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Connie Kaczynski Karen Willsie Pam Graul-Gwizdala

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BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM (Not July)
Sunday 9:30 AM Thursday 8:00 AM (Not July)

WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday 8:00 AM (Labor Day through Memorial Day)

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated the 2nd weekend each month. (Please check with parish office for current schedule) Must be active, registered member of parish family. Contact the Parish Office

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made by contacting Parish Office at least six months in advance. Must be active, registered member of parish family.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Notify Parish Office of parishioners experiencing serious illness, injury, or hospitalization. Communal Anointing of the Sick is celebrated annually in the Fall.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available 1st Saturday each month at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish call Parish Office for appointment.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
114 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
Phone (989) 662-6431 Fax: (989) 662-3391
www.auburnacschool.org
Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
School Office..... schooloffice@auburnac.org

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal..... (989) 662-6431

WEATHER POLICY

If Bay City Public Schools or Auburn Area Catholic School close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of all (including the St Anthony site) evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6TH, 2021

MONDAY

181: Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

182: Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY 9 am and 7 pm Mass

689: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-28

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

184: Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY

185: Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4,6 Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

186: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

9: Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18



EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families: Sara McGinnis Lee

John the Baptist called everyone to repentance. How can each of us help make our world ready to receive Jesus today? We must continue to prepare the way for Jesus in our day and pray for our leaders that they do the same.

Reflecting on the Word:



The birth of Jesus was not some abstract event. In fact, Jesus was born in a specific place at a specific time. We can locate his birth in history by identifying the leaders who lived at that time. Yet each year we prepare for Jesus to come into the world again, in our time. We must turn ourselves around to God and ask forgiveness of our sins.

Living the Word:

Are the preparations for Christmas overwhelming you or causing anxiety? Make time to gather as family to reflect on how each member might spiritually prepare for Jesus' arrival. Ground your family in lasting things and do your best to ensure that materialism will not rule the day.

Congratulations to our Parish Children who received 1st Reconciliation this past Wednesday evening. Eighteen children were prepared this year to celebrate this Sacrament. It is a beautiful way to grow in love and a way to prepare our hearts and spirit during this Advent Season.



The Feast of St. Nicholas – December 6th.



A fourth-century bishop from Asia Minor, St. Nicholas is the inspiration for Santa Claus and the patron of children. Known for his acts of charity, he often left gifts of food or money for the poor in the dark of night so that only God could see his good works. On this night in many countries' children put shoes outside their door to be filled with treats in memory of St. Nicholas's great kindness. This is a great tradition to start with your children. It is a reminder that St. Nick, rooted in our Catholic faith, showed us how to share and to love others.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored on December 8. It is a holyday of obligation. We will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Many people believe that the feast celebrates Jesus' conception, but it celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception; the fact that Mary was, from the first moment of her existence (her conception in her mother, Anne's womb), without sin, and chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Mary was totally free from original sin, so that she could be Jesus' human mother. Angel Gabriel tells Mary "The Lord is with you." Mary responded to the angel that she would fully cooperate with God's plan for her. Her "yes" required great trust and even greater faith. Mary believed the angel because she knew nothing is impossible with God. Do you feel God's love, or grace in your life? Do you say yes to God like Mary did? Our yes is no different than Mary's if we have faith when we say it.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 6th – VIRTUS Session 6 pm
RCIA 6 pm

Tuesday, December 7th – Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Wednesday December 8th – Immaculate Conception

Thursday December 9th – Commission Meetings 6:30 pm
Parish Council 7:30 pm

Saturday/Sunday December 11th/12th – Giving Trees Gift Return,
Coffee and Donuts & Scrip Sale

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$7,354
Food Pantry: \$400 **Religious Retirement:** \$80
Campaign for Human Development: \$45
In Memory of Rose Hilden: \$175
Children's Good Deeds

...Make someone happy when she was sad...

...Emptying the dishwasher...Help clean up after my birthday party...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

This week our students started the first week of Advent with a prayer service and received a new virtue for the month of December. We have weekly prayer services through the Advent season to help the children prepare for Christmas. Jesus is the light of the world, and the Advent wreath gives the students a great reminder of this fact. The virtue for the month of December is Patience. Obviously, this is an important virtue in all aspects of our lives. We have a lot of instant gratification in our lives and it makes practicing patience very difficult. Teaching the children virtues helps both behaviors in school, also helps them to become good human beings.

There will be SCRIP available after mass on both 12/11 and 12/18 In case you might need some gift cards for Christmas! SCRIP is a simple program; you pay \$50 for a \$50 gift card to Meijer and the school will receive anywhere from \$1-10 from the sale of that gift card. It may

not seem like a lot (1%-20% on each card), but after thousands of dollars in purchases, it does add up! The gift card is then yours to spend on any item from the store you buy. This year, \$2,200 was given to the teachers (\$350 per teacher) to help them start their rooms up. The money helps to offset the total amount they spend on their students' supplies yearly.

... **God Bless...**

Scrip
Gift Cards



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Season of Advent: Mark Searle, Assembly, Notre Dame

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 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 already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognize the new situation, they are models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

Second Sunday of Advent: Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

Sounding much like a civil engineer making out a work order for his crew, the Baptizer enumerates those feats that must be accomplished to worthily welcome the coming Messiah-Savior: (1) *Make ready the way, clear him a straight path.* This first item on John's "to do list" for Advent prompts us to reflect upon who or what stands in the way between Christ and me. What "baggage" have I accumulated over the past year or years that could prove to be an obstacle, a stumbling block or a detour that might delay or prevent an honest and forthright relationship with the Coming One; (2) *Every valley shall be filled; every mountain shall be leveled.* Second on John's Advent list is a challenge to fill up those spiritual hollows in our lives that have been deepened by a lack of virtue, e.g., kind words left unspoken or compassionate deeds left undone, bread not shared, service withheld; prayers neglected, neighbors not welcomed, the poor and their needs left poorly attended, the urgings of the Spirit we have ignored, the overtures of love we've denied a response, etc. Included also in this second entry of the Baptizer's list is a challenge to level those mountains of pride and unbridled self-promotion that prevent us from standing in truth before God and others. Hills of arrogance, blind ambition and a domineering attitude must also yield to the quieter, truer, humbler way of Christ: (3) *Make the winding straight* and the rough ways smooth. With this Advent mandate, John bids us examine and eradicate the deceptions, dissimulation, manipulations, and

conniving ways that too often characterize our dealings with one another and leave us unprepared to welcome the God of integrity, authenticity, and justice. Similarly, John exhorts all serious Advent believers to smooth the rough way of anger, impatience, intolerance, prejudice, racism, and favoritism that cause frictions to arise between us, thereby separating and alienating us from one another; If we are truly sincere in awaiting the Prince of Peace and justice must begin to live among us here and now.

Anticipating John and reprising the theme of Advent's First Sunday, the prophet Baruch (first reading) reminds us that it is *justice*, God's justice that will prevail, when the Savior for whom we wait makes his final appearance. Until then, and with John's list to guide our heads, hands, and hearts, we can share the confidence that Paul had in the Christians of Philippi (second reading). If we allow, God *will* carry to completion the good work that is begun in us. Christ is coming to be borne among us again in glory, but it is we who must be in labor, eager to right the wrongs and fill up what is lacking to ready his way.

God's Action (Baruch 5): Celebration

The urgency of our Advent eagerness for God to act (to come among us) lies in the fact that humankind cannot produce its own salvation. The resources for our salvation do not lie within possibilities of human history; they must necessarily come from outside the parameters of our abilities. Neither can the incarnation or the Parousia be thought of as products of human evolution. At once a humbling and sobering thought our Advent attitude and spiritually need never, however, be dampened by hopelessness or doubt. Ours is a God who has freely and lovingly chosen to become involved in human history; begun before the creation of the world, that involvement never ends. Therefore, we remain a people of hope and confident trust; we live each day with renewed and growing anticipation of what has been promised to us in Christ Jesus.

Prioritizing (Philippians 1): Celebration

Paul's prayer for the Philippians reaches out across the centuries to include us in its spiritual embrace. Today, as he did almost three millennia ago, Paul prays that our love, understanding (knowledge) and sensitive perception may abound so that we might "learn to value the things that really matter, up to the day of Christ" (v. 10). What a gift! What a blessing!...to develop a value system and a means of setting priorities that will be based on the sacred and the enduring gifts of God rather than on secular, seasonal and elusive pleasures, and pastimes.

Salvation for All (Luke 3): Celebration

During his ministry, Jesus would illustrate, in vivid and minute detail, the implications and ramifications of his universal saving intent. For those on the outside, looking in upon the salvation that once had been thought to be the sole prerogative of the chosen people, this was good news; indeed, they would find a welcome and a home in the coming reign. For those who had traditionally regarded themselves as the sole heirs of salvation, this "good news" required a certain attitude adjustment. If ever we dare to adopt a similarly provincial posture and presume the divine prerogative of determining who can and shall be saved, we must remind ourselves of today's gospel. When we dare to assume that there is someone so different, so weak, so unlikely or so unworthy that he/she is outside the pale of God's saving concern, we must remember Luke's universal emphasis. Good news through it is, it is also news intended to disturb and disconcert until it enlarges our hearts, enlightens our minds, and unclenches our fists to welcome the truth...*all* shall see the salvation of God.

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

"Wrapping things up"...

The Giving Trees will be up one more weekend until December 6th or all the tags are gone. **Gifts must be returned by December 12th.** We have 6 very worthwhile causes to support, and we hope that you will stop by and pick-up a tag or two so we can make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate!



Food Pantry Needs...

As we come to the end of another year we would like you to know some statistics about our Food Pantry. We monthly give away approximately **30-40 boxes of food**, this past year we gave away **450+ boxes of food!** That does not include the 49 Thanksgiving boxes we provided. So that being said...we need to ask for some help

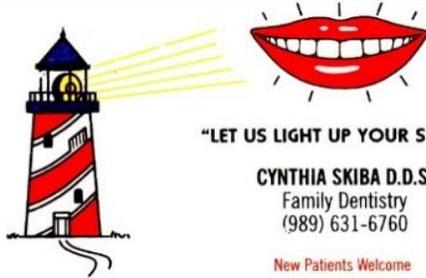
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St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611

COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,000	\$1,500
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,400	\$1,750
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 300 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 500	\$1,200
Burial	\$ 650	\$ 850
Burial of Cremains	\$ 150	\$ 175
Saturday Burial	\$ 200 additional	\$ 200 additional
Foundation	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch

Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861

Prices Effective July 1, 2019