

Week of April 2, 2017

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

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

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 * Dn 3:52-56 * Jn 8:31-42

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Gn 17:3-9 * Ps 105:4-9 * Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

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

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Ez 37:21-28 * Jer 31:10-13 * Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY

9:30am Mass

Mt 21:1-11 * Is 50:4-7 * Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 * Phil 2:6-11 * Mt 26:14 - 27:66

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

Parish Activities

Sun., Apr. 2	6:00pm	Youth Ministry
Mon., Apr. 3	6:15pm	Religious Education
Tues., Apr. 4	10:00am	Scripture Study
	5:30pm	RCIA
Wed., Apr. 5	6:00pm	Soup Supper
	7:00pm	PENANCE SERVICE
Thurs., Apr. 6	6:00pm	Open Gym-west campus
	7:00pm	Baptism Prep Class
	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Apr. 9	6:00pm	Youth Ministry

OUR LENTEN WEDNESDAY TRADITION CONTINUES...

This Wednesday, April 5, beginning at 6pm with soup supper served by the Education/Formation Commission, followed by Reconciliation at 7pm. Our celebration is based on our stones which were handed out the 1st week of Lent. **You are asked to bring them to the service as they will be our act of repentance.** We will ask God to *"Create in me a living stone and a willing spirit to sustain a life of faith"*. Please join us in this celebration to discover the peace and amazing love of God's forgiveness.

Food Pantry: Next weekend April 1/2. Items most needed are mashed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, stuffing, tuna, macaroni, baked beans, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter (16oz) and jelly (16oz).

Baptismal Preparation Session: Thurs., April 6, 7pm at the Parish Center, for families who have already had one or more child baptized. Next classes will be August 3 & November 2. Registration is required, please call the Parish Center at 662-6861.

Finger Foods are needed for the Easter Vigil reception on Saturday night, April 15. They can be brought to the social hall prior to the service. Finger goods include chips, cheese & crackers, veggie, fruit or relish trays, desserts, etc.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS): Last fall the CGS atrium was completed and has been used by our 1st grade religious education children this year. It has been a wonderful formation experience for them. As we expand this formation offering to our preschoolers of the parish during our Sunday Mass, we need trained catechists for

the atrium. We are looking for two or three people who are willing to make a commitment to be part of a team and take the training. Training is once a month on a Friday night and Saturday over an 8-month period, beginning in May. It will be offered at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Essexville. If you would like to read more about this wonderful catechesis option go to <http://www.cgsusa.org/about/default.aspx>. If you are interested in becoming a CGS catechist, learning more about becoming a trained CGS catechist, or would like to see the atrium, contact Sandy at sdesjardins@auburnac.org or 662-4335.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$7,801.69
Catholic Relief Services: \$1,395.00 * Easter Flowers: \$1,287.00
Rice Bowl: \$25.00 * C.S.A.: \$12,465.00

C.S.A. Total pledges: 152 (28% of households)
Update week 2: Total pledged: \$33,692.00 (43% of our target).

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee Jesus' power came directly from God. Do you see God's power in miracles today?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** We experience the miracle today of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. We learn of Martha's faith, and how Jesus waited to make sure that Lazarus was dead before he appeared on the scene. Life and death are woven throughout this passage of Lazarus' being called forth alive from the tomb. This life, death and resurrection story parallels what is yet to come in Jesus' public life.

► **Living the Word:** Soon we will celebrate Holy Week, which leads to Easter. Marty Spencer has been waiting to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Make a joyful card of hope for him and his family awaiting the sacraments of the Easter Vigil. Pray an Our Father each day this week for him and his family.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Open Gym Night at St. Anthony's:** Thurs., April 6, 6-7:30pm. Please plan on attending with your child. Thank you to the AACCS Athletics Committee for making this possible.

► **Grandparents/Special Person Mass:** Mark your calendar Friday, April 28, 9am for AACCS Special Mass honoring grandparents or a special person. Invitations will be sent home after spring break.

► **The Bookmobile** will be here Thurs., April 6, 1:15-2:15pm.

The Parish in the Community

► **Grace Lutheran Church** (303 Ruth, Auburn) has developed a new program for those in need called **"Grace Your Closet"**. We have turned a former classroom into a free clothing store for all people in the community in need of clothing for adults and children. It will be open for 3 hours on the 3rd Saturday of every month excluding July. Our next open date is April 15, 10am-1pm. If you know of someone in need, please pass the word. Also, if you have clothing to donate, bring to Grace Church Mon-Fri, 10am-noon. Questions, call Kim at 415-7865.

"Advice is that which the wise don't need, and the fool won't take."

"The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes."

Winston Churchill

"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

Socrates

"I am to be a new kind of fool in this world."

St. Francis of Assisi

From Father Tom's Desk

5th Sunday of Lent

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

As the sacred texts are proclaimed yet again in our hearing, we are to become aware that Lazarus' story and his experience are a paradigm for every believer. Just as Jesus loved Lazarus (John 11:3,36), so does Jesus love us. Similarly, just as Jesus wept for Lazarus (John 11:35), so is Jesus fully and even emotionally invested in our wellbeing. Moreover, just as Lazarus was raised, so every believer begins to live life anew at baptism and, after death, rises to live forever in glory with the Lord.

The preface in the Mass of Christian Burial declares that in death "life is changed, not taken away." Death is a passage or a transition, not a terminal experience. This does not mean there is no pain or sorrow or wrenching separation at death. But, if we truly accept Jesus at his word, and if we truly understand Lazarus' story as the story of us all, then there will arise in us hope and trust that will see us through that passage with strength and assurance.

St. Paul and the Spirit

Celebration

Until such time as God calls us home, Paul (2nd reading) reminds us that we are to live life in accord with the Spirit of God who dwells within. A dynamic, uncontainable entity, the Spirit is constantly urging us toward goodness, justice, righteousness, peace and compassion for others. As our teacher, defender, guide and inspiration, the Spirit is not content to be heeded only once in a while or when it is convenient. On the contrary, the Spirit compels us to *be* the growth and transformation we want to experience in our world. If people were more attentive to the Spirit, it would affect everything they touched. Not only would it have an impact on personal growth and relationships, but it would also influence economics, politics and all social structure. Did Jesus have such transformation in mind when he bequeathed his Spirit to his own? Surely he did. We who profess to believe in him as the resurrection and the life are endowed by his Spirit to be living signs that reveal who Jesus is and challenge others to share our faith in him.

Gospel Differences

Celebration

A comparison of the synoptic Gospels with the Gospel of John reveals obvious differences, one of which concerns the miracles or wonders worked by Jesus. Generally, the Synoptics represented most of Jesus' miracles as acts of power by which Jesus established the reign of God and defeated the reign of Satan. Some miracles, like the multiplication of the loaves for the many, have symbolic significance. These echo themes from the Hebrew scriptures and are represented as the fulfillment of prophecies; they also point ahead to future events – for example, the Eucharist. But, in the fourth Gospel, the evangelist has chosen to pass on to his readers only seven events that have come to be known as signs. Through each sign, something of the person and purpose of Jesus is revealed, and those who witness the sign are challenged to come to believe in him. The signs of Jesus not only prophesy about God's intervention but already contain it. Each sign is to be understood as testimony to the presence of God in Jesus.

Our Sign

Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

Today's dramatic Gospel story invites us to stand awestruck with all the others as Jesus approaches the tomb of Lazarus. "Lazarus, come out!" he commanded. His voice reached into the dark tomb and found the dead man's ears, and the power of the universe poured life back into Lazarus' cold, grey body. Lazarus was the third person to be raised from the dead by the power of

Jesus. The first was the 12-year old girl who died in her bed. The second was an only son to a widow in the town of Nain.

In sending his disciples out to spread the good news, Jesus empowered them to cure the sick, raise the dead and heal the leprous. At the very least, it would seem that as Jesus' disciples today, we are empowered to visit the sick, to help heal those we can, and by our example to inspire those who are spiritually dead to come back to life and to be restored in their faith.

On Being Thomas

Celebration

Thomas replied by calling the disciples to what was probably the best they could offer at the moment: "Let us also go to die with him." In this, Thomas, called Didymus, was acting as the identical twin to all who are called to grow in faith; he demonstrated that his loyalty went far beyond his comprehension. He didn't understand that Jesus' "hour" would bring glory or that Lazarus' death would bring a deeper revelation of who Jesus was, but Thomas had enough love to be willing to stand with Jesus in spite of obvious danger. That was an expression of faith, not in a theological or even intellectual sense, but in a much more concrete way, saying in effect, "I have no idea where it is leading, but I trust you more than anyone or anything else, so I will remain with you." This is a parallel to Peter's proclamation: "Master, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). So with fearful faith, they accompany Jesus to Bethany.

On Being Martha

Celebration

Martha's conversation with Jesus takes the exploration of faith a few steps farther. First she recognized him as a healer – although she reminds him that in that capacity he arrived too late to do much good. She follows her complaint with the ambiguous statement: "Whatever you ask of God, God will give you." When Jesus replies "Your brother will rise again," Martha hears the sort of cliché frequently offered to people who are grieving. It's effectively a call to ignore real anguish and take a "spiritual view" that discounts the hole in the heart of the bereaved. But that's hardly the intent of Jesus for whom this moment was so perturbing and troubling that he wept openly.

Jesus asks if Martha believes, and she responds that she believes he is the Christ. She doesn't say she understands it, just that she believes. So Jesus takes her one step farther, he takes her to face the grave. Raising Lazarus becomes the sign that in him, death has no power. Believing in Jesus, walking with him with more trust than understanding, is the journey of discipleship, the route of living in the light of Christ, the resurrection and the life.

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.

AMEN CORNER: A special meeting was held by the Building Committee and the Planning Group with Fr. Pat O'Connor, a member of the Diocesan Liturgy Office. He will present our plans and our desires to Bishop Cistone & report back as soon as schedules permit. *Fr. Tom*