

WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2019

- MON., Apr. 8** 2:45pm AACS Stations of the Cross
*Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 * Ps 23:1-6 * Jn 8:12-20*
- TUES., Apr. 9** 8:00am Word & Communion
*Nm 21:4-9 * Ps 102:2-3,16-21 * Jn 8:21-30*
- WED., Apr. 10** 8:00am Mass
7:00pm Communal Penance Service
*Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 * Dn 3:52-56 * Jn 8:31-42*
- THURS., Apr. 11** 8:00am Mass
*Gn 17:3-9 * Ps 105:4-9 * Jn 8:51-59*
- FRI., Apr. 12** 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
*Jer 20:10-13 * Ps 18:2-7 * Jn 10:31-42*
- SAT., Apr. 13** 4:30pm Palm Sunday Mass
*Ez 37:21-28 * Jer 31:10-13 * Jn 11:45-56*
- SUN., Apr. 14** 9:30am Palm Sunday Mass
Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery
*Is 50:4-7 * Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 * Phil 2:6-11 * Lk 22:14 - 23:56*

PARISH ACTIVITIES

- Mon., Apr. 8 6:30pm Choir Practice
- Tues., Apr. 9 10:00am Scripture Study - PC
6:30pm RCIA - PC
- Wed., Apr. 10 6:00pm Soup Supper
- Thurs., Apr. 11 6:30pm Commissions Meetings
7:30pm Parish Council Meeting
- Fri., April 12 9:00am AACS Grandparents/Someone Special Day & Prayer Service
- Sun., Apr. 14 6:30pm Lent Scripture Sharing – PC

NEXT WEEKEND – APRIL 13/14

- Please bring your **Rice Bowl** to the Palm Sunday Masses.
- **Food Pantry:** Items most needed are soup, jello, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, dish soap, paper towels and cereal.
- **SCRIP** for AACS will be available after Mass.

COMMUNAL PENANCE & SOUP SUPPER – APRIL 10

All are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00pm. The nails distributed at the beginning of Lent will be a part of this service – **please bring them and the card with you.** Join us for Soup Supper at 6:00pm that evening as well.

Worship Commission

“**Finger foods**” are requested for the Easter Vigil Reception on Saturday evening, April 20. They can be delivered to the St. Gabriel Social Hall that afternoon or prior to the service. The requested foods are cheese and crackers, fruit or relish trays, deviled eggs, desserts, cookies, cupcakes, trail mix, chips, pretzels, etc.

Blood Drive at St. Gabriel - April 30 - 3:00-8:00pm: Blood is a most precious gift that anyone can give another person – the gift of life. A decision to donate blood can save a life or even several lives. Parishioners and community members are encouraged to donate! The donation process takes one hour from start to finish. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins are welcome as well. Scheduling is easy – visit versiti.org/michigan (St. Gabriel Parish event) or call the Parish Office to schedule. If questions, call the Parish Office.

Seeking Homebound Ministry Volunteers: Our Homebound Ministry takes Holy Communion to those in our community who are unable to attend Mass. The majority of volunteers are scheduled one time for 3-4 hours every 6-8 weeks. Flexible scheduling is based on your availability. Please consider this very rewarding ministry. For more information, call the Parish Office at 662-6861.

Lost & Found: A Rosary was found in the parking lot of St. Gabriel Parish on Monday, April 1. Please call the Parish Office to describe it to claim, if it is yours.

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
When have you criticized another? What part of the person reminded you of yourself?

Reflecting on the Word: We hear of condemnation in the news, at school, and at work. Often, we have no trouble handing out judgements and may be hardest on ourselves. Perhaps that's why we are quick to throw stones at others. When we are alarmed by a weakness or imperfection in another, we might want to consider how that defect is manifested in our lives. Instead of concentrating on the wrong, we can seek to identify with the person and become a companion in compassion.

Living the Word: Add stones to your portrait area today. Instead of stones of condemnation, celebrate your strengths and what makes you able to be foundations for the Kingdom of God. Take time to choose stones you find outside or from a special collection. Let each person name the strength that each stone represents. Jesus chose to build others up instead of tearing them down. Let us do the same as we come closer to celebrating Easter.

➤ **Adult Confirmation:** Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Confirmand (person receiving the sacrament) is enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit through the laying of hands and the anointing with Holy Chrism. Confirmation brings the process of Christian initiation to completion. The lifelong journey of faith formation continues as the fully initiated develop spiritually and participate in the life of God. If you have not been confirmed and would like to complete your Sacraments of Initiation, preparation sessions begin soon. The celebration will be Pentecost Weekend - June 8/9. Begin the process by contacting Sandy at sdesjardins@auburnac.org or 662-4335.

➤ **Mark your Calendar:** Vacation Bible School will be July 29-August 1 at St. Gabriel. “ROAR! Life is Wild 🐾 God is Good” is an epic African adventure that engages the whole herd. At ROAR, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Registration details will be announced in the weeks ahead.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

➤ **Incoming Kindergarteners:** There will be hearing and vision testing here on Wednesday, April 10, from 8:45-9:30am. This is open to public kindergarten candidates also.

➤ **Open Registration** is currently happening for Preschool-5th grade. For more information, call 662-6431.

➤ **Special Event:** AACS will be honoring Grandparents and Special Persons on Friday, April 12, at 9:00am with a prayer service and visits to classrooms.

➤ **Flower Sale:** The sale begins April 15. Pick-up will be prior to Mother's Day. To order, contact a school family or call the school office at 662-6431.

ADULT FORMATION

Be sure to stop by the Café Kiosk and review the following April and May events being offered at the Diocesan Center for Ministry:

Catholic Women's Fellowship; Moved by Ancient Voices; An Evening of Reflection for Befrienders and Pastoral Care Ministers; and Encountering Mary – A Virtual Pilgrimage to Fatima.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$20,976.25
Easter Flowers: \$1,126.00 * Catholic Relief Service: \$1,099.00

CSA (1st Count): We received responses from 109 parishioners totalling \$24,595 in pledges or donations. Our target is \$67,249. We have a long way to go, but are off to a good start!

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

...turn in money to the person I thought it belonged to when I found it on the ground.

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

5th Sunday of Lent

Mary McGlone, Celebration

What are we to learn from the story of the officious rabble that dragged the accused adulteress into the middle of a circle to call on Jesus to act as a judge? The whole scene was a setup designed to put both of them on trial. The woman was exposed in public, accused by the requisite number of witnesses, and surrounded by a hostile public. Although the crowd had already reached their verdict, the leaders attempted to force Jesus into the dilemma of disregarding either the law or mercy.

Jesus stole their thunder by interrogating the accusers. Which of them kept the law perfectly? The same law that said that an adulteress should be stoned demanded the same punishment for a rebellious child. When was the last time parents in this crowd had taken their inebriated son to the city gates to be executed?

What did Jesus accomplish by inviting the morally perfect to cast the first stone? Instead of picking up rocks, Jesus aimed at getting the crowd to come to their senses. The truth of the matter was that their vengeance would harm them as much as the woman in question. They were sustaining a social world in which forgiveness would be as rare as absolute innocence and were therefore condemning themselves to being defined forever by their worst thoughts, words and deeds.

Need to Forgive

Celebration

In reality, the woman was easier to save than the crowd. They disappeared right after Jesus suffocated the flame of their fury with the wet blanket of honesty. But did they recognize the misery that had made them merciless? Did they learn that their readiness to condemn the sinner was rooted in their own insecurity? Did they get any hint that genuine religion encourages people to ask for and rejoice in forgiveness rather than pretending or even attempting perfection? Perhaps the most effective thing Jesus accomplished with the crowd was to disperse them. As they went away one by one, they were left to face themselves without the reinforcement of the rabble.

Today, we suffer no dearth of scandals that can rile us up into self-righteous rage. Following the example of Pope Francis, our first question in these situations should be, "Who am I to judge?" The next and equally vital question is, "Who is suffering in this situation and what are we called to do about it?" Those questions won't generate the cathartic unanimity of a mindless mob, but they can lead us to create communities of forgiveness and hope in which all can live and live well.

Always Working (Is 43)

Celebration

Today's selection from Isaiah reminds us that God's will to save and the divine creativity never stop. Looking to the past helps us understand how God works, what God's plans lead toward, and how difficult it has been for human beings to collaborate with God. But God's work is not finished. Whether we find ourselves in exile or invited into a new creative moment, God is at work, always calling out, "See I am doing something new!" Our task is to listen and watch carefully enough to perceive it and then be willing to be called forward.

Ongoing Process (Phil 3)

Celebration

For Paul, to know Christ was not simply a matter of acquaintance or of knowledge about him. Knowledge in the sense that Paul uses it here is an inner and mutual knowing so intimate that it describes the relationship of husband and wife. For Paul, to know Christ implied interior union with Christ. Knowing Christ is an intensely personal and ongoing relationship that affects people to the very core of their being.

Although Paul rejoices in knowing Christ, he still speaks of gaining Christ, thereby admitting that he has not reached his goal. Here Paul is using commercial language, as if knowing Christ were the only profit he sought, a most valuable possession that became the identifying characteristic of his life. For Paul, to gain Christ, while not a question of succeeding by his own efforts, is at the same time a process in which he must continually strive, letting go of previous "gains," so that this prize may come to him ever more fully.

Do Not Judge (Jn 8)

Celebration

Jesus knew that while accusing another can elicit feelings of superiority, there are few people so self-unaware and shameless that they would claim perfect innocence in the presence of their neighbors. And if that were Jesus' opening gambit, dread of what he might say next must have been part of what dispersed the entire crowd.

This Gospel incident reminds us that we can choose mercy over misery. Judgment of others is ultimately a weapon of self-destruction as it involves us in creating a world too harsh for fallible people to thrive in. Jesus' mercy is not laissez-faire, afraid to make any moral judgment, it simply concentrates more on potential than on the past.

As Isaiah says, God is all about creating something new. That goes for all of us.

April Wedding Anniversaries

60 years or more..... John & Geraldine Schacher

50 years or more..... Dan & Marlene Derdowski

Leo & Marlene Tomczak

Robert & Emma Huskins

William & Marcia Reder

Edwin & Patricia Wittbrodt

40 years or more..... Ronald & Elizabeth Owen

David & Louann Cimbalk

Richard & Lezley Grzegorzczuk

Kenneth & JoAnn Kosnik

Thomas & Ann Smith

Melvin & Sherry Pfenninger

Timothy & Gwen Gwisdala



to be continued...

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Senior Citizens Luncheon – Thursday, April 25: The National Honor Society of All Saints High School is sponsoring its Annual Luncheon for Senior Citizens. Lunch is at 11:30am (doors open at 10:30) at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Bay City. For free tickets, call Bernie Budzinski at 662-4113.