

Week of August 27, 2017

MONDAY

1 Thes 1:1-5,8-10 * Ps 149:1-6,9 * Mt 23:13-22

TUESDAY

1 Thes 2:1-8 * Ps 139:1-6 * Mk 6:17-29

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Thes 2:9-13 * Ps 139:7-12 * Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Thes 3:7-13 * Ps 90:3-5,12-14,17 * Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY

1 Thes 4:1-8 * Ps 97:1-2,5-6,10-12 * Mt 25:1-13

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

1 Thes 4:9-11 * Ps 98:1,7-9 * Mt 25:14-30

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Jer 20:7-9 * Ps 63:2-6,8-9 * Rom 12:1-2 * Mt 16:21-27

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



Parish Activities

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 10! Games start at 12pm and food will be served at 1pm. We'll have old favorites again this year, Fall Raffle drawing, bingo, classic car show, live music & children's games. But we have some fun new activities as well, including a clown who makes balloon animals, face-painting &

photo booth! Join us for some great fun & fellowship!

Please bring a dish to pass (to serve 6 people) (**COLD DISHES ONLY**) by last name initial: A-L salads, coleslaw, pasta, potato dishes, garden produce, 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!

Last Call: The prices for plots and Columbarium niches at St. Anthony Cemetery are going up on September 1. Call or email the parish office this week if you are interested.

Nursery will begin on Sunday, September 10, located in the Pre-school room in the school, first door on the right.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is scheduled to begin on Tues., Sept. 19. If you, or someone you know, is interested in information about the Catholic Church or about becoming Catholic, please call the parish office as soon as possible. Preregistration is required. An informational brochure is also available at the church entrances.

Parish Blood Drive: Thank you to everyone who gave blood this past week! We had 12 successful donations. Our next drive will be October 23, 3-8pm. Make your appointment today at miblood.org.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$5,618.00

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

My "Good Deed" was...

"cleaning the basement by myself."

"helping push the cart while grocery shopping."

"put away my toys."

"cleaned up my Cheerios I spilled."

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee We can be leaders of God's people because we have been baptized. How can we tell if our leaders have faith?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Jesus offers Peter leadership based on the affirmation that Peter knew Jesus was the "Son of the living God." Peter knew this, despite his early failure to trust Jesus and his inability to recognize Jesus as God. Jesus rewarded Peter with the authority to enforce laws and to loosen the bonds that laws also can provide. Recall that Peter was among the first Apostles whom Jesus called, and he was the person named to "feed my sheep." Peter is recognized as the first pope.

► **Living the Word:** Jesus gave us the authority to be leaders and do ministry in his name. Ask the children what a servant is, and then ask what a leader does. Write out some ideas about both on a tablet so that they can follow the logic of becoming a servant-leader. Pope Francis wants us to do exactly that. He wants us to be humble and helpful, and to invite others to join us. This is called "evangelization." Make "evangelization" the Word of the week. Write as many words as you can with the letters in "evangelization."

► **Elementary Religious Education Registration:** After Masses on Sept. 9/10. Every child needs to be registered by Mon., Sept. 18 in order to attend the first class on Mon., Sept. 25, 6:15-7:30pm. Fees remain the same and are due at registration: 1 child \$25; 2 children \$50; 3 or more \$75. Fees are doubled for out of parish children. All sessions will be held at East Campus. All 1st graders will participate in *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* this year. The atrium is located in the Parish Center for this program. Questions? Contact Sandy at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.

► **What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?** It's an approach to the religious formation of young children, the result of a long period of careful observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti and her Montessori collaboration, Gianna Gobbi, in Rome. It began quite by accident. In 1954, Sofia, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar was comfortable in her role in the academic world. However, a mother asked Sofia to give some instructions to her son. Eventually Sofia agreed to the mother's desire and this experience with a 7-year-old changed Sofia's whole life. She saw in that child and in many children since, a way of being in the presence of God that is unique to the child and a gift to the adult who takes time to notice. Sofia and Gianna remind us to look to the child and to watch for the sign of deeply religious life – joy.

► **Youth Ministry:** Registrations will be taken after all Masses on Sept 9/10. Contact Stephanie Schacher at sschacher@auburnac.org with any questions.

► **Sacramental Preparation:** Applications will be available after Masses on Sept. 9/10. Please read carefully – prayerful consideration should be given as to the suitability of committing your child to sacramental preparation.

► **Baptism Preparation Sessions:** 1st time parent classes will be Sept. 7, Oct. 5 or Dec. 7 at 7pm in Parish Center. For parents who have already attended a session, preparation will be Nov., 2, 7pm in the Parish Center. Contact Sandy at sdesjardins@auburnac.org or 662-4335 to register and set your celebration date.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **HIRING:** AACS is looking for someone to assist our lead pre-school 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. For more information, call the school office at 662-6431.

► **We Still Have Openings** for our 3-year-old Preschool. It meets Tues & Thurs, 8:30-11:30am. Call 662-6431 for more information.

► **School Office Hours** (week of the 27th): Mon., closed due to staff meeting & training; Tues. & Wed. 8-4pm; Thurs., closed for staff religious retreat; Fri., closed for Labor Day weekend. The office will reopen for the 1st day of school Tuesday, September 5th.

► **AACS staff** will be attending Mass on Thurs., Aug. 31. After Mass the staff will participate in a religious retreat provided by our Parish DRE, Sandy DesJardins.

► **Family Picnic/Curriculum Night - this Tuesday, 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.

The Parish in the Community

► **Auburn Christian Quilters** (an ecumenical quilting group) meets every 3rd Tuesday, September – June. Theme this year will be "Words to Live By". We will be creating a panel quilt, a great quilt for beginner to experienced quilters. Call Terri at 662-6052 with questions. All are welcome.

► **K of C Fish Fry:** 4760 Garfield Rd., Friday, Sept. 8, 2:30-7pm. We have changed to a [take-out only dinner](#). Cost \$10. All are welcome.

► **Mama Ruth Chicken/Ham Dinner:** Sept. 3, 11:30am-5:30pm in St. Peter & Paul parish center, Ruth, MI. Adults \$13, children \$6, preschool free.

From Father Tom's Desk

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus led his friends away from their normal stomping grounds and started to ask questions that, ultimately, led them to explain who they themselves were as they continued to follow his lead.

When Jesus asked, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" he started innocently enough by getting them to report on what they were hearing about him. In the days before Twitter or NPR, their grapevine relied on what they picked up at synagogue patios and city gates, plus a little of what the women heard around the town well. Without naming their blowhard source, their first answer cited Herod's phobic notion that Jesus might be the Baptist back from the dead. Then, they added popular opinions that identified him with Elijah or another of the prophets.

Then, yanking them right out of the role of impartial reporting, Jesus put them on the witness stand by asking one direct question: "But who do you say that I am?" One can imagine that the ground beneath their feet suddenly seemed fascinating as they pondered how to respond. Peter eventually spoke up. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Theological precision aside, Peter's statement in the name of the group, effectively declared that their relationship with Jesus was the commitment that defined their lives. When Jesus responded "flesh and blood has not revealed this to you," he acknowledged that he saw God's grace at work in Peter. Building on the Father's affirmation of him at his baptism, this interaction assured Jesus not only that he was God's beloved, but that his mission would find a home and a future among his disciples. While their faith was not yet resilient enough to withstand the storms to come and still needed much clarification, it was enough to build on. In fact, Jesus proclaimed that

it was strong enough that the netherworld could not overcome it.

Questions and Answers

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

In giving Peter and his church the keys to the kingdom of heaven, Jesus gave them the responsibility to open doors as he had done throughout his ministry. While the official religious authorities were often quick to decide who was in and who was out, Jesus excluded no one but rather mourned the plight of those who excluded themselves by rejecting the gifts he offered.

When we read this story as a dialog about apostolic dedication, we begin to comprehend what it means for the church today. Those of us who make bold to stand with Peter and say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," are making a commitment and receiving a vocation. We are consecrating ourselves to worship no god but God, to abjure all the idols of power and prestige that marginalize God's little ones. We are joining with Jesus, the disciples and prophets in the mission to use every key we can get our hands on to free prisoners and to fling open the doors of full access to the goods of creation for each and every daughter and son of the living God.

Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" may make us uncomfortable. It also turns the tables and asks us, "Who do you say you are?"

Responsible Leaders (Isaiah)

[Celebration](#)

This selection from Isaiah connects with today's Gospel through the symbols of the keys and the authority to open and close or bind and loose. But, in reality Hilkiiah receives much more power and honor than Jesus gives to Peter. Hilkiiah is dressed in fine clothing, is called the father of the people and is described like a strong, anchoring tent peg for his people. Peter isn't going to fulfill those roles by a long shot. Nevertheless, Isaiah's message is that God provides leadership for the people.

This story also reminds us of a theme that runs through both the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures. Even as most of the leaders we read about in the Bible furthered God's plan, they all had their own well-known flaws. There is something consoling in the way Scripture depicts the people God chooses to be authorities as fallible humans who have as much need of conversion as do the rest of us. As long as they remember that, they are good guides. When they forget it, God's warning is clear: "I...will pull you down."

**"Lord, increase my awareness
of your presence."**

AMEN CORNER (Odds and Ends):

The property on Nine Mile Road is going to be listed for sale by the Miller Group.

The process of closing St. Anthony's and possibly selling it is still ongoing. Three people appealed the closing of the church. Their appeals were denied by the bishop. One said they would consider an appeal to Rome. As the clock winds down that person has not yet appealed. If they don't, we can move ahead and discuss options.

The planning group and building committee have interviewed a second architect, David Tagget. They have yet to decide on their preference.

Finally, the bishop wrote this week in response to the request to proceed with schematic design drawings. He wrote that he approved our going forth to be able to obtain specific cost estimates to present to the parish.

Fr. Tom