

# Week of July 8, 2018

## MONDAY

Hos 2:16-18,21-22 \* Ps 145:2-9 \* Mt 9:18-26

## TUESDAY

Hos 8:4-7,11-13 \* Ps 115:3-10 \* Mt 9:32-38

## WEDNESDAY

Hos 10:1-3,7-8,12 \* Ps 105:2-7 \* Mt 10:1-7

## THURSDAY

Hos 11:1-4,8-9 \* Ps 80:2-3,15-16 \* Mt 10:7-15

## FRIDAY

Hos 14:2-10 \* Ps 51:3-4,8-9,12-14,17 \* Mt 10:16-23

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Is 6:1-8 \* Ps 93:1-2,5 \* Mt 10:24-33

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Am 7:12-15 \* Ps 85:9-14 \* Eph 1:3-14 \* Mk 6:7-13



**It's Summer!** The pastor will be vacationing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of July. Please welcome celebrants Fr. Jack Johnson today and Fr. Pat O'Connor next weekend.

**Help!!** For our Vacation Bible School celebration this year we need: 50+ brown grocery bags both large and medium size (place them in the container at the main church entrance.)

To borrow (we do not need until July 23 but please call the Parish Office to let us know you are willing to loan them):

5 large blue tarps and 1 medium brown tarp to use on the floor.

2 rafts with paddles

**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.

## Stewardship

### Stewardship Message

*"As He spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me:*

*Son of man, I am sending you..." Ez 2:2-3*

**God asks each of us to do work for Him and He gives us the resources that we need to do that work. But, do we listen when He calls us? Do we stand up and use our talents? Do we go where God is sending us?**

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 \* Offering: \$11,093.00  
Mission Co-Op: \$570.00 \* Priests' Retirement: \$270.00  
In loving memory of Joan Trojan: \$235.00

**CSA:** When hope was about to take flight, another 3 gifts of \$2,020.00 were received (total pledges 366, 70% of parish families). We are now at \$76,307.00 (97% of target). Hope springs eternal!

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

...help water the plants.                      ...clean my room.  
...to hold the door for people leaving the restaurant.

### Congratulations:

Grace Kendzioriski of our parish and a recent senior at Bay City Western High School, was presented in June with an engraved bronze medallion to recognize her selection as a Distinguished Finalist for Michigan in the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

She has volunteered every summer since she was 12 with a YWCA camp for children with special needs, guiding and supporting young campers as they learned new skills. Inspired by her sister, who was born with spina bifida, she has also recruited other high school students to volunteer at the camp.

## Education/Formation

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
I wonder why the people in Jesus' hometown who we hear about in the Gospel lacked faith.

► **Reflecting on the Word:** For God to act in the world, the recipients of His grace must be attentive and open. God's "mighty deeds" are often rejected, just as Jesus himself was unable to work many miracles in his hometown, as explained in this passage. Jesus is offering healing, truth and peace, but the people scoff and refuse to believe. Think of ways we might block God's action in our lives – doubt, worry, desire for control, despair, grudges and bitterness. Jesus is amazed at our lack of faith.

► **Living the Word:** Borrow some children's books about lives of the saints from your parish or local library this week. Read them aloud. Talk about how the saints were not always people of great actions or understanding. Some made some big mistakes in their lives, but they were people of great faith. They opened their hearts to God, and God worked in amazing ways through them. How can you open your hearts to God in order to let him work through you?

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thank You** to everyone who volunteered during the Cornfest this weekend. Your time and energy are very much appreciated!

► **Registration:** For more information or to schedule a tour, call 662-6431. Registration packets can be found on the school bulletin board. You can also contact Mrs. Reder at [jreder@auburnac.org](mailto:jreder@auburnac.org) or visit our website under Registration [www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org).

► **Spreading the Spirit Program!** This program provides financial assistance to families who would like to send their child(ren) to Auburn Area Catholic School but may not be able to afford it. It is also used to assist larger families with multiple children in the school. If you are interested in donating, or would like more information regarding financial support, please call the school office at 662-6431. More info can also be found on our website at [www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org) under Programs. All donations will be provided with a charitable donation receipt.

## July Wedding Anniversaries (continued from last week)

30 years or more..... Joseph & Linda Krengielski  
William & Amy Zimmerman  
Frederick & Karen Berg  
Joseph & Karen Barcia  
Edward & Debra Piotrowski  
Douglas & Lori Putt  
20 years or more..... David & Carmen Szilagyi  
Steve & Theresa Bannister  
Harold & Linda Perry  
John & Kathy Tanner  
Scott & Noreen Wenglikowski  
Patrick & Regina Burke  
10 years or more..... Steve & Jessica Reder  
Gregory & Crystal Wilcox  
Daniel & Stacey Horwath  
Dennis & Sarah Pope  
Adam & Stephanie Horschig  
Timothy & Jennalee Markel  
Kristofer & Melissa Ulbricht  
5 years or more..... Tony & Jessica Reder  
Mark & Lisa Stefaniak  
Joshua & Kim Grocholski  
Eric & Amanda Swenberg  
Troy & Michelle Lynch



We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen

## From Father Tom's Desk

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Paul is driving home the point that prayer opens us to God's will. That leads us to conclude that genuine prayer is a path that always leads us beyond ourselves. When we think of it that way, we realize that prayer is our lowly human way of addressing the God whose plans are so much bigger than ours that offering our desires is like our offering of bread and wine in the Eucharist – we bring what we have in order for it to be transformed. God dares us to believe that the raw ingredients of our lives contain the seeds of the kingdom of God.

That brings us to today's Gospel story of Jesus' unimpressive showing in his hometown. As had happened before, Jesus surprised the crowds with his teaching, but this time instead of addressing a crowd of strangers in Capernaum, he was doing the equivalent of preaching at a family reunion. His message about the nearness of the kingdom of God and the need to take on a new attitude got its most skeptical reception among his own kindred. People who had known him since his swaddling clothes days knew better than to have outsized expectations about anything that could come from Nazareth.

The crux of the problem was the scandal of the Incarnation, the shocking possibility that God could reveal self through ordinary people and events. The scandal of the Incarnation frightens us because God comes so close that we must respond directly and personally, without the protection of rituals and philosophies. The people in the synagogue at Nazareth heard Jesus' message but they chose familiar limitations over divine possibilities. It was easy enough to have faith in the God who spoke long ago to Abraham and Moses, but such happenings in their own time and place went beyond the limits of credulity – Jesus' message did not fit inside their religious imagination.

### Too Close for Comfort?

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The people of Nazareth were following the lead of their Israelite ancestors who begged Moses to tell God not to come too near lest they die of fright (Ex 20:18-21). Jesus ended up amazed at their lack of faith, a condition that cut short his ability to perform mighty deeds among them. That rather astounding statement presents another dimension of the scandal of the Incarnation: Mark is telling us that the all-powerful God can be limited by human disbelief.

Today's Scriptures together remind us that God's ways are not what we would expect, and that God offers us more than we are generally ready to accept. As Marty Haugen's hymn "Here in This Place" celebrates, it's "not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place," that God chooses to meet us.

Much to everyone's discomfort, God sends prophets to their own people. Not only that, but God doesn't outfit the prophets with superpowers that command belief. The message of God's nearness comes packaged in what looks too familiar for us to take it seriously. Yet, that very familiarity frightens us because it demands that we recognize the incarnational potential of our own time and place.

### The Prophet's Role (Ezekiel)

[Celebration](#)

The Lord's first explanation of Ezekiel's commission would cause any sensible person to turn and run. God was sending him to his own

people, but God referred to them as "a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me" (2:3, NRSV). With that phrase, Ezekiel introduces the inevitable contradiction faced by prophets. They are called by God to speak to their own people, a people who have betrayed their God. If the prophets are faithful to the revelation they have received, they must stand in opposition to their own people.

By describing the people as a nation of rebels, God is pronouncing judgment on the people, saying that by their own actions they have excommunicated themselves, they have betrayed the status of being a chosen people. They have become indistinguishable in their values and allegiance from the nations that surround them. Then, just in case Ezekiel didn't understand the situation well enough, God went on to remind him that this people has been historically consistent in their rebellious nature, so much so that they have evolved to have unresponsive faces and unmovable hearts.

The key that unites this reading with today's Gospel is the last line: "Whether they heed or resist...they shall know that a prophet has been among them." Small comfort! That simply promised that Ezekiel's mission might not bring about any change of behavior or attitude, but his success would come from being recognized as a prophet who spoke for God.

In the end, it appears that the only real comfort prophets can hope for is that whether or not their words seem to effect any change, when they speak in God's name, they are in solidarity with God. Rejected as they may be, they are still in good company.

### Power in Weakness (2 cor)

Paul wrote about both sides of his spiritual life in order to teach his community what the spiritual life was all about. Surely, he had received "an abundance of revelations," but the very wording of that statement indicates that they were a gift of God: No one can earn or achieve a revelation – it is a gift. The other dimension of his spiritual experience, the thorn in his flesh, was also something outside his control. Paul describes it as something given to him like an angel of Satan to beat him. But in this, unlike his drawn-out discussion of what he had suffered for the Gospel (11:24-29), he makes the point that through it he learned how Christ's grace could work in him. In the end, Paul is telling us that awareness of our unworthiness and weakness is an essential spiritual gift because only to the extent that we recognize our inability will we look for genuine grace and help. The more we think we can accomplish, the less we are open to Christ's power which as we know from Ephesians 3:10 can do far more than we can ask or imagine.

### On Speaking Out

Cele Breen, [Celebration](#)

Oh that we could say once a week or even once a month that someone "took offence" at us like they did of Jesus. It might be speaking up to family or friends when a racial slur is used or when a person is teased because of their appearance, or, or, or... There are numerous such occasions when we often choose to be silent or to laugh politely in order not to offend.

Another option is at least to support the one who dares to offend like Jesus did. At times like these, we might intentionally recall God's message to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you."

*"Lord, open my ears  
and my heart."*

