

# Week of May 21, 2017

## MONDAY

Acts 16:11-15 \* Ps 149:1-6,9 \* Jn 15:26 – 16:4

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Acts 16:22-34 \* Ps 138:1-3,7-8 \* Jn 16:5-11

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Acts 17:15,22 – 18:1 \* Ps 148:1-2,11-14 \* Jn 16:12-15

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Acts 18:1-8 \* Ps 98:1-4 \* Jn 16:16-20

## FRIDAY

Acts 18:9-18 \* Ps 47:2-7 \* Jn 16:20-23

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Acts 18:23-28 \* Ps 47:2-3,8-10 \* Jn 16:23-28

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

**NO Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Acts 1:1-11 \* Ps 47:2-3,6-9 \* Eph 1:17-23 \* Mt 28:16-20

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



Love the Lord

## Parish Activities

Tues., May 23 10:00am Scripture Study

**Congratulations** to our Parish children who have completed their Sacraments of Initiation by receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist.

### 4:30pm Mass

Austin Bourassa

Lily Ciesla

Ella Harrison

Brayden Hitts

Gabriel Wegener

### 9:30am Mass

Luke Abraham

Cloie Bernelis

Kaiya Bragiel

Julianna Grzegorzczuk

Sarah Luptowski

Alexa Snawder

**A Word from your Parish Council:** At St. Gabriel, we believe good communication is essential to a thriving parish and community. We also know to keep good communication we must continue to work at it. We rely not just on our staff but many, many others giving their stewardship in various forms. Our parish has a proud and rich history. This is a place of prayer, gatherings and joy. Here families and individuals created friendships and found happiness. Here is where generations of our people made history with their lives, their participation in this community, and their unselfish love. We must continue the journey of faith begun by our ancestors whose love and sacrifice made possible the parish we enjoy today.

Each of our four commissions (Administration, Christian Service, Education & Worship) has open seats that could be filled by **YOU**. With your help, our parish will be better able to continue to proclaim our Catholic faith. Each Commission's responsibilities will be at each entrance of the church. Please take a packet and let us know if you are willing to serve in one of these important roles.

**"It is out of a profound sense of gratitude for God's many gifts that we make the choice to return some of what we have."**

Debra Lupo, Parish Council Chair

**Parish Fall Raffle:** There is still time to donate prizes for the Fall Raffle. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Stephanie Horschig at [Stephanie.Horschig@midmichigan.org](mailto:Stephanie.Horschig@midmichigan.org).



**Graduation Mass:** All high school & college graduates are invited to attend the Graduation Mass on Sunday, June 11 at 9:30am. **Please wear your cap & gown.** A reception in your honor will immediately follow. RSVP parish office 662-6861 or [parishoffice@auburnmac.org](mailto:parishoffice@auburnmac.org).

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$13,572.00

Food Pantry: \$25.00

In Memory of Thomas Prill: \$1,025.00

29 new pledges: \$3,770.00

C.S.A. Total pledges: 352 (64% of households)

8<sup>th</sup> report Total pledged: \$73,014.00 (94% of our target).

Let those who are waiting in the wings step forward to end the suspense as to whether or not we are going to reach our target! *Fr. Tom*

**Budget Set:** The Administration Commission passed on to the Parish Council the budget for the coming fiscal year, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. The bottom line is \$1,025,424.00 in income and \$947,784.00 in expenses. The income projected is \$5,000.00 less than the current year; the expenses \$3,000.00 more. Capital projects are not included as the intent will be to pay for these out of savings.

**Increase in Cemetery Fees:** The Administration Commission recommended to the Parish Council an across-the-board increase for cemetery costs – plot, burial, niches in the columbarium. The increase will be between \$100 and \$200 for each service. A survey of area cemeteries indicates we are still well below the norm. The new price schedule will go into effect for non-parishioners July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Education/Formation

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

The Holy Spirit gives us support and comforts us with grace. Do we often look to the Holy Spirit for help?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The advocacy of the Holy Spirit is a special gift that Jesus shares with us. The continuation of the reading of John 14 from last Sunday provides riches nearly beyond belief, as Jesus promises to live on if we love him by loving one another. Although people today struggle with overemphasis on material wealth and are sidetracked by electronic distractions, keeping the Commandments is the key to staying with and in God. If we love the Father, we are shaped and supported by the Holy Spirit who is with us always.

► **Living the Word:** The love that comes to us from the Holy Spirit is the life that Jesus wants us to share with others. During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop lays hands upon us and prays that the Holy Spirit will help them love God and share goodness. Make a goodness basket together: Dye several eggs, add touches of hard candy, maybe some tea bags and even a loaf of bread or some coupons. Share unexpected goodness with a teacher, a coworker, or a neighbor who live alone.

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **NO SCHOOL Friday, May 26.** The school office will be closed Friday and Monday in observance of Memorial weekend.

► **Preschool:** Preschoolers will end their year this week with a field trip to William's Township Fire Department and a picnic at William's Township Park. A BIG thank you to parents and family members for volunteering throughout the school year. Those of you returning in the fall, we will see you in September. Families who are moving on to other schools, we will miss you and wish you all the best. To all families, have a fun and safe summer!

► **SCRIP:** Graduation gifts and everyday shopping are just two good reasons to use SCRIP cards. SCRIP is available in the school office when school is in session.

# From Father Tom's Desk

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

One of the unique features of today's Gospel is that Jesus speaks for the first time of the disciples' love for him. Previously he's told his disciples that he is the way, the bread of life, the light of the world – all descriptions of himself that speak of what he wants to offer them. Jesus often called his disciples to believe in him and to trust him, but now he gets to the deep, interpersonal level of loving him for who he is. The only other time in the Gospels that Jesus speaks of the disciples' love for him is after the resurrection when he asks Peter if he loves him (John 21:15-16).

When Jesus talks to his disciples, to us, about loving him, he's talking about something more than ordinary friendship, even more than familial commitment or love between spouses. When we pay attention to the broader context we realize that he's talking about our loving him the same way he loves the Father. The love between Jesus and the Father is a mutual devotion born of their identification with one another. In Jesus' relationship with the Father, obedience has nothing to do with rules. It's about loving one another and sharing the same desire.

As Andrew Lloyd Weber's song explains, "Love changes everything." That's what Jesus is talking about in this reading. He's not telling the disciples to obey rules, he's inviting them to share his heart. The opening line of today's Gospel is, "If you love me, you will keep my commands." That's a request for love. All that Jesus did in his life was aimed at that one thing: to entice humanity into falling in love with God, and the way to do that is through loving him.

For Jesus, love is the only thing that matters. Loving him includes accepting him for who he is and what he offers. As he says in this reading, loving him brings us into the realm of his Spirit and allows us to share his own perspective and desire. In the opening line of this reading Jesus could just as well have said, "If you love me you will love what I love and want what I want." Keeping his commandments is a matter of the heart, a heart willingly invaded by God.

### Proclaiming Our Hope

Katy Beedle Rice, [Celebration](#)

The disciples are moving into a new time – one of great hope and also of great pain. Shortly after promising to send them the Advocate, Jesus tells the disciples why they will need one: "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you" (John 15:20).

Our first reading picks up after Stephen is stoned in Jerusalem – the first of the apostles to be martyred. As many disciples are scattered from Jerusalem, Philip finds himself in Samaria. Instead of seeking shelter and protection, we are told he "Proclaimed the Christ to them: thereby sharing the joy of the good news at every opportunity."

The second reading is drawn from the First Letter of Peter, who, tradition suggests, wrote it shortly before his martyrdom in Rome. Peter urges the community to "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." Indeed, that is the audacious message of these first followers of Jesus – continue to proclaim the Christ to all who will listen even as your very lives are demanded of you.

In our own lives as Christians we also face challenges, persecutions and transitions. Some may be as simple as bearing with a difficult co-worker or cranky child, but others (the death of a spouse, mental illness, addiction) may demand everything of us. In all that we encounter, we can hold on to Jesus' promise, "I will not leave you orphans." We know that we have an advocate who remains with us and an attentive parent who holds us close as we embrace a new reality. We

now are the ones who must proclaim the Christ to a world desperately in need of mercy and love.

### Growing In Faith

[Celebration](#)

As we are preparing for the feast of Pentecost, seeing the way the early community grew in faith invites us to reflect on our own faith development. Perhaps those of us who were baptized as infants might identify with the Samaritans who apparently didn't receive the full experiential effect of the faith all at once. As they grew in union with the entire community and received the laying on of hands from the apostles, their faith took on new dimensions. Others, like Cornelius and many of our present-day catechumens, experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit before "conversion," and came to baptism already impelled by that grace. Finally, although Luke doesn't underlined it, Peter and John had to be growing in their own process of faith as they confirmed Samaritans while being rejected by their co-religionists in Jerusalem.

Perhaps one of the underlying messages of this reading is a reminder of what Pope Francis has called the unruly freedom of God's word. The entire community is called to evangelize and none of us can predict who will accept God's word nor through whom the Spirit of God will choose to work.

### Proof of Love?

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

The marriage was on the rocks. But the man loved his wife and wanted to prove his love, so he decided to swim across the ocean. She was not impressed. Undaunted, he walked across the Gobi desert. He sent her a victory picture of him at the Chinese border with parched, cracked lips. She was still unimpressed. He decided to climb Mount Everest. They took a photo of him standing atop the 29,142-foot peak, holding up his black, frostbitten thumb. He was sure he had won her back. When he returned home, the divorce went through. He asked her, "Why?" She answered, "Well, you were never home!"

In today's Gospel Jesus doesn't expect us to swim oceans, cross deserts or climb mountains. He only asks that we keep his commandments. That alone is proof of our love for him.

### Reason for Hope

[Celebration](#)

Tom Bodett, the spokesperson for Motel 6 who ends every ad with the promise, "We'll leave the light on for you," also said, "They say a person needs just three things to be happy in this world – someone to love, something to do and something to hope for." When we reflect upon the situation of the early disciples, we can readily observe that they found all three of those things in Jesus. His love for them, which found its fullest expression on the cross, engendered in them a love for him and for God that they expressed in their love for others. That love also inspired their "something to do"; they served the needs of others, and even when they were made to suffer (as did Jesus) for doing good, they persevered. Their steady perseverance was fueled by their hope, a hope that probably made others wonder at their spiritual stamina. The recipients of 1 Peter and all who hear these words today are urged to be ready to explain the reason for our hope. His name is Jesus.

### The Parish in the Community

► **Midland Farmers Market:** New hours, 2-7pm each Wednesday of May through October. Saturday hours remain the same, 7am-1pm. The Market is located at the end of Ashman Street near the Tridge in Midland. A local business is offering home delivery of some Farmers Market items. Online ordering [www.runarounderrandservice.com](http://www.runarounderrandservice.com). For more information, call the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce at 839-9901.