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**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal .....662-6431

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Ph.: 662-6431 Fax: 662-3391 [www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org)

Clark Switalski, Principal ..... [cswitalski@auburnac.org](mailto:cswitalski@auburnac.org)

School Office..... [schooloffice@auburnac.org](mailto:schooloffice@auburnac.org)

**WEATHER POLICY**

If Bay City Public Schools 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 7, 2020

#### MONDAY

181: Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26

#### TUESDAY

**Holy Day, 9 am Mass & 7 pm Mass**

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

#### WEDNESDAY

**8 am Mass**

183: Is 40: 25-31 Mt 11: 29-30

#### THURSDAY

**8 am Mass**

184: Is 41: 13-20 Mt 11: 11-15

#### FRIDAY

185: Is 48: 17-19 Mt 11: 16-19

#### SATURDAY

**4:30 pm Mass**

690A: Zec 2: 14-17 or Rv 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab Lk 1: 26-38

#### SUNDAY

**9:30 am Mass**

8:ls 61:1-2a,10-11(Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54 1Thes 5:16-24Jn1:6-8,19-28



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

At Mass, we heard John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord.

How can we ready our spirits for the God of Gods this Advent?

#### Reflecting on the Word:



In the very first verse of his Gospel, Mark identifies Jesus as not just the Son of David, the Messiah, whom the Jewish people were long awaiting, but *the Son of God*. We are then introduced to John the Baptist, who prepares the way for the Son of God by preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins. To sin is to separate or alienate oneself from God. John offered baptism to those who repented their sins before God and readied themselves to receive God's forgiveness, while acknowledging that one is coming who can baptize them not just with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

#### Living the Word:

On the Second Sunday of Advent, add a visual representation of the Holy Spirit to your family's nativity. Use red and orange tissue paper to decorate a glass votive (a mason or jelly jar will do) light a votive candle inside. Or draw and cut out doves to fly over the manger. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill your hearts.

#### Advent Dates...

*December 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Nicholas* -- 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 no one but 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' great kindness.



*December 8<sup>th</sup> – Immaculate Conception* – This holy day celebrates that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free from sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her 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 that 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. Mass is at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

*December 12<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Guadalupe* – In 1531 Mary appeared to an Indian named Juan Diego in Tepeyac, Mexico. When asked by the bishop to produce proof of her appearance, he presented his cloak upon which the Virgin had emblazoned her image. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas. As Mary appeared to Juan Diego as a humble Aztec maiden, consider your own concern for the poor and lowly as you read her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

#### Cancellation

We are cancelling the two scheduled Communal Penance services, Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, due to current Covid-19 surge. We do not feel that we would be able to social distance appropriately due to the large number of participants at past Penance services.



### PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Immaculate Conception-Mass 9am & 7pm**

**Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Meeting**

**Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent**

### STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$10,962    **Offering:** \$6,943.50

**Food Pantry:** \$150    **Diocesan Collections:** \$352

**Christmas Flowers:** \$125

*Thank you for your continued financial support. It is appreciated!*

#### Children Good Deed

...I helped clear the table after lunch...Help with laundry...

...I helped put up Christmas lights...Made my bed...Played with Ava

### AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

This month the children will have a number of fun days to dress up during the holiday season. Every week there will be some "fun" days added in, such as "dress like a candy cane" or "run, run, Rudolph" (Wear some comfy workout clothes.). The 15 days before Christmas break are a time for the students to prepare themselves for Jesus and the Christmas season. Jesus is the reason for the season, and helping students understand that, while still having a little fun, is extremely important.

John the Baptist foreshadows the one who will come after him in the Gospel this week. Preparing the minds and hearts of the Jewish people was an important step to help facilitate the change to Jesus. Changing anything in our lives is difficult and for the Jewish people, Jesus was about to change their whole notion of faith in God. After you have been doing something for a number of years, it is actually harder to change from doing it that specific way. For instance, think of your favorite recipe, that one you have memorized, the one you know you could make with your eyes shut. Now with that recipe in mind, how would you respond if the main ingredient was completely overhauled and changed, would you still feel as confident about your recipe? Or would you begin to doubt your prepared dish? Now really think about if someone did this to your faith and the religion you have been practicing for a very long time.....

✝ **God Bless**





**FROM  
FR. TOM'S  
DESK**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Each of today's sacred texts communicates a similar mystery: Ours is a God who comes. God does not avoid humankind but comes to be in our midst. In the first reading, Isaiah comforts his exiled contemporaries with the good news that God is coming to their rescue. God will bring healing and forgiveness, and with a shepherd's care, God will gather them and lead them home. This vision of God's future intervention on their behalf strengthened the exiles with the awareness that even in the pain and shame of their struggle, God saw and cared and was near. They were to hold fast to their faith and trust that the prophet's words would be realized.

When the second and third generation believers in Jesus began to question his second coming among them, the author of 2 Peter encouraged the doubting and the hopeless that even though the delay might seem untenable, God would indeed come to them in Jesus. They, for their part, should make the most of the delay by using the time at hand to prepare themselves for welcoming God. If you read between the lines, you might hear the ancient author say, "If you knew for certain that Jesus was coming tomorrow, what might you do to get ready?" Take that agenda and make your own *today*. "These same words invite our preparation for God who comes.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer is featured as one who took the necessity of being prepared very seriously. John exercised a ministry that purposefully alerted others to the coming Jesus and urged them to prepare a way for him in their hearts and lives. By his words, by his wardrobe and by the witness of his life, John became a living lesson in being prepared. His example prompts us to consider our own level of preparedness for the God who comes.

**Reason for Hope: (Isaiah 40)**

*Celebration*

Through the consoling power of the prophet's words, the displaced Judahites learned to be present to the God who was present to them in every place and in every situation. Even in the throes of their most desperate struggles, the presence of God spelled out good news, which they were to shout from the mountaintop. The prophet did not want his people to lament their situation and thereby sink into an irretrievable depressive state; he sought to raise the hopes of the seemingly hopeless. He was not necessarily offering facile answers to their questions about how their situation might be changed, nor was he suggesting a strategy of escape or rebellion. The prophet was drawing from the depths of their covenant with God. That relationship was built to withstand any circumstance and continue to be the wellspring of Israel's hope and strength: "Give comfort to my people."

**Active Waiting: (2 Peter 3)**

*Celebration*

Addressed to the churches of Asia Minor this pseudonymous letter was written to strengthen second-century Christmas in their faith. Probably the last written of all the New Testament writings, this letter acknowledged the difficulty of believing and writing for Jesus at a time when numerous false teachers pointed to the delay as proof that the Parousia would never be realized. Some claimed that Jesus was little more than a provocative teacher whose "15 minutes of fame" had come to an end. To correct these misguided ideas, the ancient Christian author affirmed the certainty of Christ's coming. To raise the expectations of those who were growing impatient, the author of 2 Peter explained that human calendars have no relevance beyond the parameters of time and space; a thousand years might breeze by like a day. Therefore, rather than become perturbed or disheartened by the delay, believers should utilize the time at hand to repent and be reconciled with God and with one another. In that way, when the day of the Lord does dawn, all will be ready. In that way also, the ancient author has suggested, the day of the Lord might be hastened.

**A Voice in the Desert: (Mark 1)**

*Celebration*

Mark's summation of John's message (v.7), with its reference to sandals, may have been influenced by the ancient Egyptian custom where a slave was appointed to be the sandal bearer for the pharaoh. By describing himself in that subservient role to Jesus, John the Baptizer; as presented by Mark, affirmed the fact that John was the messenger and the voice, but Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. Jesus would bring a baptism superior to that of John. Whereas John's baptism was a sign of the willingness to repent, the baptism of Jesus would initiate the believer into the very life of God. We who share in that life, we in whom the Spirit dwells, are challenged by the courage and commitment of John to be strong in our faith and truthful in the witness we offer in our thoughts, in our words, in our works.

**Being in the Desert:**

Catherine Upchurch, *The Liturgical Press*

The desert is a persistent reality in the geography of the biblical world. And it is a persistent spiritual reality for Jews and Christians alike. If you've visited a desert or live in the desert regions of our country, you know its qualities: silence, sometimes interrupted by the sounds of rattling snakes or hissing insects; hot days and cold nights; a certain bleakness and barrenness. But we also know that the desert, if we stick with it, has its own beauty. There's nothing like discovering an outcropping of small colorful spring flowers in the midst of the tan landscape or finding a stream that seems to enliven the whole rocky scene, or the vastness of the horizon and the magnificence of the starry nights.

Advent provides us the opportunity to hear the Good News from whatever desert we find ourselves in. We are encouraged to recognize the desert experiences in our own lives: the losses we cannot let go of, the times when we have lingered too long in hurt rather than accepting or offering forgiveness, the dry spells when we wonder about God's care for us. There is still a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us to prepare our hearts for the one who is to come.

**Wait in Prayer:**

Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

While you are waiting for anything, pray about something: your wayward child or aged parent, starving children, people without jobs. There are 7 billion people to pray for. And there are millions of things going on that could use your prayer: the ozone layer, the rainforest, global hunger, the economy, world peace.

With prayer, you get closer to God and help these people and situations. You expand your own heart to billions of people and events. Instead of focusing your attention on fretful waiting, you join all of humanity in this single instant and bring them to God's attention.

**New Beginning:**

*Grace Works*

Perhaps you know the story of the caterpillars that were crawling along the verdant grass when suddenly they found themselves slogging through grime, mire and mud. They went from beautiful grass to goopy mud. As they struggled, the caterpillars noticed the shadow of butterfly wings above them. These butterflies reflected the brilliance of the sun in their glorious wings. One of the caterpillars turned to the other as the butterflies flew over and said, "I don't know about you, but they are never going to get me up in one of those contraptions."

And, so it is with us. We slug through the mire and grime of life, and God, in God's grace and God's love, flies overhead saying, "Look, this is what you were made to be. In order, for that to happen, there must be transformation from the inside out. This transformation is called a new birth, conversion, into being a Christian.

Can life begin again? You bet it can! In this season of expectation, this Advent moment of new beginnings, let God paint God's new portrait of love in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ. Throw away that fingered, tattered picture of God who never did a thing worth celebrating. And in its place, discover the One whose heart longs to make us new from the inside out.



**"Enkindle in me, Holy Spirit, the fire of your love"**

**November Report:** The Diocese is doing all the record keeping for Christ's Mission Appeal (CMA). We received a report last week. Our target this year is \$71,201. So far 36% of our parishioners have responded pledging or donating \$46,235. If you have not responded, I ask that you do so. Despite the turbulent times the parish still has an obligation to support the diocesan budget.



**A Prayer for the Second Sunday of ADVENT**

God of patience, show us your wisdom in time, that we may grow to expect your action on your time. Teach us to be gentle and patient with ourselves. Make us receptive to your timing in others. Help us see the long view when we are caught in the frustration of waiting. Amen.

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**St. Anthony Cemetery**  
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**Auburn, MI 48611**

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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

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