

## Week of September 23, 2018

### MONDAY

Prv 3:27-34 \* Ps 15:2-5 \* Lk 8:16-18

### TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Prv 21:1-6,10-13 \* Ps 119:1,27,30,34-35,44 \* Lk 8:19-21

### WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Prv 30:5-9 \* Ps 119:29,72,89,101,104,163 \* Lk 9:1-6

### THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Ecdl 1:2-11 \* Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17 \* Lk 9:7-9

### FRIDAY

Ecdl 3:1-11 \* Ps 144:1-4 \* Lk 9:18-22

### SATURDAY Feast of Saints

Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

4:30pm Mass

Dn 7:9-10,13-14 \* Ps 138:1-5 \* Jn 1:47-51

### SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nm 11:25-29 \* Ps 19:8,10,12-14 \* Jas 5:1-6 \* Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48



## Parish Activities

Mon., Sept. 24	6:00pm	Cantor Practice
Tues., Sept. 25	7-9pm	Bible Study-West Campus
Sun., Sept. 23	10:45am	Religious Education

Hello, my name is Christopher Bierlein. For those of you who have yet to meet me, I am the new Office Administrator for the parish. I have just finished my first month here on the job.

I was born and raised in Bay City. I have three younger sisters, all of whom are married. My home parish is St. Jude Thaddeus in Essexville.

I attended Catholic schools from K-12, graduating from All Saints back in 2002. I attended SVSU and graduated in 2007 with a teaching degree in history and social studies. After a couple of years of looking for a teaching job, I decided to discern the priesthood, by entering the seminary for this diocese in 2010. In 2016, I discerned out, feeling that God was calling me to other ministries within the Church, which led me to applying for the office administration job here at St. Gabriel Parish.

It has been a pleasure being the Office Administrator for your parish so far and I'm thrilled about serving you for many years to come. I also thank all of you for your mercy, kindness and patience as I learn not only the job, but also the St. Gabriel Parish community.

**RCIA:** An Invitation to *come and see*... Have you wondered about the Catholic Church or about becoming Catholic? Informal sessions to explore questions and faith issues in relation to Catholic beliefs will begin on Tuesday, October 2. Preregistration is required. Informational brochures on becoming Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are available at the church entrance. For more information call the parish office at 662-6861.

**Flu & Pneumonias Shots:** The weekend of October 13/14 after Mass. Bring your insurance and Medicare information with you.

**Helping Hands** is a group of parishioners who are ready and willing to provide parishioners in need (new moms, those recovering from surgery or illness, etc.) with a good, home-cooked meal. If you or someone you know could use some helping hands, call Stephanie Schacher at 989-878-2898. Please leave a message if no answer.

**Adult Scripture Study:** Tues., Oct. 2 at 10am. Everyone is welcome! ?? Contact Sandy at 662-4335 or [sdesjardins@auburnac.org](mailto:sdesjardins@auburnac.org).

**Cantor Scheduling** 🎵 Mon., Sept. 24, 6:00pm. Planning for Sep, 30 thru Nov. 25. If unable to attend, please email Susan LeVasseur at [susanl2488@gmail.com](mailto:susanl2488@gmail.com). with unavailable dates by Sept. 23.

**Choir Practice** 🎵 will be starting Mon., Oct. 1, 6:30pm. Choir will be singing each weekend alternating Masses. Please accept this invitation to join us!

## Education/Formation

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
Why would the person who wishes to be first be last? Why would that person serve others?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** We come from God and so shall we return. Our lives are an expression of God's love. Within that love, there is no greatest or least nor first or last; all is simply love. A way to express our love for God is by loving the person next to us. We are called to love all the many and varied expressions of God's love in the world, even the ones we find hardest to love.

► **Living the Word:** Invite your children to spend some time playing with a balloon, expanding and contracting it and letting each family member experiment with it. Then, on a deflated balloon, draw a small heart in permanent marker and color it in. Explain that we are like the balloon with the small heart, and at times we may not seem to be much, but when we allow in God or *ruah* - breath, wind and spirit as God is called in the Old Testament (blow into the balloon) - we are so much bigger.

► **Sacramental Preparation** applications are available near the Education Kiosk (along the south wall of the church). Children need to complete one full year of formation prior to being accepted into the Sacramental Preparation process. **Applications are due Mon., Sept. 24.**

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **5<sup>th</sup> Grade goes to Camp timbers** on Sept 26-28. They'll be joining other 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from All Saints Elementary and Blessed Sacrament Schools for 3 days of learning, faith, fellowship and fun.

► AACCS will be walking in the **Western High School Homecoming Parade** on Fri., Sept. 28. Our float theme is *New York, New York!*

► **Little Caesar's Pizza Sales:** Sale ends Mon., Sept. 24. Three ways to place an order: 1. Contact a school family, 2. Ms. Chris in the school office at 6622-6431, 3. Order on line at [www.pizzakit.com](http://www.pizzakit.com), ID# 343028. Delivery day Tues., Oct. 3. Thank you for your support!

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 \* Offering: \$9,072.62

Food Pantry: \$35.00

In Memory of Rose Kitts: \$235.00

### Children's G@od Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...I helped make dinner. ...read a book to Grandma.

On behalf of all the Adrian Dominican Sisters, I wish to express my thanks for your gift of \$2,126.08, which was received on September 12, 2018, in response to our Sisters' 2018 Mission Appeals. As designated, your gift will be used for the work of the Dominican Sisters in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of the parishioners of St. Gabriel. Their gift not only allows us to continue our ministries of education, healthcare and social service, but also provides critical resources for us to work among the poor and most vulnerable members of the overseas communities in which our Sisters serve.

With deep gratitude, Amy Palmer, CFRE

**Going South for the winter?** If you will be gone for any length of time, please give the Parish Office a call. Your name will be added to the "Sonw Bird" list. Your envelopes can be sent to your winter address (or suspended while you are gone) as well as other parish mailings.

## The Parish in the Community

► **Fall Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends:** "Fall" in love all over again! Weekends at Augustine Center near Petoskey, Oct. 5-7, and Saginaw Center for Ministry, Nov. 2-4. Apply at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) or contact Andrew & Alaina at 734-531-9191 for more info.

## From Father Tom's Desk

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

In today's Gospel story, Jesus made a point of walking the road with just his disciples so that he could have an intimate conversation with them. Knowing their expectations for greatness, he explained for a second time that he was going to be betrayed, killed and then rise to new life. His companions responded with blessed silence. No questions, no sympathy, no protest. Perhaps, they were just shaking their heads in hopes that he'd come to his senses when they finally sat down in the shade. Once he was out of hearing distance, they got into a lively discussion of their own.

The scene when they arrived at their destination must have been interesting. When Jesus asked what they had been arguing about along the way, they again took refuge in silence. So once more, Jesus tried to explain himself. Jesus' disciples loved him, but they didn't understand him. His way of thinking was just too different. So, when words didn't suffice, he picked up a child to show his argumentative disciples what it looks like to be in first place in the reign of God.

What was he trying to teach them as he put his arms around the child? Perhaps that like the child, they had been chosen not for their importance or even their potential, but because they were loved. Their mission was not to perform mighty works, but to receive the little ones, the needy, the forgotten and the rejected. Their mission was to share the love they had been given so freely. They were called to the humble, humbling service of embracing the little people just as Jesus did.

When Jesus picked up the child, he was performing a living parable, teaching that loving someone is the greatest service you can do them; everything else flows from that and nothing else is very valuable without it. Loving is also the greatest service we can do for the entire world because the more people are loved, the less they need to compete and use violence to make their mark.

### Witness of the Just (*Wisdom 2*)

[Celebration](#)

The sage writing the Book of Wisdom is preaching to the choir in today's reading. It is a discourse both we and the choir probably need to hear. Earlier in this chapter, the sage described the materialist philosophy of the wicked. Poetic and sophisticated as they presumed to be, the very existence of the righteous questions them beyond their power to ignore. The idea that anyone could be content with a life not based on immediate gratification becomes an affront to them. They can't resist the challenge to prove themselves right by proving believers wrong.

Unfortunately, the most frustrating opponent a high competitor can go up against is someone who doesn't care about winning. The wicked can make the righteous miserable, but that doesn't change their minds. The more miserable they make the innocent, the deeper their own wound from not winning. They can get caught in a frenzy of torture, dehumanizing themselves while still unable to undermine the dignity of their victims. The problem is that the wicked are trying to win a game the righteous won't play. History has shown repeatedly that when a person doesn't fear death, martyrdom offers no threat. The wicked also assume that if God is on the side of the righteous and they victimize them with violent tactics, God will be forced to use the same sort of tactics to defend the innocent. Again, they have misjudged their opponent.

### Not to Judge (*James 3-4*)

[Celebration](#)

At this point in his epistle, James leaves the arena of social justice to talk about relationship in the community. Although those too have implications for justice, James now addresses the topic differently.

It seems that every human community is prone to the problems James mentions. It all starts when we play a measuring game and evaluate our own worth in the light of another's gifts. That is a poor idea from the start because we are judging another from our vantage point, a perch which rarely offers insight into another. We may see their success, but not the effort it took to get there or the insecurity they may feel. Perhaps the only people we can evaluate with any degree of correctness are those who are humble enough to admit their own failures, their struggles and the awe they feel at having received God's grace. It is rare that such people incite great envy or jealousy.

### Prophecy Not Prediction (*Mark 9*)

[Celebration](#)

Jesus' message that the powers of evil would muster all their strength against him was the most frightening message of all for disciples who hadn't adopted his perspective. Jesus looked at life from the vantage point of the inbreaking of the kingdom of God. He knew it was like yeast: subtly but relentlessly at work in their midst. Even with clear signs that his enemies were about to strike, Jesus believed that darkness could not swallow up light, and evil machinations would prove impotent against the kind of power God wields. So, he lived as if death did not matter.

The disciples, so enthralled with their own ideas about a messiah and their own fears, missed the most important point of what Jesus was saying. Even today, when we refer to this as a passion prediction, we truncate Jesus and his message. Each time that he was going to suffer, the promise that he would rise was an integral part of the statement. He warned the disciples that it would look like evil won, but he assured them that it wasn't true – it wasn't even possible. Rather than a passion prediction, we could do better to call this a resurrection prophecy.

**Bishop Cistone:** We had a quarterly meeting at the diocese this past week and we received the first news in a long time on the bishop's health – and it was not good. After some initial successful chemotherapy, he began to accumulate water around the lungs. Evaluation revealed the fluid had cancer cells in it. He was unable to attend the meeting because he has been very sick with aggressive treatments. The following prayer was introduced and I pass it on to you and ask you to remember Bishop Cistone in yours.

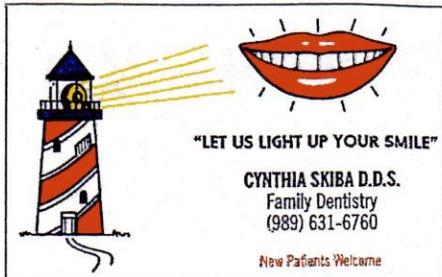
#### Prayer for Our Bishop

**Father of Mercy and Love, who watches over your creatures with unflinching care, keep us in the safe embrace of your love. With your strong right hand raise up your servant, Joseph, our shepherd, and give him the strength of your own power. Minister to him and heal his illness, so that he may have from you the help he longs for. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### September Wedding Anniversaries

20 years or more..... Robert & Kathy Fritz  
Robert & Kimberly Miller  
Tim & Cindy Chartier  
Robert & Lori Kloc  
Ron & Sue Koenig  
Michael & Kristin Lance  
John & Judy Hunsinger  
Keith & Lisa Boswell  
Dennis & Gail Sarnowski  
Darren & Amber Herington (to be continued)

Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen



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