

Week of September 3, 2017

MONDAY **LABOR DAY**
 1 Thes 4:13-18 * Ps 96:1,3-5,11-13 * Lk 4:16-30

TUESDAY
 1 Thes 5:1-6,9-11 * Ps 27:1,4,13-14 * Lk 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY **8:00am Mass**
 Col 1:1-8 * Ps 52:10-11 * Lk 4:38-44

THURSDAY **8:00am Mass**
 Col 1:9-14 * Ps 98:2-6 * Lk 5:1-11

FRIDAY
 Mi 5:1-4 * Ps 13:6 * Mt 1:1-16,18-23

SATURDAY **4:30pm Mass**
 Col 1:21-23 * Ps 54:3-4,6,8 * Lk 6:1-5

SUNDAY **9:30am Mass**
 Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery
 Ez 33:7-9 * Ps 95:1-2,6-9 * Rom 13:8-10 * Mt 18:15-20



Parish Activities

Mon., Sept. 4 Labor Day Parish Office closed
 Thurs., Sept. 7 7:00pm Baptism Preparation

All NEXT WEEKEND!!
Religious Ed. + RCIA Registration, Food Pantry
 and a **Parish Garage Sale!** after both Masses
Parish Picnic Sunday, September 10!
Games start at 12pm and food will be served at 1pm.
 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.
Join us for some great fun & fellowship!

Parish Food Pantry: Next weekend, Sept., 9/10. Needed are baked beans, cake mix & frosting, canned fruit, cereal, Hamburger Helper, jelly, mashed potatoes, pancake mix & syrup, Ramen noodles, canned tomatoes and personal care items.

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

New Parishioners...
Steven & Allison Gormley and family
Matthew & Samantha Schnell
Patrick & Jill Miller
Priscilla Gilli
Donna Hobbs
Eric & Amanda Swenberg
Lance & Diane Middleton and family
Welcome!!

Stewardship
Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$7,758.94

The Outreach Committee will send \$5,000 to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they respond to the impact of Hurricane Harvey.

Some "Good Deeds" listed on children's contribution envelopes:
My "Go@od Deed" was...
 "used my manners."
 "put away my toys in the basement and upstairs."

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
 Are we able to acknowledge our suffering – little sorrows as well as great pain – or do we, like Peter, try to ignore the reality of suffering?
 ► **Reflecting on the Word:** Peter again! No doubt Peter believed he could protect Jesus from the fate Jesus was describing. But Jesus knew that he would suffer and so would all of his followers. The question of carrying our cross is a difficult one. None of us seeks pain, but the reality is that no one goes through life without suffering. How do we understand suffering in light of our faith? Do we believe that we can live the Paschal Mystery of death to new life?
 ► **Living the Word:** Do you know anyone who is suffering? Can you send them a note of comfort or offer them support in some way?
 ► **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.
 ► **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, 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

► **Welcome:** It was so nice to see the returning families and meet the new families at our Family Picnic/Curriculum Night. It is going to be a GREAT year!!
 ► **The AACs staff** enjoyed their educational retreat Thurs., Aug. 31. It started with a morning Mass, followed by a faith rich discussion led by our Parish DRE, Sandy DesJardins. Thank you Sandy, for the support you show the school. We greatly appreciate the time and energy you put forth.
 ► **First Day of School** is Tuesday, September 5th!

The Parish in the Community

► **Annual Soccer Challenge** sponsored by Auburn K of C, Council #3590, Sept. 19, 5pm at the soccer field at St. Gabriel. Anyone 9-14 years old is eligible. Winners can move on to Regional and/or State Finals. Call Ed Piotrowski at 859-8504 for application form or info.
 ► **Five relics of St. Padre Pio**, a Capuchin priest who bore the stigmata of Jesus, will be on display at the Cathedral for veneration on Fri., Sept. 29, through the St. Pio Foundation. A Mass presided by Bishop Cistone will be at 12:00 noon and private Confessions are offered at three different times during the day.

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow,
 you gotta put up with the rain." Dolly Parton

From Father Tom's Desk

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

We can assume that when Jesus talked about his impending suffering and death it was not to impress his disciples with his future-telling skills. He was sharing his heart. He wanted them to know and understand what he had discerned about God's will for him.

When he said he must go to Jerusalem, he was saying that was the only way to be true to his vocation. The disciples were savvy enough that they weren't surprised that going to Jerusalem would bring Jesus suffering. When they didn't understand, however, was why he would do it in the first place. That was what Jesus had to teach them, and he tried again and again. His primary way of teaching was through action – only after acting did he explain what he was doing.

Jesus had to go to Jerusalem because to avoid confronting the powers aligned against him would have been to admit the impotence of his own message. So, in essence, he said, "They are going to unleash everything in their arsenal against me, and it is going to take my life. But, God will not let that be the end of the story." He put all his cards on the table: "if you believe in me, if you mean to follow me, this is where the road is leading." Jesus' faith, at the moment, was greater than anything the disciples could imagine.

Jesus wasn't courting death. He wasn't even baiting his opponents. He was simply teaching his disciples that his integrity demanded that he not hide from danger. He had to decide between being true to his message and saving his skin. He decided to leave the latter to God, trusting that his Father would also give him the grace and strength to accomplish the former.

Our Road to Jerusalem

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Unlike some of our brothers and sisters in places in Africa and the Middle East, few of us in the United States will ever have to face anything like the persecution Jesus and his disciples confronted. To those of us who don't have to walk the road toward martyrdom, Paul offers a different and no less costly challenge. He says, "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." He's not saying "run to the coliseum to volunteer for a lion fight." That is too easy as a once-and-for-all solution, a romantic hero's role that we choose for ourselves. Paul calls us, instead, into a daily struggle for faithfulness: "Do not conform yourselves to this age,"

This is the call to live with Christ-like integrity, to stand up for the values of the reign of God, no matter the cost. Elie Wiesel, the Noble Prize laureate who survived the Holocaust, is quoted as saying: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor... Silence encourages

the tormenter, never the tormented." Our road to Jerusalem offers us glimpses of religious persecution, of refugees turned away from shelter, and billboards advertising a philosophy that proclaims that we will make a better world by putting ourselves first. Disciples of Jesus must not remain silent. Such realities demand of us a Gospel response.

Gospel love is indeed hard and dreadful. It can cost us everything. But, is there anything worth living for without it?

Personal Witness

[Celebration](#)

Paul says, "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." He was not speaking of martyrdom; he called for a "living sacrifice." That consisted in the double-pronged activity of standing up to the values of the age and allowing themselves to be transformed.

Paul's message fits perfectly between those of today's other two readings. With Jesus who was leading his disciples to Jerusalem, Paul calls the Romans to stand firm in rejecting conformity to the false values of the age. That implied that they were to cultivate their faithfulness to Christ, no matter the social cost.

Paul also called them to "be transformed by the renewal of your mind" so that they could discern God's will. That was an exhortation to be like Jeremiah, allowing God to become the fire inside them, even to the point that they would not balk at any sacrifice.

Follow the Leader

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin told the other signers: "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." They all knew if they lost the Revolutionary war, they would all face death by hanging as traitors to England. Despite this dark possibility, they signed anyway, with John Hancock defiantly writing his name larger than all the others. They were doing a dangerous thing, but they were resolved to do it regardless.

It was the same for Jesus in today's Gospel. Knowing he was facing death, Jesus emboldened the disciples by saying: "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

The Cross

Ted Wolgamot, [Celebration](#)

In contrast to last Sunday, today's Gospel is about the cross, not about worldly power. It's about denial, not self-indulgence. It's about losing, not gaining. It's about subtraction, not addition. It's about less, not more. It's about transformation, not glorification.

Jesus' conviction is clear. We cannot be transformed if we're awash in all the grandiose matters encouraged by the spirit of this world – the spirit Jesus refers to as Satan. Jesus himself refuses any titles of glory or grandiosity. He never once tells his disciples: "Worship me. Adore me. Glorify me. Praise me." Instead, he asks only one thing: "Follow me."

And, that's precisely what he does in today's Gospel. Again, he summons us to follow him – follow him in refusing to make wealth and power the ultimate meaning of life; follow him in dying to our own egos so that we can fall, with full trust, into the arms of God.

The cross, and only the cross, Jesus insists, will free us of our vanity and generate within us a readiness to create a new world – one in which God reigns supreme in our hearts; one in which we open ourselves up to new ways of thinking, seeing and valuing.

**"Help me, Lord,
to follow You."**