

Week of July 2, 2017

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Gn 19:15-29 * Ps 26:2-3,9-12 * Mt 8:23-27

WEDNESDAY

Gn 21:5,8-20 * Ps 34:7-8,10-13 * Mt 8:28-34

THURSDAY

Gn 22:1-19 * Ps 115:1-6,8-9 * Mt 9:1-8

FRIDAY

Gn 23:1-4,19;24:1-8,62-67 * Ps 106:1-5 * Mt 9:9-13

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Gn 27:1-5,15-29 * Ps 135:1-6 * Mt 9:14-17

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Zec 9:9-10 * Ps 145:1-2,8-11,13-14 * Rom 8:9,11-13 * Mt 11:25-30



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

Parish Activities

In the Summer Mode...

Pastor's Vacation: I'll be off on vacation the next two weeks. Fr. Jerry Balwinski is covering for me this week and next week a Servites priest will be here as a part of Mission Co-op. **There will be no daily Masses during this time and no confessions.** I'll be back on July 13th. Be hospitable to my subs, and be good to one another. Also, the Parish Office will be closed on Tues., July 4.

Mission Co-op: Next weekend, July 8/9, Fr. Paul M. Gins, O.S.M. of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites) –USA Province, will talk about their missionary work in KwaZulu-Natal, Republic of South Africa. The Servites are one of the mendicant orders and were founded in the 13th century in Florence, Italy. At the present time they serve all over the world in every type of apostolate.

The USA Province of Servites is responsible for the missions in KwaZulu-Natal. The main task of the missionaries today continues to be the proclamation of the Gospel and the establishment of viable Catholic communities. The idea that the people are the church is quite strong and participation in the liturgy and the work of the Church is very good. Other ministries include education, primary health care centers and providing funding to improve the water system to root out malaria. They are also ministering to the victims of the "AIDS" epidemic and the building of homes for these victims and other people of the area. They are in need of prayers and material help to carry on these ministries. God Bless you for your prayers and financial assistance. (There is a special envelope in the July packet.)

Food Pantry: Due to the generosity of St. Gabriel parishioners donating to the Food Pantry, there will be no Food Pantry Collections needed in July and August. Thank You!

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee God promised to be with us always, after Jesus ascended to heaven. Where can we look to find God's presence?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus is empowering his disciples for ministry. Matthew's community was being persecuted at the time. Jewish Christians were not welcome in the synagogues, so discipleship came with a cost. Today's Gospel challenges all disciples to make a serious commitment to living the Gospel as Jesus wanted. Notice how Matthew talks about how to treat a prophet. Being hospitable to a prophet was a radically different notion, because in biblical times, prophets were usually killed if they spread unpopular ideas.

► **Living the Word:** Since a national holiday approaches, let's roll out the "hospitality red carpet" (find an inexpensive rug or make one with heavy paper) and invite another family to share faith, food and fun. Take a few minutes to talk about "why we feel welcome at church on Sunday," pray and then eat. It's helpful to notice, too, if your parish welcomes children at liturgy, people who are disabled, and those who seem out of place (prophets?) in daily life. Does your parish provide child care for adult events?

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **AACS will have a float in the CornFest Parade** on Sunday, July 9 at 1:00pm. 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.
► **Fall Raffle Tickets** will be distributed in the Social Hall before and after Mass on Aug. 5/6 and Aug. 12/13.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$7,183.44
Food Pantry: \$5.00

2 new pledges: \$500.00
C.S.A. Total pledges: 393 (73% of households)
Total pledged: \$79,864.00 (103% of our target).

Some "Good Deeds" listed on children's contribution envelopes:

My "Good Deed" was...

helped set the table and love God.	I did what Mom said.
I liked God for coming into the world.	thanking a veteran
letting somebody borrow my eraser.	I was saying nice words.

From Father Tom's Desk

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

"Get over yourself!" Nobody has probably said that more radically than Jesus in today's Gospel. "Whoever loves father or mother more than me... whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Is Jesus anti-family? On one hand we can understand this as part of Jesus' commissioning of the preachers he was sending on the road, those who were called to leave everything behind and be as free as he was. They were the distinct minority among his faithful followers, the equivalent of today's apostolic religious women and men whose entire life revolves around their ministerial identity with Christ. Although these sayings of Jesus are applicable to women and men religious, the rest of the world doesn't get off the hook. Every disciple is called to find the meaning of their life in Christ.

In Jesus' world, family was the core of one's identity and future pros-

pects. When Jesus spoke of loving father and mother, his audience heard a reference to their entire heritage as children of Abraham, their religious and social identity. So, when Jesus talked about loving parents more than him, he was saying, "If you so cherish what you know, what society has given you, that it gets in the way of following me, you aren't capable of being a disciple." In the same vein, one's children were one's future in a very concrete and practical way. Children were the investment that promised not just social security, but would prolong people's influence beyond their lifetime. When Jesus demanded that his followers love him over children, he was saying that all their hopes had to be pinned on him rather than on their own projects and progeny.

Paul's Position

McClone, [Celebration](#)

What we hear today in Paul's message to the Romans could almost be a commentary on this Gospel. Writing to people who have chosen to be baptized, Paul asks them why they did it. Although most of us were carried unwittingly to the font, the question still holds for us. What difference does it make in our lives that we have been given the name Christian? Why do we bless ourselves with holy water when we walk into church? How differently would we live if we counted ourselves among the "nones" who claim no religious identity, or among the Buddhists, agnostics or even the atheists?

Paul is telling the Romans that everything, absolutely everything, is different for those who have been baptized. He believes that for those who do not know Christ, death is the measure of all things, and everything comes to naught: "Alike they lie down in the dust and worms cover them" (Job 21:26). But, those who have been baptized can "live in the newness of life."

If the language had been available to him, Paul might have talked about Christian life as a way of living in another dimension, a dimension without the limitations imposed by death. A deathless dimension implies a life without scarcity or inequality. It is one in which competition is meaningless and violence vacuous. It is the dimension in which the cross of Christ is not shameful, but a proclamation that evil has been overcome.

We might imagine that Paul has stepped into the pulpit today and is looking at us and asking, "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...so that we too... might live in the newness of life?" Paul is asking us to think about that, to let our imaginations run wild through the possibilities of how much would change if we consciously stepped into the deathless dimension we have been offered as our living space. Jesus says that if we want to follow him we have to get beyond our commitments to social expectations symbolized by loyalty to previous generations and the personal plans and projects represented by offspring. Both Paul and Jesus are saying, "Get over yourselves so that you can lose the life you plan for and find fullness in life in Christ."

Elisha as Wonder-Worker (Chap. 4) [Celebration](#)

In today's passage, we hear of a wealthy and generous woman who not only feeds the prophet when he comes through her town, but even builds an addition to her house for him. She asks for nothing in return, but when Elisha's servant tells him that the woman is married to an old man and has no child, Elisha promises she will bear a son within the year.

Like Sarah when she heard the angel tell Abraham that they would have a son, the woman asked Elisha not to delude her. While we don't hear his answer, we are told that she had her son. Then, as if God were a false-hearted giver, the boy, scarcely grown, dies while out in the field with his father. With that Elisha performed a greater miracle, re-

storing the child to life by sharing his own warmth and breath with him.

All told, this entire chapter describes the life-giving work of a prophet. The message that those who receive a prophet become identified with him is subtle, but it is there in each story. While we often see the role of the prophet as denouncing and the fate of the prophet as rejection, this chapter reminds us that the ultimate goal of the prophet is to represent the God who desires that all people enjoy life to the full.

Baptism's Importance [Ted Wolgamot, Celebration](#)

Our baptism matters. It changes us. It calls us to re-think our value system, to re-view what truly counts, to re-commit ourselves to what will surely last against all odds. This initiatory sacrament is a marker point. It is an immersion into a life that is out of the ordinary, which introduces us to a lifestyle that is wholeheartedly focused on the reality of God. Since the majority of us were mere infants when this sacred ceremony took place, it's all the more important for us as adults to review and to meditate upon those powerful words that were spoken on our behalf. In doing so, we will be reminded that we were originally "bathed in light," and given the mission to be "followers and witnesses to the Gospel."

Jesus is calling us to share his own passion for God. He wants us to light a fire that will burn in our hearts just like it did in his. He is asking us not just to praise him and adore him and worship him, but most importantly of all – to follow him. Do as he did. Love what he loved. Be committed to what he was committed to: selfless service and genuine compassion.

Consider the Cost [Joan DeMerchant, Celebration](#)

Living as a Christian is not a neutral reality. The disciples and early Christians were committing themselves to real challenges, often life-threatening. Answering Christ's call was to embrace his life with all its ramifications. Those who did so believed it would be worth it. It's doubtful that they blindly followed him. Have we ever considered that being Christian may cost us something? Perhaps we've never asked ourselves this question. Maybe it is time to do so.

God, Then Country [Fr. Lawrence Mick, Celebration](#)

The issue of prophecy also links to this week's celebration of Independence Day in the United States. Many Catholics still react negatively to any criticism of our country, calling it unpatriotic. The alliance of state and church during the Second World War still leads many to assure that the church should always support the country, regardless of its actions or policies.

That position makes the church's mission of prophecy impossible. No country is perfect, and there is much in our country that is clearly contrary to Catholic teaching and Gospel values. To challenge those policies and situations is not unpatriotic but deeply patriotic. If we love our country, we should want it to improve and to align itself more fully with the word of God. The church must always make clear the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of political power. Pray for your country, but do not make it an idol to worship.

**“Strengthen my desire,
Lord, to follow you.”**

Thanks: I'm grateful for the well-wishes, the cards and gifts on the occasion of my 48th anniversary of ordination and my 75th birthday.
I truly appreciate your generous hearts. *Fr. Tom*