

Week of July 15, 2018

MONDAY

Is 1:10-17 * Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23 * Mt 10:34 – 11:1

TUESDAY

Is 7:19 * Ps 48:2-8 * Mt 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY

Is 10:5-7,13-16 * Ps 94:5-10,14-15 * Mt 11:25-27

THURSDAY

Is 26:7-9,12,16-19 * Ps 102:13-21 * Mt 11:28-30

FRIDAY

Is 38:1-6,21-22,7-8 * Is 38:10-12,16 * Mt 12:1-8

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Mi 2:1-5 * Ps 10:1-4,7-8,14 * Mt 12:14-21

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Jer 23:1-6 * Ps 23:1-6 * Eph 2:13-18 * Mk 6:30-34



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.

It's Summer! Please remember your parish contribution envelope this summer. If you attend another out of town church, drop our envelope in the collection basket. It will be sent to our parish.

Mission Co-op: The weekend of July 21/22 we will host Sr. Janet Stankowski, a member of the Adrian Dominicans. She will speak of the mission work of her community and seek our prayerful and financial support. There is an envelope in the July packet for this purpose.

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 (do not need until July 23 but let us know you will loan them):
5 large blue tarps and 1 medium brown tarp to use on the floor.
2 rafts with paddles

The Book of Revelation: "You ought not to fear, Jesus is here!" Presented by Fr. José Cabrera, Aug. 20, 6:30-8:30pm at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. Revelation has sparked the imagination of believers throughout the centuries. While it is a book of hope, many myths have been created around it. We will read together some passages and see the deeper meanings the book tries to convey. Fr. José lived in Rome for three years while earning his Licentiate in Biblical Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He is pastor of All Saints Parish in Bay City. Call 797-6607 by Aug. 16 deadline to register. Cost \$10.

Stewardship

Stewardship Message

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." Mark 6:8

Today we are very different from the Apostles, who took nothing with them when they set out to serve the Lord. Often we are caught up with a lot of "material baggage." When we can put God first and all of the other "stuff" second, we are more "free" to joyfully serve God and others.

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$8,671.05
Mission Co-Op: \$295.00 * Priests' Retirement: \$85.00
Food Pantry: \$15.00 * In memory of Joan Trojan: \$50.00

CSA: 2 new pledges totaling \$26.00. Total pledges: 368 (70% of parish families). Total Pledged: \$76,333.00 (97% of \$78,232.00 target).

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

...helped Mom with wallpaper. ...put out recycling.
...put toys away and no teasing ...reading to my brothers.

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

How we can live more simply as a family, and put more trust in God?
▶ **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus' instruction to the disciples is to live simply and trust in God. It is the life lived by religious men and women-sisters and brothers-who take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and live in community. It is also the life we are challenged to live more deeply. Who is the partner or community with whom we walk our faith journey? How attached are we to our possessions or savings? Do we embrace opportunities to share the Good News with others and move on without bitterness when others reject us?

▶ **Living the Word:** If possible, visit a monastery or sister house this week. You may even see if you can stay overnight in a guest house and take meals and pray with the people who live there. If that is not possible, invite a member of a religious order to have a meal with your family. You can also read about a religious community on the internet, such as the Benedictines or Dominicans. Learn how they live in community with one another.

▶ VBS Splash Canyon – God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride:

July 30-August 2, for children grades K-5th (fall 2018).

Help is needed from youth in grades 6-12. Registration forms & youth volunteer forms are available on the Website or in the parish office.

Auburn Area Catholic School

▶ **Summer Office Hours:** Mrs. Chris & Mrs. Reder will be in and out throughout the summer to check messages. Please leave a message at 989-662-6431 or email Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org.

▶ **Scrip:** During the summer, Scrip will be available in the parish office M-Th, 8:30am-4pm and Fri, 8:30am-12noon.

▶ **Kitchen Cook/Manager** (approximately 17.5 hrs/week, 9:30-1:00. A job description is available in the school office. Send a resume with a letter of interest and 3 letters of recommendation to Attn: Mrs. Jessica Reder, 114 W Midland Rd, Auburn MI 48611. For more info, all the school office at 662-6431 or email jreder@auburnac.org.

Thank you to everyone at St. Gabriel who were involved in Joan Trojan's funeral. It was a beautiful service and our family appreciated it. In fact, several of my friends from St. Stephen in Saginaw said that after attending the service, they have decided they wish to be cremated – as have I. Sincerely, Marjorie Trojan

The Parish in the Community

▶ **Free Dementia Presentation:** "Communicating Effectively", July 25, 9:30-noon or July 26, 6:30-9pm. Registration required, call 892-6644 for info.

▶ **Free Christian Concert:** July 25, 6pm at Trinity-St. James Lutheran Church in Munger. Call 659-2506 for info.

AMEN CORNER: The Breton Group will report the results of the personal interviews and the mailed/on-line surveys to the parish Planning Committee on Tuesday, July 24. Fr. Tom

From Father Tom's Desk

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The twelve went out with nothing more than a companion, the clothes on their backs and the fire in their hearts. Mark tells us that they preached “repentance,” that’s the *metanoia* message that invites people to believe in God’s alternative to the reality they see around them. It’s the message that had caught them in Jesus’ net in the first place and the only thing they had to offer the people they were going out to meet. It was that message that chased away the demons and their conviction that nothing can change. The healings the apostles performed, like those Jesus worked, were signs of that different reality, signs of what the kingdom of God is like and proof that it is possible.

The stories of the twelve whom Jesus sent out are stories of people who were captivated. They were people who allowed themselves to be chosen and changed into more than they ever thought they could be. For that to happen, they had to allow their hearts to be vulnerable to the touch of God who offers endless possibilities.

The message of this week’s readings follows last week’s invitation to accept the scandal of the Incarnation. Today’s selection from the Letter to the Ephesians is one long prayer of thanks to God for having chosen us to participate in Christ’s life and the hope he brings. The hardest mystery to believe may be, as Paul says, that God “chose us in Christ to be holy.”



Speak Lord

[Celebration](#)

On this Sunday, as we listen to these readings we can let them simply be another instance of hearing, “The Word of the Lord,” and responding with our rote, “Thanks be to God.” On the other hand, we could take some real Sabbath time to consider the experiences they are telling us about. Beginning with Paul’s reminder that we have been chosen since “before the foundation of the world,” we might consider what it means to be blessed in Christ. Ask yourself, “How different would my life be if I didn’t know about or believe in Christ?” Ask too, “When have I gotten caught in the net of Christ and the vision he offers?”

Finally, following the lead of Psalm 85, invite God to speak to the hearts of your faith community and the entire church by praying, “Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.” This is the sort of prayer Jesus promised that two or three would never pray in vain. It may well be the sort of prayer that sent the apostles out to share their fire with anyone who would listen.

The Prophet’s Task (Amos)

[Celebration](#)

When Amaziah tells Amos to go back to where he came from, the command was probably both an insult and a warning, but as often happens with bullies, the priest could have claimed it was simply a strong suggestion. The priest tells the prophet to go back home where he can make a living prophesying among his own – it’s sort of a “Take your bad news to your own people” message. According to Amaziah,

Amos has no business in his territory because it belongs to the king and his temple. (So much for the God of Israel!)

Anyone who knows much about prophets’ job descriptions would hear this and ask, “Isn’t the prophet generally sent to the very center of power? Isn’t the prophet’s job to speak out to precisely those who thing they need listen to no one but themselves?” Thus, Amaziah’s rejection of Amos and his warning that he’d better get while the getting is good is a strong affirmation that Amos is doing precisely what he is called to do as a prophet. A prophetic message is always a threat to a religious regime which maintains close, self-promoting ties to the powers that be. Amaziah’s consternation indicated that the status-quo, power and security had become the priesthood’s primary values rather than faithfulness to God. Amaziah was happy with the power structure just as it was and used his authority to convince others that such was God’s will.

In reply to the priest’s command that he deport himself, Amos explains his vocation. Saying, “I was no prophet,” he repudiates any pretense to office or special status. And to bring it home with force, he adds, “Nor have I belonged to a company of prophets.” Ironically, his refusal to claim or cultivate a professional resume become the best validation of Amos’ prophetic vocation. He had no intention of being a prophet, he was content to tend his own flocks and fields – literally, his own ranch – but the Lord had other plans for him.

Paul’s Blessing (Ephesians)

[Celebration](#)

The blessing begins with praise of God for the gift of Christ. It goes on to describe the relationship that binds the community together with God in Christ. The overarching theme of this blessing is thanksgiving for God’s gifts to us in and through Christ. That was a very real concept and a vivid experience for the early Christian communities. They had lived in a society without any knowledge of Christ and then saw the difference their new faith brought. That insight is not as fresh for those of us who were born into traditionally Christian communities.

Meditation on this reading can refresh our own faith. We could begin by asking ourselves what would be different about our life if we did not know of Christ or participate in the Christian community. Then, following the outline of this blessing, we can ask what spiritual blessings we have received, what it means to believe that we have been chosen by God, how important forgiveness of sin is to us, and how our ultimate hopes are colored by our faith in Christ. Reading this blessing phrase by phrase and applying it to our own individual and communal life offers us the opportunity to deepen our communion with God, with one another and with our ancestors in the faith.

Our Call (Mark)

[Celebration](#)

Scripture scholar and Jesuit Fr. Silvano Fausti comments on the disciples’ mission saying that they were sent without anything because when we have things, that is what we think we can give. When we have nothing in our hands or pack, we can only give what comes from inside us. Perhaps that’s the symbolic import of Jesus’ sharing of his power over the demons. All that the disciples had to give was what they had received from Jesus, qualities that can’t be contained in a sack or carried on a belt.

Today’s readings invite us to look at our own call as disciples. Most real prophets (Isaiah excepted) don’t choose that profession but find themselves called or cajoled into it. As they put their vocation into practice, they discover that the call to serve others becomes their unique way of entering into communion with God and their own people. The calling draws more out of them than they ever believed they could accomplish. Are we ready to get caught up in that dynamic?

“Lord, help me be your witness.”