



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
 Ph.: (989) 662-6861 Fax: (989) 662-0064
www.auburnac.org
 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

PASTOR

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton tsutton@auburnac.org

PARISH STAFF

Office, Kim Grant..... parishoffice@auburnac.org

Bookkeeper

Janet Woronoff parishbookkeeper@auburnac.org

Director of Religious Education.....662-4335

Sandy DesJardins faithformation@auburnac.org

Music Director

Sue LeVasseur musicdirector@auburnac.org

Youth Ministry

StephanieSchacher... youthfaithformation@auburnac.org

RCIA Coordinator

Kellie Deming..... kdeming@dioceseofsaginaw.org

LAY MINISTERS

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	Pam Graul-Gwizdala

PRAYER LINE

Mary Jane.....(989) 513-5137 vicmaryj@hotmail.com

Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

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 *Please 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

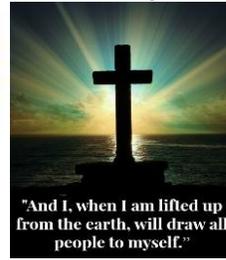
If Bay City Public Schools or AACCS close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5.

EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

How do seeds grow? What is necessary for the plant to thrive? How can we nourish our hearts and minds to grow?

Reflecting on the Word:



In the parable of the grain of wheat, Jesus predicts his own death and Resurrection. The life of the wheat begins with the death of its seed. New wheat soon flourishes and with the appropriate care and attention, it will bear much fruit. Jesus will die on the cross but will soon rise again to new life, and through him we will share in that eternal life. We too must remove whatever presents us from flourishing in God's love and living a Christ-centered life.

Living the Word:

Observe the lifecycle of seeds with your children by growing some grass at home. Fill small pots or paper cusp with planting soil and add grass seeds. Place your pots in an area where sun shines. Give your children the responsibility of watering the plants on a regular basis. Observe the plants daily and discuss how they are growing. What do the plants need to grow? What do we need to grow in faith?



It's Not Too Late The purpose of Lent is to prepare our hearts for Easter and to affirm and solidify God in our lives. We can do this by giving something up. But we can do this by adding something Christ-like to our lives.

Things to Give Up for Lent: • Gossip • Facebook for a week • Television (use the time to read a book or connect with other people) • Netflix • Criticism • Complaining • Starbucks (make your own coffee and donate the difference) • Talking about yourself (unless someone asks you a direct question) • Video games/games on your phone • Fast food • Interrupting people • Worrying about money (read Luke 12:22-31) **Creative Things to Start Doing for Lent:** • Compliment someone everyday • Donate your \$ • Donate your time • Start a prayer journal • Do something nice for someone everyday • Make something and give it away • Be more charitable (with your money, with your actions, with your words) • Pray more • Read the Bible • Bring someone a meal.

Christ's Mission Appeal:

The report from last week indicates that 299 parishioners have now participated bringing our total pledges/contributions to \$72,222! Our parish target was \$71,201.



We have exceeded our target. As long, as all pledges are paid, any amount now given will eventually be rebated back to the parish.

Thank-you for helping us reach our goal!

WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2021

MONDAY

251: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

252: Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY 7 pm Mass

253: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

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

FRIDAY 7 pm Stations of the Cross

255: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

256: Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass - Palm Sunday

37:Mk 11:1-10 38:Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1---15:47



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

A "much needed" quiet week at the parish!

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$19,534.51

Food Pantry: \$90 **Catholic Relief Services:** \$1480

We want to acknowledge your generous support of our Parish.

Thank-you so much!

Children G😊d Deed

...Helped move furniture...Helping Mom feed the baby...

...I went for a walk with my Mom...I spent time with my family...

...Helping my sister smile at pictures...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



We are down to one week before spring break for our school families. Spring break offers a break from school for our students. We have officially been at school over 125 days of instruction, and almost 130 days

with the professional learning days included. This is a great feat for everyone who has sacrificed throughout this process. Recently, we moved mass back into the church and every student was so excited to be in that space. This helped to remind everyone of the true purpose of our being at AACs; to build Disciples of Christ. We have a duty to help form these young minds into knowing how God values them, building these values, and cultivating them. Forming good people is a concept I always talk with the children about doing the best that you can in any situation should always be the goal. This goal need not change when your age changes, it just sometimes gets more complex or takes more work.

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead after 4 days of being in the tomb. Through his actions, when he was alive, Lazarus showed he believed in Jesus and his power. Because of his faith, Lazarus was raised from the dead, and Jesus' love was shown by his compassion for his friend. The truth is that Jesus loves all of us and made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, but we need to accept him into our lives and show we are willing to also make the sacrifices necessary.

God Bless



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Fifth Sunday of Lent:

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Jeremiah, in the first reading, shares a message of hope, promising that despite the many breaches their faithfulness has caused, and to put an end to the alienation that comes with sinning, God will make a new covenant with people of Israel. Unlike former covenants that were conditioned upon their fidelity, this covenant will have no end. God will be God and Israel will be God's own people for ever. Christians understand that this covenant promised by Jeremiah was extended to include all sinful humankind in Jesus. For such a covenant, Jesus was willing to die, sealing the relationship with his own blood on the cross. At each eucharistic gathering, this covenant is remembered, celebrated, and renewed by those who continue to be grateful for the saving gift of Jesus' life and death.

In today's second reading, the unnamed author of Hebrews celebrates the death of Jesus as an act of perfect obedience. In his dying, Jesus has become the source of eternal salvation for all who will follow his example and obey the ways and will of God.

Jesus' obedience brought him to his "hour," as is reflected in the Johannine Gospel. That hour was the reason for Jesus' coming into this world. Born into our own flesh. Jesus embraced the human condition fully, accepting to be lifted-up, so as to draw everyone to himself in that one perfect act of sacrificial love and praise. Drawn to Jesus, forgiven and redeemed sinners are also drawn with Jesus to God and to the experience of eternal life. These, are the valiant reasons for which Jesus accepted death. In celebrating and giving thanks for this generous gift, each of us is invited to consider whether-or-not there is anyone or anything for which we too might die. In all the little and big everyday dying to self, we prepare for that ultimate dying that will lead us home to God.

New Covenant: (Jeremiah 31)

Celebration

Having unburdened himself of such a harsh message, Jeremiah also offered his contemporaries the hope of restoration; nowhere is that hope more beautifully expressed than in this brief text regarding a new covenant. In this text, Jeremiah touches upon two central themes in the Deuteronomic tradition: the need to internalize the law and the certainty that after a suitable time of collective repentance, God will restore the people and again allow them to experience divine love and protection (see Deut 30:1-10).

As an unconditional promise, the new covenant is reminiscent of the covenant with David (2 Sam 7:11-16). In making that covenant, God promised to preserve David's successors forever. God promised fidelity even when the people offered nothing in return. Moreover, God vowed that the covenant promised through Jeremiah would bring forgiveness to the extent that God would remember their sin no more. With these assurances an exiled people, was able to go on.

Loud Cries: (Hebrews 5)

Celebration

Because the word of God truly lives and breathes forth ever new thoughts and inspirations, and because we human beings, approach that word with a finitude that falls short of absolute comprehension, the word retains the power to surprise us.

According to the ancient rabbis, there were three kinds of prayer, each loftier than the preceding one: (1) prayer; (2) crying; and (3) tears. Prayer is made in silence, crying with raised voice, but tears are prayers cried out in desperation. Jesus' tears were the loftiest form of prayer. His example opens the way for holy, "venting" before God.

Through his suffering, Jesus developed an acuity that enabled him to listen and to learn, and for that reason, the early Christian author of Hebrews said that "he was made perfect." Made perfect meant that Jesus had carried out the purpose for which he had been sent by God. Having done so, he has become the source of salvation for all who will

listen to him, in word and example, and, like him, obey. The obedience we learn through suffering will cause us to cry out with loud cries, as Jesus did. When we do so, we are in good company. We are not alone.

The Hour has Come: (John 12)

Celebration

Although the coming of Jesus' hour filled him with ambivalent feelings that troubled his spirit (v.27), his resolve was not shaken. He. Like a grain of wheat, would fall and die, so reap the rich harvest of redeemed humankind. Unlike the Synoptics, who presented Jesus' struggle with the inevitable consequences of his saving mission in a dramatic narrative set in the Garden of Gethsemane, the fourth evangelist has toned down the intensity of the moment but added another element: the voice from heaven (v.28).

Misunderstood and mistaken for thunder by the crowd, the voice from the sky is clarified by the evangelist. Just as God's glory had been revealed in Jesus' words and actions, so also would the fulfillment of his hour give glory to God. Affirmation of the evangelist's point is made by the heavenly voice: "I have glorified it [God's name] and will glorify it again" (v.28)

Dying to Self:

Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

We often say that dying to self means dying to our bad self. We must die to our pride, die to our lust, die to our greed, etc. And that is true--all evil things hinder our development. But these little deaths are only metaphors, analogies of real death. We must not get lost in analogies and forget the analogue. We simply must die. Really.

But it is precisely in this dying that we gain new life. It is precisely in losing our self that we find our self. We do not believe that we are absorbed into God; we believe that we maintain our unique person alongside God. To us as Christians, God is more than a Thing, an Idea, an Ideal, a perfection. God is a Person.

You cannot love Perfection or Ideal or Goodness. You may respect them, obey them, even perhaps adore them, but love demands personal response. If we were absorbed in God, became part of God, then there would be nothing left of us separate for God to love and nothing left of us to love God. No, both God and we must maintain our separate selves so we can relate with each other in love.

Lift High the Cross:

Grace Works, Dallas, TX

And here is the great surprise and mystery of God's redemptive plan. In a way only God could have imagined, and only God could have accomplished, Jesus' shameful torture on the cross became the symbol of life for the followers of Jesus. Rather than last in infamy as a symbol of humiliation and defeat, the very cross of Christ has become the primary symbol of God's love in action, His divine triumph over evil, and the source of humanity's healing and life. So, our churches are shaped like crosses, we meditate on crucifixes and, church spires raise the cross above the street, inviting everyone who passes to raise their sights once again, to worship and trust the one who was lifted-up, both in pain and in glory.

Lift high the cross, you followers of Christ. For as we lift that story of redemption; as Jesus Christ is lifted-up in our preaching, our worship, and our witness; he will continue to draw all people unto himself. *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, 'till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

On Letting Go:

Sr. Anita Baird, DHM *The Liturgical Press*

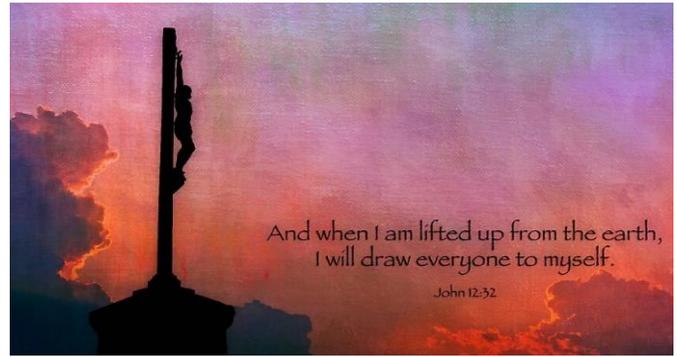
Why must a grain of wheat fall and die before it can produce fruit? Why must one hate his life in this world to live in the next? Why must one become a servant to follow Jesus? The answer is quite simple. When we are willing to let go of our mortal lives, to lay down our lives to bear fruit, and to serve without counting the costs, the Father will be well pleased, and on the last day, we, too, will be lifted-up with Jesus in glory. For the believer, death cannot have the final word, for the victory is ours in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Help me, Lord, to produce fruit by my life.

Gift Given...



We received from the estate of Phillip and Irene Rytlewski a gift of \$2000 to the parish. They named St. Gabriel as a beneficiary in their will. It is a wonderful gesture that people would express gratitude to the parish in their estate planning.



John D. McNally 989-662-6952



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St. Anthony Cemetery
4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn

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