

Week of July 1, 2018

MONDAY

Am 2:6-10,13-16 * Ps 50:16-23 * Mt 8:18-22

TUESDAY

Eph 2:19-22 * Ps 117:1-2 * Jn 20:24-29

WEDNESDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY (NO 8:00am Mass)

Am 5:14-15,21-24 * Ps 50:7-13,16-17 * Mt 8:28-34

THURSDAY

Am 7:10-17 * Ps 19:8-11 * Mt 9:1-8

FRIDAY

Am 8:4-6,9-12 * Ps 119:2,10,20,30,40,131 * Mt 9:9-13

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Am 9:11-15 * Ps 85:9,11-14 * Mt 9:14-17

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass (No summer Nursery or CLOW)

Ez 2:2-5 * Ps 123:1-4 * 2 Cor 12:7-10 * Mk 6:1-6



It's Summertime! The Parish Office will be closed on Wed., July 4 (have a safe and happy holiday!). Also, the office will close at noon on Fridays during the summer. There will be NO daily Mass during the month of July.

Coming/Going: The pastor will be vacationing the 2nd and 3rd weeks of July. The first weekend please welcome Fr. Jack Johnson, and the second weekend, Fr. Pat O'Connor. Both are very young "senior pastors" and we are fortunate they are willing to be of service to our Parish Family.

Next Food Pantry: Weekend of July 14/15. Items needed most are canned tomatoes, canned fruit, Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper and deodorant. Thank you for your donations.

Position Opening: We are looking once again for a secretary/receptionist (office administrator). The position is for a minimum of 28 hours per week. A job description is available at the parish office. A resume and three letters of recommendation are requested.

Mission Trip: Thanks to the parishioners who generously supported the group with funds and food. They left on Thursday and will be back on July 1. After their return, reports will be given to the parish.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$6,547.44

Mission Co-Op: \$55.00 * Priests' Retirement: \$585.00

CSA Week #12: 6 new pledges totaling \$1,890.00.

Total pledges 363 (69% of parish families),

Total pledged \$74,287.00 (94% of our \$78,232.00 target).

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

...helping my Dad wash his truck. ...dust the house.
...helped clean family room. ...play with "cosint".

Hidden Harvest: This is one of the many groups we support in our outreach program. They reported this week they collected over 2 million pounds of food distributed it to 176 agencies (shelters, soup kitchens, pantries). They welcome anyone who has excess produce of some substance to call them and they will schedule a pick-up. Phone 989-753-4749 or tollfree 877-529-8488.

July Wedding Anniversaries

50 years or more..... Ronald & Phyllis Gerulski
Edward & Rita Periard
Michael & Patricia Parent
Joseph & Mary Ann Vaillancourt
Les & Rebecca Houck
Marziano & JoAnne Ragnone

LOOKING for people to fill Parish Council and Commission vacancies: We will be highlighting these opportunities over the next few weeks. Please give some prayerful thought to participating in your Parish.

Administration Commission Spotlight

The Administration Commission is a standing committee of the parish council and is responsible for assisting the Pastor in the administration of the parish's material resources. It is responsible for resource development, budget preparation and review overall fiscal accountability, building and grounds. A few of this commission's activities are:

- Budget Preparation and Review
- Financial Accountability
- Building and Grounds upkeep
- Oversee personnel policies

Education/Formation Commission Spotlight

Some of the activities this commission did this past year:

- September: Served in the kitchen during the Parish Picnic
- October: Put on Halloween Trunk or Treat Activity
- Nov/Dec: Served ice cream at 1st Reconciliation Reception
- February: Chose the menu for the Parish Appreciation Dinner
- March: Served at a Soup Supper during Lent
- May: Put on the Pentecost Celebration

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Jesus cares about our minds, bodies and hearts. How does Jesus help you to feel well in your mind, body, and heart?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** This woman's story highlight the many layers of suffering that come with illness – physical, emotional, financial and spiritual – and the deep compassion and healing presence of Jesus. A person's whole life can be affected by chronic illness even today, not only through physical suffering, but causing depression and burden of time and money. Jesus offers healing for body, mind and spirit in such a holistic way that this woman was cured just by touching his cloak.

► **Living the Word:** Discover at least one physical suffering among family members (a cut or bruise, an aching back, an upset stomach, or a chronic illness). Invite family members to place their hands on the one who is affected. Say this simple prayer together: *Jesus, heal (name) in body, mind and spirit, filling him/her with your grace and love.* Teach your children from a young age that they can turn to Jesus with all their pains and stresses.

► **VBS Splash Canyon – God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride:**
July 30-August 2, for children grades K-5th (fall 2018). Help needed from youth in grades 6-12. Volunteer forms available on the Website or in the parish office.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **AACS** will have a float in the **Cornfest Parade** on Sunday, July 8 at 1pm. If you would like to help with the float or walk with us in the parade, please contact Sarah Pope at sarah.pope08@gmail.com.

► **Scrip** will be available in the parish office M-Th, 8:30-4:30 and Fri 8:30-noon.

► **Like us on Facebook & Twitter!!**



Look for Auburn Area Catholic School.

► **We Welcome Mrs. Jessica Spencer** to the AACS teaching staff. Jessica and her family are parishioners of St. Gabriel, with two children in the school. She will be teaching kindergarten this Fall.

40 years or more..... John & Diane McNally
Mark & Susan LeVasseur
Timothy & Betty Jo Cichowski
Clarence & Nancy Peitryga
Michael & Jill Yambrick (to be continued)

From Father Tom's Desk

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

In January 2018, David Brooks of The New York Times wrote a column entitled "Now is the Time to Talk About the Power of Touch." Brooks wrote: "Emotional touch alters the heart and soul in ways that are mostly unconscious. It can take a lifetime of analysis to get even a glimpse of understanding." There could hardly be a better introduction to today's Gospel. So many times when we hear this Gospel, we focus on the woman's healing and the little girl's resuscitation, but as Mark tells the story, those are only the backdrop to the real action. In this account, Mark mentions touching seven times. The crowd "pressed" around Jesus. The woman believed that his touch would heal and she touched Jesus. Jesus asked twice who had touched him and finally, after the father had asked him to lay hands on her, Jesus took the little girl by the hand and raised her.

Both the woman and the girl's father believed in the power of Jesus' touch and both received its life-giving results. Certainly many people touched Jesus with little effect – that's exactly what the disciples were trying to tell him when he asked who had touched him. But like a child who instinctively comprehends the emotional message of a touch, when that woman touched him, Jesus knew that someone had sought and found something desperately needed.

Jesus was never content to distribute miracles as if by magic wand or vending machine. The woman had started something when she touched him, but she had only just begun. She had used her initiative and obtained the result she sought without being aware of how small her expectations were in the light of what Jesus had to offer.

The woman Jesus called his daughter is a representative of all people who reach out for Christ's help, trusting that their plea will touch God and open to how the touch of God can transform them.

Quality of Life (Wisdom)

[Celebration](#)

We are accustomed to hearing this reading at funerals as a reminder of God's mercy and life-giving plan for all of creation. When we hear it today, we can broaden our perspective on the message if we put it in the context of the verse that precedes our opening line. Wisdom 1:12 says "Do not court death by your erring way of life, nor draw to yourselves destruction by the works of your hands." That opening sentence indicates that the author was calling his readers to take responsibility for the quality of their own lives. It claims that death and suffering are the results of deviation from God's plan, they were not part of God's original design.

The first few lines of our reading critique every concept of a vengeful God. This teaching reflects the first chapters of Genesis, reminding people that humanity is made in God's image and that every distortion or destruction of that image is the work of the devil.

Wisdom's teaching about eternal life was a radical concept for some people at that time. Combining Greek and Jewish traditions, the author concluded that humans are destined for eternity. Avant-garde at the time they were written, those teachings remain valid today.

The Importance of Generosity (2 Corinthians)

[Celebration](#)

The background to today's reading is that Paul had decided to collect and bring money to the Christians suffering in Jerusalem. While their distress was sufficient reason for working on their behalf, Paul had an additional motive: Procuring help from Gentile Christians for the Jewish Christians of Jerusalem would be a self-perpetuating expression of their unity in Christ, a unity that was not without strain in Paul's day.

Paul begins by praising Christ's own generosity. Echoing the hymn of Philippians 2, Paul reminds them that Christ became poor for their

sake so that by his poverty they could become genuinely rich. Thus his first appeal to them is to be Christ-like, to make good on their baptism. The Corinthians had been known to boast of their knowledge, now Paul gives them the chance to prove – first to themselves and then to the world – that they truly know Christ. The only way to do that is through imitation of him.

Paul was calling the Corinthians not simply to generosity, but to authenticity in their faith. He taught that allowing others to suffer while they had the means to make a difference contradicted Christian identity. At the end of today's passage, Paul cites the experience of the Exodus when God sent enough manna for every day: The evidence of God's plan for the world was that there would always be enough for everyone. God's providence was such that hoarding accomplished nothing more than demonstrating a lack of faith. The same is true today.

Healing Touch

[Celebration](#)

With a tactile sensitivity that most adults have grown out of, Jesus perceived that someone in the crowd had touched him as who he was, not just as another body in the crowd. So, he turned to look for the one who had recognized him for who he was. Mark does not say that Jesus made his question public, but rather that the woman, comprehending what had happened to her and seeing Jesus looking around, presented herself before him, in effect, allowing him to enter into personal relationship with her. He reciprocated by calling her "daughter," assuring her that her faith had saved her and that she could go in peace, healed of her affliction.

This Sunday's reading work together to remind us that God created the universe for immense good and that we have the power to collaborate with the divine plan or to allow the demons of greed and unbelief to shrink the atmosphere to the dimensions of our worst fears. The bold woman Jesus called "daughter" reminds us that if we will risk reaching out in hope, the results can be beyond our imagining.

Today's Miracles

Ted Wolgamot, [Celebration](#)

God creates new miracles every day: miracles of conversion and repentance and new beginnings. Miracles of hope. Miracles of courage. Miracles of faith. Jesus has the same message for each of us who has proclaimed our hopes dead, for those who have given up on the possibility of a new beginning. It is the same message he gave to those people who were mourning a death in today's Gospel: "The child is not dead, but asleep." And then it happened: "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" He says the same to us to this day: Arise from your smallness. Arise from your prejudices. Arise from your fears. Grace can win out over hate.

The Future

Anthony Marinelli, [Service](#)

When we listen to this Gospel two thousand years later, we hear it in a culture that spends billions of dollars each year denying death and glorifying youth. We live in a culture where people are ceaselessly trying to build their own kingdoms and safeguard their own futures. Let's face it: Jesus no longer walks the earth curing the sick and raising the dead. But can we trust that the story of Jairus's daughter has shown us the future? The scholars say that Jesus is the eschatological presence of God. What they mean is that in Christ we have been given a glimpse of God's future. Can we live in the faith and hope that allow that future to determine our present? Can we recognize in all forms of death the power of the crucified and risen Jesus? If so, we can come to see what the poet John Donne saw when he wrote:

Death be not proud, although some have called thee mighty
and dreadful, for thou are not so...

One short sleep past, we wake eternally
and death shall be no more, death, thou shalt die.