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Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	Pam Graul-Gwizdala

PRAYER LINE

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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 15, 2021

MONDAY

244: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

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

WEDNESDAY 7 pm Mass

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

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

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

FRIDAY 7 pm Stations of the Cross

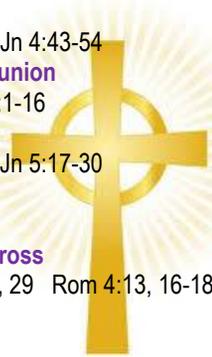
543: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89::2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

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

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

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



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Why did Jesus become human? How can we bring Christ's light to others?

Reflecting on the Word:

Perhaps one of the most well-recited and reprinted verses in the New Testament is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." God is the Creator who loved the world—not only Jesus, the disciples, and everyone who praised God, but all of creation. God's love is the simple and profound force that motivates the entire work of creation. God sent Jesus to us not to judge or condemn but to save. How do we respond to the awesome love?



Living the Word:

Prepare enough votive candles so that there is one for each family member. At your prayer space, light a candle for each person. As you do, invite other family members to talk about how God's love shines in that person and how he or she is a light to others. Continue as you light a candle for the next family member. Then praise and thank God for his love and goodness

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 17th – "Happy St Patrick's Day"

Knitter's Club -10 am Parish Center

Thursday, March 18th – Communal Penance - 7 pm

Sunday, March 21st – RCIA Dismissal

Religious Ed 10:45-11:45 am

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$11,989.85

Food Pantry: \$100 **Catholic Relief Services:** \$120

Children's Good Deeds

- ...I gave someone a book...Giving my little brother a hug...
- ...Helped clean some of the house...Helping Ava with her math...
- ...Using good manners...Loaning some toys to my friend...
- ...I carried food into my house...Playing with my cat...

40 Signs and Symbols of Lent

■ The 40-day timeframe of Lent is no arbitrary number. Biblically, the No. 40 has always had a special significance regarding preparation and denotes a-period-of-time that leads to something extraordinary:

☒ Noah endured the rains for 40 days during the Flood.

☒ Moses stayed on Mount Sinai and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights as he prepared to receive the Ten Commandments.

☒ The Jews wandered for 40 years in the desert before arriving in the Promised Land.

☒ The prophet Elijah fasted for 40 days on Mount Horeb.

☒ Most importantly, Jesus himself fasted for 40 days before beginning his public ministry.

☒ "By the solemn 40 days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 540).

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

I am pleased to let all of you know that we are having a lot of interest in the school. So much, that I feel it prudent to ask that you contact the school if you are interested in any program at AACs. We are anticipating limits on the spacing within the classroom, which means the amount that fit properly in the rooms is lower than normal. We are also experiencing many parish and school families that want to take part in our pre-school program. Next year, I do not want to cancel the 3-year-old program. To keep it open, I need to extend the 4-year-old program to 5 days a week. **At this point, we are limited to (2) available spots in the 4-year pre-school program.** This will allow our 3-year-old students to mix in with the 4-year-old students on 2 days a week. We must maintain certain teacher to student ratios, and the lower the age, the lower the ratio: adding 3-year-old students into the classroom will lessen the overall students on those days. I want to make sure to afford you the opportunity to enroll your child at AACs if an opening is available. Please contact the office soon before available slots for next year are filled.

... God Bless...



Attention Knitters Club...let's meet and discuss knitting for this year! All new knitters are invited. We knit, crochet and talk. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 17th at 10 am at the Parish Center, masks are required. We do have some yarn and we will buy white for baptismal garments. Please call Jane Soldan with any questions at (989) 486-1644.



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

In the critique of salvation history offered in the first reading, The Chronicler cites the many messengers God sent to the Israelites only to have them mistreated and their messages rejected. As a result, insisted the ancient historian, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were plundered. Wave after wave of oppressors came, and each in turn was conquered by the next, until Cyrus. This king of Persia, whom the prophets believed to be God's instrument, sent forth another message that held out great hope for the rebirth of the Israelites and the reestablishment of their way of life and worship.

While the renewal that came about due to the efforts of Cyrus was truly life-giving, there would come for the Israelites and for all the peoples of the earth another messenger with a uniquely important message. Jesus, who was sent into the world by a loving God, would prove himself to be the message and messenger par excellence. In him, God has spoken to a sinful world, not about condemnation but about believing. Jesus came to speak, faith in the person of the messenger, this faith is the door through which to enter eternal life. Jesus was sent with a message of light in a darkened world. Those who believe, live in the truth that does not fear or hide from the light.

Fallow Land: (2 Chronicles)

Celebration

For their repeated refusal to heed messengers, and for their recalcitrance, the Israelites would eventually experience the ultimate defeat: the conquest by Babylonia and the ensuing exile. Loosely quoting Jeremiah (25:11;29:10), the Chronicler warned that Israel's time of shame and punishment would extend for 70 years (v.22).

Scholars agree that the ancient writer numbered the years from 586 B.C.E. Because of its neglect of the Sabbath and the authentic liturgy that was to sanctify that day, the land of Israel would lie fallow during all those years (Lev 25:4; Ex 23:10). Like a silent witness attesting their sinfulness, the land would be good for nothing until the relationship with God was healed and the covenant renewed.

Message and Messenger: (Ephesians 2)

Celebration

Like the Johannine evangelist, the Ephesians author regarded the gift of salvation that promotes good works not only as a postmortem experience but as a here-and-now blessing.

Through baptism, believers participate in what scholars have called "realized eschatology." This gift requires that believers anticipate, in word and work, that the graces of the resurrected life bear witness to that life and offer hope and courage to their contemporaries.

In a sense, God's gift of salvation enables believers to be both messengers who carry that good news to others and living messages of God's love and compassion for all.

Greatest Gift: (John 3)

Celebration

"Life" in the fourth Gospel is not merely continued existence after death. Life is first and foremost life with someone, life in relation to God, life in relation to Jesus. Eternal life is the unending sharing in a love relationship with God. This gift, Jesus holds out to all who believe.

First shared with Nicodemus by the Johannine Jesus, this message and the rich baptismal theology that is communicated in the lengthy discourse that accompanies it affirm that God's love is fully and most clearly enunciated in the gift of Jesus. Lifted in death on the cross and lifted to life and glory in his resurrection, Jesus has become God's most eloquent message and messenger. Listening to Jesus is tantamount to leaving the darkness behind to walk in the light; hearing and heeding what Jesus has to say is to leave sin and death behind to fully embrace life. How can we not welcome this great messenger of God and take his message to heart?

Walk in the Light:

Pat Marrin, *Celebration*

Today's Gospel describes Christ's coming as light into the darkness. Light is what enables us to see clearly—who we are, especially in relationship to one another and what we must do to fulfill God's plan. Jesus enlightened history by living God's plan for all of destiny. To ignore the lights is to retreat into darkness. All nations, cultures and individuals that have chosen darkness, even if they flourish for a short time, have always stumbled, and collapsed. At the same time, enlightened societies that have devoted their energies to peace, justice, human development have been blessed.

The pattern of promise and deliverance found in the Bible is the underlying pattern of history. God's love is the initiating power and sustaining purpose. To know and live the divine plan is to walk in the light of God's favor.

Uniquely John:

Service, Rev. Anthony Marinelli

Even a superficial reading of John's Gospel will reveal that it is strikingly different from the Synoptics. The passage we read this Sunday reveals several distinct characteristics in John. First, John's Gospel has a highly developed theology of the incarnation. Much more than Synoptics, John emphasizes that Jesus is the eternal Son of God. He situates Jesus in God's eternal plan of salvation. Second, in John's Gospel, Jesus speaks in long theological discourses often with hidden or symbolic meaning. There are no parables in John. Third, the central notion of the reign of God has been replaced by the idea of "eternal life." Fourth, in the Synoptics, Jesus' focus is on the Father, but in John all the focus is on himself. What we find in John is a theological genius who was able to adapt the ideas and teaching of Jesus into new categories understandable to his readers. He was also able to develop a more thorough and complete Christology in which Jesus is seen not only in relation to Jewish faith (the Christ or Messiah)—but in relation to the salvation of the whole world (as God's only Son).

Today's reading focuses on Jesus as God's salvation. The Son of Man (a Jewish title preserved by John) must be lifted-up (hung on the cross) to accomplish our salvation. But John is clear in pointing out that the crucifixion of Jesus is the revelation of God's love for us. Jesus brings about our salvation through his love which reveals the Father's love. This love cannot die. It is "eternal life" and all who believe in Jesus know the love of the Father. Thus, for John, salvation is not primarily being saved from something as much as it is being saved into something. In following Christ, we are not merely trying to avoid the snares of Satan. Rather, to believe in Christ is to discover the truth of God's love that allows us to live freely in the light. The ultimate fruit of God's love is joy: "I have told you this so that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete" (John 15:11).



"By your gifts, Lord, I am humbled."

Quotable:

Grace Works

We have all been warned. And we have all been invited. In the end, God simply honors our choice.

Buyer Beware: I have been informed that some people have received a text from me soliciting a gift card to help someone in need. This is a scam! I do not text, and if I needed money I would come knocking at your door! I would encourage anyone who is approached by a scammer to report it to the police.

CMA Update, Mission Accomplished!:



Alleluia! Most recent information is that the total amount of pledges/contributions is **\$72,222 (101% of target)!** 299 parishioners/families (57% of members) helped us reach our target.

Thank-you for helping us reach our goal!

We received an **additional \$1,080** in memory of Eileen Rivard. There was also an accompanying note that states *"The entire Rivard family thanks you all very much for your kind words and appreciation of our dear matriarch. What a difference one person can make!"*

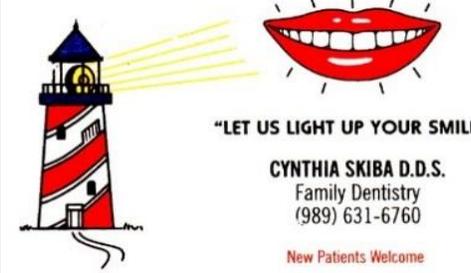
In Memory of



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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