

Week of April 16, 2017

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

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

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

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

THURSDAY 8:00am 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

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Acts 2:42-47 * Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 * 1 Pt 1:3-9 * Jn 20:19-31

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

Parish Activities

- Tues., Apr. 18 6:30pm Auburn Area Quilters-St. Gabriel West
7:00pm Baptismal Prep (rescheduled date)
- Wed., Apr. 19 10:00am Parish Knitters
- Thurs., Apr. 20 6:00pm PTO Meeting
7:00pm School Committee
- Sun., Apr. 23 6:00pm Youth Ministry

Congratulations!

The Christian community of St. Gabriel Parish joyfully welcomes Marty Spencer into the fullness of the Catholic Faith & 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!!

Blood Drive: Our next blood drive is April 24, 3-8pm in the social hall. Make an appointment by calling the parish office or signing up on the sheets at the church entrances.

Scripture Study: Beginning Tuesday, April 25, 10am at the Parish Center, we will begin **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother**, a Catholic Bible study that will bring you on an extraordinary pilgrimage, revealing Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. We hope you will join in for this DVD based series that was filmed on location in the Holy Land, which will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$10,431.00

Catholic Relief Services: \$125 * Easter Flowers: \$45

Funeral Luncheons: \$20 * Food Pantry: \$140 * Rice Bowl: \$353

C.S.A. 43 new pledges: \$9,442.00

4th report Total pledges: 242 (44% of households)

Total pledged: \$52,634.00 (67% of our target).

Last Year's CSA: We are still waiting for the last few pledges to come in from our 2016 CSA drive. If you have an outstanding pledge, please make your final payments as soon as you are able.

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

The Alleluia has returned! How many things can we think of to be joyful about this Easter?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The story begins in darkness, which seems symbolic as the realization of the empty tomb dawns on Mary of Magdala, running to get two disciples. It is probably light by the time she arrives back. Brave Simon Peter entered the empty tomb, but the first disciple ahead of him is the one who believed upon seeing the burial cloths. There is indeed a glimpse of new life in this account, but even richer is the truth that the stone is rolled back and the Resurrection has triumphed over death.

► **Living the Word:** Individuals are often baptized at the Easter Vigil. Tell your children how these new members are welcomed into the Church through a service of song, story and symbol. An Easter fire was lit, the congregation again sang the Alleluia, and the church was adorned with lilies. As a family, join your Easter joy to that of these new Christians as you eat special foods and wear your best clothes to Mass. Say "Alleluia" instead of hi or hello today, to everyone you meet. Take time to mark a new calendar, sowing fifty days of unbelievable joy.

WHAT EASTER MEANS TODAY [About Easter](#), Channing L. Bete Co, Inc. The Resurrected Lord is still present in the world, offering to all believers...

The Easter Message: The meaning of what happened at the first Easter should remind you of...

...Christ's Resurrection and your own to come

...The Kingdom of God, here and now, in the midst of life

...Your responsibility to help spread the Good News.

The Easter Spirit: Knowledge of Christ's Resurrection should give you...

...Joyful and triumphant faith

...Confirmation of the Christian way of life

...Meaning and purpose for daily actions

Renewed Hope: Because of the first Resurrection, you can...

...Follow the path to salvation;

...Believe that God will one day transform this world

...Know that your efforts in this life are not in vain.

Transformation: The Resurrection offers you God's help to change your life in order to...

...Fulfill God's wishes

...Respond to others' needs

...Become caring and just

...Become a fulfilled human being

Easter should be a continuing celebration of Jesus' helping, saving presence, reflected in your daily life. Strive to renew love and hope all around you.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **No School:** Monday, April 17.

► **AACS Sports Banquet:** Friday, April 21, 6:00pm

► **Open Enrollment:** AACS is taking registration for 3 and 4 yr. old Preschool and Kindergarten – 5th grade. If you are interested in learning more about our school, please contact Mrs. Reder at 662-6431. She would love to give you a tour! You can also get information on our website at www.auburnacschool.org.

► **Flower Sales:** Beginning on Tuesday, April 18 through May 5th. Pick-up will be Fri., May 12. If interested in ordering, please contact a school family or call the school office at 662-6431.

From Father Tom's Desk

Easter Greetings!

On behalf of the parish staff, I extend our best wishes to you for the great feast of Easter and the joyous fifty days of celebration that follow. May the loving presence of the Risen Christ be with you and with your family. May the promise of new life forever be for you and yours the source of hope that sustains you in your everyday lives. May we all be truly blessed by the Easter event! *Fr. Tom*

Good News

Ted Wolgamot, Celebration

A woman, Mary of Magdala, crashed through the door where the disciples were hiding and spoke the most astonishing words ever: "I have seen the Lord!" Human history has never been the same.

Perhaps even more remarkable is that Mary did not initially recognize Jesus. Frantically she wondered where his body had been taken. With tremendous grief, her eyes filled with tears. She was crying so openly that two strangers, angels, appeared and one said to her: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Who cannot identify with the overwhelming power of grief upon hearing that someone dear to us has died? But then Jesus asked the same question: "Woman, why are you weeping?" Notice that the first words spoken by the risen Jesus were about the meaning of human tears. Jesus then spoke one more word: "Mary." It stopped her in her tracks. She recognized the sound of her name in that voice.

This was the turning point. This was the moment the Resurrection became fully evident. This was when human history was changed.

And this is also when Jesus' command to "go to my brothers [and sisters]" broke through. And the disciples did just that. They told the story that has been passed on to us. It's the same story that Mary of Magdala discovered.

"I am here. There is life. Eternal life." We call it Easter.

He is With Us

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

In this month's Easter Gospels, we are blessed with narratives of the risen Jesus' appearances to his own. These appearances, as chronicled by John and Luke, have been shared by eye witnesses to Jesus whose testimony is true and is intended to resonate within our hearts so as to move us to faith. Each appearance attests to the continuity between the earthly Jesus and the risen Lord. Although transformed, Jesus still bore the wounds of his passion and death. Yet, as Thomas (April 23) was to learn, seeing and touching those wounds would not lead to faith. Nor would an empty tomb (April 16) be accepted as indisputable witness to Jesus' resurrection. Indeed, even Mary of Magdala (April 16) though someone had taken Jesus' body from the tomb. Not to be proven by empirical proof or by seeing and touching, the resurrection of Jesus is grasped by faith and embraced through grace. We who believe accept the testimony of those first eye-witnesses to the risen Lord. This truth that we share bonds together believers of everyplace and time.

Until we see the risen Lord for ourselves, Luke offers us uniquely valuable encouragement (April 30). Jesus comes to us and stays with us in the breaking of the bread of the Eucharist. Jesus comes to us and stays with us as we pore over the sacred texts. There we hear the voices of the prophets who have revealed God's plan of salvation for humankind. There we can see and touch the living Lord through whom we are forgiven and redeemed. This is our hope; this is our faith. Amen! Alleluia!

It's not about the bunny; it's about the Lamb!

Coming to Understand

Sr. Stefanie Weisgram, OSB, Collageville, MN

Jesus' disciples felt everything we feel and more because they were right there in the midst of it. They actually saw the resurrected Jesus. But we are Jesus' disciples just as much as they were. Just as they grew in their understanding of Jesus' resurrection, so can we. We do not see him now but one day we will. In the meantime we also need to grow in understanding Jesus' resurrection. We do that in how we live, in our eating and drinking in the Eucharist, in our praying and in our awareness of how Jesus is in us and in others. We grow in understanding Jesus' resurrection when we pour out our lives as he did. For us the pouring out will not be on a cross but in our lives as we live and share together as Jesus called us.

Continued Celebration

"The Blessed Pentecost," Nathan Mitchell, Notre Dame

The Christian celebration of "the blessed Pentecost" will strike many as mad indeed. Fifty days of "dwelling in" the paschal mystery! Fifty days of surrendering in joyful faith and love as the Spirit of God takes possession of our lives! Fifty days of mystagogy, of walking with the neophytes ever more deeply into the baptismal mysteries of death and resurrection. Good heavens! What an order!

One reason why such a prolonged celebration strikes us as difficult – if not downright absurd – that we tend to link feasts and holidays with mindless hoopla. "Party time," for many, is an invitation to obliterate consciousness, to get wasted, to veg out, to forget. But a season of Christian festival is precisely the opposite. It is a time of intensified consciousness, finely tuned awareness, awakened memory. The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic, obligation to "party on," even if we don't feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply "the weather of the heart," to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation. In short, Pentecost is a season for learning how to say yes in a culture that wants to keep on saying no.

