

Week of July 30, 2017

MONDAY

Ex 32:15-24,30-34 * Ps 106:19-23 * Mt 13:31-35

TUESDAY

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5-9,28 * Ps 103:6-13 * Mt 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Ex 34:29-35 * Ps 99:5-7,9 * Mt 13:44-46

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Ex 40:16-21,34-38 * Ps 84:3-6,8-11 * Mt 13:47-53

FRIDAY

Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34-37 * Ps 81:3-6,10-11 * Mt 13:54-58

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Lv 25:1,8-17 * Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8 * Mt 14:1-12

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Dn 7:9-10,13-14 * Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9 * 2 Pt 1:16-19 * Mt 17:1-9

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



Parish Activities

July 31-Aug.3	9am-12pm	Vacation Bible School
Aug. 3	7:00pm	Baptismal Prep

VBS: Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory is Won!

It's not too late to register your child for Vacation Bible School. Registration forms can be found at the school entrance of church or on the homepage of our website auburnac.org. VBS runs July 31 - August 3. Register your child today!

Fall Raffle Tickets will be distributed in the Social Hall before and after Mass on August 5/6 and 12/13.

Correction: Cantor Practice: Mon., Aug. 7 at 6:30pm. We will be scheduling for Aug. 13 through Oct. 1.

Make an Appointment: Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. Help save a life by giving blood at our next Blood Drive on August 21! Make an appointment by calling 662-6861.

Yarn Needed: While cleaning, if you find you have any unused yarn that you could donate to our knitting club, please bring it to Mass any weekend and drop it off at the church entrance in the box marked Yarn. We donate everything we knit. Also, we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to May. New members are welcome. Any questions, call Jane at 684-7834.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$8,023.44
Mission Co-Op: \$405.00 * Priests Retirement: \$50.00
In Loving Memory of Leona Gielda: \$250.00
In Loving Memory of Gerald Kalinowski: \$100.00

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

My "Good Deed" was...

I helped Mom "hall" in the groceries.

The family of Leona Gielda wishes to thank everyone in the parish and all who were involved in the funeral. We would especially like to thank Fr. Tom, Sue, the choir, the luncheon committee, those who brought food, and those who offered prayers and words of comfort.

"People who pay for things never complain. It's the guy you give something to that you can't please." Will Rogers

Auburn Area Catholic School

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

► **Spreading the Spirit Program!** This program provides financial assistance to the families that 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, please 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.

► **Hiring - Preschool Aide:** We are looking for a Preschool Aide for our 4-year-old Extended-Day Program. Hours are M,W,F, 11:30am-3:20pm. You must be 19 or older, have a H.S. diploma or equivalent, and have experience working with school-age children. Resumes can be mailed to Attn: Mrs. Reder, 114 W Midland Road, Auburn MI 48611. For more information, call the school office at 662-6431 or email Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org. The closing date for applications is Wed., Aug. 2.

Baptism...

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you;
Before you were born, I dedicated you."* Jeremiah 1:5

Evelyn Cecilia Mettam

daughter of Matthew & Laura Mettam

Congratulations!!

From Father Tom's Desk

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Sanchez, [Celebration](#)

In "The Candidate" (1972), an "ancient" movie about ever-current issues, Robert Redford stars as a possible Democratic candidate whom a political consultant, played by Peter Boyle, uses to unseat a popular Republican senator from California. Having had no political experience or leanings, Redford surrenders himself to the political machine run by Boyle and, in the end, after parroting the party line without investing anything of himself, he wins the election. At the victory party, Redford pulls Boyle aside and asks, "What do we do now?" Redford's character is at a loss; for all his striving, he has very little substance to bring to bear on his victory and it rings quite hollow.

Like Solomon, like the discoverer of hidden treasure and like the pearl merchant, each of us who believes in God and follows Jesus is already possessed of the wisdom, the treasure and the pearl of the Good News. What remains for us is to answer the question, "What do we do now?" Solomon readily shared his wisdom, and his example invites us to do likewise, even though the wisdom we have learned from Jesus may be contradictory to that of the world. Worldly wisdom may advocate self-promotion and ambitious striving for power, prestige and a generous amount of this world's riches. Jesus' wisdom is expressed in altruistic concern for God's least ones, in serving the needs of others and listening to God's life-giving, life-changing word.

Besides wisdom, we are also possessed of a treasure that cannot remain hidden, but begs to be shared so that the hungers of many might be satisfied. The treasure we possess is the truth of the Good News, the grace of the presence of God and the joy of loving and

being loved. Much of our treasure can be offered in the gift of time spent caring for others and listening to them without making them feel that they have imposed upon or inconvenienced us.

Life Changing Event

Sanchez, Celebration

When winners of a lottery or large gambling payoff are asked what they will do with their winnings, the answers usually include plans to quit a job and acquire a wide variety of material goods. Coming into money, especially a huge sum of money, is often described as “a life-changing event,” one for which many people long. When Jesus assured his disciples that the greatest “prize” that they could imagine, the kingdom of God, was theirs for the asking, they found themselves confronted with a similarly life-changing event. Jesus described the kingdom in terms of a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price, and offered it as a supreme value before which all other treasures paled into insignificance.

Aware of the human desire for securing treasure, Jesus advised his own to seek first the kingdom and there find treasure that would survive beyond the grave. But what is the treasure, the pearl, the supreme value that is the reign of God? Many have misconstrued these twin parables, thinking that the kingdom of heaven is an individual possession that must be earned through the renunciation of material things. Despite all the ethical injunctions of the Gospels, the central thought is that the kingdom is something God is *doing* and that it is to be received as gift, as a life-changing gift. It is not a possession to be acquired and henceforth claimed as a legal and permanent possession. The kingdom of God is a sphere into which one enters. It is a participation in the very life of God; it is a taking to heart the treasure of God’s Word so as to live in accord with its truth. The kingdom of God is that life-changing event in which my relatedness to God, and God’s to me, becomes the alternative reality in which I begin to witness to God’s way, God’s will and God’s purpose for the world.

Discovery of the hidden treasure or the precious pearl of the kingdom precludes caution and prudence; “buying” such a discovery means risking the loss of all else for its sake. Costing not less than everything, the supreme value that is the reign of God has already been “purchased” for sinners through the person and the saving mission of Jesus.

Make a Wish

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

What would you ask for if you had a chance to wish for anything? In today’s first reading from 1 Kings, God says to the great King Solomon, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” It could be argued that Solomon already had riches and did not need to ask for more. Yet he did not know how long he would live or whether his power would be sufficient to overcome all of the enemies of Israel and Judah. He could have asked for any worldly advantage. In spite of this, Solomon asked for wisdom.

When this passage is read in conjunction with today’s Gospel, it becomes clear as to why the text from 1 Kings was chosen as its prelude. Solomon’s prayerful interchange with God prepares the hearts and minds of the praying assembly to grasp the message and the challenge of Jesus’ teaching. In the twin parables of the treasure and the pearl, the Matthean Jesus is affirming the supreme value of the reign of God, and with each affirmation, all present are invited to ask themselves whether the message of the parables rings true for us. Is my desire for the reign of God so profound that I am willing to let go of everything else in order to know God’s purpose for my life.

Some of us may be thinking, “Of course I desire God’s reign over me – but not now. Perhaps later when it’s more convenient...perhaps

when I retire and have more time...perhaps when the children are grown.” But the message of Jesus’ parables challenges us to hush our excuses and stop our procrastination. Risk it now! Risk it all!

What to Pray For

Celebration

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” One of the best-known and oft-quoted prayers of our time, the “Serenity Prayer” is usually associated with Alcoholics Anonymous and other Twelve Step programs intended to help people overcome their addictions. However, the author of the prayer was Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971), an Evangelical pastor and professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Niebuhr composed the prayer as part of a sermon. It included a few more lines: “Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will. So that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.”

With its simple but profound wisdom and its trusting spiritual posture toward God, this prayer is quite similar to the one prayed by Solomon. In order to pray and offer sacrifice to God, Solomon had gone to God’s sanctuary at Gibeon. That night he had a dream there. Sanctuaries and the dreams that were experienced in them were considered revelatory. Recall Jacob’s dream at Bethel (Gen 28:11-19) and Samuel’s at Shiloh (1 Sam3:2-18). These were life-changing dreams, and so was Solomon’s dream the prelude to a long and prestigious reign.

Solomon knew that the value of wisdom, expressed here as an understanding heart, was far more important than riches, long life or power. He was convinced that true wisdom rested solely in God, and for that reason, he prayed for this graced gift to help him and his people to live rightly and well.

Letting Go

Sanchez, Celebration

In today’s second reading, Paul shares something of his own desire and his journey: “All things work for good for those who love God.” Having known both plenty and poverty, peace as well as great struggles and hardships, Paul kept his focus on God and God’s reign. Like the pearl merchant and the laborer, he “sold all he had” to receive this treasure. His words and his witness urge us to turn the question on ourselves: Of what must I let go? What should I sell? Only you can know what holds you back from a full and free surrender to the reign of God in your life. Of one thing, however, we can all be certain. The reign calls forth a quality of discipleship in us that costs no less than everything.

**“Lord, may I love you
with my whole heart.”**

AMEN CORNER:

Some members of the Planning Group and the Building Committee will meet on August 1 to interview two architects who have expressed interest in our proposed project. One will be hired to do a preliminary drawing that will be used to determine approximate costs for building and remodeling.

On another subject, three individuals did formally file a protest with Bishop Cistone on proposed plans for the future. The bishop “heard” and “denied” their appeal and informed them that if they choose they can appeal to Rome. They have fifteen days to decide. *Fr. Tom*