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Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFRIENDER

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 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 Auburn Area Catholic School close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of all (including the St Anthony site) evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5

WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2021

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

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

WEDNESDAY 7 pm Mass

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

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

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

FRIDAY 7 pm Stations of the Cross

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

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

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

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

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



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, March 2nd- Sacramental Prep 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 4th - PTO Meeting-6 pm

School Committee Meeting-7 pm

Saturday, March 6th - Inscription Weekend

Sunday, March 7th - Inscription Weekend/ RCIA Dismissal

Religious Ed 10:45-11:45 am

Youth Ministry Virtual Retreat - 5 pm

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$8,234

In Memory of Eileen Rivard: \$50

Children's Good Deeds

...Taking care of my baby sister...Buy food for the Food Pantry...

...Helping Mom with the laundry...I lead prayer...

...Playing outside with puppies for about 30 minutes...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

The second week of Lent is upon us and many of us are working through some Lenten promises. Having the opportunity to stop and take in God's Grace is a blessing. The children have been working on how they can navigate through the Lenten season, and have been given some reminders of how they should sacrifice and work towards helping others. Whether it is a calendar, jar full of sacrifices or tasks to complete, or a journal, the students are taking note of how they can make a difference in their faith lives this year.

This week's Gospel is the transfiguration. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in his glory and heard God speak from the heavens. Every year I am left with the same notion no matter how hard I try to change my mind. I often wonder how amazing it would have been to be alive when Jesus was physically walking on this earth. The truth that I always come back to after these thoughts revolves around how silly I sound. Jesus may not be here in the physical form, but I do know him, and I do know his way. I highly doubt a trip back 2000 years would really alter how I feel and what I know in my heart. The truth is, when I think of that notion, I come to the realization that I am at home already with Jesus in my life and it makes me want to be better than I was the day before. ... **God Bless...**

Attention Cantors:

We will be scheduling for Holy Week Services on Monday, March 1st at 6:30 pm at the church. PLEASE bring your calendar. This scheduling meeting is Important!!!



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Do you know what transfiguration is? To be transfigured means to change in appearance or shape. Jesus made his glory known to the disciples, but he wasn't changing who he was. Jesus was a man, but also fully divine.

Reflecting on the Word:

Peter James and John received a glimpse into glory and beauty of Christ during the Transfiguration. Peter experienced such a profound spiritual awakening that he wished to set up three tents for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus so that they could stay in that moment. But Jesus brought the disciples back down the mountain. We might experience a similar profound spiritual moment, whether in deep prayer, during Mass or finding clarity during meditation. We might want to stay in the moment, but we must always return to our daily lives.

Living the Word:

Create a sun catcher using outlines of the figure of Jesus, card stock, wax paper, coloring materials, scissors, string, a hole punch, and tape. Trace the figure of Jesus on card stock and color the background. Cut the sun catcher in a circle shape and cut out the figure of Jesus. Next, tape a square wax paper to the sun catcher and loop a length of string on it. Have your children hold up their sun catcher to the window or a lamp or flashlight. How do you think the disciples felt to see such a dazzling sight?



Parish Knitters... Thank you for all the beautiful baptismal blankets that you have created over the past year. Our supply was getting low and you have prayerfully created so many more blankets for our parish to use during the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. May God Bless each of you abundantly!!



Why are the RCIA candidates

dismissed half-way through the mass?

This was a question received recently and as I was answering, I thought to myself, "How many others wonder the same thing?" Here is a brief explanation:



Studying the Word of God is one of the best spiritual ways that candidates and catechumens can prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation. RCIA 82 states that the 'Breaking Open of the Word' has four main purposes for the catechumen and candidate:

1. To implant in their hearts the teachings they are receiving: for example, the morality characteristic of the New Testament, the forgiving of injuries and insults, a sense of sin and repentance, the duties Christians must carry out in the world.
2. To give them instruction and experience in the different aspects and ways of prayer.
3. To explain to them the signs, celebrations, and seasons of the liturgy.
4. To prepare them gradually to enter the worship assembly of the entire community.

Moving forward, now that the parish community has celebrated the Rite of Welcoming/Acceptance the candidates will be dismissed following the Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass. Fr. Tom will briefly recall the joy of the candidates of being received and then urges them to live according to the Word of God. This year we have 1 catechumen, **Karl Kramer** and 1 candidate, **(Dennis) Jake Pope**.



**FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK**

Second Sunday of Lent

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

The moving narrative of Abraham and Isaac that comprises today's first reading (Genesis) has been understood as an Old Testament type of God's willingness to offer Jesus as a sacrifice for human sin. As the ancient author noted, Isaac was Abraham's son, an *only* son (if Ishmael is discounted), a loved son. To give him up to God was equivalent to relinquishing the future, it was believed at this time in history, that parents lived on in their progeny. Abraham's faith was so intense as to surpass human rationality; his trust in God was greater than his own desire for perpetuity.

Paul, in the second reading, reminds his Roman readers, and us, that God's love has no limits. God has given the greatest gift of all to the world in the handing over of Jesus. Can anyone doubt that God would not give every other lesser gift as well? Indeed, when compared to the gift God gives in Jesus, all else pales into insignificance. Nevertheless, Paul's words offer encouragement to believers, who may be burdened with worries, difficult times or other struggles inherent in the human experience. In a sense, Paul is saying, look at the big picture; gain some perspective, be at peace.

In today's gospel, the Marcan transfiguration scene features a voice speaking from an overshadowing cloud. Identifying Jesus as God's beloved son, the voice further enjoined the disciples to listen to him. As the gospel is proclaimed today, the voice is directed, not only at Peter, James and John, but at every contemporary disciple; the voice instructs believers, yet again, to listen to the words and works of Jesus, and to find therein the message of life and salvation.

Binding of Isaac: (Genesis 22)

Celebration

Besides the narrative's central focus on the faith and obedience of Abraham, there is a secondary and vitally important lesson taught regarding human sacrifice. Among several cultures of the ancient world, there existed the heinous practice of sacrificing children by fire to the gods. Canaanites immolated their sons to appease Molech; the Ammonites did the same to ward off the anger of Milcom, and the Mari texts cite similar references concerning the god Muluk.

In the divine sparing of Isaac, Israel was to learn that theirs was a God who was not appeased by human sacrifice but by the sacrifice of a contrite spirit and a humbled heart (Psalm 51:19). When the prophet Micah was approached for his opinion on this issue, he was asked, "With what gift shall I come before the Lord?...Shall I come with holocausts, with calves a year old?...with thousands of rams?...with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" (Micah 6:6-7).

In Micah's response to this shocking spate of questions, readers will discover what sounds like a verbal profile of Abraham. "This is what is required of you: only to do the right, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

Because Abraham did right, loved goodness and walked humbly with God, adherents of the world's three major faiths, Islam, Judaism and Christianity, call him father and find a blessing in him (v.18).

God is for Us: (Romans 8)

Celebration

As an illustration of the immeasurable depth and degree of God's love, Paul reprised the pathos of the Genesis narrative; the words, "God did not spare his own son" (v. 32) were evocative of Abraham's willingness to give even his beloved Isaac to God. If God has given the ultimate gift in Jesus, "handing him over for the sake of us all" (v. 32), is there anything that God would deny to humankind?

Paul's hymn to God's love, and the rhetorical questions that accompany it, are better understood in the context of an imaginary lawsuit. The defendant in this case is the Christian who has been

justified by Christ's death and resurrection and, therefore, has no cause to fear anything or anyone. Paul plays devil's advocate, or prosecutor, asking a series of questions that have already been answered in the salvific Christ-event. God of is the judge who has not only acquitted humankind of sin but continues to love all people with a love that forgives and continually restores sinners to innocence.

No one can bring a charge, nor can anyone condemn those who have Christ Jesus as their *paraclete*; a Greek term, one of the several meanings for *paraclete* is advocate or defense attorney. As the risen Jesus continues to intercede for sinners at God's right hand, the Spirit remains with us to help and guide, to teach, counsel and empower.

New Era: (Mark 9)

Celebration

Following upon: (1) Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah (8:29); (2) the first prediction that the Son of Man would suffer, be rejected, killed and rise after three days (8:31); and (3) Peter's rejection of the prediction, the transformation of Jesus in Glory established his identity as the beloved Son of God to whom all should listen (v.7) and indicated that Jesus' messianic mandate would be realized at his death (v.9).

The fact that only Jesus was left after Elijah and Moses (representatives of the prophets and the law) disappeared, combined with the instruction of the heavenly voice ("listen to him"), to proclaim: the era of salvation has come; the law and prophets are fulfilled; look at Jesus, listen to him and be similarly transformed.

Mountain Top Experience:

Jim Auer, Celebration

The apostles were on a terrific spiritual high, and why wouldn't they be? They see their Master in splendor and glory, and two important figures from their spiritual heritage talking with him. Everything is as it should be. Peter expresses their feelings: " Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here." Today, he might say, "Lord, this is great!" And he wants to stay; he wants this to last.

We have experiences like that when everything feels the way it can be and should be. Perhaps it's a retreat, or a special liturgy, when everything feels right with God, friends, and classmates. Maybe it is Christmas Eve or Christmas Day when everything seems right with the family. Like Peter, we want it to last. But it doesn't. Not that life goes from the peak into the pits. It simply returns to normal life, as it did for the Apostles. But we need to remember those exhilarating moments and treasure the truth that we experienced in them and from them. In a very real way, they are a foretaste of heaven.

Listen to Him (and others):

Grace Works, Dallas TX

Listening. Real listening. It happens all too rarely. And when it does, when someone really listens to you, you realize what a special gift they are giving you. Is this frustrated longing for someone to listen deeply to us the reason we feel more understood by the bartender or the beautician than by our closest family members? Is the need to be heard the reason we seek out professional listeners like clergy and psychologists? Maybe we do not seek, nor need, their advice so much as their attentive ear. We just want someone to listen to us without judgement, without interruption, without boredom. Listening is a gift of caring, a selfless act of interest in another's life. Isn't this one of God's great gifts to each of us? Like the loving Father he is, God always has time and interest to hear us, to attend to our every thought and deed, to listen to our prayers, our sobs, as well as our euphoria. Our world could use a few more people willing to listen like that, don't you think? Lord knows we have more than enough talkers, word processors, noise makers, and chatterboxes! But who will step up and be the designated listener for us?

*"Gift me, Lord, with the
ability to listen to others"*





CMA Update:

Most recent information is as follows: 268 parishioners/families have pledged \$66,160 of our \$71,201 target. 51% of parishioners have pledged 92% of our assessment. Slow but sure... Parish and diocesan personnel are doing their best to provide up-to-date information as this is a new process this year. Your patience and understanding are appreciated. **Thank you for your support to help us meet our goal!**

Wedding Anniversary...

We would like to extend warm wishes and an Anniversary Blessing to Clarence and Ruth Boks for celebrating 50 years of marriage! Quite a milestone!




Michael Kaczynski
Painting/Carpentry

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St. Anthony Cemetery
4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611



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