

# Week of August 26, 2018

## MONDAY

2 Thes 1:1-5,11-12 \* Ps 96:1-5 \* Mt 23:13-22

## TUESDAY

2 Thes 2:1-3,14-17 \* Ps 96:10-13 \* Mt 23:23-26

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Thes 3:6-10,16-18 \* Ps 128:1-2,4-5 \* Mk 6:17-29

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Cor 1:1-9 \* Ps 145:2-7 \* Mt 24:42-51

## FRIDAY

1 Cor 1:17-25 \* Ps 33:1-2,4-5,10-11 \* Mt 25:1-13

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

1 Cor 1:26-31 \* Ps 33:12-13,18-21 \* Mt 25:14-30

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Dt 4:1-2,6-8 \* Ps 15:2-5 \* Jas 1:17-18,21-22,27 \* Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

As for me and my house,  
we will serve the LORD.  
— Joshua 24:15

## Parish Activities

### PARISH PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

**Parish Picnic Kitchen Help:** The Education Commission is in charge of the kitchen. We do not have enough members to set up, serve and clean up. We need your help!!! Please sign up on the sheets at the church entrances. You can work all day or just for a few hours. If you have questions about what you would be doing, contact Sascha Rivet at 667-0930 or Sandy DesJardins at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.



**Education Commission** is looking for people to serve this year. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30-7:30pm. If you are willing to give your time helping us provide educational, fun activities for our families, let Sasha Rivet or Sandy DesJardins know. We would love to have you help make St. Gabriel a great place to worship and serve!!!

**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 questions and faith issues in relation to Catholic Beliefs will begin on Tues., Oct. 2. Informational brochures are available at the church entrance. For more information, call the parish office at 662-6861. Pre-registration is required.

**RCIA – Sponsors:** RCIA will begin on Tuesday, October 2, 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.

## Auburn Area Catholic School

- ▶ **SCHOOL STARTS** Tues., Aug. 28. Thurs., Aug. 30 is a ½ day.
- ▶ **Our School Principal** resigned last week taking a position at Western. And we still have not, as of this printing of the bulletin, found someone to do the hot lunch program. Somehow, some way, we will manage. The school is a most important part of the parish community and we need to do all in our power to meet these challenges. Fortunately, dedicated staff and caring parents are there in support.
- ▶ **Kitchen Cook/Manager** (approximately 17.5 rs/week, 9:30-1:00). Send a resume with a letter of interest and 3 letters of recommendation to Auburn Area Catholic School, 114 W Midland Rd, Auburn MI 48611. For more info, call the school office at 662-6431.

Important Message

## Education/Formation

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
What things help you to believe in Jesus?

▶ **Reflecting on the Word:** Simon Peter affirms his faith in Jesus based on all that Jesus has done for him. Those who followed Jesus saw, heard and experienced him performing miracles, teaching in new ways and revealing God to them through himself. They were convinced and couldn't imagine following any other teacher. Others left unsure, afraid and unconvinced. We each have the opportunity to experience God, to open our eyes to what He is doing, saying and how He is present in our lives. Then, we decide for ourselves: to whom will we go?

▶ **Living the Word:** When we read, watch television or movies, or even meet people or go places, we have instincts or judgments about what is good, true or right for us. Show your children how books and movies are reviewed on the internet or in the newspaper. Together, write or record a "review" of the Gospel. What has it done for you? How has it taught you about God? How has it helped to guide your actions?

▶ **Religious Education:** Registration is being taken until Mon., Sept. 17. Last spring a survey was completed that overwhelmingly indicated families would like formation on Sunday, so... we will be offering elementary formation on Sundays, 10:45-12 noon as a trial to see how it goes. If it does not work well we will return to Mondays next year. Forms are at the south side of the church near the Adult Education Kiosk. We will begin formation on Sun., Sept. 23 and end in March due to Easter being so late next year.

▶ **Catechist:** Looking for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist. If you would be willing to be a catechist or know someone I should ask to be a catechist, PLEASE let Sandy know at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.



▶ **Sacramental Preparation:** Registration forms for 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist, Confirmation & Reconciliation are available near the Education Kiosk. They are due Mon., Sept. 24. Formation sessions will also be offered on Sundays after Mass. Details will be given at the parent meeting.

## Youth Ministry

▶ **Youth Ministry:** Use the same form as religious education to register. We will meet with the youth once a month this year – that schedule will be published soon. If you would like to get involved with our youth, contact Stephanie Schacher at [sschacher@auburnac.org](mailto:sschacher@auburnac.org).

## Stewardship

**"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."** Joshua 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to be a partner in God's work on earth. A partner in prayer and in action. If we say we serve God, we must do and not just talk.

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 \* Offering: \$6,820.50

Priest Retirement: \$50.00

In memory of Lucille Wiesenbauer: \$500.00

**CSA:** We received 1 new pledge for \$125.00.

**THANK YOU TO ALL** who contributed and helped us reach our goal. Total amount pledged: \$78,423 (over 100% of \$78,232.00 target). Total pledges: 373 (71% of parish families).

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

- ...helped carry groceries into the house. ...picking the garden.
- ...reading books to my brother Bennett. ...helped clean Dad's truck.

### Pastor's Report:

I've had a recurrence of shingles. They say it can be stress-related. Sometimes the body tells you more that the mind is willing to admit!

Fr. Tom

## From Father Tom's Desk

### 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

In today's first reading, Joshua gathered his people and called them to make a solemn commitment. They were to proclaim publicly whether or not they wanted to serve the Lord who freed and fed them and brought them to the Holy Land. They swore enthusiastically that they would always serve the Lord their God. We know they kept that commitment as perfectly as we keep ours.

When Jesus finished explaining that he was the bread given for the life of the world, the majority of his disciples came to the conclusion that it was too much for them to accept. Some of them apparently cherished the concept of a more mysterious God who stayed on the heavenly side of creation, a God they could worship from a safe, cultic distance. Others realized that the God Jesus re-presented in his own total self-giving could only be served in imitation of that same love. They found that too costly. John explained their reactions by saying simply, "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life."

John implies that when Jesus looked to see who remained, the crowd had shrunk to a mere twelve. One can only imagine the look on his face and his tone of voice when he asked, "Do you also want to leave?" In all of John's Gospel, this is probably Jesus' most vulnerable moment. It was also the natural result of offering himself for others: all he could do was offer, the results depended on their openness to the Father's gifts.

### Renew Your Commitment Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

We have been contemplating Jesus as the bread of life for five weeks. That's almost as long as Lent. We have had time to ponder how God has shown us love and care from the time of the first Passover until today. As we reach the end of this immersion into the Gospel of John, the Scriptures invite us to stand with Joshua's Israelites and Jesus' disciples as they are asked about their commitment. After remembering so much about God's goodness, after hearing the promise of life-giving bread and being reminded that the father draws us to Christ through our deepest human longings, it is time to review our own fundamental allegiance.

Are we ready to renew our deeply personal, public dedication to Christ? If so, we might use the profession of faith as a solemn reaffirmation of our commitment. We could allow the procession at Communion to serve as a communal reenactment of the pledge Joshua called forth from his people. Even making the sign of the cross with full awareness can reinforce our conscious decision to belong to Christ. Most of all, our "amen" to receiving the Eucharist proclaims, as St. Augustine taught, that we are willing to receive what we are and be what we receive.

### A God Beyond Boundaries (Joshua 24) [Celebration](#)

Joshua sees the necessity of gathering the people who have finally settled in their land because they were surrounded by groups whose religious traditions were geographically bound; their gods were territorial, therefore when people moved from one area to another they came into the sphere of new gods. Joshua points out that the God of the Israelites is different, their God has accompanied them through various territories, their God has formed them as a people and delivered them from their enemies.

Now the moment had come to pledge their faithfulness or to place their faith in the local gods of the area. Joshua loads the dice when he proclaims his own decision for the God who had brought them this far, but even so, he calls on the people to proclaim their own commitment to the God who has saved them. That they do admirably.

The temptations to acquiesce to the new surroundings were strong, but they made their ultimate decision based on their experience of the God who had accompanied them through thick and thin. They were discovering that the God they had known was not just their local god, but the Creator, the God of all.

### On Being Generous (Ep 5)

[GraceWorks](#), Dallas TX

When we live a life of love, generosity tumbles out of our lives as we choose to bless others with acceptance, embrace others as friends, forgive others as Christ has forgiven us, and walk with others through life's difficult and at times brutal moments. To be generous may involve the giving of some tangible gift; a meal, an encouraging note, even mowing a neighbor's lawn following a hospitalization or death in the family. The most generous gift we offer, however, is the gift of our presence. Being present to another models God's presence. Be a focused listener, quick to hear and slow to speak. Dare be the first to express acceptance and the last to pass judgment. Such is the way of generosity.

### Bread of Life Summary (Jn 6)

[Celebration](#)

The "Bread of Life Discourse" we have been hearing for five weeks presents John's theology of the Eucharist – a theology summarized in symbolic action at the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. In this discourse, Jesus presents himself as God's self-gift for the life of the world. The images of bread and flesh and blood make his message as concrete as possible, indicating that the Word of God became flesh to give life to everyone who would accept it, to anyone who would receive and take in that Word. As we noted, God's self-offering upends traditional notions of sacrifice and undercuts any self-interested motives for discipleship. Jesus' offer to those who would receive him is nothing less than an invitation to the adventure of unlimited love that leads to unlimited life.

That was finally enough for many would-be disciples. When they left, Jesus turned to the twelve, the representatives of the new community, and asked, "Do you also want to leave?" Now we see that Peter has learned something from his master. Rather than answer the question Jesus asked, Peter responded that there was no one with whom they would rather be.

Peter's last statement says it all. He says, "We have come to believe..." Although he goes on to add more than he can understand at the moment, that first phrase said enough. They are committed to remain, to abide with him as they continue to come to believe.

### Priority

Gloria Couvion, [Celebration](#)

Faith can take a back seat to screens, sports and many other extra-curricular activities or to wants, needs and desires of more and new possessions. There is hardly a moment left to sit and soak up the mystery. The words of John's Gospel can very easily be laid over life as we struggle with each new temptation that calls us away from the spirit. Yet, we hunger for God without awareness. The challenge is to keep the Gospel front and center remembering, like the disciples, we "...have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

### Invested?

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

There were disciples who followed Jesus but later left him; those disciples are mentioned in today's Gospel. Perhaps our life journey has been similar. Initially, we may have been enthusiastic about Jesus. Then, we have lately grown complacent.

On March 14, 1986, if you had invested \$10,000 into Microsoft stock, it would be worth more than \$6,192,264 today. That's a \$619 return for every dollar invested.

Peter and the other "early investor" disciples who followed Jesus have surely reaped untold treasures where the Lord has gone to prepare a place for them. Meanwhile, the market is still open for those who want to invest in Jesus, the Holy One of God.

"Lord, you are the Holy One of God."