

Week of August 5, 2018

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22 * Ps 102:16-23,29 * Mt 14:22-36

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Jer 31:1-7 * Jer 31:10-13 * Mt 15:21-28

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Jer 31:31-34 * Ps 51:12-15,18-19 * Mt 16:13-23

FRIDAY

2 Cor 9:6-10 * Ps 112:1-2,5-9 * Jn 12:24-26

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Hb 1:12 - 2:4 * Ps 9:8-13 * Mt 17:14-20

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

1 Kgs 19:4-8 * Ps 34:2-9 * Eph 4:30 - 5:2 * Jn 6:41-51



Scripture Workshop on the Book of Revelation: "You ought not to fear, Jesus is here!" Mon., Aug.20, 6:30-8:30pm, with Fr. Jose Cabrera at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. Details at the Café Kiosk.

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

"...I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." Ex. 16:4

Just as when the Israelites gathered more manna than they needed, it became rotten, so does our gathering of excess, such as money or physical items, sometimes lead to ruin. A stewardship lifestyle helps us to discern our "needs" from our "wants."

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$6,697.44
Mission Co-Op: \$411.00

CSA: There were no additional responses. In one last desperate attempt we are going to contact the 153 families who we did not hear from and ask them to help us overcome the \$1,774 shortfall.

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

- ...picking weeds and taking out the trash.
- ...give hugs to friends.
- ...keeping my room clean.

The family of Leo Schick wishes to thank you for your sympathy. We greatly appreciated those who planned and participated in the funeral liturgy, those who prepared and served the food for the luncheon, and for everyone's prayers and kind thoughts. We especially treasured that Father Tom, who celebrated his 49th anniversary as a priest on the day of Leo's funeral, shared it during his homily as an example of his role as a priest.

WE LOVE "YOGI-ISMS"

- If you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer.
- I'm a lucky guy and I'm happy to be with the Yankees. And I want to thank everyone for making this night necessary.
- Usually you're dead to get your own museum, but I'm still alive to see mine.
- If I didn't make it in baseball, I won't have made it workin'. I didn't like to work.
- I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did.
- If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be.

Education/Formation

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

What a great VBS we had! We had over 50 children and youth involved this year. A special thank you to all those who helped prepare for this experience, Morgan Carter, Olivia Darrington, David Hadd, Tim Hall, Mandy Swenberg, Sam Szilagyi and those youth who came and helped make our time together GREAT. Thank you!!! Without all of you this experience would not have been as wonderful as it was!!!

A heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who brought in paper bags. They made beautiful river rock decorations. And to those parishioners who financially contributed to VBS! I truly appreciate the generosity of everyone. Thank You! God's Peace & Blessings, Sandy

Auburn Area Catholic School

► The **School Office** will be open starting Wed., Aug. 15, 8am-4pm.

► **Volunteers for 2018-19:** We are always open to parish/family volunteers to help with the library, classroom assistance, athletics and special projects. Please call the school office if you are interested in volunteering.

► **AACS is Hiring for a part-time 2nd grade reading/writing teacher** with some additional duties. If you are qualified and interested, please contact Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org.

Teacher Qualifications include:

- Must be a practicing member of a Roman Catholic Church
- BA or BS in elementary education
- State of Michigan valid teaching certificate
- Adhere to Code of Ethical Conduct
- Positive references and recommendations
- Must clear criminal background check and comply with other diocesan mandates for Protecting God's Children



From Father Tom's Desk

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Manna sounds like a pretty nice treat, doesn't it? Some parts of Scripture make it appear like a near relative to milk and honey. Surprisingly, it got its name because when the Israelites first discovered it on the desert floor they said something like, "Manna?" which we would translate into English as "What is this?" Although nobody recorded their tone of voice, we can safely assume that it didn't echo a woman who just discovered a diamond bracelet in her birthday card. They had been complaining that Moses had freed them only to lead them to a slow death in the desert. From that vantage point, aging out as slaves in Egypt looked like a better but lost opportunity.

In response to their complaints, God instructed them to collect what they called "manna?" Moses explained that it was the bread the Lord had given them to eat. Something like an ancient version of instant breakfast, it was a 100 percent natural substance left by insects who had extracted juice from a particular fruit. People could gather and eat the pellets or flakes and even bake them into a kind of bread. This "bread from heaven" seems to belong to the category of foods that the less you know about their provenance the more you can enjoy them. The manna kept the Israelites going. It gave them nourishment but more importantly, it served as a sign of God's constant care for them. With the manna, they were able to continue the journey toward becoming the chosen people in the land God wanted to give them. Strange as the manna first appeared, its story evolved into a classic and cherished legend about God's providence, including the warning that it would decay if anyone tried to hoard it.

The people ate that bread day after day until they arrived in the promised land. In the process, they grew in gratitude for what it meant as much as they appreciated how it arrived and how it tasted. They

came to realize that the manna and the quail were not just food, but signs, what we call sacraments of God's care for them. The more they acknowledged that, the more their eating became a communion, a way of receiving and taking in God's love. Eating that bread would transform them.

Bread of Life

McGlone, Celebration

Because it's always easier to appreciate miracles and grace in hindsight, the people of Jesus' day loved their thousand-year-old memory of the manna and shared the hope that it would happen again in the time of the Messiah. That's where Jesus tried to help them delve deeper into their religious imagination; he wanted to help them understand the truly human meaning of what he called the bread of life. If they desired to participate in the experience of their ancestors, they would have to learn not only to look at the past or hope for the future, but to see what was right in front of them. Jesus said, "It was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven, my father gives you the true bread from heaven" [italics added].

While it was easy for them to remember the bread of heaven, the manna they thought had appeared miraculously for their ancestors, they had forgotten that the great sharing of bread that motivated their search for Jesus began with a child who gave everything he had for Jesus to share with the crowd.

One of the key challenges John's Gospel gives us is the call to recognize the gifts of God in our midst. The people who meet Jesus in this Gospel are always looking for great things and seem unable to realize that the marvels they seek are right in front of them. They need only believe in order to perceive them.

Test of Faith (Ex 16)

Celebration

God's response to the grumbling people in the desert provided a model for the Christian Scripture stories of Jesus' miraculous sharing of food among crowds of thousands. We heard John's version of that event in last week's Gospel. This story from Exodus has all the depth and levels of meaning that we might find in a story from John's Gospel.

The scene opens with the whole "community" grumbling against Moses and Aaron. Saying that the people were a community subtly underlines the fact that until Moses and God got involved with them, they were not a community at all; they were just slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to lead them into becoming a community who could live in the freedom of God's chosen ones. Their protest was therefore much more than a question of rations. They were effectively questioning the whole Exodus enterprise, including the possibility that they could be a people of God. They were not simply mistrusting Moses, but the very God who had called them into being as a people on the road to freedom.

Learn Christ (Eph 4)

Celebration

Today's selection from the Letter to the Ephesians complements Jesus' Gospel call to go beyond the superficial and grasp the deepest possibilities of human life. The author assumes that the audience once lived "as the Gentiles do," caught up in "the futility of their minds" and "deceitful desires," but that they have also experienced a more satisfying alternative.

The Letter to the Ephesians goes on to remind the community of what they have learned. The unique phrase "you learned Christ" is just odd enough to make people think twice. The phrase has nothing to do with intellectual knowledge or dogmatic assertions. Learning Christ appears to be a way of living in relationship to the risen Lord, a way of orienting one's entire life to the process of coming to know Christ and allowing Christ to gradually become the meaning and central motivating factor of one's life.

Like a Child (jn 6)

Celebration

The people who sought Jesus out seemed to have forgotten that the bread they had shared the day before came as a donation from a child who gave Jesus five loaves and two fish. On one hand it was very little, on the other it was everything he had. That was what allowed it to become the bread of life.

We share the challenge faced by the people who sought Jesus after eating the bread that nourished the multitude. Jesus offered his people the bread of life, but like their ancestors, they kept focusing on "Manna?" Looking so hard for miracles, they missed what was right before their eyes.

God's providence is all-around us. We don't have to look far to find reflections of the child who gave everything he had so that Jesus could share it with the hungry. How often do we remain oblivious to simple signs of the reign of God in our midst while pining for miracles and saints whose holiness shines irrefutably in the public square? The work God gives us is to realize that our eyes can perceive God's presence in simple ways. Faith has no need of miraculous coercion.

"Lord, be the bread of my life."

AMEN CORNER:

When I was in grade school at St. James in Bay City, the pastor, Monsignor Wynn, announced one weekend at Mass that we were going to build a high school. There was no vote, no formal discussions or meetings, he had decided, no doubt with the bishop's approval. The fundraising began, and the school came to be.

The second Vatican Council pointed out the church is "the people of God," and they are to be involved in the decisions about parish programs, capital improvements and projects. They directed pastors to seek the "advise and consent" of parishioners via councils and committees.

The latter process, which is democratic in nature, is much messier and time consuming than the former, which is dictatorial in nature. However, it is the involvement of the laity which reflects best the nature of the church, of community.

When the parish council formed an ad hoc planning group to discuss the direction the parish should take to meet future needs, I said I would work with them *ex-officio*, meaning I would offer input that would assist them in fulfilling their task. I had no idea we would have three such groups since the merger to St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's in 2003!

With each group, and in subsequent communication in the bulletin and in meetings, I never gave a personal opinion on whether or not a new church should be built. I only wanted them to do what they thought was best for the future and, of course, to share their insights and proposals with the whole parish. Some may be surprised to know that I'm not like Monsignor Wynn (whom I loved dearly) but that I have tried to be a Vatican II Pastor.

I also pledged my support to the planning process, believing it would not be right to step down in the middle of it all and expect some replacement (whether a priest or a pastoral administrator and sacramental minister combination) to jump into the middle of it all and follow through.

The recent results of the feasibility study disappointed the planning group, I am not sure how they will respond. I think they are tired because of the numerous hours they have given over the past three years. I think they were disheartened by the response and by the large number that didn't even respond. They will meet next week to express what they discern as their future. Their decision will impact on the parish and the direction of my future as well.

Fr. Tom