which confirms what a similar voice had proclaimed to Jesus at his baptism.



This time the disciples hear the voice say, "This is my beloved Son," and the added command, "Listen to him."

The first half of that communication tells the disciples who Jesus is in relation to everything they know from their religious tradition. God had sent prophets, God had given the Law, and now, as Jesus would say in so many parables, God had sent his son. The second half of the communication is the one command God gives disciples: Listen to him.

Just as the mountain where Abraham took Isaac was the place where his faith was tested and made real, Jesus is revealed on the mountain as God's last word to humanity. Jesus is the one who brings the new covenant, God's offer of life to the world. All God asks is that, like Abraham, we put our lives in God's hands by saying, "Here I am."

**"Strengthen me, O Lord,
for any test of my faith."**