

WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2019

MONDAY 2:45pm AACS Stations of the Cross

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

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Dn 3:25,34-43 * Ps 25:4-9 * Mt 18:21-35

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 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

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

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Hos 6:1-6 * Ps 51:3-4,18-21 * Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Jos 5:9-12 * Ps 34:2-7 * 2 Cor 5:17-21 * Lk 15:1-3,11-32



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon., Mar. 25	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 26	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	Sacramental Prep
Wed., Mar. 27	6:00pm	Soup Supper & Talk
		<i>"Go Forth Now to Love and Serve the Lord: What are we do?"</i> Presenter: Kellie Deming
Sun., Mar. 31	10:45am	Religious Education
	6:30pm	Lent Scripture Sharing

RCIA Penitential Rite for Initiation: Next weekend at the 9:30am Sunday Mass, we will celebrate a Penitential Rite. This Rite has a two-fold meaning: initiation and reconciliation. We are all in need of transformation, conversion and reconciliation in light of our Lenten journey, and in the spiritual journey of our initiation participants, Alyssa, Brookelynn, Maggee and Bella. This Rite is intended for all of God's people, recognizing the need we all share for protection and freedom from sin and its effects.

RICE BOWLS: As good stewards of our many gifts, may we always remember to reach out beyond ourselves to encounter the needs of all. With CRS Rice Bowls as our guide, we can show the love of our neighbor. Check out these amazing facts about how we can help those served by Catholic Relief Services:

- 1 in 8 people go to bed hungry each night. We can fast so that they may eat.
- \$20 = 1 month of food for a family.
- It costs just 25 cents per day to provide a child with the nutrients he/she needs.
- \$25 provides health exams for 13 kids
- \$50 provides clean water for 500 families

CRS Rice Bowl provides a tangible way for us to help those in need. For more information on rice bowls, go to: CRSRiceBowl.org
Rice bowls are available at the church entrances.

PLEASE RETURN THEM ON PALM SUNDAY.

EDUCATION/FORMATION

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

What would you like to repent of during this Lenten season?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus calls the people to turn their lives to God or risk perishing just as those whose deaths they decry. With the parable of the fig tree, Jesus shows his inquisitors that it is possible to turn their lives around, even if they have not borne good fruit in years. Just as the gardener will seek to nourish the fig tree through

cultivating the ground and fertilizer, we can nurture our relationship with God through prayer and good works.

► **Living the Word:** Part of who we are includes our faults and mistakes. Ask each person to add a red ribbon or red color to their portrait to symbolize their flaws and weaknesses. Then encourage each family member to ask the rest of the family for forgiveness for one of their failings. Discuss how the family will help each person try to overcome a shortcoming.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **Mark Your Calendar:** AACS will have a **Grandparents/Special Person Prayer Service** on Friday, April 12, honoring grandparents or a special person. Invitations were sent home with the PS-5th grade school children this past week.

► **AACS** is taking **registration** for 3 and 4 yr. old Preschool and Kindergarten – 5th grade! If you are interested in learning more about our school, please contact Mr. Robert Milne at 989-662-6431. He would be glad to have the opportunity to speak with you and give you a tour. For more info, go to our website at www.auburnacschool.org

► **The School Office** will be closed for Spring Break April 1–7. It will reopen on Monday, April 8.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$9,760.41

Food Pantry: \$40.00 * Easter Flowers: \$427.00

Catholic Relief Service: \$420.00

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

- ...help make dinner.
- ...cleaning mess left by the "lepracon".
- ...helped my Mom bring in stuff from the car.
- ...helping a friend.

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► **Knights of Columbus Council 3590 Fish Fry:**

April 5, 2:30-7pm. Take-out only.

► **Rummage Sale:** Blessed Sacrament Parish, Midland, March 28, 9-5, March 29, 9-5 (½ off day), March 30, 9-noon (\$2.50 bag day).



MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 60 years or more..... Donald & Margaret Mularz
- 50 years or more..... Robert & Janice Dzurka
- 40 years or more..... Terry & Monica Hus
Robert & Janie Parks
- 30 years or more..... Michael & Debra Lawrence
Anthony & Debra Lupo
- 10 years or more..... Robert Jr. & Cindy Abraham
James & Karen Plant



We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

3rd Sunday of Lent

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

When Moses, drawn by the burning bush, stood by himself before God, he may have wished for somewhere to hide. Indeed, Moses was on the lam, hiding from the authorities in Egypt for having murdered one of their citizens. Although he had been provoked by the Egyptian's mistreatment of an Israelite, he had committed a crime nonetheless, and Pharaoh wanted him dead. Despite his past, God called Moses

and revealed the divine name “I AM” to him. In the course of that encounter, Moses became God’s emissary and the mediator who would win his people’s freedom from slavery. His only credentials were God’s call, God’s grace and God’s promised presence with him at every juncture of his mission.

Paul, in today’s second reading from his Corinthian correspondence, invites readers to learn from the mistakes of the past so as not to repeat them. As we consider the track record of our ancestors in the faith, it might be easy to find fault and cast blame. But Paul’s words, during this holy season of Lent, challenge each of us to level no accusations at others. Rather, standing alone and in truth before God, we are to give an accounting of ourselves and only ourselves. Just as God protected our ancestors despite their failures, so God tends to the needs of all who rely on God rather than themselves. Paul’s warning to those who think they are standing secure brings a sobering reminder. Salvation does not drop down on us like a security blanket. It is a gift made available by God that the humble and the hopeful appropriate each day.

Today’s Gospel, unique to the Lucan evangelist, features the ancient and not-so-ancient notion that tragedy is the direct consequence of sin. According to this narrative, Pilate killed some of Jesus’ contemporaries as they offered sacrifice; others perished when a tower fell on them. In both instances, some people assumed that those who died were being punished by God for their misdeeds. Like Paul in today’s second reading, the Lucan Jesus turned the event into a teachable moment. Just as Paul advised his listeners to withhold judgment against their ancestors, Jesus warned against making assumptions about the guilt and sinfulness of others. Look, learn, remember and repent, insisted Jesus and Paul. But do not point fingers at anyone.

God’s Call (Ex 3)

[Celebration](#)

For all its fame, Moses’ first encounter with God began rather unimpressively. When God appeared to him, Moses was a refugee whose profession was to shepherd his father-in-law’s flocks. The “mountain of God” to which he was led was called “Horeb,” which means “wasteland.” When God appeared, it was not with thunder and lightning or an earthquake but through a bush that caught Moses’ attention because there seemed to be a fire in it that didn’t destroy the bush.

Moses’ curiosity about that phenomenon moved him to take the first step toward becoming as one with God as that bush. As Moses approached the bush, God warned him to remove his sandals because that desolate place, which had neither a temple nor even a holy well, was holy ground. Perhaps the realization that God could appear in any land, under any circumstances, was what helped Moses accept the fact that even he, a frail man of questionable reputation, could serve as God’s messenger.

What Moses learned that day in the desert was that God listens and always wants to work through creation, including through frail human beings, to further the divine plan. This revelation was also a call to faith and action. God calls people to the conversion of faith so that God can then transform them and their history, setting the universe on fire.

Holy Ground

[GraceWorks, Dallas TX](#)

Could it be that any place, any moment, any ordinary “thing” could be transformed into holy ground? One of the sins of our collective Christian family in all its expressions is the pervasive, almost irresistible temptation to create “holy” things. Holy churches, holy altars, holy seasons, dare I say holy orders, suggesting that God only shows up in the places and people we call holy. We do not intend that message, but alas, such is the very message we have heard.

The story takes us to a better place. This tale tells us that on a mountain these ancient people believed was holy, God showed up in a dry, seemingly lifeless shrub! A common, desert bush, dotting the landscape like polka dots, became a divine intersection where God and a bored man met. That meeting not only changed history, but defined what history means. An ordinary day, a common bush, a rocky mountain, a jagged escarpment, a mysterious flame conspire to create holy ground.

What is the ground on which you stand? What might God do in your life on any ordinary day? What if in your predictable routines, set in a landscape not unlike the common places in which we all live and work becomes something more, something “other,” something of God? The story invites us into its wonder in ways only God could script.

Lesson to Learn (1 Cor 10)

[Celebration](#)

One of the subtler messages in this passage is Paul’s assumption that Christians, be they Jewish or Gentile, are the heirs of Judaism. Although he is speaking to a mixed nationality audience, Paul speaks of “our ancestors,” indicating that being children of Abraham and heirs of the promise is not a question of blood, but of faith. That point is extraordinary in itself and adds emphasis to what Paul is saying about presumption. We are as graced and as fallible as our ancestors.

By writing this way, Paul offers us all of Scripture as what he calls “an example.” Like St. Ignatius of Loyola who taught his followers to enter into the Scriptures through contemplation, Paul invites us to know the Scriptures so that we may learn from both the holiness and the mistakes of the people who have gone before us.

Time Is of the Essence (Luke 13)

[Celebration](#)

Jesus wove a parable about an unfruitful fig tree. Everyone in his audience knew the prodigious potential of fig trees: A new plant should bear fruit in two years, and then can often be harvested twice a year. The plant that was unproductive for three years was a real horticultural slacker. The owner seemingly had every reason to decide it should no longer be allowed to slurp up scarce underground water.

Jesus’ parable is a commentary on the tale the people brought to him. He turned their trap into a call to transformation. If the people were asking the ancient question of theodicy, why God allows bad things to happen to good people, Jesus redirected the debate by focusing on each one’s life and relationship with God. Jesus’ life story was a sign that God does not prevent the suffering of the innocent. His life demonstrated how human beings can live in communion with God, no matter what circumstances befall them.

He used the stories of tragedy to remind them that no one knows which will be their last chance at conversion. So they had better do what they can while they feel safe and sound, or at least have some possibility of being fruitful.

Reprieve

[Rose Beaudoin, Celebration](#)

Jesus told the story of the slain Galileans and the people crushed by the Tower of Siloam to alert people to their need to be prepared at all times. He followed up with the parable of the fig tree.

Now, the fig tree in question had done nothing evil, it just hadn’t done what was expected of it: bear fruit. The owner had been patient, but the tree remained barren. Another intervened on behalf of the tree: “Leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

If we were that tree, we should be happy for the reprieve. We would have an opportunity to bear the fruit that is within us. We would also have help. The one doing the cultivating and nourishing is none other than Christ our Lord. How fortunate we are. We must respond fully, without delay. The gracious opportunity is ours only in the present.