

# Week of August 20, 2017

## MONDAY

Jgs 2:11-19 \* Ps 106:34-37,39-40,43-44 \* Mt 19:16-22

## TUESDAY

Jgs 6:11-24 \* Ps 85:9,11-14 \* Mt 19:23-30

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Jgs 9:6-15 \* Ps 21:2-7 \* Mt 20:1-16

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Rv 21:9-14 \* Ps 145:10-13,17-18 \* Jn 1:45-51

## FRIDAY

Ru 1:1,3-6,14-16,22 \* Ps 146:5-10 \* Mt 22:34-40

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Ru 2:1-3,8-11; 4:13-17 \* Ps 128:1-5 \* Mt 23:1-12

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Is 22:19-23 \* Ps 138:1-3,6,8 \* Rom 11:33-36 \* Mt 16:13-20

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



## Parish Activities

**Parish Blood Drive:** Monday, August 21, 3-8pm.

There is still time to sign up! Visit [miblood.org](http://miblood.org) today!!



**RCIA - An Invitation:** If YOU are unbaptized or if YOU are a baptized Christian and wish to become a member of the Catholic Church, our parish community welcomes and invites you to consider the Catholic Faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Informal sessions to explore these questions and faith issues in relation to Catholic beliefs will begin on Tues., Sept. 19. Informational brochures are available at the church entrance. For more information call the parish office at 662-6861.

**RCIA Sponsors:** RCIA will begin on Tues., Sept. 19 and sponsors may be needed for the candidates. The role of sponsor is just one way of representing the parish community in a special way. A sponsor provides the one-on-one support needed as a person travels his or her own journey of faith and conversion in the initiation process. Does this sound like something you would like to do? Call the parish office at 662-6861 for more information.

**Can't Serve Dates:** The new ministry schedule will be for September 1 through November 30. All liturgical ministers should submit their "can't serve dates" for that period to the parish office by Mon., Aug. 21.

Mark  
in your  
calendar

**PARISH PICNIC:** Sunday, September 10! Games start at 12pm and food will be served at 1pm. We will have old favorites again this year like the Fall Raffle drawing, bingo, classic car show, live music and children's games. But we have some fun new activities as well, including a clown who makes balloon animals, face-painting and a photo booth! Join us for some great fun and fellowship!

Please bring a dish to pass (to serve 6 people) as follows by last name initial: A-L cold salads (no hot dishes), coleslaw, cut-up garden produce, cold pasta, potato dishes, etc.: M-Z desserts, Jell-O salads, fruit, etc. The parish will provide hot dogs, brats, hamburgers & refreshments. Please bring in disposable dishes if possible.

If you would like to participate in the classic car show, please call the parish office at 662-6861 so we can reserve a parking spot for you!

## The Parish in the Community

► **Rummage Sale:** Blessed Sacrament Parish, Thurs/Fri, Aug. 24/25, 9am-5pm and Sat. Aug. 6, 9am-noon (\$2.50/bag).

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

We expect Jesus to provide healing for everyone who asks. Does God really reject us for asking?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** In Jesus' time, people believed that evil spirits prowled around, and the person who had the more powerful spirit could control a less powerful spirit. The woman found Jesus and asked that he control the tormentor of her daughter. Jesus didn't ignore her, but rather he waited to see if she would express faith rather than seem to be chasing him as a magical healer. The woman's faith and Jesus' patience won the day for her daughter. This Canaanite woman didn't seem to have a chance, but Jesus welcomed her faith.

► **Living the Word:** God always hears what we ask in prayer and sends the healing that we need. Sometimes we don't recognize this healing; sometimes we don't even accept what God sends. Read the Gospel aloud again and help the children imagine that the woman followed Jesus for two hours and begged for healing for her daughter. Sometimes in life, we have to be as focused and persistent as this woman was with Jesus. We have to have a persistent faith in God. Jesus, give us patience and persistence!

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Hiring:** AACS is looking for someone to assist our lead preschool teacher during our Extended-Day Program and to supervise our school-age children during our After-Care Program. The position is for M,W,F, 11:30-5:30 and T,Th, 3:30-5:30. You must be 19 yrs. or older, have a H.S. Diploma or equivalent, and have experience working with school-age children. Resumes and references may be mailed or emailed, Attn: Mrs. Reder, 114. Midland Road, Auburn MI 48611 or [jreder@auburnac.org](mailto:jreder@auburnac.org). For more information, call the school office at 662-6431.

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

► **School Office Hours** for the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> will be Monday - Friday, 8am-4pm.

► **Family Picnic/Curriculum Night** is August 29: The family picnic will begin at 5:45pm in the Social Hall (food and drinks provided). We will have extra table seating outside under a tent, or feel free to bring a blanket if the weather is nice and you'd prefer to sit outside on the grass. The Curriculum Night presentation will begin at 6:30pm in the church. Following the presentation you will be able to visit the teacher(s) & classroom(s). There'll be childcare provided during this time.

► **First Day of School: Tuesday, September 5.**

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!**

## Stewardship

**Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$9,864.25**

**Most Pleasant Surprise** ☺ : The mail last weekend brought a dividend check from the Deposit and Loan Program at the Diocese. A .75% dividend was returned to parishes on the money invested. We received a check for \$10,453. They cautioned not to assume this will happen again. One can hope though!!

Fr. Tom

**"The worst prison would be a closed heart."**

Pope John Paul II

# From Father Tom's Desk

## 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Experts in spirituality, at least in the mainstream Catholic tradition, will tell us that we don't pray to change God's mind but to grow in relationship with God and learn how to conform ourselves to God's will. That means we have to be clever in the way we interpret what Jesus taught about prayer in his examples of the friend who comes in the middle of the night and the widow and the unjust judge. That latter parable from Luke 18 sounds strangely like today's Gospel in which an unrelenting mother badgers a healing from the reluctant Jesus.

What are we to make of this incident? It took at least three tries for a desperate mom to get Jesus to help her daughter! It seems uncharacteristic for Jesus to ignore her. With his back to her, he even told his disciples that her need was not part of his job description! Why did Mark and Matthew retell this story? Maybe it's not about healing as much as it is about boundaries and learning to be open to the new possibilities God places in our path.

The woman must have been seeking Jesus. Although she was a foreigner, she was prepared to call him by the honorific titles best suited to bring him round to her cause. Unfortunately, he only saw and heard her through the preconceptions that convinced him that his vocation was limited to Israel. When she made it impossible for him to ignore her, he dissed her dramatically, but she was more than equal to the challenge. If he was going to call her and her people dogs, she would remind him that they never let pass a chance to get the scraps. Was she suggesting that the dogs pay more attention to the food than those who have a place at the table?

It's a little surprising that Matthew and Mark preserved a story that shows Jesus in such a poor light. We might say that. Then again, we could admit that it shows Jesus as capable of growing and changing his perspective. This incident must have been a thorough shock to the disciples. This woman who had no right to make a claim on Jesus actually got him to reconsider his position, to accept an alternative viewpoint, and to do something he had not been prepared to do. He was being just as open as he demanded that others be! This story adds credence to his Gethsemane prayer, showing him to be a real human being who matured and learned, who wanted to accept God's will even when it contradicted his own assumptions, preferences or desires.

## Willingness to Change

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

All three of today's readings call us to move beyond our preconceptions and prejudices. Isaiah says that if Israel is true to her vocation, unexpected people will come and even minister in the temple. Paul grapples with the grace of the Gospel's unexpected attractiveness to pagans and its rejection by God's people. Jesus learns that when his vision needs broadening, God will send the most unexpected, even disrespected teachers.

Whether we are learning with Jesus or challenging boundaries with the Canaanite woman, the Gospel calls us to question what are often considered legitimate limitations. As individuals and as church, we must become attentive to the myriad of people and events God puts in our path in hope of changing our minds.

## The Prophet Isaiah

[Celebration](#)

This reading speaks of what is "right" and "just," two terms we use in the dialogue of the preface of each Eucharistic prayer, replacing the response: "It is right to give God thanks and praise." There is a world of shared meaning between the terms. Together, they describe

how a community lives the covenant; individually, the two terms give a particular slant to how that is done.

Technically, being just is essentially a matter of observing the commandments. This is not the same as obeying the law of the land – a requirement that binds all citizens at the primitive stage of moral maturity by exacting a price when one disobeys. We might describe the Hebrew sense of obedience as appreciative rather than legalistic. Obedience is a response to God's loving outreach. One obeys the commandments because they come from God's love, because they are a way to live in that love. We may have been taught about some sort of "blind obedience," the obligation to obey simply because the commandments were made with authority. A justice-oriented concept of obedience reveals the inverse. Rather than being blind, obedience comes from a clarity of vision, participation, and loving the one from whom the command comes. Being "just" is obedience to a relationship of love.

The word *right* in this reading has the same root as the word translated as *salvation* in the next line. It has to do with deliverance, with making things become as they should be. Speaking of God, it refers to faithfulness and mercy. Righteousness might be conceived of as the ongoing activity that keeps the covenant alive and growing. Thus, the opening part of today's reading is a call to live in faithfulness to the covenant, both in the sense of obeying the commandments, and in active efforts to make the world what God intended it to be.

## Table Scraps

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

In a Peanuts cartoon, Snoopy is sitting by the dinner table while Charlie Brown tosses him a treat. Snoopy devours it with a few chomps. Then, Snoopy says: "I kind of like leftovers now and then. The only hard part is waiting for there to be something left over."



Most of us are softies. Is there anyone who has not, at one time or another, secretly slipped a treat under the table to the family dog or cat? What a joy to feel the happy muzzle of that soft, whiskered mouth as your pooch gratefully gulps your gift.

Yes, we know the rules: "Don't feed the dog from the table." Yet, you know he's down there on the floor when his hungry eyes fixed on your hand. In today's Gospel, a persistent Canaanite woman reminds Jesus that even the dogs receive the scraps from their master's table. At that point, Jesus declared: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

## Tough Lesson

Fr. James Smith, [Celebration](#)

A pupil went to his Master and said, "I have tried everything I know about learning how to pray. But I keep getting distracted. Please teach me how to pray." So the Master shoved his head underwater and held it there until the student almost drowned. Struggling to the surface, the student complained, "How does that teach me how to pray?" The Master replied, "When you want to pray as much as you want to breathe, you will pray."

The problem with maxims is that they fit only part of the time. For example, "Haste makes waste" can be trumped by "Strike while the iron is hot." In this story, the woman trumps Jesus' general proverb with her own particular version that best fits the current situation. And Jesus readily agrees. So readily that it looks like he might have purposely set her up. He fed her a soft pitch and she hit it out of the park. Jesus then cures the child, something he had wanted to do from the beginning.

So, everybody wins. The disciples learn how to work among foreigners, the daughter is healed, Jesus is happy and the woman gets not only what she wanted, but what she needed.