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Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	Pam Graul-Gwizdala

PRAYER LINE

Mary Jane..... (989) 513-5137 vicmaryj@hotmail.com

Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

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 *Please 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 AACS close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5.

Week of December 13th, 2021

MONDAY

187: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

188: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 Mt 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

189: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 7:18b-23

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

190: Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Lk 7:24-30

FRIDAY

193: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

194: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

12: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Name the occupation of each member of your family, including student. Challenge our children to consider how John the Baptist would advise each family member in those occupations. In the context of those occupations, how would John answer?

Reflecting on the Word:



It is interesting to note that John the Baptist never encouraged those who came to him to become someone or something different. He never told them to change occupations. He simply told them to be better at what they were already doing. Building God's kingdom, preparing others to recognize and receive Jesus in the world requires any different types of people and a variety of

occupations and actions. We each have unique gifts to offer. It is also our responsibility to continue to improve and be better at what we do so we can contribute to the kingdom.

Living the Word:

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "joy." As a family member lights the third candle of your advent wreath, rejoice in the warmth and joy of family. Invite them to pause each day this week to share something that brought them joy and to thank God for it.

A Season of Joy! Joy is what happens inside you. Joy is deeper than happiness because it stays with you no matter how you are feeling at any given moment. The central message of the New Testament is joy! Take some time this week to reflect on these scripture passages:



- When Jesus was born the angels brought glad tidings of joy Luke 2:10
 - Jesus assured us that He came so that His joy will be in us, and our joy will "be complete" John 15:11
 - St. Peter Tells us that even though we have never seen Jesus, we believed in Him, and we are filled "with an indescribable and glorious joy" 1 Peter 1:8
 - St. Paul tells us "Rejoice in the Lord always" Philippians 4:4
 - One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is joy Galatians 5:22
- Find joy every day:
- Begin each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.
 - Give God all your fears and worries.
 - Offer up all the suffering and disappointments you experience.
 - Take a moment each day to appreciate the beauty of nature.
 - Learn to laugh at yourself and don't be afraid to make mistakes.

Blessing Prayer for the Christmas Tree

www.usccb.org > Prayer and Worship > Blessings > Objects



Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: The Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 13th - RCIA - 6 pm

Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 15th - Penance Service - 7 pm

Saturday, December 18th - Scrip Sale Weekend (Sat./Sun.)

Sunday, December 19th - CLOW- 9:30 am

Religious Ed 10:45 am

Youth Ministry 6-7:30 pm

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$12,566

Campaign for Human Development: \$20

Religious Retirement: \$440 Food Pantry: \$250

Children Good Deeds

... Helping my family decorate the Christmas tree...

...Reading a book to Sy...Stacked wood...

...Helped put the puzzle together...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



The school is working towards Christmas break. Throughout the month, the students will dress up in a lot of funny outfits to help bring

in the season. Whatever they may dress up as, *elves, grinchies, trees*, or "crazy" Christmas, we know that Jesus is the true reason for Christmas, however Christ is sometimes left out of it. Instead, it turns into an elaborate event where we focus on the presents we give or receive. Jesus' sacrifice is not a part of the discussion.

John the Baptist is the us of the Gospel this week. John talked to a lot of different people through his ministry. He was very vocal about how he worked to prepare everyone for Jesus' coming. He never asked them to change who they were, but he did ask them to be better. Building the Kingdom of God would require a lot from everyone of all different backgrounds. We each have unique gifts to offer, and it is our responsibility to be better every day to improve how we can contribute to the Kingdom of God.

Have a great weekend!



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Third Sunday of Advent: Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

During his preaching near the Jordan, John attracted diverse converts. Ordinary people were moved by his message and asked, "what ought we to do?"

If their frank and eager questions are any indication of their zeal, then those who were drawn by John's message would probably have agreed to *anything* he asked of them. But John did not issue Herculean challenges; he simply directed the energies and generosity of his questioners toward the routine and workday circumstances of their everyday lives. God does not require the extraordinary or bizarre; rather, blessedness is to be found in the ordinary and in the banal.

If John's message were to be contemporized, we can almost hear him telling spouses to express the sincerity of their conversation to God by a renewal of their love and devotion to one another. Parents, revere your children. Children, respect your parents. Brothers and sisters, let sibling rivalry yield to mutual caring. Teachers, value your students, and students: realize that your mentors have precious wisdom to impart. Doctors, and nurses, treat your patients with attentiveness and understanding. Lawyers, be defenders of justice *for all*. Lawmakers, listen to the needs of your constituents. Constituents: exercise your right to vote justly. Workers, do a just day's work. Employers, pay fair wages without discrimination; do not foster policies that militate against family life or values.

Although this year's season of Advent is already half-spent, there is still time to ask the question: "What ought we to do?" There is also still time to channel our eager willingness to respond to that question into the large and small, significant, and insignificant moments of each day.

Time to Rejoice (Zephaniah 53): Celebration

Prophesying in the turbulent years before Judah's conquest by Babylonia (ca. 640-609 B.C.E.), Zephaniah anticipated the disaster which was soon to befall his people. Similarly, he also anticipated the goodness of God who would not abandon the people who had been called, consecrated, and committed to God through the bonds of the covenant. Therefore, he was able to encourage his contemporaries. The "Day" of the Lord is almost here...You can begin to be happy.

Zephaniah's image of God during the people (vv. 15-16) reprises the God-with-us or Emmanuel prophecy of Isaiah 7:14. As such, it remains a source of encouragement for Advent believers who *know* That God is coming. Indeed, God is *already* in our midst, therefore we can already begin to be happy!



Don't Worry (Philippians 4): Celebration

Lovingly, cognizant of their worries and fears, Paul reminds his friends at Philippi that their belief is in God and particularly in God's imminence, should afford them a proper perspective as regards all the worries of life. In God and particularly in God's imminence, should afford them a proper perspective as regards all the worries of life. Readers of Paul should take note that Paul does not advocate a naïve "happy-go-lucky" attitude which cavalierly laughs off the very real concerns of the human experience. Rather, he suggests that believers can put to rest all their anxieties, because they have entrusted them and all their needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions so trusting as to be expressed in the form of gratitude.

Footprints: (Luke 3) Celebration

An unknown author once wrote "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our heart, and we are never, ever the same." Jesus, and his herald, John the Baptizer were two such people and each Advent believers are called to pause for a while and listen to their hearts to rediscover and be renewed in the footprints that have been left there.

John is a preacher of repentance and a teacher of morals who annually challenges his listeners to translate their desire for conversion into appropriate and authentic words and works. Luke casts John in the role of prophet who speaks the "word of God" (3:2) which is a form of "good news" for the "people" (3:18).

Called to Share: Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

Sometimes it is hard to meet a mother's expectations. There was a mother who bought her son, who was away at college, two warm flannel shirts. When the son came home for Christmas break, he wanted to show his appreciation to his mother, so he wore one of the shirts. He entered the house, calling out happily, "Mom, I'm home!" His mother came out of the kitchen to greet him and stopped short, staring unhappily at his shirt. "Oh, I just knew it," she said. "You didn't like the other shirt!"

In today's Gospel the crowd wants to know what they must do to know what they must do to avoid punishment. John the Baptist tells them that if they have two shirts they must give one of the shirts to one who has none.

May the spirit guide me to "what I must do"

From Within: Rev. Anthony Marinelli, Service

The transformation that takes place through Christ is not possible until God has offered himself fully to us, until he has made his love incarnate. It is only then that the meaning of our humanity is revealed (and divinized). It is only then that the meaning of salvation is made clear. For John, salvation is salvation *from* sin accomplished through repentance. With the coming of the kingdom, our understanding and relationship with God has been transformed. It is not salvation *from* sin alone. It is also salvation *into* the life of God. Because Jesus has brought the kingdom (and the Holy Spirit), the life of God is no longer extrinsic to human beings. It is no longer a relationship of law and obedience. It is rather what the prophet Jeremiah foretold: "The days are coming, says the Lord, when... I will place my law within them" (Jer 31:33). The new age of salvation gives us the presence of God working within our hearts and lives. To use a thoroughly Christian term, it is the age of grace: God among us and God within us.



Blood Drive Update...

Thank-you to everyone who was able to donate at the Blood drive held last week. We did have a somewhat smaller group, 18 donations, however that blood collected helped the lives of 54 people! Since that was the last blood drive of 2021 I thought that you might like the statistics for the last 12 months. **161** units were collected and that amount was able to help **483** people! Isn't that amazing? Our parish community has helped keep the blood supply where it needs to be with almost 500 donations in 2021! How about a New Year resolution to exceed that amount in 2022?

Update for CMA...

Here is the latest update for CMA A recent report from the diocese indicates that **\$43,538** approximately **64%** of our target has been pledged/donated toward our parish target of **\$69,796**. The hope is that those who have not yet participated will do so as soon as possible. We would like to be just as successful in reaching our goal as we have always done in years past.

John D. McNally 989-662-6952

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St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn



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