

Week of November 4, 2018

MONDAY

Phil 2:1-4 * Ps 131:1-3 * Lk 14:12-14

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Phil 2:5-11 * Ps 22:26-32 * Lk 14:15-24

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Phil 2:12-18 * Ps 27:1,4,13-14 * Lk 14:25-33

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Phil 3:3-8 * Ps 105:2-7 * Lk 15:1-10

FRIDAY

Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12 * Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 * 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17 *

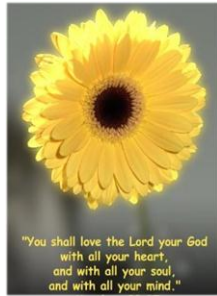
SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass Jn 2:13-22

Phil 4:10-19 * Ps 112:1-2,5-6,8-9 * Lk 16:9-15

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

1 Kgs 17:10-16 * Ps 146:7-10 * Heb 9:24-28 * Mk 12:38-44



Parish Activities

Mon., Nov. 5	6:30pm	Choir Practice
	6:30pm	Bible Timeline
Tues., Nov. 6	10:00am	Scripture Study
	7-9pm	Bible Study-west campus
Thurs., Nov. 8	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Nov. 11	10:45am	Religious Education

NEXT WEEKEND

Member Contact & Update: Addresses and phone numbers change.

You are asked to come before Mass and provide current information.

Coffee and Donuts after each Mass.

Scrip Cards available after each Mass.

Scholastic Book Fair after each Mass.

Food Pantry: Items most needed are spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, cereal, baked beans & tuna.

Also needed for **Thanksgiving Baskets:** cake mix, stuffing, cranberries, potatoes, gravy (turkey provided by St. Gabriel.)



For the Record: Last weekend we had 94 individuals present themselves for the anointing of the sick (36 on Saturday & 58 on Sunday). Let us continue to keep them in our prayers.

Special Donations: For those over 70½ there are Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) nearing from annuities. Those distributions can be applied to charity including the church. While they can't be a charitable deduction, one can avoid having to declare this amount "income", thereby avoiding taxes. We have a growing number of parishioners, including the pastor, who do that.

In a similar vein, one can donate from an annuity to a charity of your choice, including the church. Those are known as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). Those over 70½ can donate up to \$100,000. The amount donated is not taxable; it is non-deductible. Food for thought.

Parish Advent Morning of Reflection: Sat., Dec. 1, 9:30-11:30am with guest presenter Carole Watters. This is an opportunity to come together, give praise and experience joy as we prepare to celebrate again the "Coming of Our Lord." It's a time to open our hearts to the understanding of how to "live out our holiness." There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection, sharing and hospitality. Advance registration required, deadline Sun. Nov. 25. Sign-up sheets will be available at church entrances and Café kiosk, or call the parish office at 662-6861 or email Connie Kaczynski at adulted@auburnmac.org.

That "Love thy neighbor" thing... I meant that! God

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What would it feel like to love God with your whole heart?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** When the scribe asked which Commandment was first, Jesus' answer showed that God demands nothing less than our whole selves. Jesus said that we are to love with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. In other words, we can leave no part of our being out of loving God. If we allow distractions to our faith, our heart will be filled with other loves rather than God. The masters of time, wealth, power and prestige are fickle and always want more. When we love God with our whole heart, and through that, ourselves and our neighbors, we will find that God will fill us with love.

► **Living the Word:** A heart divided is never full. Invite each family member to cut out a large heart and write all the things they love on it. Name people, activities, things and whatever else takes up their time. Cut the heart into pieces, with one item per piece. After mixing up the pieces, put the heart back together. Notice the cracks and how the heart doesn't hold its shape as well. Now make one big heart for the whole family and write God on it. Paste everyone's pieces in it. When God holds everything, we can find wholeness again through that love.

► **Trunk-n-Treat:** The Education Commission would like to thank everyone who participated in the family event Sunday afternoon!! We had to move all the activities inside due to weather, but we managed well!! We had 96 children register for prizes and 18 decorated stations in the school hallway. A special thanks to Steff Schacher and the Youth kitchen crew for the great meal and all the youth for all their help, to the creative parents and youth who quickly adapted their decorated trunks for an inside event. You were Amazing!! And to all the parishioners for their generosity in providing a great assortment of candy for our children. We appreciate everyone working together so we can have this spook-takular event for our Parish.

► **How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation in Voting?**

Faithful Citizenship

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (Living the Gospel of Life, no. 22). Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, Living the Gospel of Life, no. 33).

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **AACS Fundraiser:** Wreaths, Grave Blankets & Poinsettias from Roy Kutchev Greenhouse in Midland. Order forms are at both church entrances for you to fill out and return to the school office or the drop box across from the school office. You are also welcome to contact a school family or the school office to place an order. PTO is offering delivery and clean-up of grave blankets from the church cemetery in the spring. Orders must be received by Nov. 5.

► **Scholastic Book Fair** before school Mon 11/5 – Fri 11/9, 8-8:45am and Mon 11/5-Thurs 11/8, 3:13-4pm.

From Father Tom's Desk

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Today's Gospel tells the unusual story of a nice encounter between Jesus and a scribe. Whether or not the man started out as a sincere questioner, he and Jesus hit it off as they exchanged theological opinions. The man's question was one of the favorite debate topics of the day. Related to, but deeper than the wealthy man's question about how to inherit eternal life, the scribe wanted a rule of thumb, a guiding principle that could be used to discern how to act according to God's will without recourse to the hundreds of regulations that had been attached to the commandments.

Jesus replied by quoting their tradition. He cited Deuteronomy 6:4-5 that proclaims the essence of the Jewish tradition in a formula in which each word contains a world of meaning: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength."

This one command tells Israel, whose name implies they are the people who have struggled with God, that their first responsibility is to hear. They are not called to offer sacrifice, build temples or recite the psalter, but only to listen to what God will say. Then, they are told that only God is God. No matter how greatly they esteem their intelligence, they cannot comprehend God. No matter what shiny objects, what idols or philosophies, positions of power or desire for wealth may attract them, there is but one God. That means that there is but one genuine purpose to their lives and they cannot afford to consecrate themselves to anything less than their one God.

The command to hear, if not all of its implications, was clear to all religious Jews of Jesus' day. They recited it morning and night and kept it before them as a key to their identity. But Jesus wasn't content to leave it at that. The scribe had asked for a guide to discernment, so Jesus added a citation from Leviticus to explain how people could show their love of God. Jesus explained that the second commandment fleshes out the first. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Finally, when the scribe approved of his answer, Jesus replied that he was "not far" from the kingdom of God. All that remained was for the scribe to put his ideas into practice. The first commandment teaches that it is not enough to know about God, as if philosophy and theology could substitute for a personal relationship with the God who loves us. The second commandment reminds us that love of God isn't just a beautiful, mystical feeling. If it is true, it has consequences that make a real difference in the lives of others.

Love the One God (Dt 6)

[Celebration](#)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 might be the most important passage of the Hebrew Scriptures. Verse 4, translated for us as "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" may be interpreted and translated in various ways. It can be taken as a profession of faith: "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" In that case, it calls us to worship God, and God alone, forsaking whatever idols our time and culture propose as substitutes. Another way of translating the statement would be to say "The Lord our God is one Lord." Here, the emphasis is on recognizing that, while God may be worshipped in different sanctuaries, and although there may be different theologies emphasizing different dimensions of who God is, there is but one God, unlimited by shrines, denominations or dogmas.

The "Shema" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), restates the first commandments in positive language, indicating that every "thou shalt not," is only the beginning – whether it refers to our relationship with God or God's creatures. This command, depicted as a mandate to listen with one's whole being, goes on to say that the only thing necessary is to love the one God.

The Son, Our Priest (Heb 7)

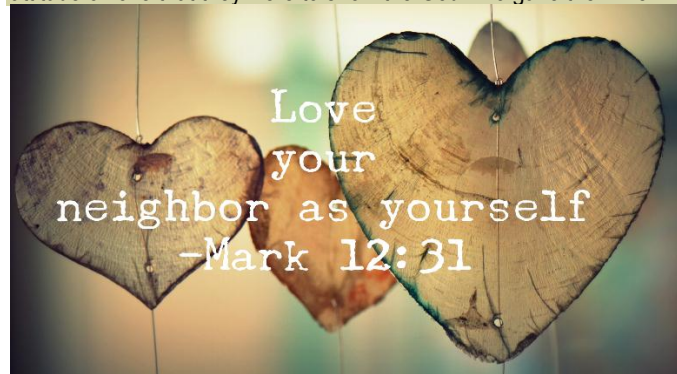
[Celebration](#)

The author explains that Jesus was appointed by God as the son. This, like his resurrected life, adds the dimension that no human priesthood can equal. Jesus' priesthood as the son appointed by God sets him apart from the priests whose office was inherited. God chose Jesus, not to speak on behalf of humanity, but to speak to humanity on God's behalf. His priesthood and his intercession, even his sacrifice, go in the opposite direction from what we think of as priestly intercession. God is appealing through him to humanity, not vice versa. Thus, Christ's priesthood and sacrifice are valid forever and effective for anyone who is willing to accept what he offers in the name of God.

Love of God, Love of Neighbor (Mk 12)

[Celebration](#)

In response to the scribe, Jesus combined two of the popular schools of thought of his day, implicitly connecting heaven and earth, love of God and love of neighbor as two inseparable dimensions of a life of faith. The Lord in whom the people believed, who gave them their identity as a people, demanded that they treat one another with the same attitude of love that they were to show the God who gave them life.



Close to the Kingdom?

Katy Beedle Rice, [Celebration](#)

While Jewish tradition holds that there are 613 commandments found within the Torah, Jesus is saying that in loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves we are in fact keeping them all. It is easy to get caught up in details and thorny issues much like the Herodians, Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests and scribes who question Jesus about authority, taxes and resurrection prior to today's Gospel. None of their questions get to the heart of what it means to live a life worthy of the kingdom of God.

As we come to the end of the church year, now is a good time to take stock of our lives. In every moment, we are given a choice. Are there places we have strayed from the essential core of Jesus' message? Do my actions and my very being communicate reverence for God and reverence for neighbor? When they do, like the scribe in today's Gospel, we are not far from the kingdom of God.

"May your words, Lord,
direct my life."

Stewardship

"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." Mk 12:33

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$8,642.25
Food Pantry: \$25.00 * World Mission Sunday: \$595.00
Christmas Flowers: \$70.00

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...helped put away computers at school. ...help close the cabin.
...gave sister an ice pack when hurt. ...to apologize when I was wrong.