

Week of October 1, 2017

MONDAY

Zec 8:1-8 * Ps 102:2, 16-23 * Mt 18:1-5, 10

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Zec 8:20-23 * Ps 87:1-7 * Lk 9:51-56

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Neh 2:1-8 * Ps 137:1-6 * Lk 9:57-62

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Neh 8:1-12 * Ps 19:8-11 * Lk 10:1-12

FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Bar 1:15-22 * Ps 79:1-5, 8-9 * Lk 10:13-16

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 * Ps 69:33-37 * Lk 10:17-24

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass (CLOW & Nursery)

Is 5:1-7 * Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 * Phil 4:6-9 * Mt 21:33-43



Parish Activities

Mon., Oct. 2 6:15pm Religious Education

Tues., Oct. 3 10:00am Scripture Study

6:30pm RCIA

6:30pm Choir

Thurs., Oct. 5 7:00pm Baptism Prep

► **COME CHRISTIANS SING!** Consider this your personal invitation to join our parish choir. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6:30-8:00pm. Cantor practice will begin Oct. 24!

► **Helping Hands** is a group of parishioners who are ready and willing to provide parishioners in need (new moms, those recovering from surgery or an 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.

► **Youth Ministry Movie Night:** Have you ever wondered if what we believe is actually true? Explore the evidence for our faith in the film, *The Case for Christ*, on Oct. 15, 6:00 PM in the Rectory basement. Based on a true story, this film follows an atheist's quest to disprove Christianity once and for all. Open to all Middle/High school students and their families!

► **Thou Shalt Not:** Some parishioners have gotten into the bad practice of comingling Sunday contributions with other items, like CSA, parish raffle, etc. This makes for a nightmare for those who count the collection. Sometimes there are notes on the envelope, sometimes not. Sometimes two checks are included, sometimes not. You will be doing us a big favor, and help guarantee that people are credited appropriately by using the church envelopes only for Sunday contributions. A plain white envelope can be used for other matters.

► **What every parishioner should know:** At East Campus, the AED is located on the wall halfway down the school hallway (outside of the church doors). The **wheelchairs** are located near the ushers' table and at the main church entrance. **Assisted listening devices**, for parishioners who have trouble hearing the Mass, are located at the south entrance of church at the ushers' table. Ushers can help parishioners set the device up before Mass.

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee Have you ever changed your mind? Why? How did you come to a different conclusion?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** What we say and what we do are sometimes different. Jesus points out that both are important but what we do and the way we act in the world will have the larger impact. This story also shows us that it is never too late to act. If our

initial response to something is not in line with God's will, we can change our response. We can always revisit our decisions and correct them if necessary. No matter what we have done, we can always return to God.

► **Living the Word:** Light a candle in your prayer space and talk to your family about how aligning our words with our hearts is hard but necessary work. Often words come out of our mouths before we have had a chance to think about them, and sometimes our actions are automatic. Decide as a family to try to say what Jesus would and then do those things. At the end of the day, gather again and hear each family member report back on the experiment. Ask the children if they listened to the words of others differently.

► **Youth Ministry** had a great cookout last Sunday, and this Sunday they will be going to Skyzone!

► **Scripture Study** begins Tues., Oct. 3rd at 10am in the Parish Center. We will continue using *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*, a Catholic Bible study revealing Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Join us for this DVD series that was filmed in the Holy Land, placing you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Everyone is welcome, even if you did not join us last spring for the first two sessions. Contact Sandy, 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org, with questions.

► **Baptism Preparation Sessions:** First time parent class: Thursday, October 5 at 7pm 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

► **Our soccer season is in full swing!** Go to www.auburnacschool.org > PROGRAMS > Athletics Calendar for dates and times. We would love to see you there!

► **Our parking lot gets very busy during our school drop-off and pick-up times!** For the safety of our students we ask that you please enter from the **EAST** driveway and exit from the **WEST** driveway, during drop-off 8:00-8:30 and pick-up times 3:00-3:30. Thank you!

► **Thank you, Deshano Community Foundation**, for your generous donation!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$7,954.44

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

My "Good Deed" was...

"to help my Mom make playdough for my preschool class."

The Parish in the Community

► **Assumption BVM Rummage Sale:** Tues., Oct. 10, 11am-7pm; Wed., 9am-5pm; Thurs., 9am-Noon (bag and ½ price day).

► **Fish Fry and Bake Sale at Auburn K of C:** Take out only dinner for \$10. Baked goods sold separately. 2:30-7pm, Friday, Oct. 6.

From the pastor's desk

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus tells today's parable immediately after a debate with the chief priests and elders. When they challenged his authority,

Get your flu and/or pneumonia shots here at St. Gabriel on Sunday, Oct. 1 or Saturday, Oct. 7 after Mass! Bring your insurance card!

Jesus asked them to make a public statement about their opinion of John the Baptist. When they refused to be trapped into telling the truth, Jesus refused to answer their questions about himself. He told this parable instead. If we interpret the parable in its cultural context it is more complex than it appears at first glance. Culturally, the first son was a rude rebel. In a society where saving face was highly valued, the son who said, "I will not," wounded his father's dignity and shattered his family's reputation. He effectively put himself outside the family circle. In contrast, the second son honored the father, even to the point of addressing him as "lord." Any observer would have seen that son as exceeding the ideal of filial respect.

Then comes the twist. The deferential son has only a veneer of respect for his father. He might keep things pleasant in the house, but the family business would fall apart under his do-nothing lifestyle. The insolent son actually demonstrated more family commitment than his hypocritical brother. Far from perfect, he was the one who repented. (The word translated as "changed his mind" is translated as repent in other passages and comes from the same root as metanoia.)

With this parable, Jesus pointed out the distinction between what might be called orthodoxy and orthopraxis, between saying the right thing and doing the right thing. His implication was that saying the right thing, following the rubrics, can become nothing more than a façade, leaving a people who look good but accomplish nothing for God. In contrast, doing the right thing will lead to understanding what is right and being able to say it as well.

Philippians

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Our day-to-day activities and choices demonstrate what we see as the meaning of life and indicate what we think God is concerned about. That's the idea behind what Paul told the Philippian community when he said to them: "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Paul went on to quote a well-known hymn that proclaimed the scandalously new image of God that they had encountered in Christ. The very first line proclaimed the essence of Christian faith. Christ Jesus was in the form of God. That is to say: "If you want to know what God looks like, look to this man." The next line gets to the scandal of the Christian revelation: He "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped." That means that Christ was unconcerned about looking like what people thought God should look like. His mode of portraying God in human form had nothing to do with shows of power or imposing dignity. In fact, it was the very opposite. Paul says, "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death." This indicates that to be divine is to be humble. It also explains Jesus' obedience as full communion with the Father whose desire was simply to share life with Humanity. As the one who was divine and human, Jesus' life portrayed self-giving as God's constant activity and humanity's greatest possibility.

That's exactly what Paul was telling the Philippians. You know what Christ was like. You know how he revealed that God's activity is an eternal self-giving, no matter the response. Therefore, go and do likewise! Let that love come alive in you! Forget your petty egoism and vanity. Show the world what divinity looks like! In the process, you will become all you were created to be.

Someone's Knockin'

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

Today's Gospel can remind parents of our own frustrating disobedience stories. Raising children is not for the faint of heart. We may remember our parents saying to us as kids: "Don't touch that," or the dreaded "Eat your lima beans first," and the perennial "Not until you finish your homework." In each case, we had our own little

tricks and objections to get out of it. God experiences the same thing while in conversation with Moses. In the Book of Exodus, we read that Moses did not want to do what God asked of him. Despite continued assurance that God would be with him through it all, Moses still struggled to free himself from God's assignment. Moses finally refuses, saying: "If you please, my Lord, send someone else!"

At the end of the day, our own obedience will save or condemn us. In the Book of Revelation, we read: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house." God says to us, "Answer the door."

What's Your Opinion?

Ted Wolgamot, [Celebration](#)

What do you think of this story that he proceeds to tell about the two sons who are sent out to work in a vineyard? Here's my opinion: You and I are both of these sons. At times, we're people who say all the right things, follow the right rules, profess a belief in all the most important ideas about God and church, and present ourselves as upstanding citizens for all to see. Other times, we change our minds and find ourselves slipping into behaviors that imply a denial of all that we profess to believe. In other words, we're the "Yes, sir" people who then "did not go" in today's Gospel. At other times, we're the people who resist what we know to be the right thing to do. We're the "I will not" person of today's Gospel who "afterwards changed his mind and went." So, we're a mix. Sometimes we say one thing and do another. Other times, we refuse to do the right thing, but then repent and seek forgiveness.

"Lord, empty me of selfishness."

Turn, Turn, Turn

Patricia Sanchez, [Celebration](#)

Adapted from a text in Ecclesiastes (3:13), Pete Seeger's song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" flew to the top of the charts when the folk-rock band The Byrds recorded it and released it in 1965. Seeger's hit song continues to affirm the belief that there is a time and a season for everything under the sun—"a time to be born, a time to die...a time to plant, a time to uproot...a time to kill, a time to heal...a time to see, a time to lose...a time to love, a time to hate." If we were to adapt today's main liturgical theme to this popular tune, we might also add: "There is a time to say 'Yes' and a time to say 'No.'" Today's Gospel reveals something of the challenge of continually turning toward good and toward God. Two sons are featured along with their father, who urges each in turn to go and work in the vineyard. One said "No" but later listened to his heart; there he remembered his love for his father. That love enabled him to turn his "No" into "Yes." His love for his father urged him toward an obedience that was attuned to his father's will. This parable of the Matthean Jesus challenges all who hope to inherit the kingdom to recognize divine invitations to obedience and service. These invitations can be scheduled or spontaneous. They can ask for short-term or long-term commitments. They can be spoken by friends or the not-so-friendly. Each invitation creates an opportunity for a truer, fuller response to God. Will our response be "Yes" or "No"? This is the season to turn from no to yes.

AMEN CORNER: The Diocese has recently informed us that there were no appeals to Rome with respect to the closing of St. Anthony Church. We are now free to examine options with respect to the property. A diocesan representative, Fr. Pat O'Connor, did visit St. Anthony and discussed items that would have to be removed if the church building were sold. He will officially put his evaluations in a letter. The planning group and building committee met on Tuesday evening with the architect to present desired contents for any new church. The architect will now prepare some preliminary drawings.
Fr. Tom