

✠ Week of April 15, 2018

MONDAY

Acts 6:8-15 * Ps 119:23-24,26-27,29-30 * Jn 6:22-29

TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion

Acts 7:51 - 8:1 * Ps 31:3-4,6-8,17,21 * Jn 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Acts 8:1-8 * Ps 66:1-7 * Jn 6:35-40

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Acts 8:26-40 * Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20 * Jn 6:44-51

FRIDAY 9:00am

Grandparents Mass

Acts 9:1-20 * Ps 117:1-2 * Jn 6:52-59

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Acts 9:31-42 * Ps 116: 12-17 * Jn 6:60-69

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Acts 4:8-12 * Ps 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,29 * 1 Jn 3:1-2 * Jn 10:11-18



✠ Parish Activities

Mon., Apr. 16	6:00pm	Cantor Practice
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
	6:15pm	Religious Education
	6:30pm	Bible Timeline
Tues., Apr. 17	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	Quilters-West Campus
Wed., Apr. 18	10:00am	Parish Knitters
Thurs., Apr. 19	6:00pm	PTO Meeting
	7:00pm	School Committee Meeting

Cantors 🎵: Scheduling Mon., April 16, 6pm for Apr. 22 through June 3.

Blood Drive: April 25 here at St. Gabriel (on the Blood Bus) 3-8pm. Sign up on the sheet at the church main entrance or call the parish office at 662-6861 to reserve your time.

✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$9,476.20

CSA 2018 Report

New responses received: 31	Pledging/donating \$5,342.00
Total pledges/donations: 225	(43% of registered families)
Total amount Pledged: \$44,817.00	(57% of our \$78,232.00 target)

A 2nd mailing will be sent to those who have not yet responded. 10 days after that, chairpersons will start making phone calls. You can lighten their load by submitting your gift!

Misguided Responses: We have already received more no responses this year to CSA than we did in last year's complete drive. In some instances, people indicated they were not giving because of the current "priest scandal." Some people mistakenly think CSA funds will be used for civil settlements if there are any. For years the diocese, as a part of the Michigan Catholic Conference, has set aside monies earned on investments for litigation purposes. These are complimented by high premium insurance policies covering liability. In my time working with the diocese, there was not a single financial settlement for alleged abuse. Given the current horrific situation, there may well be. CSA funds are for the day to day operation of the diocese. The only one hurt by not contributing will be our parish because we are obligated to meet our target, one way or another. *Fr. Tom*

Children's G☉d Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...I cleaned up without being asked. ...I got Mom mail.
 ...I did not shout or scream when my cousin pulled my hair.

✠ Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
 How do you live peace in your life? Does anything threaten to steal your peace?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** "Peace be with you" is such a powerful phrase. It does not promise that things will never go wrong or that we can completely control our surroundings. No matter what has or will happen, we can be at peace. If peace is simply with us, we can walk in the midst of the storm untroubled by the lightning strikes close to our feet. When we practice peace in all we do, we allow peace to make a home in our soul.

► **Living the Word:** Practice peace today. Have the family choose an activity during which all will peacefully interact with each other in an almost exaggerated way. Everyone should feel free to have fun with this since humor is a close cousin to peace and often brings harmony to an intense situation. Perhaps you might complement each other while playing a board game. Notice what it is like to live in peace. Was it easy, hard, enjoyable? Would family members like to try this during a dinner table discussion?

Mark Your Calendar: Vacation Bible School July 30 – August 2. For children in grades K-5th. Help is needed from youth in grades 5th-12th. Registration will begin in May.

✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Flower Sales** have begun 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.

► **In-Coming Kindergarteners:** Hearing and vision testing here on Monday, April 23, 8:45-9:30pm. This is open to the public.

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.

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
40 years or more.....	Edwin & Patricia Wittbrodt
	Ronald & Elizabeth Owen
	David & Louann Cimbalk
	Richard & Lezley Grzegorzcyk
	Kenneth & JoAnn Kosnik
	Thomas & Ann Smith
	Melvin & Sherry Pfenniger
30 years or more.....	Charles & Karen Amos
	Walter & Patricia Hechlik
	Rick & Doreen LeVasseur
	David & Sandra Saunders
	Michael & Leslie Clare
	Paul & Michele Vennix
	Jim & Caroline Campbell
20 years or more.....	Robert & Suzanne Rivard
	Paul & Anne Warren
	Nathan & Ashley Bock
10 years or more.....	David & Tracy Arthur
	Jay & Tina Hickey
	Matthew & Kelly Snawder



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 Father Tom's Desk

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Luke tells us that Jesus nudged his friends through their incredulity and amazement to the point that he could open their minds to understand the Scriptures. The Gospels attest to the fact that until they had been through Jesus' death and resurrection, they did not and perhaps could not understand what he had tried to teach them. It was one thing to hear him proclaim that the last would be first; it was quite another for them to meet their crucified friend arisen from the dead. They had often heard him preach conversion and forgiveness, but they began to learn what it meant when he transformed their way of thinking by returning to them with his message of peace. In the end, Jesus mandated his disciples to be his witnesses. He knew that the only way they could learn what his message was about was through preaching it in word and deed.

Thus, in today's reading from Acts, we meet the new Peter. No longer the braggart, he is a witness. As a prophet, he demands that his people accept their responsibility for crucifying Jesus. As an evangelist, he has become a preacher and agent of forgiveness, even ready to risk his skin for the message that has captivated him. On one hand, people might not recognize him; on another, they would say he had become what he was always meant to be.

In the end, Easter is God's invitation that we all become what we are meant to be in and through the encounter with the risen Christ. All the saints will tell us that the process involves terrible confusion and frightening realizations that prod us beyond our safe boundaries and easy creeds. They will also tell us that the peace we will find is worth any cost.

Challenged to Change

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The most important detail in Luke's accounts of the disciples meeting the risen Jesus may be the fact that he slowly opened their minds to understand what they had previously been unwilling or unable to grasp. Their facile and self-interested ideas about Jesus as Lord or Messiah all fell apart with the Passion. Those of us born into a so-called Christian society may unwittingly share their lack of depth to understand. We sometimes proclaim: "He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day" with about the same amount of wonder as we say, "the light just turned green." When we read the Gospels, it is all too easy to overlook the mind-boggling confusion they convey and thus avoid their invitation to undergo the transformation they offer. To the extent that we succeed in those evasions, we prevent ourselves from sharing the faith experience of an encounter with Christ that the evangelists wanted to communicate.

Messiah of Forgiveness

[Celebration](#)

As he described what God had done in Jesus, Peter reinterpreted the history of Israel for his audience. Just as Jesus had done for the disciples traveling to Emmaus, Peter explained how the prophets had foretold what God would accomplish through Jesus. Echoing Isaiah who said, "Who would believe what we have heard?" (53:1), Peter explained how the Scriptures could have prepared them to recognize Jesus if only they had known how to read them.

Of course, the stumbling block for them and just about everyone was the idea of a messiah who would suffer. Such a messiah presented an unnerving concept of God's power as transformative rather than coercive. The suffering messiah portrayed God's power as love willing to suffer rejection rather than overpower anyone. Peter preached the scandalous idea that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the prophets, had indeed sent Jesus and when he was re-

jected that same God raised him up so that he could return to his people offering forgiveness. Part of the difficulty of accepting the suffering messiah is that our image of God tells us what we should be like. People who believe in the God of Jesus are called to choose mercy over sacrifice or punishment. Peter finished his homily by calling people to turn their lives around and accept forgiveness.

Grasping the Message

[Celebration](#)

Jesus, admitting that his presence among them was different from what it was before his death, tried to help bridge the gap by returning to his role as teacher. In effect he said, "I am telling you again what I tried to get you to understand so many times before." He then gave them the three essential keys to understanding his mission and preaching: God's Messiah was not what they expected, but the one who suffered and rose from the dead; conversion and forgiveness would be preached in his name; his disciples had the responsibility to spread that message from its birthplace in the heart of Israel to the entire world.

The message of the Resurrection, the message of the salvation and forgiveness offered by a crucified and risen Savior, is not easy to take in or live out. All four evangelists portray the difficulty of grasping the message. The paschal mystery overturns all ordinary expectations and controverts normal human ambitions. The Gospel privileges sinners who gratefully accept forgiveness over anyone who tries to earn their own way. If we have little problem believing the message of Easter, perhaps we have not even begun to understand it.

Our Encounter of Christ

Gloria Couvain, [Celebration](#)

We meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus each time we attend the celebration of the Eucharist. We assemble as one body where we hear the word of God and the body and blood of Christ is shared as one community. We gather for a communal experience of a meal consisting of the blessed body and blood of Christ. Our eyes are opened, and we are called to go forth to spread the saving word in the world. Each eucharistic celebration brings us together as the body of Christ where we are reminded that we are the eyes, ears and hands of Jesus. We are called to do his work in community and as individuals. We are disciples on the road to Emmaus each time we gather in his name. A peace comes from sharing with and loving our sisters and brothers who walk among us, are with us, and a part of us; just as Jesus walked with his disciples on the road initially as a stranger. He is real and he is among us.

"Lord, help me to forgive others."

✠ The Parish in the Community

► **Are you interested** in expanding your knowledge of Scripture and Catholic Theology? Wanting to strengthen and deepen your relationship with God? Feeling the desire to fulfill your baptismal call by serving others? The Lay Ministry Program may be for you! Learn about the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program at one of the upcoming regional information meetings, April 18, 6:30pm at St. Brigid, Midland, or May 5, 10am at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. For more info contact Kellie Deming, Coordinator of Lay Ministry at kdeming@dioceseofsaginaw.org or 797-6609.

► **Permanent Deacon Program for 2020:** Those interested should apply by **May 15** by calling Kellie Deming at 797-6609. Minimum of 2 years of Lay Ministry formation is required to apply for the Permanent Deacon Program.

► **New Dawn Bereavement & Grief Education Support Group** meets once a month on the 1st Thursday, 10-11:30am in the Gephart Funeral Home conference room. No cost but preregistration is requested, call 686-2291.

► **"Acts of the Apostles"** by Rev. Bill Taylor, April 25, 7-8:30pm (and repeated April 26:30-3pm) at Langley Hall. Open to the public and free of charge. Bring your Bible! Call 545-2077 or rshook@hotmail.com for info.

► **Spring Bible Classes** starting April 11, 7-8pm (and repeated April 12, 1:30-2:30pm) through May 30/31. Call 545-2077 or rshook@hotmail.com.

► **Daughters of Isabella, Circle 605 Charity Card Party**, May 2, 6:30pm at Our Lady of Peace parish hall, Bay City. \$5 includes luncheon & dessert. Many prizes & a raffle too. Public is welcome.