

# Week of March 19, 2017

## MONDAY

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

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Dn 3:25,34-43 \* Ps 25:4-9 \* Mt 18:21-25

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Dt 4:1,5-9 \* Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 \* Mt 5:17-19

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Jer 7:23-28 \* Ps 95:1-2,6-9 \* Lk 11:14-23

## FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Hos 14:2-10 \* Ps 81:6-11,14,17 \* Mk 12:28-34

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Is 7:10-14; 8:10 \* Ps 40:7-11 \* Heb 10:4-10 \* Lk 1:26-38

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13 \* Ps 23:1-6 \* Eph 5:8-14 \* Jn 9:1-41

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

## Parish Activities

Sun., Mar. 19	6:00pm Youth Ministry
Mon., Mar. 20	6:15pm Religious Education
	6:30pm Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 21	10:00am Scripture Study
	5:30pm RCIA
Wed., Mar. 22	6:00pm Soup Supper & Speaker
Thurs. Mar. 23	6-7:30pm Open Gym-West Campus

### OUR LENTEN WEDNESDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

This Wednesday, LeAnne Osborn will be our speaker. She is a wife, a mother of two beautiful little girls and an enthusiastic educator of our faith. She will focus on how to be a Mature Disciple. She will provide you with practical ways in which you can live your life as a disciple of Jesus. Please join us for soup supper at 6pm & her talk at 7pm. Child-care will be provided by our Youth Ministry for children 6 mos-5<sup>th</sup> gr.

**Open Gym:** All parish & school families are welcome at Open Gym nights at West Campus! Parents must accompany their children. Watch the bulletin for upcoming Open Gym dates.

**Sacramental Preparation:** We have 21 children preparing to receive Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist this year. The children's prayer cards are on the tables at both entrances and there is a display with the children's pictures on it hanging on the south wall of the church. They will celebrate Confirmation on Tuesday, May 2 at St. Agnes Church, Freeland, and 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist celebrations will be May 6&7 and May 20&21. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to complete their Sacraments of Initiation.

**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.

The worst mistake you can make is  
the one you don't learn a lesson from.

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$9,941.05  
Catholic Relief Services: \$70.00 \* Easter Flowers: \$115.00

**C.S.A. Begins:** The mailing from the diocese arrived this week. So we begin our participation; in this annual drive. If you did not receive the letter, and you consider yourself a parishioner, please contact the parish office. There are extra copies of the contribution form at the entrances of the church for those who have not yet got around to registering in the parish. All Catholics have a responsibility to support the budget of the Diocese of Saginaw.

**Notice:** McLaren Bay Region Medical Foundation sent a note saying our contributions to the Helen Nickless Volunteer Clinic have placed us in a new category. The \$15,000 we have given over the last several years now puts the parish in the Trustee's Club and a new plaque will be hung in the hospital lobby with St. Gabriel Parish on it.

Fr. Tom

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
When do we thirst for things? If we do something good, we feel happy or at peace. This takes grace. Shouldn't we "thirst" for grace?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** As the Samaritan woman began to understand the living water, she saw Jesus differently. Jesus pulls the woman into a deepening spirituality and to faith. She becomes a herald of the Savior.

► **Living the Word:** Invite the family to use poster paper to make the chart, "On the Road to Easter." Cutouts, symbols, or name cards can be used for the people in the Gospel. Include Jesus, Peter, James, John, the Samaritan woman, and the transfigured Jesus. The road should be winding and include mountains (Sermon on the Mount and the mount of the Transfiguration). The beginning of the road should be marked and decorated as Lent, and the road should grow wider and wider until it reaches Easter. Later, have family members add the blind man, Lazarus, Martha and Mary, and Pharisees.

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Open Gym Night:** Thurs., March 23, 6-7:30pm at the West Campus. Please plan on attending with your child. Thank you to the AACs Athletics Committee for making this possible.

► **Open Registration** is now open for Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade. If you would like to make an appointment or receive more information, please call 662-6431.

► **Thank You** to the Knights of Columbus for donating money to the school technology fund.

## The Parish in the Community

► **Auburn Area Quilters:** At the Auburn United Methodist Church, Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30pm.

► **Fish Fry:** Auburn K of C, 4760 Garfield Rd., **April 7 AND April 14**, 3-7pm. All you can eat buffet. \$11 adults, \$5 children 5-12, under 5 free. Take outs available. All are welcome.

A baker was asked to inscribe on a wedding cake 1 John 4:18:  
*"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"*  
The decorator misread the verse, and when the cake arrived at the wedding reception, it read John 4:18:  
*"For thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband."*

## *From Father Tom's Desk*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent* Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Nobody would be surprised to hear that the account of the Samaritan woman at the well is called a conversion story.

Some will compare her to the woman caught in adultery or other famous women in Scripture. In reality there are many similarities among them all, but they don't necessarily lead to traditional themes of repentance and penance.

If we start by looking at the Samaritan woman as an apostle in her hometown, we might ask about the message she took to her people. After all, she had engaged in quite a theological discussion with Jesus, going from questions about whether he had something better than Jacob's well (tradition) to where people should really worship (liturgy) and ending with hearing Jesus identify himself as the Christ (theology). So, what was her message? "He told me everything I have done." That is all that we hear from her.

What we have in this story is a rather complex encounter in which Jesus first approaches this woman on the level of human need. He asks her for water. But oh, how the simplest things can be complicated! The Samaritans now owned Jacob's well, a symbol of the common roots and tradition they shared with the Jews. But how could a Jew ask a Samaritan for anything? The Jews had destroyed the Samaritans' temple on Mount Gerizim, they disdained the Samaritans for being backwoods idolaters whose intermarriage with non-chosen people had contaminated the bloodlines. In short, they were antagonistic peoples inextricably related to one another at the deepest level of their religious history. Jesus was taking on all of that with his simple request for a drink.

What's interesting about this in the context of Lent is that we have a conversion story that doesn't focus at all on sinfulness or even traditional repentance but rather on being known and accepted. When the conversation about husbands began, the woman said she had none, and Jesus replied that she had known at least five. But there is no follow-up on the topic. No talk about straightening out her life, no discussion about laws concerning divorce and remarriage, nor about whether she could commune with him in her current state.

She told her people, "He told me everything I have done." One gets the sense that Jesus explained her to herself. The symbolism of five husbands speaks to a person seeking something on a human level. Her discussion about where to worship, about prophets and the coming Messiah showed that she was well versed in the tradition and had real theological questions and religious hopes. But the message she took home spoke of none of that. She had been accepted for everything she was, just as she was. That fulfilled a need that no affair of the flesh or the mind could ever satisfy.

### *Samaritan Apostle*

McGlone, Celebration

Pope Francis writes, "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that she or he has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus." That is exactly what happened to the Samaritan woman. Theology, liturgical correctness and the question of who has the better tradition; are no more than distractions in the face of an encounter with Christ. Her interaction with Jesus filled her with the living water (the Spirit) that made her an apostle, one who enticed others into a similar encounter.

The church offers us this story in this third week of Lent and invites us to meditate on the woman and her transformation. It reminds us that our faith is based on a personal encounter with Christ, the one whose effect on us is like cascading water. Water filling us and bubbling over into joyful expressions of being so loved just as we are, that we are

impelled to continue the relationship and share it. The conversion revealed here is about focusing on Jesus and God's love, nothing more and nothing less.

### *Journey of Faith*

Celebration

The route of the Exodus was not just a journey from one country to another. That trip could have been accomplished in a rather straight line in much less than forty years. The Exodus pilgrimage was a passage from slavery to freedom, from being no-people to being *the* people of God. They were moving toward faith, a journey that began in those forty years and would be repeated somehow by every succeeding generation – a fact sacramentalized in every Passover celebration.

The desert was a testing ground where the people faced the question of whether or not they could learn to trust God and God's providence. In the process, the people tested God, demanding that God act on their terms to prove that they had not been abandoned or duped in their acceptance of the offer of freedom. Their grumbling about thirst expressed a murmuring doubt about God's care. It was a lack of faith as much as a need for hydration. Moses understood that and rather than send out scouts looking for wadis or wells he turned to God, being sure to mention that the dearth of water was about to have disastrous consequences for himself.

Using his staff, the symbol of his vocation as a shepherd of the people, Moses struck the rock where God promised to be present. From that very place water flowed and God saved the frightened people. God the thirst-quencher passed this round of testing with flying colors. The people, however were still in process.

### *The Right Source*

Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

The Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus at the well declared: "Sir, I can see you are a prophet." After her lengthy conversation with Jesus, she said to her townspeople: "Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did!"

The world seems to have always known people who claim clairvoyance. Today if you type "fortune teller" into the browser of your computer you can find hundreds of psychics listed. For \$3.99 a minute you can talk to one who claims to be "a gifted, honest, caring psychic who can help you with all issues." Also available are astrologers, mediums, palm readers and tarot card readers.

It costs nothing to visit Jesus in prayer. He is the only one who can really tell you everything you ever did. He is the long-awaited Messiah who said to the Samaritan woman: "I, who speak to you, am he."

*"Lord, help me listen to you."*

**AMEN CORNER:** At its meeting last week, the Parish Council considered the three reports requested of the Parish Planning Group: namely, the projects needing attention at the east campus, updated figures on the cost of the separate gymnasium/social hall complex, and updated figures on projected costs of a new church. In the discussions that ensued, attention was focused on the price difference between the gym complex and a new church. The latter would cost approximately a million dollars more, including the remodeling of the current church space into gym/social hall space. Recognizing that we are first of all drawn together as a worshipping community, preference was expressed for the more expensive option. A vote was taken into each member polled by name. All but one were in favor. We will now begin to initiate the steps that need to be taken to pursue building a new church.

*Debra Lupo, Parish Council Chairperson*