

WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2019

MONDAY 2:45pm AACS Stations of the Cross
*Dn 9:4-10 * Ps 79:8-9,11,13 * Lk 6:36-38*

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion
*2 Sm 7:4-5,12-14,16 * Ps 89:2-5,27,29 * Rom 4:13,16-18,22 * Mt 1:16,18-21,24*

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm 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 9:00am School Mass
 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
*Mt 7:14-15,18-20 * Ps 103:1-4,9-12 * Lk 15:1-3,11-32*

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass
 Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery
*Ex 3:1-8,13-15 * Ps 103:1-4,6-8,11 * 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12 * Lk 13:1-9*

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon., Mar. 18	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 19	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	AACS Family Night
Wed., Mar. 20	6:00pm	Soup Supper & Mass
Thurs., Mar. 21	6:00pm	PTO
	7:00pm	School Committee
Sun., Mar. 24	10:45am	Religious Education
	6:30pm	Lent Scripture Sharing

Lent 2019 Mission: Eucharist: A Diamond in Our Midst was a great way to start off Lent. Sister Edna explored what are our greatest Hungers of the Heart, Who is the Body of Christ and the importance of a Sacred Meal, each session leaving us with something to think and pray about. Thank you to everyone who helped make this Mission a success: your warm welcome to Sister Edna, those who led and served in our opening prayer and Mass on Tuesday, and the set-up, serving and clean-up of the dinners. Let's continue to gather and share our lives with one another each Wednesday evening for Soup Supper.

New Addition: The school is planning an expansion for next year with the addition of a portable unit, to be located on the west side of the building. Preliminary work has begun this week with the laying of the footings for the foundation. More to come in the weeks ahead.

Parishioner Thank You: We are overwhelmed with the generosity received while we recover from our house fire. Thank you to Fr. Tom, the choir, and all parishioners. Words cannot express how grateful we are for the love and support from our church family.

Bernie Hetherington, Melody & Joe Schalk

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

This coming week, we will embark on the annual Catholic Services Appeal. You will be receiving in the mail an envelope sent by the diocese containing a brochure, a letter from Bishop Hurley and one from the pastor. Included will be a form for you to fill out on the amount of your contribution, whether it is a donation or a pledge, and if the latter, the method you choose for payment (on-line giving is added this year to payment plans, including credit card charges). You are asked to return the form to the parish when you have prayerfully decided the amount of your gift. You are reminded that if we reach our assessed target, any amount received over that is returned to the parish. The appeal is every bit as much a parish fund drive as it is a diocesan one.

Fr. Tom

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
 Moses and Elijah stand with Jesus in today's Gospel. Who inspires and stands with you?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** At the Transfiguration, three Apostles are allowed to view Jesus in his divinity. They knew Jesus as human, and now they have a glimpse of his divine nature. In this instance, Peter, James and John are allowed another perspective of Jesus. During Lent, we will not enter a cloud as the Apostles did, but we can give ourselves a chance to see ourselves, one another, and creation with different eyes. If you could see how you and those around you are made in the image of God, what would you see?

► **Living the Word:** We never stand alone in our journey. Last week, each person created a self-portrait, but our true identity also contains the visions of us that others hold. Ask each family member to add to the portraits of each person, showing the family members as God sees them. Words, phrases, images, or simply more color or background can be added. Encourage the family to give each picture context and depth. Take a moment to explore these family collages and notice the fuller picture they now represent.

WHAT CAN OUR FAMILY DO FOR LENT?

- Lent doesn't need to be a solitary journey. Try these family Lenten practices as a way to get closer to God and each other this Lent:
- Decide to go to Mass each week during Lent together as a family. It will make Easter Sunday Celebration very special. Discuss what you heard at Mass while you drive home.
- Decide as a family how you can reach out to someone. Perhaps you could volunteer as a family at a local agency or event, visit a care facility or reach out to someone in your family.
- Place a bowl on your kitchen table and put extra change or money you saved by eating a smaller meal in it. Then decide who you will give the money to. Operation Rice Bowl is a wonderful option.
- Attend a soup supper on Wednesday evening as a family. This will give you an opportunity to gather with your faith community and eat a smaller meal.
- Plant seeds or bulbs and care for them in the hope of flowers to bloom for Easter. This is a great way to illustrate to children the resurrection of Jesus.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **Thank You to Terri Duch** for giving a presentation on her travels to Africa. Students learned an African board game and had lots of questions for her to answer.

► **Registration is Now Open:** AACS offers 3 & 4 year old preschool and kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration packets are available across from the school offices or on line, www.auburnacschool.org. Please call the office at 662-6431 and schedule a visit and see for yourself what AACS has to offer.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$10,821.00
Easter Flowers: \$416.00 * Catholic Relief Service: \$195.00

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

- ...I help my Mom pack her lunch for the day.
- ...I made someone happy by cheering them up.
- ...I brought in bins without being asked. ...cleaned my room.
- ...help my Mom unload the groceries. ...staying out of trouble.

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

2nd Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

As we heard in today's first reading, God had led Abram to marvel at the stars of night in order to engender his trust. When Jesus invited his disciples to be with him in prayer, he allowed them to see the most intimate and deepest dimension of his being. That led to the greatest revelation they had ever received. They never explained how they heard God's voice, but they got the message: "Listen to him!" And as if to underline that message, when the voice had finished, they saw only Jesus – he who was all they needed.

Of course, they couldn't fulfill God's command all at once. They had to live into it as they had already been doing. They had to follow the road through all the way to the Resurrection and Emmaus. They had to wait for the Spirit to descend on them before their own faces would shine like his. But they heard enough to trust Jesus when logic and their own hopes urged them to quit.

Although we can't go up that same mountain nor enjoy encounters with God as did Abraham, the Gospels were written to allow us to contemplate Jesus and, like the disciples, to learn how he is *God for us* in every sense of the phrase. We have the advantage of the disciples' insights, but we still must discover for ourselves what it means to listen to him in our own time. That means we too must come to know Jesus well and, like the disciples, we must allow ourselves to be overshadowed by God's presence. Through that sort of listening, we will be lured into adopting Jesus' own logic, hopes and prayer. Then, on occasion, our faces too will glow.

Covenant Relationship (Gn 15)

[Celebration](#)

Abram took the definitive step from believing in what he knew, to trusting in what God promised. This fundamental act of faith shifted Abram's outlook from believing in himself, his experience and the known world, into believing that God alone was God and worthy of trust. Abram began to believe in God more than he believed in himself. This is what the Lord credited to Abram as righteousness.

God responded with an extraordinary covenant ceremony. God had Abram gather all the traditional sacrificial animals and split them in two. Then, God put Abram into a deep and terrifying darkness. God's passing between the halves of slaughtered victims was the strongest covenant expression possible; it symbolized that the fate of the animals would fall to anyone who broke the agreement. In this case, only God passed through, meaning that God's commitment was total; breaking this covenant would mean that God would cease to be God. Thus, it was impossible that his covenant would not last. After that, God completed the pact, promising a land to Abram's numerous descendants.

This incident in Abram's life tells us what faith entails. Although it may sound simplistically obvious, Abram shows us that faith implies that we recognize we are not God, and that only God is God. Abram expressed this faith by emigrating from his home, leaving behind everything he thought he knew to be true for God's sake. Doing that readied him for a proper (righteous) relationship with the God who would do unfathomable things for him and who would always remain true.

Future Directs Present (Phil 3)

[Celebration](#)

The core of Paul's message is the assertion that "our citizenship is in heaven." In this reading, Paul contrasts the citizens of heaven with enemies of the cross of Christ whose living actually brings him to tears.

Paul's contrasts are as applicable today as in his own. The enemies of the cross are those who are headed for and complicit in destruction. Their god is their belly – all that is physically attractive from food, to displays of beauty, to sexual pleasures. When pleasures become their

god, their pursuit of gratification is subject to no other law or morality other than their own satisfaction. The statement that "their glory is their shame" declares the ultimate decadence and futility of all their pursuits.

The distinction between Christians and those who dedicate themselves to their own gratification has to do with their orientation toward the future and how it impinges on the present. Christians are focused not on themselves or material values but on the future they await and in which they already participate by living its values in the present.

Having a Vision (Luke 9)

[Celebration](#)

The essential action of the story is that Jesus was praying. In that moment, communion with his Father caused his very appearance to change. It was as if the reality of who he was in relationship to the Father became tangible. His inner self became visible through his radiant face, even to the extent that his whole being shone as symbolized by his dazzling white clothing. Nothing but the resurrection could compare to Jesus' physical appearance in this moment; we might say that in both cases, the overwhelming truth of who he was became evident to those who encountered him.

All of this can be understood from two vantage points. On one hand, it was obviously a revelation for the disciples who saw it; it told them who Jesus was. At the same time, the conversation, combined with the voice that came from heaven, expressed Jesus' complete union with his Father. If we believe that Jesus prayed to understand the Father's will, we can understand his transfiguration as revelation and an affirmation of his role in salvation history.

For the three disciples, the experience was overwhelming and revelatory. The Jesus whom they had followed along the way, the one who taught them and then predicted his passion, now appeared before them in the glory of his intimacy with God. And in case they didn't comprehend what they saw, the voice of God revealed all that they would ever need to know: "This is my chosen Son, listen to him."

**"OPEN MY EYES, LORD,
TO YOUR PRESENCE."**

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► **Fish Fry:** Fridays during Lent (March 8 – April 12) at St. Anne, Linwood, 4-7pm. Cost: \$10 take-out, \$11 adult dine-in, \$10 senior dine-in, \$5 ages 6-12, 5 & younger free.

► **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat:** Come and join this Adult Formation Café Experience at the Midland Center for the Arts on Sunday, May 5. One of the most enduring shows of all times reimagines the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. A total of 15 tickets have been reserved for this event. See complete details and registration information at the Café Kiosk.

*May the lilt of Irish laughter lighten
every load,
May the mist of Irish magic shorten
every road,
May you taste the sweetest pleasures
that fortune ere bestowed,
And may all your friends remember
all the favors you are owed.*