

Week of September 2, 2018

MONDAY Labor Day
1 Cor 2:1-5 * Ps 119:97-102 * Lk 4:16-30

TUESDAY
1 Cor 2:10-16 * Ps 145:8-14 * Lk 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass
1 Cor 3:1-9 * Ps 33:12-15,20-21 * Lk 4:38-44

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass
1 Cor 3:18-23 * Ps 24:1-6 * Lk 5:1-11

FRIDAY
1 Cor 4:1-5 * Ps 37:3-6,27-28,39-40 * Lk 5:33-39

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass
Mt 5:1-4 * Ps 13:6 * Mt 1:1-16,18-23

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass
Is 35:4-7 * Ps 146:7-10 * Jas 2:1-5 * Mk 7:31-37

LABOR DAY



Parish Activities

Mon., Sept. 3 Parish Office closed for Labor Day Holiday
Thurs., Sept. 6 6-9pm Virtus Training
7:00pm Baptism Preparation Class

PARISH PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 Games start at 12 noon

Food will be served at 1:00pm.

Old favorites: Fall Raffle drawing, bingo, classic car show (if you bring yours), adult & children's games. New this year – an interactive inflatable.

Join us for great food, fun and 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, Jello salads, fruit, etc. Bring in disposable dishes if possible. The parish will provide hot dogs, brats, hamburgers and refreshments, you provide the fellowship.

Please Help!! The Education Commission is in charge of the kitchen. We do not have enough members to set up, serve and clean up. Please sign up on the sheets at the church entrances. You can work all day or just for a few hours. ??? Contact Sascha Rivet at 667-0930.



Parish Food Pantry next weekend, September 8/9. Needed most are Hamburger Helper, SpaghettiOs, canned fruit, pancake syrup & tuna.

Education Commission is looking for people to serve this year. We meet the 2nd 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!!!

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What are some of the rules that God teaches us?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The Pharisees and Scribes often try to "catch" Jesus allowing his followers to break religious law. He always responds by emphasizing the spirit and intent over the technicalities of the law. Mosaic Law was intended to help the Hebrew people draw closer to God, but overtime, the law itself risked becoming more important than God. As parents, we can become over focused on rules, manners, or outside appearances, even in regards to faith, rather than generosity of spirit and pure intention – in ourselves on for our children.

► **Living the Word:** Demonstrate the importance of a faithful heart with a hand washing ritual. Get a large bowl, a towel, a small bar of soap, and pitcher of water. Take turns slowly and carefully washing your hands. Talk about what is washed away: dirt, germs, etc. Then,

talk about our hearts. What keeps them clean? (prayer, loving others, helping, forgiving and asking for forgiveness) Establish a mantra you can use every time you wash your hands as a reminder of what truly matters, such as, "God, keep my heart close to you." or "Create in me a clean heart."

► **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 **5th 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 1st 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.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **The 1st week of school** for K-5 has been a **SUCCESS!** It is wonderful seeing the students. We are looking forward to a school year of amazing academic and spiritual growth!!

► **Thank you** to the Lijewski family for letting the school use their tent during our family picnic and curriculum night.

► **School Volunteers:** Virtus Training is **Thurs., September 6, 6-9pm**. Please call the church office at 662-6861 to sign up.

► **NEEDED!! 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.

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$5,954.44

CSA: Thank You to all who contributed & 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...

...I cleaned the basement a little. ...put the cart back at Staples.
...not sleeping with my Grandma. ...put my laundry away.

The Parish in the Community

► **Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women** Annual Conference Wed., Sept. 19 at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. All women of the diocese are invited. Registration 9:30-10am, and meeting will end about 2:45pm. Terri Grierson will present important information on the topic of Human Trafficking. Mass will be celebrated. Cost \$15-includes lunch. RSVP to Rita Maher at 989-635-7072 by Wed., Sept. 12 (need lunch numbers.).

Oh Lord, I pray for you to put your arm around my shoulder...and sometimes your hand over my mouth!!

From Father Tom's Desk

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

As we hear in today's first reading, the law pointed out the path to life and outlined the plan for establishing a holy nation. Observance of God's law would form the desert wanderers into a community that demonstrated the goodness of the God who called them into being. The law was essentially a blueprint through which the people of God would know how to further God's plan for all people. By collaborating with that plan, they would enjoy communion with God.

That was the plan.

But, that plan fell under the influence of competitive, scrupulous, self-righteous, legalistic human beings. In other words, it got interpreted by the likes of you and me. With the best intentions in the world, wise people developed customs and practices designed to safeguard the law by interpreting how it should be put into practice in everyday situations. From the command to keep holy the Lord's Day, there grew precise instructions about just which activities were and were not permissible on the day of rest, right down to detail of when a candle could be lit. Exodus 30 and 40 taught that priests should perform ritual ablutions. Based on that, teachers developed practices to guarantee ritual purity for everyone – requirements that not everyone could fulfill due to their work circumstances, their health or their gender. The law which was designed to be a path of holiness for all people became distorted. People who wielded the power of interpretation developed precepts that effectively segregated the community. Those who had the wealth and free time to act holy could cite religious reasons for avoiding the unclean and sinners whose touch or presence could contaminate them and their sanctuaries.

Jesus understood the law as a divine plan to bring humanity into union with God and with one another. Few situations moved him to anger like the hypocrisy of people who distorted the law's intent. Obviously, the problem was not unique to first-century Pharisees. Every human society and every religious tradition is prone to promote self-serving elitism and exclusion of those labeled as "the others." In group cohesion and self-ascribed status are the rewards for such discrimination.

The Price is Admission

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus responded to the purity police by citing the prophetic tradition. His quote from Isaiah was an indictment of their motives for scrupulous scrubbing. He might as well have said: "Is washing a humbling sign of your need to be cleansed from sin or a purity show? If you think clean fingernails are all you need to walk worthily in the presence of God, your hearts and your heads are in the wrong place!"

This leads us to consider our own pious practices. How sincerely do we pray the Confiteor during our penitential act? Do we honestly admit our willful wrongdoing and avoidance of going good? What if we took our penitential act as seriously as people in recovery take 12-Step meetings? At the beginning of each meeting, the participants introduce themselves as addicts. They go on to talk to one another about their failures and their attempts to avoid remaining trapped in destructive behavior. How would our faith communities change if we looked one another in the eye while saying, "I am a sinner. I need your support and your prayers!"?

Jesus critiqued his critics for keeping their hearts far from God. They lacked the integrity to admit their weakness, thereby blocking God's saving grace from touching their hearts. A heart that protects itself from admitting weakness cannot know God because it has deified itself. We cannot mend our hearts solely by our own efforts. Fixing our hearts is a matter of will and grace. The grace is available through the law and

the prophets, the Son and the communities led by his Spirit. Do we have faith that makes us willing to accept our need for help?

Called to Listen (Dt 4)

[Celebration](#)

Moses begins this section of his discourse with a formal command that the people listen to what he is about to proclaim. That command was no toss-off phrase or warm-up to what he was about to say. Moses wanted his people to listen to his words as if their lives depended on it – because he believed that they did. Moses regarded the law of God as the very source of life and identity for his people. He wanted them to listen with their whole heart and soul.

Moses' command that the people listen deeply reminds us of the call of Samuel. When Samuel said, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sm 3:9), he put himself in God's hands. Listening meant that he was ready to do whatever God asked. People who listen in that way allow God's word to permeate their being such that it becomes the central motivation of everything they do. Listening like this engenders obedience rooted in the heart. (The word *obedience* comes from the Latin root *audire*, to hear.) The law calls for obedience that springs from the heart rather than mechanical conformity to a code of conduct.

Hearing AND Doing (Jas 1)

[Celebration](#)

With verse 22, "be doers...not hearers only," we come to one of James' most famous themes: the necessity of putting faith into action as the only way to live with integrity. There can hardly be a stronger warning than to say that not putting God's word into action is delusional behavior. Someone who simply lies to others, who pretends to be who she knows she is not, is aware of the deceit and at least understands that she is a liar. But, people who delude themselves have fallen into a world of illusion. Like addicts in denial, they have slipped into a state of blindness from which it is extremely difficult to escape, and nigh unto impossible to overcome by oneself. When someone has slipped into being a hearer but not a doer, the prophetic community has the responsibility to speak like James and call them back to integrity. So too, prophetic members of the community have the responsibility to call the church as a whole to the care for the poor that demonstrates what James calls true religion.

Proper Intentions (summary)

[Celebration](#)

This week's readings call us to ever-deeper and broader integrity. Do we admit our own need for conversion and help to grow in grace? The readings warn us that our critiques of others put our own values and integrity on show and reveal whether our priorities come from a God-touched heart or a desire to look pious. When we discuss what "should" be done, our remembrance of Moses and Jesus demands that we question whether our interpretation of God's will is life-giving to all people or self-serving.

James gives us the final test: Religion that is pure is this- care for the most needy and freedom from the false values of society.

"Create a clean heart in me, O Lord."

Pastor's Report: I was hospitalized last week with suspected recurrence of shingles in my left eye. Two days later, after being in the contagious disease section, the diagnosis was switched to a bacterial infection that manifested itself in cellulitis and conjunctivitis. Aside from that I was in good shape! After a few days I was discharged and sent home with antibiotics, eye drops and ointment. My eyes are still very swollen and my vision impaired. Hopefully, recovery will not be long in the offing. See you when I am able to see you!!

Fr. Tom