

✠ Week of April 1, 2018

MONDAY

Acts 2:14,22-33 * Ps 16:1-2,5,7-11 * Mt 28:8-15

TUESDAY NO Word/Communion

Acts 2:36-41 * Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22 * Jn 20:11-18

WEDNESDAY NO Mass

Acts 3:1-10 * Ps 105:1-4,6-9 * Lk 24:13-35

THURSDAY NO Mass

Acts 3:11-26 * Ps 8:2,5-9 * Lk 24:35-48

FRIDAY

Acts 4:1-12 * Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27 * Jn 21:1-14

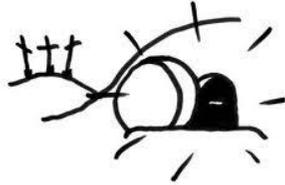
SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Acts 4:13-21 * Ps 118:1,14-21 * Mk 16:9-15

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Acts 4:32-35 * Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 * 1 Jn 5:1-6 * Jn 20:19-31



*He is not here;
he has
risen!*

On behalf of the staff for both parish and school, I extend to all of you Easter Greetings! Christ has died. Christ is risen. Alleluia! May the good news of this event fill our hearts with hope and our minds with joy. Let us together recognize and accept that we are called to be witnesses to the presence of the living Christ. May he live in us and be made present through our life as a parish family to others. *Fr. Tom*

✠ Parish Activities

Thurs., Apr. 5 7:00pm Baptism Prep

Congratulations! The Christian community of St. Gabriel Parish joyfully welcomes Chris Kureger into the fullness of the Catholic Faith and Christian life.

Thanks! Our gratitude to all the liturgical ministers – altar servers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, choir members & musicians. Your generous service to the parish family today enhanced our liturgical celebration. You are all faithful, unselfish servants!

Thank You to Stephanie Schacher and the youth for putting together the Easter Egg Hunt for our parish children!

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 Microsoft 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: \$11,967.72

Easter Flowers: \$132.00 * Rice Bowl: \$310.68

Catholic Relief Services: \$200.00

CSA 2018 Report

New responses received: 75 Pledging/donating \$15,745.00
Total pledges/donations: 155 Total amount Pledged: \$31,940.00
Target: \$78,232.00

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

...to give my Stations of the Cross program to someone who didn't have one. ...being "pachint". ...helping a friend feel happy.
...vacuumed the Van. ..."nuthen" this week. I will try harder.

✠ Education/Formation

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

What did you notice about the church today? Did it seem joyful?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** As your *alleluias* ring out today, feel the spirit of rejoicing in every muscle and every cell of your body. For a moment, let go and feel what it is to be fully and completely basking in the glow of God's grace. So often we hold back from immersing ourselves in the liturgy. Wholeheartedly, allow the spirit of celebration to take over. As you sing and proclaim alleluia, really mean it!

► Did You Know?

What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Lent, Triduum and Easter

Easter Season: The fifty days from Easter to Pentecost Sunday.

Easter Candle: The lighting of the Easter or paschal candle takes place at the beginning of the Easter Vigil liturgy when the entire church is dark. The Easter candle lighting symbolizes the light of Christ shattering the darkness of sin and evil. It honors Jesus as the light of the world. The Easter candle is used during baptisms and funerals throughout the year.

Eggs: Throughout history, there have been many different meanings associated with eggs. Pagans saw them as signs of spring and fertility. Christians saw the egg as a symbol of the tomb of Jesus. Just as Christ was placed in the tomb and then rose on the third day, so it is that new life comes forth from the egg, which appears to be dead. At a point in the church's history, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast. It was at Easter that Christians could once again eat eggs and they savored the experience.

✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **AACS students and families** collected items to make 12 Easter baskets for the children at The Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. They were delivered this past week.

► **Flower Sales** will begin on April 13 with orders due on April 27. Pick-up will be on Friday, May 11. If you are interested in ordering, please contact a school family or call the school office at 662-6431.

Parish Fall Raffle: We are still collecting donations for our fall raffle. The proceeds this year will go towards to parish. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Sally Czabala at 274-9956 or Mary Ellyn Gushow at 662-6745.

Check out our new bulletin advertisers! You can thank them for their support of our parish bulletin by patronizing their businesses!

✠ From Father Tom's Desk

Easter Sunday

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

When Mark opened his Gospel with the words, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ," he was telling us the title of the entire work: The "beginning of the gospel" applies to Mark 1:1 to 16:8. Mark's last verse challenges the reader to take up the task of continuing the work that Jesus began. According to Mark, the last part of this most important story in history begins with a small group of women taking on an impossible task. They were carrying spices to anoint a body they didn't expect to be able to see or touch. But that's only a small detail in this symbol-laden narrative. Mark's Gospel usually seems very simple and direct, but he fills this narrative with symbolic ideas and gestures so that we can hear the story again and again, each time understanding it more deeply.

Mark writes that as they arrived at Jesus' tomb, the major concern of the women who had witnessed Jesus' death was the humongous stone that walled his body off from the land of the living. The only words we hear from them question who could move that boulder.

From the way Mark narrates the story, it seems that the women were talking to one another near the sealed tomb when they looked up and discovered that the stone had been rolled back as if from the inside. The place of death had been broken open, and terrifying as it was, they went in and encountered a messenger who told them that Jesus the crucified had been raised and could not be found in the realm of death. The messenger then commissioned them to send Jesus' disciples to Galilee where they would see him as he had told them.

This is where the Easter Sunday Gospel stops. It ends much as Mark ended his Gospel by telling the disciples to go back to where it all began and retrace their journey of discipleship, this time a little better prepared to understand what it was all about.

One Giant Step

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The women took the next step without knowing what it meant. They went into the tomb. With that step, they went beyond witnessing Jesus' death. Now, they were symbolically participating in it. That step made good on their sharing of the cup with him at the Last Supper, but they still didn't comprehend it. The world had been turned upside down, nothing meant what it had before, and they were justifiably terrified. God's messenger in the tomb told the women to announce that Jesus had been raised to the disciples. They were to tell the disciples to start all over again so that they could understand that everything Jesus did was, as Mark said in the first verse of his Gospel, just the beginning.

The women's entry into the tomb, like our baptism into the death of Jesus, was the first step in a lifelong process. Paul's letter to the Colossians reminds us that through baptism we have died and risen with Christ and that brings us into a new realm of existence. But this is not magic. It requires a long process of going back to the beginning and understanding again and again who Christ is and what it means to be his disciple.

Acts and Peter

[Celebration](#)

The readings of the Easter season are designed to be a catechesis for the newly baptized – and a refresher for those baptized long ago. Another feature of the season is that the first reading on Sunday is from the Acts of the Apostles rather than from the Hebrew scriptures, thus offering a short course in the first growth of our faith tradition.

Luke opens the segment of Peter's last homily that we hear today in a solemn way. By making the formal announcement that "Peter proceeded to speak and said..." Peter's homily summarizes the story of Jesus from the viewpoints of God, Jesus and the disciples.

This announcement summarizes the mission God gave Jesus and also tells us a lot about Peter as the representative of all evangelizers. First of all, it reiterates in the simplest form possible that God's outreach to humanity is designed specifically to bring all people into the realm of divine love. Sin is of no interest to God. The entire purpose of Jesus' mission was to bring people home to God.

Secondly, the fact that Peter could preach this homily means that he, too, had been converted. He's no longer among those seeking a place of honor; he's not going to pull out a sword against anyone. He's simply a witness, someone whose entire life has become dedicated to giving testimony to what God has revealed in Jesus. When we stop to consider it, this last homily we will hear from Peter shows him to be among the freest and happiest of all people. He has nothing to prove. All he wants to do is extend the offer God has made in Jesus, and he has chosen to use the rest of his life to disseminate that offer as far and wide as possible.

**It's not about the bunny:
it's about the lamb!**



Revisiting the Beginning

[Celebration](#)

The women discovered that the stone had been rolled back as if from the inside. With the strength that can only come from being together, they faced death as never before and entered into the tomb of Jesus, the burial place of all their hopes. There they received the news that he was not there, death had not overcome him.

These women, provisioned with nothing more than one another and their spices, had decided to confront an unalterable reality: the unmovable barrier of Jesus' gravestone. When they arrived, nothing was as expected. The impenetrable barrier between life and death was rolled back. They entered his tomb, crossing over into the realm of his death just as each Christian does in baptism. There they discovered not that they were saved *from death* but that they were saved *in Christ's death* and through their participation in it.

These women were sent as the first apostles to tell the news of Christ's resurrection. It was a message they could barely intuit much less comprehend. Like most of us, they might have had an inkling of what this good news meant, but it was immeasurably more than they could take in. Their world had been shattered by Jesus' death, and now everything they thought they knew about life and death was thrown into question. It was impossible for them to immediately grasp the implications of what they had seen and heard. Mark tells us that they fled from the tomb, impelled by such fear that they were actually trembling.

We know that was not the end of the story, but Mark put it there as a call to action. Mark opened his Gospel calling it "the beginning of the Gospel." The finale of Mark's writing that he called the beginning of the Gospel, is this scene in which the most faithful disciples encounter the most incomprehensible good news and are overwhelmed. That is why the disciples are sent back to Galilee where it all started. There with the risen Lord among them, they can begin again to understand what he had taught them.

*"Lord, may I witness to
your presence amongst us."*

✝ The Parish in the Community

► **Free! Senior Citizen's Luncheon**, Tues., Apr. 17. All Saints High School (National Honor Society) is sponsoring its Annual free luncheon for Seniors at the Village Hall, Johnson St., Bay City. Doors open at 10:30am, lunch served at 11:30am. Call Bernie Budzinski at 662-4113 for your FREE ticket!

► **Appreciation Dinner at the East Side Soup Kitchen**: Thurs., Apr. 26, 5:30-7pm, 940 E Genesee, Saginaw. Our work is not possible without your support – Let us celebrate all you do! Thank You!! RSVP by Mon, Apr. 16 to Sara at saracasetta@eastsidesoupkitchen.org.

AMEN CORNER:

A contract has been signed with the Breton Group of Grand Rapids to formulate a feasibility study. The month of April will be spent by the Planning Group discussing pertinent questions. All parishioners will be invited to participate.

Fr. Tom

