

Week of March 12, 2017

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 8:00am 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

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Ex 17:3-7 * Ps 95:1-2,6-9 * Rom 5:1-2,5-8 * Jn 4:5-42

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

Parish Activities

Sun., Mar. 12	6:00pm	Youth Ministry
Mon., Mar. 13	6:15pm	Religious Education
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 14	10:00am	Scripture Study
	5:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	AACS Family Fun & Faith Night
Wed., Mar. 15	10:00am	Parish Knitters
	6:00pm	Soup Supper & Speaker
Thurs. Mar. 16	6:00pm	PTO Meeting
	7:00pm	School Committee
Sun., Mar. 19	6:00pm	Youth Ministry

OUR LENTEN WEDNESDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

This Wednesday Father Bert, a senior priest of our diocese and a wonderful educator, will be here. He will be talking about ways that we come to believe in God and the way of Jesus, and then how true belief leads to action in becoming a disciple. You will leave Wednesday night feeling like you had a personal conversation with him. Please join us for soup supper at 6pm and his talk at 7pm. Childcare will be provided by our Youth Ministry for children 6 mos-5th grade.

Inscription Sunday is this weekend for our parish children who are preparing to complete their Sacraments of Initiation this year. We have 21 children preparing to receive Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. The children will pass out their prayer cards after Mass Sunday. There will be a display with the children's pictures on it hanging on the south wall of the church next weekend and prayer cards at both entrances. If you did not get a prayer card this weekend, please take one and keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacraments.

Are you searching for something? Do you feel that you are volunteering for your parish, but not really ministering? The Lay Ministry Formation Process may be for you. This program helps to give those who minister a foundation from which to minister from and a community to ministry with. From February 1 until May 15, the diocesan Office of Lay Ministry will be accepting applications for those who wish to begin the program in September of 2017. It is a four-year formation experience designed for lay people who wish to expand their knowledge of Scripture and Catholic theology, deepen their relationship with God, and fulfill their baptismal call by serving others. Those interested may contact Kellie Deming, Coordinator of Lay Ministry, at kdeming@dioceseofsaginaw.org or 989-797-6609.

St. Gabriel Parish has received authorization to place St. Anthony Church for possible sale. The Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils considered this matter and have indicated their support to pursue these sale opportunities. The Parish is in the process of obtaining an independent appraisal of the properties in question. By virtue of this announcement, we wish to inform you, the parishioners, of this potential opportunity of sale. If you have any comment or questions, you are asked to present them, in writing and signed, to Rev. Thomas Sutton, the Parish Pastoral Council, or the Parish Finance Council.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$13,018.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$140.00 * Easter Flowers: \$295.00

C.S.A. 2017: A letter was sent this week from the diocese. Since it was mailed at the end of the week you may have not yet received it. This indicates our annual participation in the appeal. The form included is to be returned to the parish via the mail, the collection basket or by stopping in at the parish office. Attention to your participation and to your level of giving is most critical if we are to reach our new target which is a \$2,000 increase over last year. *Fr. Tom*

C.S.A. 2016: A recent report from the diocese indicates there are pledges outstanding for last year. The drive unofficially ends when the new one begins. Officially the diocese will keep its books open until June 30th. There are 21 individuals who have balances. Currently we are short of our goal by \$300 and short of the amount pledged by \$1,200. Hopefully, those involved will be able to take care of this.

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

This Lent, I want to become a better person. How and where can I find grace to help me?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** God is revealed to three disciples in today's Scripture, in a glorious miracle that was both frightening and enlightening. As the disciples heard, "This is my beloved Son...listen to him." Once they recovered from the shock, Peter, James and John must have felt emboldened for ministry. Even though they were warned not to share this experience yet, they were changed. We see the graciousness of God in revealing his Son Jesus to us. We know that God awaits us because the Son of Man truly has been raised from the dead.

► **Living the Word:** Set aside five extra minutes each day to pray together, ending the prayer with the question "What are you doing for Easter?" This does not necessarily need a verbal response, only a reminder from the prayer leader that Lent isn't about "giving up" but more importantly about making a change to be a good disciple of Jesus. The Litany of the Saints is a perfect prayer for this week, noting especially the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin, ordinarily celebrated on March 19 and this year on March 20.

Auburn Area Catholic School

- **AACS Family Faith & Fun Night:** Tues., March 14 at 6:30pm. Students and families will be participating in reading, science and faith activities. Thank you to Mrs. DesJardins and the AACS staff for helping with this event!
- **The School Office** will be closed Monday, March 27 through Fri., March 31 for Spring Break.

From Father Tom's Desk

2nd Sunday of Lent Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

What the disciples beheld on the mountaintop was what psychologists of religion call a "peak experience." It was a moment when they understood the truth of who Jesus was for them in a way that was deeper than words could express. No miracle, no preaching, no philosophical argument can produce the interior conviction that such an encounter brings. A bit like falling in love, it's a life-changing experience that can't be pinned down any more than Jesus, Moses and Elijah could be housed in tents on the hill. In the truest sense of the phrase, you had to be there.

Most people have at least a few mountaintop moments in their life, times when they know that God is near, that love is the ultimate value, that faith is worth the risk, and in fact, that faith is a promise that demands that we risk all.

We can only see what we are open to seeing. There's more of God around us than we can take in, but we can also miss it all. Jesus took Peter, James and John up the mountain after they had been with him, after they had been enthralled with the force of his goodness and repelled by his prediction that he would suffer rejection and a shameful death. They loved him and that was enough to open them to more. They were ready to begin to behold who he was in the sight of God. All that was left was to learn to listen to him.

This second week of Lent invites us to behold the Christ of our tradition, to remember our peak moments of faith, and most of all, to listen to him.

Our Father Abraham

Celebration

God's call to Abraham was a revelation in the sense that God was letting Abraham in on the divine plan. As would happen later with the young Mary of Nazareth, God's invitation came without warning and enticed Abraham to become part of a wholly unanticipated future. There is no doubt that the call was costly. The author makes a point of that by emphasizing that God summoned Abraham to leave the land of his kinfolk and his father's house, that is, the place where he was known and enjoyed the benefits of "citizenship" as well as the relationship that gave him a name and an inheritance. In brief, God invited Abraham to let go of everything except his barren wife for the sake of a future rich in descendants and renown.

This is not the story of a refugee, Abraham's trek was a going forward, not a running away. To what was he going? A promise. A promise that must have seemed absurd – perhaps so absurd that it could only have come from the Creator God. That intuition – the belief that God was actually calling him, together with the unearthly immensity of the promise – led Abraham to pack up.

God invited Abraham to a new identity. Instead of being identified with a particular place, a family of origin, a nation and its tribal god, Abraham accepted the summons that would change him and salvation history. Now his primary identification would be through his relationship to the one God. His future, including his descendants as numerous as the sands, depended on nothing except the power of the divine plan.

Our Task

Celebration

The Gospels situate the story of the transfiguration just after the incident in which Jesus invited his disciples to tell him who they thought he was and his explanation that as God's anointed one, he was going to suffer. Now, six days later, Jesus brings his three core disciples to a new experience of him, one that counterbalances any

dread they might have had, given what he taught them about his fate.

The Transfiguration was a new revelation of Jesus' identity. The three men with whom Jesus chose to share this experience had been with him for some time. They had seen his deeds of power and had heard his preaching. They had walked with him and presumably tried to imitate him in his relationship with God and his way of being with others. They had allowed Peter to speak for them in naming him the Messiah, the Son of the living God, and they had heard Jesus' corrective to Peter's rejection of his coming suffering. Understood in the light of Jesus' passion predictions, the Transfiguration was a revelation that divine glory didn't mean what the disciples thought it did in terms of worldly success. Jesus was going to suffer shamefully. At the same time, suffering and death were not, as they thought, signs of failure and lack of divine blessing. The Transfiguration, an event described in Matthew, Mark and Luke, might well be understood as a demonstration of what John's Gospel described as Jesus' glory on the cross. Obviously, the disciples didn't comprehend their mountaintop experience. Peter offered to build shelters. But before he could make a move, God's voice pierced the clouds saying everything they needed to know: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." That was exactly the same message the heavenly voice had spoken at the time of Jesus' baptism – then directly to him, now to the disciples, except for the three additional words: "Listen to him."

"Lead me, Lord, to your glory."

Reprieve: For us to locally commemorate the Memorial of St. Patrick within the Irish tradition, and for the spiritual good of the Faithful who celebrate his feast Day, I, as the Bishop of Saginaw, grant a Dispensation, in accord with the Code of Canon Law (canon 87) from the discipline of Abstinence on Fri., March 17, 2017, to all Roman Catholics, whether permanently residing or visiting within the boundaries of the Diocese of Saginaw. Moreover, I pastorally encourage those Catholics who choose to utilize this Dispensation to carry out another appropriate penitential action of the day before or the day after St. Patrick's Day in order to express their penitential solidarity with the Catholic community around the world. Bishop Joseph R. Cistone

An Irish Blessing

May God grant you always...

*A Sunbeam to warm you,
a moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
so nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
faithful friends near you,
And whenever you pray,
heaven to hear you.*

AMEN CORNER: The final figures the Parish Council is concerned with is the projected cost of a new church and the subsequent remodeling of the current church space into a social hall/gymnasium facility. The latest approximation of costs are currently being closely examined by the building committee which, in turn, is asking some area contractors to advise on current construction costs. The following are general summaries of total costs projected to be included:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
New Church	3.2 million
Remodel current Church	300 thousand

If anyone is truly interested in the individual items involved in the total cost of both projects, those are available at the parish office. Listing them in the bulletin, because they are so numerous, did not appear warranted. *Fr. Tom*