

Week of December 3, 2017

MONDAY

Is 2:1-5 * Ps 122:1-9 * Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Is 11:1-10 * Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 * Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Is 25:6-10 * Ps 23:1-6 * Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Is 26:1-6 * Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27 * Mt 7:21,24-27

FRIDAY Immaculate Conception

9:00am Mass with AACs

7:00pm Mass

Gn 3:9-15,20 * Ps 98:1-4 * Eph 1:3-6,11-12 * Lk 1:26-38

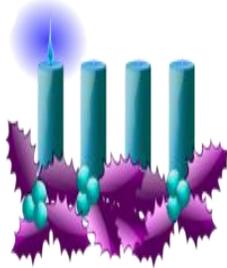
SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Is 30:19-21,23-26 * Ps 147:1-6 * Mt 9:35 - 10:1,5-8

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Is 40:1-5,9-11 * Ps 85:9-14 * 2 Pt 3:8-14 * Mk 1:1-8



Parish Activities

Mon., Dec. 4	6:15-7:30pm	Religious Education
Tues., Dec. 5	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wed., Dec. 6	6:30pm	1 st Reconciliation Celebration
Thurs., Dec. 7	7:00pm	Baptism Prep
Sun., Dec. 10	6:00-7:45pm	Youth Ministry
	6:30-9pm	Café Small Group
		Scripture Study



Prepare the Way

NEXT WEEKEND

Food Pantry: Thank you to everyone who VERY generously donated to the Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving baskets! 19 baskets were given to community families in need. The next food pantry collection will be next week, and the most-needed items are: tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, spaghetti and cereal.

Also: Coffee & Donuts and SCRIP will be available after Masses.

Giving Trees: Please return your gift(s) (with the tag firmly attached!) to the tables in church **no later than Dec. 10 after 9:30am Mass.**

Children's Choir practice for the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass will be on Sundays after the 9:30am Mass. Children ages 5 and older are welcome! Hand chimes practice for the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass will be on Tuesdays at 5:45-6:15pm.

Baptism Preparation session for first time parents will be Thursday, December 7 at 7pm in the Parish Center. Contact Sandy at 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org to register for a prep session and set your celebration date. All baptisms take place on the second weekend of each month except during Lent.

1st Reconciliation celebration will occur this week. Through this sacrament the children and their families will express their sorrow for their sins, and experience the mystery of God's love and healing. God's love for us is so great that God sees us capable of change and able to grow in love. We need to take courageous steps to learn and grow. To be faithful, healthy and happy we need to take the time to reflect on the hurts we cause and the way that we can love more completely. Please pray for our 11 children and their families who will participate in this Sacramental celebration.



Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$7,677.44
Christmas Flowers: \$135.00 * Campaign for Human Dev.: \$175.00

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

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

...I love God and Jesus	...cleaning the basement
...Washing walls	...picking up the basement
...I gave to the sick (sick)	...Playing nice with my cousins

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
How can you use this time of Advent to watchfully prepare for Christ's coming?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The words of an Advent song remind us to "Stay Awake! Be Ready!" Awake in this case means to be watchful just as the gatekeepers in today's Gospel needed to be. Such attentiveness requires a never-ending amount of patience. However, patience does not come easily in a society where fast food and instant communication are expected. Advent calls us to cultivate patience as we seek the ways of the Lord in our daily lives. Are you able to be alert to God stirring among you?

► **Living the Word:** Light a candle and decide as a family how you can visibly wait for Christmas. You could wait to put out the red and green of Christmas and instead decorate with deep purples. You can make an Advent wreath as a family and each night light a candle. You may wait to put up the tree or progressively decorate it. Start with the lights, then the next week add the star, then some tinsel, and in the last week of Advent, add some ornaments daily until you are ready for Christmas.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **K-5th** will be celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with parishioners at Mass on Fri., Dec. 8 at 9am.

► **AACS has Saginaw Spirit Ticket Vouchers** available in the school office. If you would like some, please call 662-6431 or stop by the school office during regular hours, M-F, 8am-4pm.

We are the Sisters of St. Clare, a small community of contemplative nuns. Our mission is to pray for the people of the Saginaw Diocese and the world. We welcome you to our new Advent calendar 2017, now posted on our website at <http://srsclare.com/advent>. If you click on the DATE of each new day, you can share with us a brief meditation. Together we can make this Advent season preparation one of the most beautiful and joyous times of the year.

Advent Communal Reconciliation Services:

- Assumption of the BVM Parish, Midland, Dec. 10, 2:00pm
- Blessed Sacrament Parish, Midland, Dec. 14, 7:00pm
- St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Dec. 21, 7:00pm

December Wedding Anniversaries

40 years or more.....	Charles & Marcia Allore Randy & Lori Lemuel
30 years or more.....	Randall & Pamela Winters John & Patty Leuenberger
10 years or more.....	Jonathan & Talisa Brown
Less than 10 years.....	Joe & Melody Schalk



We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen.

Advent

Mark Searle, "The Spirit of Advent", Notre Dame, IN – quote in 2018 Ordo

Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed-or cursed-with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human being's: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.

Thus we hope for the same things as the Old Testament people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, as a partial fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ from the Old Testament people because Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary; because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our savior in the world.

1st Sunday of Advent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus says in today's Gospel: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Jesus compared the coming of the Son of Man to a master who left his servants in charge of the home front. While the householder left all the servants with jobs to do, Jesus warned that the master could well return during their time off – dinner, late-night, pre-dawn and dawn. About the only people who worked those hours were fishermen (except, of course, the mothers who were on 24-hour call for babies and the sick). In our 1st reading, Isaiah laments the way people have gone astray, forgetting God's call and presence among them. He begs God to rend the heavens, to wake the people up to what God is trying to form them to be.

Advent is probably the church season most vulnerable to corruption and being overshadowed by everything that coincides with it. Whereas the church starts to celebrate Christmas on the night of December 24 and continues through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, society rolls into holiday mode after Halloween and into uncompromising materialism beginning with "Black Friday." Our cultural Christmas ends abruptly on the night of December 25 – leaving only the tree that nobody wants to take down. Ironically, there is nothing more distracting from the mood of Advent than our culture's preparations for Christmas.

How do our readings orient us to enter into this shortest possible Advent season – just 22 days long? Traditionally, we talk about Advent

as a time of waiting. But this week's readings emphasize watching – watching for the signs of God's presence, watching for the ways in which God desires to act as the potter of the clay of our lives. Jesus told the disciples that the master could show up at any hour – when we should be at our task or in moments of well-deserved rest. The task of discipleship then is not so much to be busy as it is to say alert.

Our Father

[Celebration](#)

Today's selection, from one of Isaiah's prayers of lament, begins with a phrase we may too often take for granted, thereby missing its profound implications. Isaiah says, "You, Lord, are our father." That declaration says as much about the people of Israel as it does about God. This statement altered everything the people would think about themselves as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This redefined them as something other than related clans or the nation Moses led out of Egypt. When Isaiah declared that God was their father, he defined them as a people united by a spiritual bond that originated in God and God alone. Whether or not they were related by tribe, whether or not they could call themselves a nation with territory or governance, whether or not they shared a common language, the very core of their identity came from God's relationship to them as their father. They were who they were because of their shared relationship to the God who gave them being, who guided their life together and called them to be a people.

Are You Ready?

[Celebration](#)

As we begin Advent, the Gospel calls us to be alert and watchful. When Jesus told the disciples that they needed to be as aware in their time off as during their working hours, he let them know that serious discipleship will refocus their entire life. Disciples who want to be ready for the master, who want to notice the signs of God's presence in the world need to imitate parents who cultivate an ongoing awareness of their little ones. Parents and those who care for the frail and elderly don't have to dote unceasing on the person they are caring for, but they have to keep one ear constantly attuned for any call that demands a response.

In this season so full of glitzy distractions, the Gospel reminds us that God's ongoing advent into our lives is not bound to a calendar or even to a liturgical schedule. There's no predicting the moment when God will show up in our lives. We never know at what moment the Master will be seeking our faithful response.

*'Lord, may I be ready for
your advent into my life.'*

Amen Corner: This weekend, floor plan drawings of the proposed building project are on display in both entrances. There is a take-home sheet available with the plan. Next weekend they will also be on display and after Mass during coffee and donuts, members of the committees will be available to discuss the plan. The committee members are: Mike Buchmann, Kristin Lance, John LaMarre, Mark LeVasseur, Sally Czabala, Brian Ora, Betsy Anderson, Sue LeVasseur, Tony Lupo and Fr. Tom (ex-officio). You are invited to contact them by phone (their no. is in the pictorial directory) or by email (you can send the email to the parish office at info@auburnac.org and the secretary will forward it to a specified member or to one of the members if there is no specific request). The intent of the display is to get a sounding from the parishioners. Whether you have a little or a lot to say, say it. This is not a time for silence.

Fr. Tom