

✠ Week of March 4, 2018

MONDAY

2 Kgs 5:1-15 * Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4 * Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

Dn 3:25,34-43 * Ps 25:4-9 * Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass ←T

Dt 4:1,5-9 * Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 * Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Jer 7:23-28 * Ps 95:1-2,6-9 * Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Hos 14:2-10 * Ps 81:6-11,14,17 * Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Hos 6:1-6 * Ps 51:3-4,18-21 * Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23 * Ps 137:1-6 * Eph 2:4-10 * Jn 3:14-21



✠ Parish Activities

Mon., Mar. 5	6:15pm Religious Education
	6:30pm Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 6	10:00am Scripture Study
	6:30pm RCIA
Wed., Mar. 7	6:00pm Soup Supper
	7:00pm Nourished by the Word
Thur., Mar. 8	6:30pm Commission Meetings
	7:30pm Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Mar. 11	6:00pm Youth Ministry



Please join us for Coffee & Donuts next weekend!!!

AACS will have Scrip available after Mass.

Food Pantry: Due to your generous donations last month and AACS students' food drive, our pantry is fully stocked, which means we will not be collecting food items this month! **Thank you for your support!**

PENANCE SERVICES

March 6	St. Anne, Linwood	6:00pm
	(Individual confession, several priests)	
March 11	Assumption, Larkin	2:00pm
March 14	Blessed Sacrament, Midland	7:00pm
March 21	St. Gabriel, Auburn	7:00pm

Sacramental Preparation Children: This year we have 13 children preparing to complete their Sacraments of Initiation by receiving Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. They celebrated Inscription Sunday last week and handed out their prayer cards after Mass. There is a display with the children's pictures on it hanging on the south wall of the church and their prayer cards are available at both entrances. Please keep our parish children in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacraments.

✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$11,888.17

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

- ...to ask if I could help with breakfast and set the table.
- ...helping my Mom bring in grocery; help my Mom find socks.
- ...random acts of kindness at school. ...help Dad with a "qushtion".

Catholic Services Appeal: Our annual participation in this drive will begin soon. A letter from the pastor along with the form for individual participation will be sent out from the Diocese on March 8. Our parish target for this year's appeal is \$78,232.00

✠ Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What is something you feel passionate about changing? How would you go about doing that?

- **Reflecting on the Word:** In the Gospel, we notice that Jesus had strong emotions at times. The story illustrates how fully human Jesus truly was, and how if we are to be holy, we must fully embrace our humanness too. A full range of emotions is part of our humanity. It is what we do with our feelings that shows how connected we are to the divine. For instance, we should never act in anger, but rather feel the anger and use its energy to act out of compassion for self and others.
- **Living the Word:** Acting in anger can be destructive so it's good to have ways to work through it. When we have such methods, actions motivated by your anger can come from a place of compassion. Talk with the family about what helps them feel calm and safe. Does taking a deep breath help them, or does it help to be in a quiet place? Can they use their anger to act in compassion? Could they stick up for someone being bullied or left out? As a family decide to take compassionate action on something this Lent.

✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

- **Science Assembly by Dr. Slime:** March 7 in the Social Hall for our students to enjoy!!
- **Throughout the Lenten Season** the K-5th grade students are taking turns with planning and preparing weekly Stations of the Cross services for our school students.

CONGRATULATIONS!! To Grace Kendziorski who was crowned Queen of the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018 and to Avery Arthur who won 1st Runner Up for Princess!! Both belong to our parish. The parade will be Sun. March 18.



✠ The Parish in the Community

- **Grace Your Closet,** a ministry of free clothing for the community at Grace Lutheran, Auburn had a great launch in 2017 and is looking forward to seeing what 2018 brings. We're in need of infant, kids, junior women and men's clothing donations. Donations can be dropped off at the Grace Lutheran Church office on Tues. & Thurs., 10am-12pm.
- **Presentation** by Barry Schmidt of the Neighborhood Resource Center on the **Opiate Epidemic** in our area, Wed., March 21 at Corpus Christi Parish (Holy Trinity Church), 1000 S Wenona, Bay City, 6:30-7:30pm. Come, listen, ask questions and find out how you can be part of the solution!

*Some people make things happen,
and some people sit and watch things happen,
and some people don't know anything's happening!*

AMEN CORNER: The Parish Planning and Building Committees have been meeting regularly with the architect to incorporate all the great feedback we've received from the parishioners into the proposed church and building improvements. We are also enlisting the help of a professional firm to help us conduct a feasibility study in order to proceed to the next phase of the Diocesan Capital Planning process. We will be finalizing plans in the coming month and will present the details to the Parish at large prior to the feasibility study. The study will consist of some formal interviews and an on-line/paper questionnaire. If all goes well, the study will begin in late April/early May. Thanks again for all the great comments so far. Feel free to continue to send your feedback to the Parish Office.

Kind regards, Mike Buchmann, Chairman

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

On the day Jesus made his first public appearance in Jerusalem, he took on the temple establishment for perverting the core symbol of God's presence among the people by making what was intended to be a place of communion into a business venture. But Jesus' "cleansing of the temple" was more than just a violent reaction against attempts to sell grace. It was actually his first proclamation about who he was and what his mission would entail.

John loves to hide hints to deeper meaning in his Gospel, thus enticing his readers to go back and find more each time they encounter it. In this story, Jesus arrives at the temple area and calls it his Father's house; with that he is claiming to be God's Son as described in Psalm 2. As he lashes out against the temple merchants and bankers, the disciples perceive that Jesus is like Jeremiah whose passion for God's work will bring him persecution.

Finally, Jesus engages in his first cryptic conversation with the leaders of his people. Upset that he has disrupted the business of religion, they demand that he authenticate himself by some sign that proves he is of God. Taking their words far deeper than they intended, he said, "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up." They completely missed his implication. As if they didn't understand the difference between the holy of holies and the entire temple complex, they responded that the work of construction had gone on for more than two generations, "and you will raise it up in three days?" They were concentrating on protecting a building and its enterprise; Jesus was passionate about God's presence in their midst. As they accused him of disrespecting the Temple, he was reacting to their perversion of what the Temple was and what it symbolized. He insisted that in spite of their profanation, nothing could overcome God's will to dwell amid humankind.

Call to Integrity

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Beginning with the reading from Exodus presenting the commandments which set the boundaries on how the people of God live in communion with God and one another, today's Scriptures are a call to authenticity in our life and worship. Paul tells us not to look for great signs or sophisticated theories but to concentrate on God's unexpected and countercultural message of love via the cross. Crowing it all, John's Gospel depicts Jesus making a living theater of God's rejection of religious practice that is anything less than an expression of love.

Jesus did what he did in the Temple because he believed he was the Son of a loving God who wanted nothing more nor less than the whole heart of the chosen people. When he walked into that Temple, his faithfulness demanded that he act out God's judgment on what was happening there – no matter the cost to himself.

The disciples spoke of his zeal, which is a word that could also describe passionate integrity. As we contemplate this Gospel and the readings that fill out its message, we are asked where we stand in the scene John presents. Do we take the side of those who defend business as usual, ignoring how often the busyness of our pursuits and our concerns for externals blind or protect us from a vibrant and even surprising relationship with God? Do we stand on the sidelines with the disciples who see prophetic actions and remain as cheering spectators who applaud and say, "Wow! That looks like somebody who really believes in God!" Or are we willing to follow God's Son and try to live with the sort of integrity that will keep us on the margins of respectable society and close to the heart of God?

"Lord, may I mirror your presence."

Rules for freedom

[Celebration](#)

This is one of a number of the scriptural versions of the Decalogue or Ten Commandments. One of the striking things about this is that it begins with God's self-description as the Lord "who brought you out of the land of Egypt." That situates the commandments in a context of liberation from bondage. In other words, rather than being restrictions on the people, the commandments are descriptions of how to create a holy, coherent life in a community that God has called into freedom. Thus, the commandments are not so much a set of objective rules as guidelines for relationships.

When we consider the Decalogue in a context of freedom and community, we can discover some new insights into God's plan for humanity. Stated in a negative form, these injunctions describe the limits of productive behavior in the community; they are boundary markers, not descriptions of the intricacies of day-to-day relationships. God addresses this plan to a free people, and thus the commands are instructions about how to maintain their freedom and protect their community and their relationship with God.

No strange gods

[Celebration](#)

When we hear "You shall not have other gods beside me. You shall not make for yourself an idol," we tend to think to totem poles and witch doctors. But the god or gods we worship are whatever or whomever we give our ultimate allegiance; we demonstrate our devotion not by what we say about the goal of our lives but by the way we spend the time of our lives. These commands call us to take time to evaluate our priorities. Where we spend our time and energy tells us what our real values are.

Paul's Example

[Celebration](#)

Paul has fallen in love with the crucified and risen Christ. Thus, he can proclaim Christ crucified as God's foolish wisdom and God's unsurpassable strength revealed in weakness. The God Paul has come to know and love through Christ will not coerce belief through incontrovertible signs nor entice the intellect through irrefutable logic. The only guarantees Paul offers are God's call to believers and God's love expressed in Jesus' self-gift. To some that may not seem like much, Paul is convinced that it offers more insight than human wisdom and far more power than human strength.

A New Temple

Ted Wolgamot, [Celebration](#)

What Jesus exposes is that the systems of this world, so saturated with the power of money, need to be replaced with a new kind of life offered to all by the resurrection of Jesus. Instead of a religion co-opted by market forces, Jesus offers one in which a new set of values can become operative. Jesus presents a value system that will deliver people from the bondage of greed and bottomless self-regard. In their place, Jesus wants to build a new kind of temple – in our hearts. A temple that idealizes and radiates compassion, embodies service and promotes the highest regard for those who cannot fend for themselves.

This new temple that Jesus proposes for all of us, is centered in the father, enriched by the power of the Spirit, and modeled on that of Jesus' own life. It is a new temple, fully dedicated to the God who, in St. Paul's words, is "wiser than human wisdom" and "stronger than human strength."