

Week of September 24, 2017

MONDAY

Ezr 1:1-6 * Ps 126:1-6 * Lk 8:16-18

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Ezr 6:7-8,12,14-20 * Ps 122:1-5 * Lk 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY

Ezr 9:5-9 * Tb 13:2-4,7-8 * Lk 9:1-6

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Hg 1:1-8 * Ps 149:1-6,9 * Lk 9:7-9

FRIDAY

Feast of Saints Michael,
Gabriel & Raphael

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

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Zec 2:5-9,14-15 * Jer 31:10-13 * Lk 9:43-45

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Ez 18:25-28 * Ps 25:4-9 * Phil 2:1-11 * Mt 21:28-32



Parish Activities

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| Mon., Sept. 25 | 6:15pm | Religious Education |
| Tues., Sept. 26 | 6:30pm | RCIA |
| Sun., Oct. 1 | 6:15pm | Youth Ministry Trip to Skyzone |

► **Growing Up Catholic – Family Matters:** All are invited to attend our CAFÉ (Catholic Adult Formation & Education) offering beginning in October: *Growing Up Catholic—Family Matters*, about the challenges and joys of raising our children today. This 6-week series will begin Mon., Oct. 9, through



Mon., Nov. 13, 6:15-7:30pm—during the children's Faith Formation sessions. Topics are independent of each other so it's not necessary to attend all of them. If interested, call the parish office at 662-6861 or email Connie Kaczynski at adulted@auburnac.org before Mon., Oct. 2. There is no cost to attend. For weekly topics, pick up a flier at the Café Kiosk.

► **ALL ARE WELCOME to come and SING A NEW SONG!** A new night and a new choir director! Choir practices will be **Tuesdays**, 6:30-8:00pm. Our first practice will be **Oct. 3** at the East Campus. We are looking forward to new members and welcoming back those who have generously given of their time and talent. Questions & answers? Call Susan LeVasseur at 205-4322.

Bi-Annual Assembly: All the priests of the diocese will convene with Bishop Cistone at Boyne Mountain beginning this Sunday through Wednesday. Unfortunately, the topic for consideration will be steps to be taken to meet the future needs of the diocesan church—translated, how are we going to get along with fewer priests. The absence of laity in the discussion concerns me. Hopefully it is just the beginning of a broader discussion. *Fr. Tom*

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What does it mean to be fair? How is this different from being generous?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** God's love is so wonderful and powerful that we would not want anyone to miss out on it, no matter when they discover it. If God is like the landowner, then we want people to be able to come to him whenever they are ready. We are grateful that God's love has no limit, and it is available to all. With God, just

because my brother or sister receives "payment," it does not lessen the amount I get—so in God's abundance we all get what we need.

► **Living the Word:** Talk to your family about inviting someone to the "vineyard" of God's love. Everyone could brainstorm, considering if a friend, neighbor, or family member might feel left out. Make plans this week to invite that person(s) to lunch, the park, or your house. What can you do to show the unlimited abundance of God's love? Tell them to remember that God's love is a gift that is given to us, no matter what we have done or where we have been.

► **Elementary Religious Education** begins Monday, Sept. 25th, 6:15–7:30pm in the Social Hall. All 1st graders will participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd this year. The Atrium is located at the Parish Center for this program.

► **Youth Ministry** will be kicking off the year with a cookout on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 6:15pm! All Middle and High students are invited to attend and are welcome to bring a friend! Email Stephanie Schacher will any questions: sschacher@auburnac.org.

► **Sacramental Preparation:** Applications will be available in the Parish Center. Please read carefully – prayerful consideration should be given as to the suitability of committing your child to sacramental preparation. **Applications are due Monday, September 25th.**

► **Scripture Study** begins Tuesday, October 3rd at 10:00am in the Parish Center. We will continue using *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*, a Catholic Bible study that brings you on an extraordinary pilgrimage, revealing Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Join in for this DVD based series (filmed on location in the Holy Land), which places you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and sorrows. Everyone is welcome, even if you did not join us last spring for the first two sessions. If you have any questions please contact Sandy, 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org.

► **Baptism Prep Sessions:** First time parent classes will be: Thursday, October 5 @ 7p.m. in Parish Center. Contact Sandy, 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org to register for a prep session and set your celebration date.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Little Caesar's Pizza Sales:** AACs students are selling pizza kits from Monday, September 25th- Oct 9th. To order please contact a school family or Ms. Chris, in the school office, at 989-662-6431. The delivery day will be Tuesday Oct 17th. Thank you for your support!

► **Western High School Homecoming Parade:** Friday, September 29th. We will be walking in the parade with the theme of SAFARI!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$9,837.00

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

My "Good Deed" was...

"praying with Mommy."

"nice to my friends at school."

"I helped load, then turn on the dishwasher."

The Parish in the Community

► **Coping with Divorce:** Blessed Sacrament is offering an 8-week Divorce Group Recovery Process for any adult experiencing pain from divorce. There is no fee. Meetings are on Tuesdays Sept. 26-Nov. 14, 7-9pm at Blessed Sacrament. Call 835-6777 to register.

From the pastor's desk

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Remember, Jesus used stories to throw the listeners off-balance. The parables were specifically designed to help folk trip over their own self-righteousness, to remind them of God's sovereign freedom. In close competition with the story of the prodigal son, who never had to pay for his misdeeds, today's parable about the landowner who paid his workers equally for unequal work is one of the most disconcerting, if not infuriating, of Jesus' tales. People from vastly different cultures and historical eras tend to agree about these two stories: "It's not fair!"

Isaiah told us that God says, "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my thoughts above your thoughts." At least one thing that should teach us is that God doesn't see things from our perspective. Jesus used this parable to provide some hints about God's perspective. He begins with a landowner—later referred to as the lord—whose vineyard needed work done, and there were people who needed a job for the day. As the day went on, it became obvious that the field work was not as important to the owner as were the laborers.

Each time he returned, he found more workers waiting to be hired, and each time he hired them, promising them a just wage. As the day was waning, he found still more waiting in the labor line, and he asked them directly why they had been idle all day. Their answer: "It wasn't our choice. Nobody gave us a job." What they didn't add, but what anyone who ever stood in their position knows, is that "Nobody hired us" also meant, "After being here all day, we've still got nothing with which to buy food for our children."

What is Just

McGlone, Celebration

The question lurking underneath this parable is, "What is just?" The disgruntled workers, who were fortunate enough to spend the whole day employed and certain that they and their families would eat that day, ended up thinking that they deserved more than others. It never occurred to them that they had already gotten it. Apparently, the lord thought that justice had more to do with what someone needs to survive than with the luck of landing a good job.

Nearly 2,000 years after Jesus shared this parable, St. John Paul II applied its principles to conditions of the third millennium. He said: "The globalized economy must be analyzed in the light of the principles of social justice, respecting the preferential option for the poor who must be allowed to take their place in such an economy" ("The Church in America," #55). Today's vineyard is a globalized economy which means that the demands of justice and responsibility for the common good now know no national, ethnic or religious boundaries.

Seeing things from the perspective of the vineyard owner, John Paul II teaches that in that world-wide economy, human needs trump profits. He went on to say: "the goal of the Church is to assure that no one is marginalized" (#58). That is quite a different perspective than one which, for whatever reason, asserts "I deserve more than those others!" God's ways are not our ways. Think about it. Isaiah got it right.

Just and Fair

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

Many of us have come away reeling from the message of last Sunday's sacred texts. Forgiveness without limit and forgiveness from the heart are two of Christianity's most staggering challenges; nevertheless, to refuse these challenges or try to ignore them would

make our claim to belong to God ring false. If we have come to this week's sacred texts looking for some respite, we will not find it, because Isaiah and the Matthean Jesus both call us to be more authentic reflections of the God whose ways are such that even a scoundrel, even the wicked, can turn to God and find mercy and generous forgiveness. But surely, we argue, how can there be forgiveness for career criminals who "find religion" at the 11th hour and repent? How can their countless sins be swept away? Surely God's ways are not just or fair. Perhaps the reason for our consternation in such matters is because we continue to think in terms of merit rather than grace. Like the laborers in the vineyard who had worked the entire day, we who do our best to grow in faith may think that we have somehow earned God's forgiveness and our redemption. For that reason, we may resent those who seem to have come late to God, and yet are treated as generously as we. God's goodness to those 11th-hour believers might lead us to reason that we deserve more, since we've been hard at the work of discipleship from the beginning. But neither those who have worked from dawn nor those who join the ranks near dusk deserve God's gifts. No one merits forgiveness, mercy or salvation. These are God's gracious gifts to bestow, not because we are good but because God is God.

God's Love

Fr. James Smith, Celebration

In a burst of love, God created humans with a loving spirit who could love back. Later, at just the right time, God so loved the world that he sent his own Son—not to condemn the world, but to love it. The Son was a chip off the old block; he loved unconditionally, indiscriminately, uncontrollably. But since humankind can stand only so much love, it got rid of God's Love Child by crucifying him. This was surely more than grounds for divorce. But no, God used the occasion to seal the marriage covenant between God and his people with the blood of his Son. Then God raised his Son from this dangerous earth to the haven of heaven. This is the consummate love story. So how did we get lost in the subplots of law and sin and judgement? For the same reason we find the generous landowner so unbelievable. Because justice is easier to manage than mercy. Because it is easier to be legal than loving. Because to love is to give up control of our destiny. But if we do not trust love, we cannot trust God—who is love.

**"Lord, may I always be grateful
for your generous love."**

AMEN CORNER: Word has been received from the Diocese that no one has chosen to appeal to Rome with respect to the closing of St. Anthony. We are now free to examine alternatives. If St. Anthony Church were to be sold, there is a process to go through in moving the space from the sacred to the secular. Part of that involves removing from the premises any and all appointments that speak of the sacred, e.g. altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, confessional, crucifix, stations, etc. A member of the diocesan liturgy office, Fr. Pat O'Connor, is going to come this week and "officially" indicate a listing of those items. The planning group and building committee have been busy looking at each church with a thought to what might be carried over into a new church. They have also been meeting with the architect and discussing the desired contents of a new church. All members were asked to fill out a questionnaire distributed by the architect to that end. Any parishioner is invited to present in writing a suggestion as to what they would like to see in a new building. Present your ideas to the parish office.

Fr. Tom