

# † Week of March 11, 2018

## MONDAY

*Is 65:17-21 \* Ps 30:2,4-6,11-13 \* Jn 4:43-54*

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

*Ez 47:1-9,12 \* Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 \* Jn 5:1-16*

## WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mass

*Is 49:8-15 \* Ps 145:8-9,13-14,17-18 \* Jn 5:17-30*

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

*Ex 32:7-14 \* Ps 106:19-23 \* Jn 5:31-47*

## FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

*Wis 2:1,12-22 \* Ps 34:17-21,23 \* Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30*

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

*Jer 11:18-20 \* Ps 7:2-3,9-12 \* Jn 7:40-53*

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

*Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery*

*Jer 31:31-34 \* Ps 51:3-4,12-15 \* Heb 5:7-9 \* Jn 12:20-33*



## † Parish Activities

Mon., Mar. 12 6:15pm Religious Education

6:30pm Choir Practice

Tues., Mar. 13 10:00am Scripture Study

6:30pm RCIA

6:30pm AACS Family Night

Wed., Mar. 14 6:00pm Soup Supper & Mass

Thur., Mar. 15 6:00pm PTO Meeting

7:00pm School Committee Meeting

Sun., Mar. 18 6:00pm Youth Ministry

6:30pm CAFÉ Lenten Small Groups



**Liturgical Ministers:** We still need a few more Eucharistic Ministers to volunteer to serve on Wednesday, March 14. We also have sub requests that need to be filled for Holy Week! Please visit our web terminal to fill these positions, or call the parish office at 662-6861.

## † Stewardship

**Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$13,787.05**

**Easter Flowers: \$396.00 \* Catholic Relief Services: \$160.00**

**Thank You** to the Krager/Fournier family for the \$440.00 donation towards the Building Fund (Legacy fund) in memory of Joseph Fournier.

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

...praying for my brother.

...shared with my sister.

...making good choices at school.

...cleaned the basement.

...to help my Dad unpack from a work trip.

**C.S.A. (Catholic Services Appeal):** This week the diocese will be sending to every household registered in the parish a mailing that contains a pastoral letter on the importance of our response to the annual appeal and the form you are asked to fill out for your personal response. The latter you are asked to return to the parish via the collection basket or the parish office.

The end of March signals the unofficial end of last year's appeal (books are kept open to the end of the fiscal year on June 30). **We have not yet reached our target for last year and we still have a number of parishioners with pledges outstanding.** If you are one of them, please respond as soon as you are able. Thank you!

## † The Parish in the Community

► In preparation for our annual spring clean-up of the Diocesan Cemeteries and mausoleums, please remove all decorations from crypts, niches and ground spaces before April 2.

► **Pipe Organ Concert** at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish (St. Stanislaus site), April 22 at 3pm. Organist – Ben LaPrairie, Associate Director of Music Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Admission is free.

► **Mid-life Singles** (mid-30s-50s): Looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), April 6-8. Cost \$175 for meals and a single room. Visit [www.ReflectRetreat.com](http://www.ReflectRetreat.com), email [reflect.michigan@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.michigan@gmail.com) or call 586-770-1772.

## † Education/Formations

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee What does it mean to bring light to others?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Light figures prominently in this reading. We are told people avoid the light when they have something to hide. It's normal to want to hide our faults because we feel embarrassed or sad about them. However, we know things do not grow well in the dark and if we are to transform our faults and grow, we must bring all of ourselves into the warmth and energy of God's Light. There we find things look different and what we thought was too terrible to show anyone is actually transforming one bathed in the light of God.

► **Living the Word:** Tonight, light a candle for each family member, and as you do, speak of the ways you see God's love in them and how they are a light to others. Discuss how God's actions are always out of love and invite them to tell how they bring God's love to others. How might their actions light the way for another? Ask them to think of ways the family might share God's love and light as a unit. Is there a project in the church or neighborhood that all could do together?

## LENT

*Intentional Preparation:*

*Spiritual in Lent,*

Today's Liturgy, Feb. 14-May 26, 2016, Year B We are in the middle of our 6-week prescribed retreat of the Church. Within this season we are called to engage in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It's not too late to begin to get ready to celebrate Christ's Pascal Mystery: The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** Do you need to speak frankly, deeply and pleadingly, but can't bring yourself to speak to God? Pray with the psalms. They contain within their poetry the capacity to express petition, praise, repentance, thanksgiving, supplication, anxiety or even anger. They function as a reminder of what God has done in the past and surely will do again.

**Fasting:** Fasting is an ancient way of preparation for the Eucharist – the truest of foods. We turn our prayer and charity concerns away from ourselves and toward others. Consider discontinuing the use of your cell phone of Fridays, especially Good Friday. This action may help us to relate to Christ's suffering.

**Almsgiving:** One of an adjusted view of the corporal works of mercy. Pope Francis said, "The future is made of 'yous', it is made of encounters, because life flows through our relations with others. The future is most of all in the hands of those people who recognize the others as 'you' and themselves as part of an 'us'." ([tinyurl.com/TED-Pope-Francis](http://tinyurl.com/TED-Pope-Francis)). Get ready.

## † Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Fr. Steve Gavit** will be visiting our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thurs., March 15. While he is here he will share about his faith journey and discuss God's love for each of us.

► **Open Enrollment** for our 2018-2019 school year is taking place now. If you have a preschooler-5<sup>th</sup> grader and would be interested in learning more about AAC, please give us a call. We would be happy

to give you a tour. To make an appointment or receive more information, please call 662-6431.

## From Father Tom's Desk

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

*Lex orandi, lex credenda!* This ancient dictum states that "The law of prayer is the law of belief." Interpreted in a general way, it means that the way we pray is a very good sign of what we believe, or that our prayer forms our belief. It is a pretty solid principle, much like the advice that if you want to know how a guy will treat his future wife, watch how he treats his mother and sisters. But, just as you can't always tell the difference between affectionate teasing and disrespect, we may all say the same words in our prayer and hold to entirely different concepts behind them.

When Jesus speaks of his being lifted up as our salvation, as a light and a path to life, we begin to realize that he is talking about the cross as the ultimate revelation of love. Jesus reveals God's self-offering to humanity, God's unceasing love. No matter what we do to reject that love, God continually offers us eternal life. All we have to do is accept it.

In the selection from the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul sounds almost like he's stammering with emotion as he expounds on this expression of God's great love and mercy. Paul calls it the grace of being joined to Christ and destined for eternal union with him.

*Lex orandi, lex credenda.* Some add *lex vivendi*, indicating that as we pray and believe, so shall we live. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we are invited to look at our prayer, our belief and our life and to ask ourselves: What image of God is in our heart when we hear that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son? And perhaps most importantly, how is our prayer and our image of God made manifest in our daily interactions?

### God's Persistence

Celebration

The Books of Chronicles are the last in the Hebrew canon of Scripture. They show a keen interest in ethics and the disastrous results of sin along with a genuine appreciation of the value of good worship. The selection heard today comes from the end of 2 Chronicles and thus holds a place of great importance as the end, the last word of the Hebrew canon of Scripture.

We might read this selection as a summary of the history of God's interaction with humanity: The people consistently fail and God loves them faithfully in spite of it all. The author is unashamed to admit the sin of the people, saying that they added infidelity to infidelity, and yet God had compassion on them. The author even adds that God's compassion extended to "his dwelling place" among them, an indication that no amount of infidelity or abomination was sufficient to discourage the God who chooses to inhabit the same space as those who were created in the divine image.

The Hebrew Scriptures, thus, come to a close with a promise of restoration and a demonstration that the God of the chosen people is the God of the universe, not just of one people or place. The message is that all of history contains the seeds of God's saving love and there is no people whom God cannot employ as agents to carry forward the divine plan. That message has a double-edged sword: The promise that God will save is combined with the humbling realization that others can and often do serve God better than the chosen people.

### God's Mercy, Our Joy

Celebration

Paul, or the person writing in his name, went overboard with exuberance in this selection from Ephesians. It is as if he had been overtaken with wonder and joy at God's great love for humankind.

He begins by speaking of God's rich mercy, the mercy which flows from God's love. As we meditate on that, we realize that Paul is describing God's emotions and how those divine emotions flow into the concrete actions that are signs of God's mercy. Underlying both the emotion and the action is God's deliberate purpose, and unrelenting desire to bring all into union with Christ.

When Paul says that God brought us to life with Christ, he uses a word that might be translated as "co-enlivened." This isn't like accomplishing something for two separate people who happen to be in one another's presence; it refers to carrying out something that changes them both in the same way. Co-enlivening affects both in a way that is an intrinsic element of the change itself. But when they are plunged together, the very same thing is happening to everyone involved, they are all changed.

All of this is the result of God's mercy, God's immeasurable grace, the kindness God shows us. It has nothing to do with our worthiness, only our willingness. Thus, Paul says no one may boast, but we can all be God's own handiwork.

### Give Evil the Eye

Celebration

Why would God command the gaze on the serpent? Gazing on the frightening serpent was a symbol of sin & seeking God's help. It becomes the only reason to look at sin, to it, or to admit our guilt, is because that forgiveness is a possibility. If were not a possibility, there no reason to speak of sin no change, no transformation could ever take place; things would simply be as they are, miserable or fortunate as fate would have it. God told Moses to fashion a serpent, a symbol of sin and misery, and have the people gaze on it. When they faced it, they could understand that it was not the only possibility open to them. God was greater than the snake. Similarly, the life Jesus offered was stronger than death; there was no reason to fear.

### Live in the Light

Margaret Lime, Celebration

Jesus tells Nicodemus and us that this is the time for decision. Are we going to live according to the light that came into the world or stay in the darkness and shadows of being noncommittal? Can we look with open eyes at the reality of our personal sin and the evil of the world around us? Can we challenge evil and darkness we see around us rather than being complacent and passive? We can do this, for we are God's handiwork "created to rejoice in Christ Jesus and to lead the life of good deeds."

At this halfway point in Lent, we pray for the grace to see more clearly, understand more deeply, and live more joyfully and faithfully in the light. We ask God to give us what we need to be a true reflection of divine handiwork.

**"Lord, may I always live in your light."**

### March Wedding Anniversaries

60 years or more.....	Donald & Margaret Mularz
40 years or more.....	Robert & Janice Dzurka
	Terry & Monica Hus
	Robert & Janie Parks
30 years or more.....	Michael & Debra Lawrence
	Anthony & Debra Lupo
10 years or more.....	Robert Fr. & Cindy Abraham



James & Karen Plant

We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts.  
Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen