

Week of March 5, 2017

MONDAY

Lv 19:1-2,11-18 * Ps 19:8-10,15 * Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Is 55:10-11 * Ps 34:4-7,16-19 * Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mass

Jon 3:1-10 * Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19 * Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Est C:12,14-16,23-25 * Ps 138:1-3,7-8 * Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

7:00pm Stations of the Cross for Families

Ez 18:21-28 * Ps 130:1-8 * Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Dt 26:16-19 * Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8 * Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Gn 12:1-4 * Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22 * 2 Tm 1:8-10 * Mt 17:1-9

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

Parish Activities

Sun., Mar. 5	6:00pm	Youth Ministry
Mon., Mar. 6	6:15pm	Religious Education
Tues., Mar. 7	10:00am	Scripture Study
	5:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	AACS Family Fun & Faith Night
Wed., Mar. 8	6:00pm	Soup Supper & Mass
Thurs. Mar. 9	6:30pm	Commissions Meetings
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Mar. 12	6:00pm	Youth Ministry

Next Weekend, March 11/12

NO Food Pantry Collection: Because of a very generous food donation made by the **AUBURN FOOD CENTER** to our Food Pantry, we will not be having a food collection during the month of March. Thank you Auburn Food Center!!

☕ **Coffee & Donuts** ☐ will be served after each Mass.

☐ **Scrip** will be available from an **AACS** representative.

LENT: THE JOURNEY BEGINS

by Art Zannoni

Church historians tell us that by the end of the 4th century, a forty-day period of fasting was observed in parts of the church in commemoration of Christ's forty days in the desert. Later this developed into a penitential season in preparation for Easter. Lent had two emphases: it was the time of formation and preparation for those seeking entrance into the church (catechumens) and it was a time of reconciliation for those members of the church whose sins had separated them from God and the church. The shape and understanding of Lent changed with time. The public reconciliation of penitents died out, as did the catechumenate. Lent had shifted from a season of baptismal renewal to a liturgical season of fasting. Lent is a time to cultivate three religious practices: fasting/abstinence, prayer and almsgiving. The purpose of our Lenten practices is to discipline ourselves to be attuned to the activity of God in our lives. As you begin your Lenten journey this year, consider how God may be inviting you to stretch yourself to live out the season more fully.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$8,326.31

Advance Notice: We will enter into our annual participation in the Catholic Services Appeal following the 1st Sunday of Lent. A partial letter will be sent to every parish household. At the bottom of the letter will be a form to be filled out indicating your level of giving and whether you will make a donation or a pledge. The letter is fulfilled from July of 2017 to March of 2018. Give some thought now to your response. As previously stated, our target has risen over \$2,000 more than last year's, so we are in need of generous responses.

Fr. Tom

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Can you think of things you just say "no" to? What are somethings you will say "yes" to this Lent?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Today's Gospel shows that in his humanity, Jesus was subject to temptation just as we are. We encounter temptations every day, and Jesus showed us that strength to get through tempting moments is possible for God. How could we ever doubt the goodness of God when we read this account? Although we can only imagine how "angels came and ministered" to Jesus, we should remember that God's love will calm our raging inclinations. Lent reminds us to ask for God's support to overcome temptation.

► **Living the Word:** Discuss as a family how we are called to love those we have a hard time loving. Each family member could decide to share Jesus' love with someone who isn't easy for him or her to love. Explain that conversion comes during times when it is difficult to love but we do so anyway. If we ask God to help us be better persons, we will get the aid we need. This is called grace. Find a small cross for each family member and tape it gently to the bathroom mirror or over the bed – find a place where we will be reminded that we carry a "little cross" during Lent.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Parish Fall Raffle:** We're now collecting 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, contact Stephanie Horschig at Stephanie.Horschig@midmichigan.org. Thank you for your support!

The Parish in the Community

► **Fish Fry:** Fridays during Lent (March 3-April 7) St. Anne, Linwood. 4-7pm.

From Father Tom's Desk 1st Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

We know that the Genesis myths have been preserved not for any pretense of describing historical or scientific events but because they portray timeless truths. Among other things, this story of Adam and Eve tells us that rebellion against God's plan has a long history. The human capacity for creativity and personal growth is susceptible to selfish distortions which bring rivalry with God and one another – and that leads to the lies, murder and mayhem that tragically scar human history. Whether or not we call it original sin, we know that humanity has drifted from our proper relationship to God as well as our whole relationship with self, others and all created things.

Today's readings lead us from the garden to join Jesus in the desert.

Once again the tempter shows up – this time there’s no snakeskin costume. Now the devil pretends to be a psychologist and Scripture scholar. As psychologist he twice questions Jesus’ sense of identity: “If you are the Son of God...” But in each case the end of the sentence suggests a way to betray his vocation as Son of God, the first by consecrating his power to his own well-being by magically creating bread and the second by demanding that God prove fatherly love on the absurd, fundamentalist terms of stopping his fall from the temple. These feats would have gone far in manipulating public opinion on Jesus’ behalf – even if only to win him fame as a powerful magician. In response Jesus quotes Scripture right back at the tempter, thereby refusing to be the devil’s brand of messiah.

In a world where there is bread enough for everyone if only we would share, a world where OSHA regulations make it impossible to get near the edge of a parapet and emergency rooms must treat every foolhardy showoff, the third temptation might be the most contemporary – the temptation to power. Now the devil tells the truth. Getting the power of the kingdoms of the world demands turning one’s back on God and the human vocation to love.

Pope Francis has described the devil’s kingdoms as the places where “everything comes under the laws of competition...where the powerful feed upon the powerless.” But Jesus offers an unequivocal “no” to idolatry of power and to the spiritual sloth that asks for miracles and refuses personal responsibility. He declines the devil’s invitation to a life dedicated to self-service. Jesus’ entire ministry is summed up in the yes to his vocation as Son implied in his rejection of the tempter’s enticements.

The Fall

Celebration

The delightful myths of the first chapters of Genesis offer profound meditations on the meaning of human life and its travails. To start us off on our forty-day journey, the readings for the First Sunday of Lent deliberately feature the part of the creation story with “the Fall.” The tragedy of this story’s disobedience finds its reversal in the Gospel’s depiction of Jesus, the obedient Son of God in the desert.

Before we analyze the story, it may be important to clarify that “myth” is a genre of literature which depicts a truth that goes deeper than mere facts. Myth uses story to illuminate timeless meaning. Thus, while it is highly unlikely that Adam and Eve and the serpent wandered around Eden talking to each other, the story’s depiction of human vulnerability to temptation and deception, our tendency to rebel and wreak havoc in relationships, tells us profound truths about who we are.

Eve took the bait and shared it with her mate. Forgetting that she and Adam were already created in the divine image, they took God for their rival instead of their source of life. They abandoned the dance of creature with Creator for a wrestling match they could never win. They exposed themselves as trying to be what they were not and were suddenly so ashamed that they had to hide. The myth of the fall explores human rebellion against “creatureliness,” the self-destructive drive for autonomy that infects history and wreaks havoc throughout God’s creation.

Today’s Readings

Celebration

The key concept tying these three readings together is obedience. In this context, obedience is the attitude that initiates right relationships between God and human beings, or we might say obedience is the only way for human beings to relate to God as Father. The story of the Fall in Genesis explains the seeming inevitability of disobedience and the disorder that rebellion creates. When human beings enter into

rivalry with God, rivalry and every manner of discord characterize the entire human milieu. Once that has happened, everyone is born into the chaos of a sinful world.

The story of Jesus in the desert presents the alternative. Only because Jesus chose the word of God over bread could he later ask his disciples to go out on mission unarmed and provisioned. When Jesus refused to jump off the parapet of the temple he refused to use miracles to prove God’s love for him and to prove himself to the public. By doing that he demonstrated the faith he asked his disciples to share with him. Finally, in refusing to worship the tempter and the military, economic and political control he offered, Jesus affirmed that love is the only power that can build a future. As Paul tells us, one man’s obedience opened the way of life to all.

Good Temptations

Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

Today’s Gospel speaks to us about Jesus’ temptation in the desert. We are all plagued with temptations. If you are on a diet, your temptation may be to pour more chocolate syrup on your ice cream. If you struggle with personal discipline your temptation may be to yield to sinful actions. From 1952 to 1957 at a time when television was replacing radio, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen burst into the living rooms of America with his “Life Is Worth Living” program. Bishop Sheen was a sensation, somewhat like Pope Francis is today. Bishop Sheen gave us this helpful thought on temptation: “Why is it that any time we speak of temptation we always speak of temptation as something that inclines us to wrong. We have more temptations to become good than we do to become bad.”

“Lead me not into temptation.”

AMEN CORNER: Along with a concern for items that need attention at the east campus (St. Joseph) the parish council also asked to revisit the proposal to build a social hall/gymnasium complex. The current building committee is seeking opinions about pricing updates, as the original proposal presented at Town Hall Meetings is now two years old. For the sake of this article a 10% increase has been added to the projections. In respect to this structure (and also for a proposed new church) we are speaking of a stand-alone edifice. To connect to the current church/school complex would necessitate, because of the square footage involved, updating everything in terms of building ordinances, e.g. it could require a sprinkling system throughout. As we are comfortable with the safety measures we have in place, e.g. the school classrooms each have an exit to the hallway and an individual exit to the outside of the classroom, we don’t want to put ourselves in that position.

Item	Rough Cost
Gym (larger than St. Anthony’s, seating on both sides, double volleyball courts)	\$1.4 million
Bathrooms (handicapped accessible, 3 stalls in each)	\$30,000 each
Storage closets (for equipment, tables/chairs)	\$35,000 for both
Warming Kitchen (for concessions & funeral luncheons)	\$27,000
Five classrooms (multipurpose for school, Religious Education, Parish Council/commissions)	\$40,000 each
Maintenance closet (cleaning utensils)	\$4,000
Architectural/Engineering Fees	7%
Tie-in to boiler room	\$18,000
Air Conditioning	\$20,000
Total	roughly 2 million

It is to be noted the survey from SVSU found little support for this proposal (17% of respondents were in favor). The next item of concern by the Parish Council is the cost of a new church. *Fr. Tom*