

Week of July 9, 2017

MONDAY

Gn 28:10-22 * Ps 91:1-4,14-15 * Mt 9:18-26

TUESDAY

Gn 32:23-33 * Ps 17:1-3,6-8,15 * Mt 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY

Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7,17-24 * Ps 33:2-3,10-11,18-19 *

THURSDAY

Mt 10:1-7

Gn 44:18-21,23-29; 45:1-5 * Ps 105:16-21 * Mt 10:7-15

FRIDAY

Gn 46:1-7,28-30 * Ps 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40 *

Mt 10:16-23

SATURDAY

4:30pm Mass

Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26 * Ps 105:1-4,6-7 * Mt 10:24-33

SUNDAY

9:30am Mass

Is 55:10-11 * Ps 65:10-14 * Rom 8:18-23 * Mt 13:1-23



Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

What was the "yoke" that Jesus was asking us to put on our shoulders? What is a burden in our lives?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus is God's mystery, and he explains himself in terms of how he relates to the Father. Jesus exclaims that the little ones who receive wisdom are those who are humble and accept faith. The invitation "Come to me," invites us to a childlike faith that offers peace, rest and a life of harmony. The yoke of Pharisaic law was heavy and difficult to observe in Jesus' time. Jesus teaches that if you take his "yoke," you can live freely without fear of reprisal.

► **Living the Word:** In the coming week, pick one time that you could have a family meal. Read Matthew 11:25-30 as the meal prayer. At the end of the meal, invite family members to respond to the questions: What does God ask of me in my life? Does God intend for us to do really hard things? Why should life be a burden if we have God with us? This Gospel is a reading that invites a response from its listeners, regardless of age.

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

My "Good Deed" was...

Helping my mom at the *groshre* store. Going to puppy class.
 Sleeping in my bed this week. Do wing my home work.
 Helping Dad with big *favers*. I got *rede* without *eney* help.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thank You!** A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered to help during the CornFest activities this weekend. Your time and energy is very much appreciated!

► **2017-2018 School Year Registration:** For more information or to schedule a tour of the school, call Mrs. Reder at 662-6431 or visit our website under Registration www.auburnacschool.org. Registration packets can also be found on the school bulletin board.

► **Spreading the Sprit 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 a fund that can be used to assist larger families with multiple children. If you are interested in donating to this program or would like more information regarding financial support, call the office at 662-6431. More information can also be found on our website at www.auburnacschool.org under Programs. All donations will be provided with a charitable donation receipt.

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
40 years or more.....	John & Diane McNally Mark & Susan LeVasseur Timothy & Betty Jo Cichowski Clarence & Nancy Pietryga Michael & Jill Yambrick
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

TAKE TIME TO READ

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$10,338.89
 Annual Target: \$600,000.00 * Total YTD: \$564,366.04
 Priests Retirement Fund: \$3414.00

From Father Tom's Desk

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

This short Gospel gives us a very telling picture of Jesus, his prayer, his discernment and his trust in God. Whereas the majority of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's Gospel happens through discourses and parables, in this passage Jesus teaches by letting us witness his own

relationship with the Father and his discernment of God's will for him. Ultimately, he shows us how to pray the hardest kind of prayer. In the midst of frustration and feelings of failure, he gives thanks. Jesus shows us that the clean of heart can find God in any circumstances. This prayer is a demonstration of profound faith in the God whose ways are not our ways.

Finally, after exposing his own process of prayer and discernment to anyone who would listen, Jesus invited them into the very same process. "Come to me...I will give you rest." When he tells us "Take my yoke," he is saying: "Do as I do, trust as I do. You don't have to think that the world depends on the success of your plans. When I said that the meek would inherit the earth, I meant that it's an inheritance, not wages or even a bonus."

Today's Gospel challenges us to be as simple, as meek and humble, as obedient as Jesus himself. He leads us to give thanks when we are thrown off center, diverted from our own plans and schemes. Jesus offers his own yoke of trusting that God is present and leading us in the precise circumstances of each moment – whether or not we would have chosen them.

The Merest Children

McClone, [Celebration](#)

"I give praise to you, Father...for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones." That's a prayer designed to throw us off center. If we're looking for an ego-boost for being disciples, Jesus' prayer just set us straight. He's thanking God that the unsophisticated have understood him. He praises God because his followers are the folks nobody thinks of as wise or learned. If a bunch of scientists or college students who had just finished their first philosophy course, characterized our Sunday Mass crowd this way, we'd be haughtily insulted. The implication seems pretty clear that only the naive or needy find answers in Christ.

In reality, the point Jesus is making is not that he's seeking the senseless. It's true, he does hang out with the poor and reach out first to the children, the possessed, the infirm, etc., but the key insight here is that Jesus' message is impenetrably obscure to folks whose heads and hearts are too full of their own ideas and opinions. They are the self-appointed wise and worldly who can't afford to jeopardize their hard-won and rigidly held security, maybe even their identity, by opening themselves to the alternatives Jesus presents. The risk involved in exposing themselves to an alternative perception of life and faith is an option that sounds pretty dumb to a lot of people. "It's one of those crazy conundrums like "You must lose your life to save it"

What Jesus prays next is more revealing than we might think. He says, "Yes, father, such has been your gracious will." Jesus is praying another version of "Thy will be done," only now he declares his willingness to obey even as he is discovering God's will. His dialogue with God might be reworded to say: "These are the ones you are sending me, Father. What am I to learn from this? What am I to do with this?"

Zechariah and the Just King

[Celebration](#)

This prophecy is universal in outlook. Although the wording "from sea to sea" may have inspired U.S. poets in their visions of "Manifest Destiny," the biblical concept actually proffers a strong critique of everything that smacks of chauvinistic nationalism. When the prophet speaks of a dominion that stretches "from sea to sea and the River to the ends of the earth" he's describing the known world, what we in the 21st century would imagine via a photograph of the earth from space. This king's peace-building rule erases boundaries. On the weekend after the celebration in the U.S. of the Fourth of July, Zechariah's prophecy invites us to look at the intersection of our civil and religious life and ask what kind of leadership we seek and support.

Paul in Romans

[Celebration](#)

The final verses of this selection offer Paul's version of the Nike slogan "Just do it!" He's saying that Christ's life and death have shown us that the old way offers death via the lonely road of slow, sure loss of beauty and strength; through the ultimate realization that dominance is fleeting; that wealth is powerless to bring joy; and that fame is terribly transient. But Paul says, "You have received the possibility of living by the Spirit. You can see through the flesh with all its phony enticements. You have discovered the way to life and you are free to take it."

"Go for it!"

Following Jesus

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us, "My yoke is easy and my burden light." Those of us who are skeptical and already know the demands of discipleship might ask, "How easy and how light?!"

The 1930s movie star Mae West may have had an answer to that question. Known for her light-hearted, bawdy double entendres, she famously said, "I never said it would be easy, I only said it would be worth it." Mae would wink and add, "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." Another of her famous lines; "I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it."

Mae is correct on all three points. Following Jesus is worth it. Following Jesus is the right way. And avoiding temptation is something we cannot do alone. We need Jesus to prevail.

Take My Yoke

[Celebration](#)

When Jesus invited his audience to take his yoke and learn from him, he was inviting them to learn from his prayer, from his discernment and from his rejoicing in God's surprising will. What he implied without saying so explicitly was that to learn from him meant to learn how to discover, accept and do God's will. Those who can give themselves to God, who can take on Jesus' yoke and imitate his humility of heart need no longer worry about carrying out their own agenda or being a success or failure. They can rest in the assurance that God's gracious will is being accomplished even when, or perhaps especially when, they do not see the results. That is, indeed, an easy yoke for which we need do no more than simply thank God.

Lay Your Burdens Down

Summer for many is a lazier time of the year. The longer hours of daylight give us license to cram a little more fun into each day. Yet trouble never takes a vacation, and burdens that weigh on us in December are just as heavy in July. Our prayer list remains lengthy with the names of those needing healing, work, reconciliation – or hope, by any other name.

Jesus knows all about carrying loads too heavy to lift, and suffering anguish too deep to express. He has experience forgiving the enemy, snatching victory from defeat and even death. For those who feel they labor to no purpose, Jesus has stories to tell about three years of thankless ministry, followed by betrayal – not to mention twenty centuries of a variably faithful church. In Jesus alone do we find a place to lay the burden down.

Write down three burdens that you've carried a while and would like to lay down. Put them at the foot of a cross or in a Bible, and ask Jesus to carry them for you.

**“Lord, help me rest
in you alone.”**