

Week of August 12, 2018

MONDAY

Ez 1:2-5,24-28 * Ps 148:1-2,11-14 * Mt 17:22-27

TUESDAY

Ez 2:8 - 3:4 * Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131 * Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14

WEDNESDAY Feast of the Assumption

8:00am Mass

7:00pm Mass

Rv 11:19; 12:1-6,10 * Ps 45:10-12,16 * 1 Cor 15:20-27 * Lk 1:39-56

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Ez 12:1-12 * Ps 78:56-59,61-62 * Mt 18:21 - 19:1

FRIDAY

Ez 16:1-15,60,63 * Is 12:2-6 * Mt 19:3-12

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Ez 18:1-10,13,30-32 * Ps 51:12-15,18-19 * Mt 19:13-15

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Prv 9:1-6 Ps 34:2-7 * Eph 5:15-20 * Jn 6:51-58



Parish Activities

Thurs., Aug. 16 6:00pm PTO
7:00pm School Committee

RCIA: An Invitation to *come and see...* Have you wondered about the Catholic Church or about becoming Catholic? Are you searching for answers? Are you looking for a faith community to call your own? Informal sessions to explore these questions and faith issues in relation to Catholic beliefs will begin on Tuesday, October 2. Informational brochures on becoming Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are available at the church entrance. For more information call the parish office at 662-6861.

Raffle Tickets: Please remember to return your Fall Raffle tickets to the collection basket or to the Parish Office. More tickets are available!

Capital Improvement: On the north side of church, we have initiated building an additional storage space. John McNally is the contractor. Hopefully it will be near completion by the start of school.

Position Interviews: We have received several resumes for the office manager position and have started interviewing candidates. Hopefully, we are going to find what we are looking for.

Stewardship

Stewardship Message

"...Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you." 1 Kgs 19:7
God knows that our stewardship journey will not be easy – that we will need nourishment along the way. So, through His Son, we have food for the journey in the form of the Eucharist – the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$9,829.00

Mission Co-Op: \$320.00

CSA: 1 new pledge of \$100 this week. Total pledged: \$76,948 (98% of \$78,232 target). Total pledges: 371 (71% of parish families). Friendly reminders were mailed to those active members who have not yet responded to our CSA 2018 appeal.

Children's G@od Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...listening to my Mom while doing chores.

Thank you to Fr. Tom and the choir for the wonderful funeral service in celebration of the life of our mother, Lucille Wiesenauer. Also, thanks to all the kitchen crew and those parishioners who donated food for the funeral luncheon. It's great to be a part of such a giving parish family.
The children of Lucille Wiesenauer

Education/Formation

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

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus continues the Bread of Life discourse, now explaining the theology that grounds the Eucharist. Like the manna in the desert, and then the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the bread of this sacrament is a symbol, a sign of God's faithfulness. Yet, with Jesus, the bread becomes more. It is transformed into his own flesh, which he gives up so that we, too may be transformed and live, like Jesus, with God.

► **Living the Word:** Provide food to the homeless this week through your church or a shelter. Ask for suggestions from your pastor if you do not already know of one. Alternatively, make a meal together for someone who is homebound or in need. Explain that we are filled in the Eucharist with the Bread of Life, which we are asked to share with others. For those who are hungry physically (and perhaps spiritually), we can share food and the light of Jesus that is within us. We will also receive the light of Jesus from those we serve.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► The **School Office** will be open starting Wed., Aug. 15, 8am-4pm.
► **Registration:** For more information or to schedule a tour, call 662-6431. Registration packets may be found on the school bulletin board, or contact Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org or visit our website, under Registration 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 under Programs. All donations will be provided with a charitable donation receipt.

The Parish in the Community

► **David Haas 2018-2019 Tour:** "I Will Bring You Home": Songs of prayer, stories of faith. Concert and book signing at Holy Spirit Church, Saginaw, Thurs., Sept. 13, 7pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets available at the church or contact kathy@saginawhsp.org. Adults \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, children 12 and under \$5.

August Wedding Anniversaries

60 years or more.....	Raymond & Margaret Wenglikowski Marion & Marie Rytlewski
50 years or more	Patrick & Marie Periard John & Rose Mary Hilden Robert & Pauline Drouin Robert & Dorothy Kissane William Fr. & Nancy Fournier Jack & Marilyn Frank William & Kathleen Wittbrodt
40 years or more.....	Robert & Margaret Reder Michael & Pauline Switala Rodney & Renee Krager
30 years or more.....	Kermit & Carol Kranz Robert & Jane Soldan James & Jennifer Drzewicki William & Gloria Gillard Cynthia Skiba & Thomas Bushey Clifford & Dorothy Zimmerman David & Lisa Neal



(to be continued)

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

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Elijah's story seems to teach that God listens to the prayers of the beloved and answers by beckoning them toward all that life can offer. This is the message Jesus tried to convey to his companions as he described himself as the bread that comes from heaven. According to Jesus, the bread from heaven was God's offer of life more abundant than they could imagine. The people who murmured, denigrating him as nothing more than the son of their neighbors, were prisoners of their own measly expectations. They wouldn't fathom the idea that God could work through one of them – much less that their small lives could ever be worth stretching into eternity. Their refusal to accept Jesus as coming from God betrayed their lack of faith in the value and potential of their own lives and consequently their lack of faith in the God who formed them as a people in the divine image.

Jesus told his people that no one could come to him unless drawn by the Father. He wanted them to realize that the only way to understand him was to allow themselves to be in touch with their deepest human longings, the dimension of themselves which yearns for and leads to God. St. Augustine prayed in gratitude for this capacity to be open to God with the words, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Jesus' call to those who would hear him was the most open invitation he could make. In effect he was saying, "Allow yourselves to be in touch with God's spirit within you and you will realize that I am offering you living bread, my very life which brings eternal life to the world."

The Scriptures we hear this week try to awaken us to what God is offering us. Elijah is here to lead us in the kind of sincere prayer that makes us vulnerable to God's unlimited offers. The memory of the people who murmured against Jesus in the synagogue warns us against mortally diminished hopes and venial expectations. Together they urge us to allow our hearts' longing for God to lead us to receive the life God desires to share with us.

Elijah's Prayer and the Answer (1 Kgs 19)

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Search your prayer books, meditate on all 20 mysteries of the rosary and comb through novenas and chaplets. Nowhere will you find the suggestion that you pray like Elijah does in today's first reading. He was basically telling God, "Enough! I've had it! Just let me lie down and die! *Here and now!*" The fact that spiritual tomes don't copy that prayer for us to memorize or create hymns from it doesn't diminish the crystal quality of its honesty or the witness it bears to the profound relationship Elijah maintained with the God who had called him into a life of prophecy. When we find the "Thy will be done," of the Lord's Prayer too hard to pray, perhaps we can echo Elijah's cry and trust that God hears that prayer with compassion.

After praying, Elijah lay down, perhaps hoping never to awaken. But God's lovers don't get off so easily. Elijah had hardly gotten into deep sleep before God's messenger shook him awake and told him to eat. When Elijah tried to return to the sleep of the just, the angel told him to finish off the provisions God had sent because he needed energy for the road ahead. That long road would first take Elijah to Mount Horeb where God would appear to him. Later, it led him to where he would anoint Elisha as his successor and finally to where he would be carried off to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kgs 2:11). According to the story, the one thing God did not do for Elijah was allow him to die.

*"Strengthen me, Lord,
for my journey."*

Christian Virtues (Eph 4)

[Celebration](#)

The Letter to the Ephesians urges the community to be imitators of God. While most rational people who believe in God as the supreme Being would see that as an impossible task, the Christian community has received a unique revelation that removes that call from the realm of the superhuman and places it on the level of everyday relationships. The Christian way to imitate God is to imitate Christ whose life was lived entirely for others, who assumed humanity in order to reveal to human beings that our destiny is divine.

The list of things the author tells the community to avoid offers concrete evidence that they were far from perfect. One can assume that members of that congregation could cite instances of bitterness, anger and all the other vices in their own communal experience. That made their call to an alternative way of living all the more pointed. There's no reason to mention behaviors that are inevitable, but if you are convinced that an attitude or behavior can be overcome, then the first step is to name it, then to admit it, and finally, to determine how to eradicate it.

Need to Know the Father (Jn 6)

[Celebration](#)

In this follow-up from last week's Gospel with Jesus and his fellow Galileans in the synagogue, the allusions to the Exodus continue. In an ironic twist of tradition, John tells us that the people "murmured against Jesus because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'" That's an inverted echo of the Israelites who murmured about a lack of bread in Exodus 16. In last week's segment of this Gospel, the challenge for the Israelites was to understand that the manna was God's gift given through ordinary means. In today's Gospel, the challenge is to recognize God's gift in the person of Jesus.

Jesus challenges the people to use their tradition to understand what God is offering through him. The Jews are the people with whom God had dealt directly for centuries; they of all peoples should recognize God's ways. When Jesus says that no one can come to him unless the Father draw them, he's asserting that those who truly know the Father will recognize him as the one sent by their common Father. Those who love the Father will be intuitively drawn to him.

While Jesus is insisting that their shared tradition bears witness to him the members of his audience are allowing themselves to be caught in a mire of their own making. On one hand they are asking for divine proof, on the other hand they resist probing and mining their tradition for the very evidence they say they want. It's as if they demand messages from heaven but they want to dictate how they will come and what they will convey.

Holyday

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary and a holyday of obligation. Each Marian feast is really a celebration of Jesus. Mary's holiness derives from her role in the life of her son. And because she is the model for the Christian faith, her feasts are also about us. Mary show us how to say yes to God's word so deeply that it becomes flesh in us. She shows us how to bear and give birth to Christ in our lives, how to share totally his death and resurrection, and how to welcome the Holy Spirit.

AMEN CORNER:

The Parish Planning Committee met on Tuesday, August 7 to discuss the results of the feasibility study. As previously reported, the feasibility study indicated mixed support for the current capital project. We decided it was appropriate to thoroughly review the results with the Parish Council and agree on the path forward. We will meet again after the next Parish Council meeting in September. We will repeat the August Amen Corners in the September bulletins to insure all Parishioners have the opportunity to stay informed. In the meantime, we'd appreciate any additional feedback from the Parish. Please keep our Parish in your prayers.

Mike Buchmann, Parish Planning Committee