

# Week of December 10, 2017

## MONDAY

Is 35:1-10 \* Ps 85:9-14 \* Lk 5:17-26

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Com.

Zec 2:14-17 \* Jdt 13:19 \* Lk 1:26-38

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Is 40:25-31 \* Ps 103:1-4,8,10 \* Mt 11:28-30

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Is 41:13-20 \* Ps 145:1,9-13 \* Mt 11:11-15

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Sir 48:1-4,9-11 \* Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 \* Mt 17:9-13

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Is 61:1-2,10-11 \* Lk 1:46-50,53-54 \* 1 Thes 5:16-24 \* Jn 1:6-8,19-28



## Parish Activities

Mon., Dec. 11	6:15-7:30pm	Religious Education
Tues., Dec. 12	6:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wed., Dec. 13	6:00pm	Planning Group/Building Committee Meeting
Thurs., Dec. 14	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Dec. 17	6:00-7:45pm	Youth Ministry
	6:30-9pm	Café Small Group Scripture Study

## Baptism

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you;  
Before you were born, I dedicated you." Jeremiah 1-5

### Gunner Steven Gormley

son of Steven & Allison Gormley

## Welcome New Members!

John, Judy, Bridget and Abigail Hunsinger  
Chris, Stacy, Connor, Camden and Ava Krueger  
Jim, Kathy and Alison Kruske

Robert, Lori, Cohen and Addyson Novy  
Kevin and Julie Przybylski

Cheryl Scott & Kendra Shann & Lynn Stevens  
Michael, Andrea, Nathan and Nicholas Shelogowski  
Paul and Anne Warren

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$27,441.21  
Christmas Flowers: \$84.00 \* Religious Retirement: \$265.00  
Campaign for Human Development: \$147.00

**Help Religious Communities:** "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

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

....making tea for Grandma    ....helping clean the basement  
....I made everyone's bed    ... helping with the Christmas tree

We had thirteen people attend the Advent Morning of Reflection last Saturday. Thank you to those individuals for joining together in prayer, reflection, sharing and fellowship. What a good way to enter into this holy season!

**Be sure to check out** the following Catholic Updates available at the Café Kiosk: *The Liturgical Year: How Christian's Celebrate Time and Holy Day vs. Holiday: Making Christmas Less Commercial.*

**Coming Soon...** Beginning on Monday evenings in January we will be offering the **Great Adventure Bible Timeline**. Additional details can be found at the Café Kiosk. Sign-up sheets are available at the church entrances.

## Education/Formation

### Family Talk Time

Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

How can we be light in a world that often looks so dark?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** John the Baptist is a wonderful reminder of our ability and necessity to be present in the Christ story as it unfolds today. The path is still not completely clear. We are being called to proclaim the forgiveness of sins today more than ever. This ongoing preparation takes place in the gentle turning of hearts and minds of all we meet toward the love and acceptance of God. In this time of darkness, we are called to be light for one another.

► **Living the Word:** Bring the light into your home tonight. As a family, make or decorate a special candle or candle holder that you can light at the dinner table to bring warmth and cheer in this time of darkness. Let it stand as a reminder of the constant need for preparation in our hearts and minds. You could use bits of tissue paper and a mixture of glue and water or mod podge to cover the outside of a glass jar, creating a stained-glass effect when a votive candle is placed inside.

► **Symbols of the Season** "Take Out", Dec. 2017, *Family Faith on the Go*

**The Christmas Tree** is a beautiful symbol of the Nativity. Like the evergreen branches, God's love never withers. The lights remind us that Christ is the light of the world. An angel atop the tree points to the angel that announced Jesus' birth, and a star on the highest branch represents the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Magi to the Christ child. Christmas trees help us remember Jesus and why he was born.

**Family Faith idea:** As you decorate your tree, talk about what the symbols of each of the decorations mean. Offer a blessing for your tree and all that it represents when the decorating is complete.

Loving God, encircle this tree with your blessing. May its twinkling lights remind us of the peace you bring to all the world. May we find joy in the memories we share and may the gifts beneath the tree help us appreciate the gift of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Mark Your Calendar:** Auburn Area Catholic School's Christmas Program will be Tues., Dec. 19 at 6:30pm. Come and see "Little Star".

► **The Book Mobile** will be in St. Gabriel parking lot on Thursday, December 14, 1:15-2:15pm.

► K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be singing **Christmas songs at Auburn Fields** on Friday, December 15. They will be accompanied by our music teacher, Mr. Tuttle and our Parish music director, Sue LeVasseur.



**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.

**If we want things to stay as they are,  
things will have to change!!**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

"Prepare ye the way!" What's the call in that? John the Baptist, one of the Christian Scripture's most colorful characters, got people's attention with that message. We quote him as saying "repent," but the word he used wasn't quite so puritanical. John didn't call for self-incriminating scruples



mindedness. The Greek coming from *meta* which *nous* which refers "to *noia* can be seen as a typical or "normal" mind-change in our vision of a transformation of the The Gospel tells us flocking to John at the sins and go through cleansing dunk. If we imagine that scene with the excesses of crowds and enthusiasm Mark describes, we will get quite a picture. The crowd's confession of sin wasn't at all what we think of a recitation of transgressions – and there was nothing private about it. It was a communal and enthusiastic public demonstration in which groups of people got excited about the idea that life could be much better than it was. Their confession said, "We've settled for less, but no more!"

The corollary to that confession, what brought it about and what it was intended to lead to, was a dream about how things could be. Isaiah offered people a vision of a world without the divisions and barriers symbolized by valleys and mountains. Everything that plagued people, families and nations would be smoothed out. The whole world would see how good God is. All peoples would learn that the power of God is the power of love, that God enters history not as a warrior but like a shepherd.

Mark doesn't spell out John's version of that dream in the ways that Matthew and Luke do. Mark cuts to the quick and says John preached three things: repentance, forgiveness and the coming of one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Mark often gives us the Cliffs Notes version of the Gospel, an approach that challenges us to spell out the details in the ways most appropriate to our own time and place.

## Mary and the Season of Advent [Celebration](#)

This year, the Second Sunday of Advent comes exactly between two great feasts of Mary: the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary as the first one redeemed by Christ; we might think of her as the first fully human person in history, the one who fulfilled all her potential as a child of God, a fully self-giving collaborator with the plan of God. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe brings the Gospel message uniquely home to the Americas. In celebrating *La Morenita* (as she is fondly called in Spanish-speaking cultures), we celebrate the fact that the Incarnation implies enculturation. Just as the word took flesh in the first century, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a visible image of Christianity's ability to express itself in the signs and symbols, the language and culture of every people on earth.

The Second Sunday of Advent invites us to a meta-dream. Isaiah and the images of the Blessed Virgin give us a vision of what life can be like. We are created with the potential to share divine life, to share the joy of being part of a humanity at peace, smoothing out what divides us and rejoicing in the multiple ways our different cultures can incarnate the love of God. We will never make it happen if we don't

first imagine it. The call to repent is a call to let go of our puny expectations. The promise of forgiveness tells us that God will never condemn us to remain trapped in the selfishness we have chosen. There is always more possibility.

Finally, the promise of Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit tells us that we, like Mary, can be overshadowed by God and become bearers of Christ's presence in our world. The glory of the Lord can be revealed in us and among us. Let us open our minds and hearts and prepare the way of the Lord.

## Comfort to My People (Isaiah) [Celebration](#)

What distinguishes Judaism, Islam and Christianity from other world religions is our belief in God's involvement in human history. All three traditions envision God as the Creator, the giver of all life. Christianity gives that kind of faith a unique focus through belief that Jesus Christ offers us God's ongoing invitation and potential to participate in the eternal life of divine love. That tells us the deepest meaning of "give comfort to my people." Paul taught us this in Romans 8, and Ignatius of Loyola explained it with his injunction to find God in all things. The bottom line is that we believe in Emmanuel, God with us. That's all the comfort we could ever want.

## 2 Peter [Celebration](#)

This reading calls us to take time to think about what we really believe about where history is headed. Peter tells us that God is continually active, even if subtly, and drawing all things forward into the life that will not perish. If we believe that, Peter calls us to consider what it means for our way of living.

As the Second Letter of Peter draws to a close, we are invited to take the long view. We can't manage God's perspective. But we can amplify our own vision by faithfully remembering that the divine vantage point is larger than ours. When we have taken steps in that direction, when we remember that God is drawing all things toward the fullness of divine life, then all we need to do is move forward, eager to be ready for what God is preparing. It is greater than we can imagine, but if we do as Peter suggests by growing in holiness and devotion, we will find our imagination and joy growing as well

## One More Step [Denise Simeone, Celebration](#)

As we light another Advent candle, we remember the fire lit in us by bringing the word of God to the world. We stand again in awe of a God who became flesh, who entered human history as one of us. We make our own the message of John and the prophets: God is coming! Clear the way. Remove the obstacles. Make straight the path! Here is your God!

## 'Help me, Lord, to prepare your way.'

**Relocation:** The statues of Our Lady of Fatima and the children who experienced the apparition have been moved to this site. They were placed to the west of the school entrance because proximity to the children seemed most appropriate. Sue LeVasseur was the individual behind the transfer. Artisans did the work.

## Amen Corner

The floor plans for the building and remodeling project have been made known. Are we willing, capable of taking on such a challenge? The intent is to best meet our current needs in this one place and, at the same time, to show care for future generations of parishioners.

The names of the committee members were printed last week. They want to hear from you if you haven't already given your comments. Contact the parish office for assistance in communicating with the committee.

Fr. Tom