

Week of May 28, 2017

MONDAY

Acts 19:1-8 * Ps 68:2-7 * Jn 16:29-33

TUESDAY

Acts 20:17-27 * Ps 68:10-11,20-21 * Jn 17:1-11

WEDNESDAY

8:00am Mass

Zep 3:14-18 * Is 12:2-6 * Lk 1:39-56

THURSDAY

8:00am Mass

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 : Ps 16:1-2,5,7-11 * Jn 17:20-26

FRIDAY

9:00am 5th Grade Mass

Acts 25:13-21 * Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20 * Jn 21:15-19

SATURDAY

4:30pm Mass

Acts 28:16-20,30-31 * Ps 11:4-5,7 * Jn 21:20-25

PENTECOST

9:30am Mass

Nursery only until the end of June

Acts 2:1-11 * Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34 * 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13 * Jn 20:19-23

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

Parish Activities

Mon., May 29

Parish Office closed/NO School

Thurs., June 1

7:00pm Baptism Prep

Congratulations!! Our secretary/receptionist, Christine Junga, entered into marriage this past week with Kevin Sellnow. The ceremony was at Assumption in Larkin. Christine will be out of the office for the next two weeks.



Problems: This past Monday the Parish center was found to be without power. There were no phones for the morning and worse, with all the rain we have been having, there was four inches of water in the basement. Consumers Power found a bad wire in their supply line and quickly repaired it. Restoration work on the basement will be in the neighborhood of \$3,000. We can file a claim with Consumers and/or seek relief from our insurance company.

HELP WANTED: We are in great need of additional liturgical ministers, especially ministers of hospitality (ushers) and lectors. Please consider serving the parish through one of these ministries. If willing, contact the parish office. Appropriate training will follow.

We would also like to increase our funeral luncheon staff by adding a fourth group. The number of funerals appears to be increasing and a fourth group would provide less frequent service for the workers. We are in need of additional individuals who would be willing to serve as captains or co-captains. An orientation session would be held for any new recruits. It is an exceptionally important ministry and very, very rewarding. We average around 20 funerals a year, so it would mean being available four or five times. Call the parish office to volunteer for any of these ministries.

Fr. Tom

Clean-up: There weren't many volunteers (10) but 20 yards of mulch was spread within a couple of hours. The finished product is a definite enhancement to the parish grounds. Thank You!!

Graduation Mass: All high school & college graduates are invited to attend the Graduation Mass, 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@auburnac.org.

Vacation Bible School: July 31-Aug. 3. Theme this year will be **"Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory is Won!"** Registration forms and youth volunteer forms are available at the school entrance and online at auburnac.org.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$6,868.97

Annual Budget: \$600,000.00 * YTD: \$521,377.92

Food Pantry: \$25.00

In Memory of Phyllis Berg: \$365 (for St. Gabriel Outreach Program)

10 new pledges: \$1,675.00

C.S.A. Total pledges: 362 (66% of households)

10th report Total pledged: \$74,689.00 (96% of our target).

We know there are forty parishioners who gave previously, but have not yet responded. We do have a reason to hope that we will meet and exceed our target.

Fr. Tom

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee Have you ever felt a little unready and insecure, yet confident about doing something new?

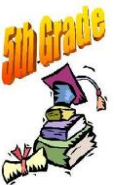
► **Reflecting on the Word:** What a farewell speech Jesus offered his followers! Before Jesus leaves "the eleven disciples," he commissions them for ministry. Their mission is to "make disciples of all nations." This truly is evangelization rooted in the support of the Holy Spirit. As Catholic Christians, we believe that Jesus ascended into heaven with his body, leaving a community of believers to spread the Good News on earth. The new "body" of Christ was that fledgling Christian community, led by the Apostles.

► **Living the Word:** As a family, dramatically proclaim Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28. There is plenty of action and characters for a family drama: the angel, the women, the guards, Jesus, the chief priests, the Apostles. Have the best reader proclaim this Gospel and designate others to pantomime the characters as it is read. Use the family living area or the yard for the stage.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► We will be celebrating our last School Mass of the school year on Friday, June 1. **We will celebrate our 5th grade graduating class**, and they and their parents will be actively participating in the parts of Mass. After Mass there will be a graduation service. You are invited to stay and celebrate with us. Congratulations to all of you!!

► **Congratulations to our 4-year-old Preschoolers.** They celebrated their graduation this past week. Thank you to Mrs. Buchmann and Ms. Reinke for their time and dedication to our preschool students. Check out the pictures on our website or like us on Facebook.



The Parish in the Community

► **Memorial Day:** The V.F.W. of Linwood/Kawkawlin will have a service at St. Anthony Cemetery at 11:20am on Mon., May 29.

"Taps" by Gen. Daniel Butterfield, 1862- The first use of "Taps" at a funeral took place during the Civil War when it was played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. The enemy was too close to fire the customary three volleys, so a bugler stepped forward and sounded "Taps." It has since become the soldier's final farewell and tribute.

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.



From Father Tom's Desk

Feast of the Ascension

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The Letter to the Ephesians offers a description of the gifts the disciples needed to move forward. In today's selection from that letter we hear the prayer "May the God of our Lord...give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know the hope that belongs to his call...the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe." What a prayer for semi-willing, mostly confused disciples!

That prayer begins by grounding us in our faith, reminding us that the will of God the father, "our Lord," and the Spirit is always for our good. When it asks for a "Spirit of wisdom and revelation," it opens us to the Spirit that gives us the ability to read the signs of the times, to recognize how God is luring us forward through the people and events of our days. To pray that "the eyes of our hearts be enlightened" pleads for a God-sized vision, for hope that will go further than all our imaginations put together.

We can celebrate the Ascension as an invitation to imagination that leads us to ask for such a blessing. We are invited to stand with the disciples who heard the promise, who knew they wouldn't see Jesus anymore but who were still charged with carrying on his mission. Like them, we must face the very real dispiriting events of our times, the circumstances that cannot and should not be ignored. We may share their desire to simply stand, looking heavenward for a solution, but we will also hear angels or prophets who remind us that prayer is only one part of the equation.

If we have the audacity and courage to pray for the blessings of wisdom, revelation, knowledge of God, enlightened hearts and Christian hope, we will be impelled to action. The really good news is that Christ has promised that as we go to the ends of the earth, he will be with us until the end of the ages.

Call to Action

[Celebration](#)

The Greek of Jesus' command "Go and make disciples" actually makes a verb out of the noun "disciple," literally saying "Go and disciple all the nations..." If making disciples, baptizing and teaching might seem like the activity that fills a church building, "discipling" sounds more like heading out on a march. And if that's the case, the last line of today's Gospel makes it clear who is leading. The Gospel of Matthew ends with Jesus' statement: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Our readings for the feast of the Ascension of the Lord call us to action, but well-grounded action. There is much to do while disciples await the return of the Lord, and a good part of it is the activity involved in "discipling." There is a time for looking up, for seeking the wisdom and revelation that will help us recognize the activity of Christ's Spirit among us. But the contemplation that leads us to Christ will inevitably lead us into mission. Enlightened hearts are hearts on fire marching out to share the Spirit to the ends of the earth.

Ephesian's Prayer

[Celebration](#)

The blessings Paul asks for here spring from the reality of what today's celebration of the ascension says about Christ. The ascension presents one of many images of Christ's glorification and union with God. The breadth of what this blessing asks is based on what it goes on to say about Christ. He is risen, he dwells with God and reigns over every created thing. His victory means that all creation is destined toward him. Paul said all things are under Christ's feet to be brought

to fulfillment in him. Teilhard de Chardin put it this way: "Through the incarnation God descended into nature in order to super-animate and take it back to him" (Mysticism of Science).

The beginning and the end of this blessing ask for the same thing. In the beginning, it is the knowledge of God that comes from the discernment of an open heart. At the end, it is knowing the richness of the one who "fills all things in every way." In both cases, the blessing asks that the community be brought into union with God through Christ.

Hopeful

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

When the women encountered an angel at Jesus' tomb the angel told them to go tell the others that Jesus had been raised from the dead and would go ahead of them to Galilee where he would see them. Then Jesus appeared before the women and said: "Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee and there they will see me."

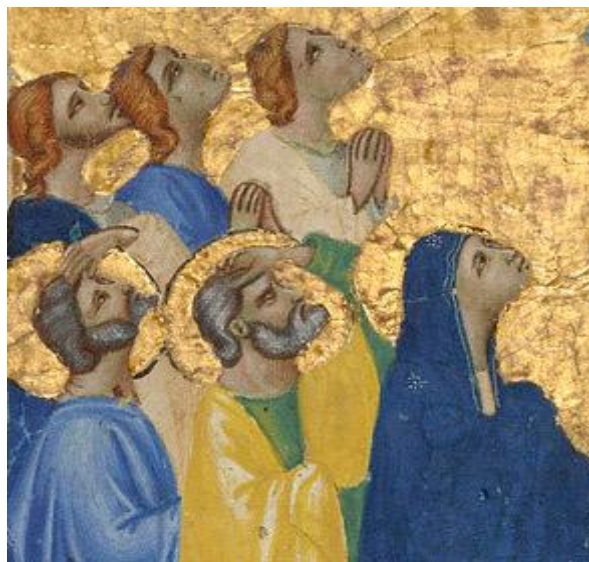
In the Gospel passage assigned to the Ascension of the Lord, Matthew describes that powerful moment when those who had doubts fell down in homage when the resurrected Jesus came forward. At the end of his great commission to the disciples, Jesus says, "And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world," we are challenged to have no doubts about this as we wait in joyful hope for his certain coming.

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

Great Commission

Mary Whitacre, [Celebration](#)

What do you think was going on in the minds and hearts of those close to Jesus as they watched him being lifted up and taken from their sight? What memories lingered of Jesus' transforming presence that brought out the best in people? As is common in human nature, those grieving his loss gathered to share stories. They shared stories of the love they experienced in Jesus' eyes and touch. They shared how Jesus had believed in them in ways they couldn't. They shared the wisdom they had learned from Jesus' parables. And in their sharing, Jesus' presence came alive again for them. Jesus instructed, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you". What was he asking of us as Christians? As the church celebrates the feast of the Ascension, how is it calling you and me to our higher selves?



"Why are you standing there looking at the sky?"