

Week of March 25, 2018

MONDAY

Is 42:1-7 * Ps 27:1-3,13-14 * Jn 12:1-11

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

Is 49:1-6 * Ps 71:1-6,15,17 * Jn 13:21-33,36-38

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Is 50:4-9 * Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34 * Mt 26:14-25

HOLY THURSDAY 7:00pm Mass

8:00-10:00pm Adoration

10:00pm Night Prayer

Ex 12:1-8,11-14 * Ps 116:12-13,15-18 * 1 Cor 11:23-26 * Jn 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY 12:00pm Stations of the Cross

1:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

2:00-6:00pm Private Devotion

Is 52:13 - 53:12 * Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 * Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 * Jn 18:1 - 19:42

SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL 8:00pm Mass

Ex 14:15 - 15:1 * Is 55:1-11 * Bar 3:9-15,32 - 4:4 * Rm 6:3-11 * Mk 16:1-7

EASTER SUNDAY 8:30am Mass

10:30am Mass

Easter Egg Hunt following 10:30 Mass

NO Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Ex 14:15 - 15:1 * Is 55:1-11 * Bar 3:9-15,32 - 4:4 * Rm 6:3-11 * Mk 16:1-7

✠ Parish Activities

Mon., Mar. 26 6:30pm Choir Practice

Wed., Mar. 28 6:00pm Holy Thursday Rehearsal

6:20pm Good Friday Rehearsal

Sat., Mar. 31 12:00pm Easter Vigil Rehearsal

Remember to bring your Rice Bowl contribution sometime during Holy Week. Baskets will be available at church entrances for this purpose.

Finger Foods are needed for the Easter Vigil reception on Saturday night, March 31. They can be brought to St. Gabriel social hall Saturday afternoon or prior to the service. Finger foods include cheese & crackers, veggies, fruit or relish trays, deviled eggs, desserts, cookies, cupcakes, trail mix, chips, pretzels, etc.

Blood Drive: Our next blood drive will be April 25 at St. Gabriel. Call the parish office to make an appointment. Thank you to everyone who has been donating in our drives! Our last drive (at the Auburn Library) was very successful. There were 20 appointment slots and 18 people who gave blood! Of those 18, 11 were parishioners!

Staff Position Opening: We are looking for a new Office Administrator! It's a part-time 28 hours per week position. Applicants should have excellent oral and written communication skills, a working knowledge of Micro-soft Office, and the ability to multi-task and meet deadlines. Applicants should be detail-oriented, organized and flexible. A full job description is available upon request. Please submit a resume and three references to Father Tom.

✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$11,045.46

Easter Flowers: \$505.00 * Food Pantry: \$35.00

Catholic Relief Services: \$885.00

CSA 2018 Report

Responses received: 80 (15% of registered families)

Total Amount Pledged: \$16,195.00 (21% of our \$78,232.00 target)

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

...I helped clean Tuckers newspaper & cage

...I make cookies for the nurses. ...helping my dad clean

✠ Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What is your favorite part of Holy Week?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** This reading is in stark contrast to the Passion of Good Friday, but hints at what is to come with Easter. Putting today's "Hosanna!" next to "Crucify him!" is a difficult thing. How is it possible that Jesus was greeted gloriously and then tortured? The reality of Jesus' mission requires both. Our story, too, has joyful and painful times. We must be able to look at God during both times of joy and periods of struggle and sorrow. It requires much faith to hold the tension of both.

► **Living the Word:** Participate as a family in a Holy Week service. As a reminder of what this week is about the tension of holding hope with fear, place the palms from today in a prominent place with some small slips of paper. Invite family members throughout the week to write something they hope for on one side of and something they fear on the other. On Saturday night, as the Easter fire is lighted, burn these papers to symbolize that you are giving them over to God.

THE TRIDUUM

The liturgies of the Triduum can serve as primary teaching tools of the Catholic faith. The time from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday through the evening on Easter Sunday is referred to as the "Triduum," meaning three days. These days give us the opportunity to share in the mystery and power of God's love as lived out in the suffering of his son, Jesus. It is helpful to think of these days not as separate celebrations, but as one continuous remembrance in which we meet and follow Jesus.

HOLY THURSDAY - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lent ends with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The reception of the Holy Oils takes place and the Washing of the Feet is celebrated. The Blessed Sacrament is transferred to the place of Reservation. At the conclusion of our Eucharist, we are invited, as were the first disciples, to watch and pray with the Lord on the night before his crucifixion and death. We keep watch, here at the moment of Jesus' greatest need.

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

The celebration of the Lord's Passion is celebrated with the altar stripped of ornamentation and the tabernacle is left open and empty. Mass is not celebrated on this day. The liturgy includes readings, prayers and intercessions followed by the veneration of the cross and concludes with Eucharist, reserved from our Holy Thursday celebration.

EASTER VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

The Easter Vigil is a rich moment in time in which we are drawn into Jesus' timeless victory over sin and death that is now ours. It begins near darkness, and then a single candle is lit from the fire - the paschal candle. We will then listen to Scripture readings. When the Gloria is intoned, the lights of the church are turned on, giving a vivid symbol of the light that floods our lives through Jesus. Some of the symbols that make this liturgy so rich are fire, water, oil, light and darkness.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead and our release from the bondage of sin and death. It is His Resurrection that gives us the promise of new life, both in this world and the next.



✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Open Registration** for Preschool-5th grade. If you would like to make an appointment or receive more information, please call the school office at 662-6431.

► **Mark Your Calendar:** AACS will be having a Grandparents/Special Person Mass on Friday, April 20 honoring grandparents or a special person. Invitations were sent home with the K-5th grade school students this past week.

► **The School Office** will close for spring break on Thursday, March 29 at 11:30am. It will reopen Monday, April 9.



From Father Tom's Desk

Palm Sunday

"The Three Days of Pascha," Nathan Mitchell, Notre Dame, IN

What, really, do the liturgies of the triduum celebrate? Most of us believe we know the answer. We assume that Thursday commemorates the day Jesus instituted the Eucharist; Friday commemorates the day he was executed on the cross; and the vigil commemorates his emergence from the tomb. We assume, further, that the liturgies of these days are dramatic "reenactments" of events-by turns touching, tragic and triumphant-which happened during Jesus' last days and culminated in his victory over death. We assume, in other words, that the paschal triduum is simply springtime's parallel to winter's Christmas. As it gathers on these days, the liturgical assembly is often thought to be engaged in acts of historical "reconstruction: that recreate scenes in the "upper room," on Calvary, and at the tomb. People are encouraged to imagine they are "actually present" at these events-comforting Jesus during his fearful watch in Gethsemane, walking with him along the via crucis, and witnessing his miraculous "return to life" on Easter morning. This view may frequently be reinforced by popular hymns that focus on the "historical facts" of the celebration.

But is "history" the central focus of celebration during the Triduum? Certainly, the early Christian creeds anchored belief in the historical, this-worldly circumstances that accompanied Jesus' suffering and crucifixion "under Pontius Pilate." Jesus' life, career and death were, in other words, attached to a specific time, in a specific place. His proclamation of God's arrival in the present moment (God's "reign"), his bold, challenge to understand God in and as one's neighbor, his rejection of "religion" as a means of social or political control-all this took place not in some cosmic cloud of unknowing but in a remote province of the later Roman Empire at a time of sociopolitical transition.

Precisely because these faith-anchoring events are historical, however, they cannot be repeated or "reenacted." That is why the church's long tradition insists that what happened once in history passes over into the mystery of the assembly's liturgical/sacramental celebrations. What the paschal triduum actually celebrates is mystery, not history; anamnesis, not mimesis. The liturgies of these days do not "take us back" to the upper room or the path to Calvary. Their ultimate purpose is not to retrace or relive the last hours of Jesus' life-nor to catch sight of him emerging from the tomb at Easter's dawning. They celebrate not what once happened to Jesus but what is now happening among us as a people called to conversion, gathered in faith, and gifted with the Spirit of holiness. They celebrate God's taking possession of our hearts at their deepest core, recreating us as a new human community broken like bread for the world's life-a community rich in compassion, steadfast in hope, and fearless in the search for justice and peace.

Beat the Easter rush...

Come to church THIS week!!!

Need for a Savior

GraceWorks, Dallas, TX

Isaiah, writing some 500 years before our Lord's birth, imagined a suffering servant, a person who would, in unimaginable humility, give his "back" to those who would strike him and his "cheeks" to those who would pull out his beard. Unnamed and somewhat mysterious, this servant of the Lord would take into himself all the pain others would give him to show us the heart and love of God.

Paul says much the same thing in Philippians when he noted that this One who took the form of a slave in human likeness "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross." Unlike our response to those who hurt us, God takes into God's very life our suffering, refusing to mete out retribution, pain, suffering, and death in return. When soldiers scourged Jesus' back with the whip, plucked out his beard with their calloused hands, and nailed him to the cross, Jesus met those horrific acts with mercy and forgiveness.

We know that life in connection with others has those moments when we experience rejection, brokenness, emotional and physical pain. A friend of many years may wound us, a family member may say something that ruptures those tender bonds of kinship, or a brother or sister in faith may act in ways that seem to reject the very faith we believe. In those moments of human despair and hurt, we have a Savior who tells us "do not be afraid" and shows us there is a way to reconciliation and healing. Do not be afraid. Faithful love and self-giving grace can become God's way to mend life's broken places.

"Lord, give me the courage to follow you."

God's Image (Paul)

Celebration

As Paul uses the words of a hymn to develop his teaching about Christ, he is subtly explaining that Christ is the only adequate image of God known to humankind. Through Christ, we learn that God is not grasping, but rather relates to human beings as a servant who will give anything for their sake.

This will always be a difficult teaching. We tend to define God using the superlative of everything we prize as human beings: power, knowledge, prestige, beauty, etc. That description of God validates our own striving for similar prestige. Encountering God's self-revelation through the cross of Christ deals a deathblow to all those aspirations.

Paul tells us that because Jesus so adequately revealed God as pure self-giving, God could give him the name above every other name. Our greatest act of faith may be to see Jesus Christ, the crucified, as the image of the glory of the Father.

AN INVITATION

At the present moment, we are singing Hosannas as we follow our Lord and King into Jerusalem. The season of Lent comes to a close with the commencement of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. You are invited to make the effort to celebrate the sacred triduum (Holy Three Days). Unfortunately, many of the area schools mark spring break at the same time, and many of our families will be going to warmer climates. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil and Day are the greatest celebrations of the Church's liturgical year. Consider participating so we can offer fitting praise to our God.

Fr. Tom

✠ The Parish in the Community

► **Fish Fry & Bake Sale** at Auburn K of C (4760 Garfield). Fri., Mar. 30 AND April 6. We have changed to a TAKE OUT ONLY dinner. Take-outs CAN be eaten on site but NO BUFFET, Cost \$10. Hours 3-7pm. Baked goods are sold separately. All are welcome.