



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
 Ph.: (989) 662-6861 Fax: (989) 662-0064
www.auburnac.org
 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

PASTOR

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton tsutton@auburnac.org

PARISH STAFF

Office Administrator..... parishoffice@auburnac.org
 Bookkeeper
 Janet Woronoff..... jworonoff@auburnac.org
 Director of Religious Education.....662-4335
 Sandy DesJardins sdesjardins@auburnac.org
 Music Director
 Sue LeVasseur.....slevasseur@auburnac.org
 Youth Ministry
 Stephanie Schacher..... sschacher@auburnac.org

LAY MINISTERS

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Dan Derdowski	Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie

PRAYER LINE

Mary Jane..... 496-2873 vicmaryj@hotmail.com
 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE

Stephanie Schacher.....878-2898

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

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. 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 or 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
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 Chris Kaczynski, Secretary ckaczynski@auburnac.org

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

School Principal 662-6431

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 16, 2019

MONDAY

187: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17A Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY 8:00 a.m. – Word & Communion

193: Gn 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17

WEDNESDAY 8:00 a.m. – Mass

194: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25

THURSDAY 8:00 a.m. – Mass

195: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25

FRIDAY

196: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-28

SATURDAY 4:30 p.m. - Mass

197: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Lk 1:39-45

SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. - Mass

10: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24



EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families : Sara McGinnis Lee
What were the people of God looking for in a Messiah? What did they find instead? What are your expectations of God?

Reflecting on the Word:

John the Baptist has expectations of the Messiah. We too, have expectations of God. What were John and his disciples expecting? Rather than telling them directly that he was the Messiah, Jesus asks them to look at all who have been restored and healed. This is indeed cause for rejoicing at the coming of the Savior.

Living the Word:

Have you ever unexpectedly encountered God? Tell your children about it. Ask them also to share moments when they personally encountered God, or when they met him in unexpected ways.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon.,	12-16	6:30-8 pm	Choir Practice
Tues.,	12-17	10-11:30 am	Scripture Study
		6:30pm	Quilters-United Methodist
		7pm	Communal Penance
Wed.	12-18	10am	Knitting Club-(PC)
		1:30-6:30pm	Blood Drive-Library
		6pm	School Committee Meeting
Thurs.	12-19	6:30-8pm	Youth RCIA-(rectory)
		6:30pm	School Christmas Program

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$9,435.01

Christmas Flowers: \$215.00 **Religious Retirement:** \$1,418.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$1079.00

In Memoriam for Ronald Gerulski-\$420.00

Children Good Deeds

To shop for the Giving Tree...Helped my friend find her elves...
 Doing dishes...I helped with the Christmas tree...Helped Dad clean
 I put my Barbies away...Praying for my friends at preschool
 Practiced songs for the Children's Choir...Helped with the dishes...

Financial Peace University:



Dave Ramsey created Financial Peace University nearly 25 years ago after learning how to pay off debt, save and spend money wisely, and build wealth. Today, millions of people have used the same principles to transform their lives. If you are looking to get better with your money, they can help you. They will show you how you can dump your debt, how to save for emergencies, and build

wealth. It is all about getting on the right financial plan. You can make a change! Wherever you are in the process—making the quest to your mirror, struggling to get your budget to work, paying off that last debt, or debt free and looking for places to give—they can help you take that next step in your money makeover. Stay tuned, sessions will begin in January 2020.

Assisted Listening Devices

are available in the church. These pocket devices ensure that the user receives direct and clear communication during our worship services. Please ask an usher for any assistance needed. The listening devices are located at the usher table at the southwest entrance.

In-Home Communion with the Sick: Do you know someone who cannot attend Mass because of illness? Our parish has available, in the Sacristy, a PYX (A vessel to carry communion) for you to sign out and take to use to take the Eucharist to the homebound. Please return the PYX to the Sacristy when you no longer need it and sign it in. Any questions, See Father Tom after Mass

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

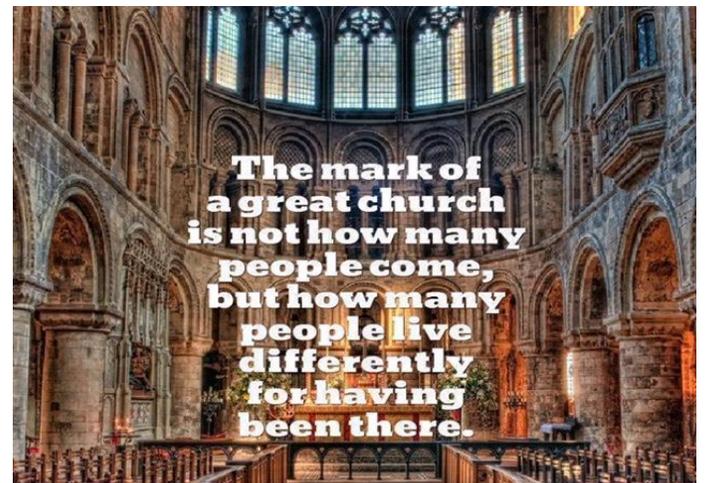
As we approach the week before Christmas, we have a lot of things to be thankful for at Auburn Area Catholic School. We have wonderful teachers, staff and parents, who make the active choice to send their children to a school where they can have a relationship with God.

This week on December 19th, at

6:30pm we will have our annual Christmas performance in the church. The children have been practicing their songs in class and at various times set up in our schedule.

Sue LeVasseur has been extremely helpful in getting the children to "sing loudly for all to hear!" Thank-you Sue!

The reading this week is focusing on the idea of Jesus and John the Baptist. John is a prophet and in his own right extremely important, but Jesus is the Messiah, our savior. Jesus acknowledges how John has helped pave the way for the journey Jesus is going to endure over the next few years. When I reflect on this, I draw references to the Olympic Torch. While the fire never goes out along its arduous journey, there are only a select few who are able to carry the torch, and only one who lights the eternal flame for the opening ceremony. John is that all important final person, while Jesus is the eternal flame continuing to promote hope, peace, joy and love



God Bless, Clark Switalski, Principal



FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK

Third Sunday of Advent

Sr Mary McClone

National Catholic Reporter

One of December's most popular versions of ambiguous adages says, "Put Christ back in Christmas," a maxim that seems to presume that we have the ability to put Christ wherever we wish.

This brings us back to John the Baptist, the prophet whom Jesus called the greatest person ever born of a woman. We hear John today as he languishes in prison and hears about Jesus. Wondering what he's risked his life for, he sends disciples to scrutinize Jesus and his mission. John sent his disciples to ask the most important question of his life: "Are you the *One* to come or should we look for another?"

Jesus didn't give a straight answer. He responded: "Go tell John what you hear: tell him what you've seen in the healing of people who were blind, lame, deaf and leprous. Tell John that the poor are rejoicing. Tell him, "Blessed are those who see the hand of God in this!"

Jesus' response transformed the interrogator into the interrogated. Instead of answering John's question, Jesus' recital questioned John about his expectations. Jesus asked what grounded his hope and oriented his discernment.

Jesus' resume fulfilled all Isaiah's signs of God's coming into the human milieu. For John, who could probably recite Isaiah 35 from memory, there was a hidden message of consolation to boot. The section of Isaiah that Jesus quoted also said, "Strengthen the hands that are feeble...say to those whose hearts are frightened: 'Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.'"

What more could Jesus have said to support someone imprisoned by Herrod?

Isaiah's Promise (Isaiah 35):

Celebration

Isaiah's prophecy talks about the world's return to how things should be. The fearful will be encouraged, and the weak will find strength, all because they realize that God is with them. They will recognize how God has been with them all along, saving them even when they thought they were lost. Further signs of the great transformation will be restoration of those whose life had been marred by injury or affliction. The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the lame will dance like a deer to the tune sung by the once mute. Those are the signs of the salvation brought by our God. What may not occur to westerners about this vision is that it is thoroughly communal. The salvation God promises is not an individual heavenly experience but the restoration of a community. The community that desires this dream is one in which the seeing long for others to enjoy sight, the strong do not lord it over the weak but carry their burdens. This is a community that wants to sing with the harmony that can only result from the full contribution of every voice. Those who long for this restoration are truly longing for the reign of God – and as Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, those who hope for righteousness will be blessed with their fill. This is the promise Isaiah foretells.

Like a Farmer (James 5):

Celebration

What do farmers and prophets have in common, and why would James hold forth their examples for his readers to emulate? Both are cultivators. Both plant seeds and hope for growth. Farmers plant seeds of fruits and vegetables in an effort to provide for themselves and their families. Prophets also plant, in that they preach the word of God in the hope that, like a seed, it will take root in the human heart and bring about good and graced growth.

Both professions require a wellspring of patience because once it is planted, the seed's successful growth is out of their hands. Farmers

must wait and hope that the rains that come in the spring and the fall will provide enough (but not to much) rain to ensure a successful yield. Prophets also must wait and patiently hope that the seed that they have sown will be sufficiently "watered" by the faith of those to whom they preach. From these two planters of seeds, James invited his readers to learn patience to wait for the coming Lord.

Prophecy Fulfilled (Matthew 11):

Celebration

Following his interchange with John's disciples, Jesus made one of the more definitive and audacious statements of his entire ministry. Praising John, he called him "more than a prophet," saying he was greater than anyone born of a woman. At the same time, making a clear distinction between the past and present, Jesus went on to say "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." This was not a put down of John but the announcement that something new was happening.

Jesus represented God's definitive intervention in human history. The time of prophecy, the time of waiting had come to an end. From Moses through John, the prophets had talked about God. In Jesus, God had come to dwell among the people. With the culmination of Jesus' life in his death and resurrection, God would be as fully revealed as will ever happen in human history. The least of those who recognize that truth have received a greater revelation than John.

Ask the Question:

Celebration

As the question of John the Baptizer is repeated in our hearing today, we are challenged to make our own. We too are obliged to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" We are to hear the answer with which Jesus deflected the misplaced expectations of his contemporaries. We are to discover in Jesus' answer the mind of God, for whom salvation means healing, not conquest, and service rather than power. If we accept Jesus' answer – as did John and Peter, Paul and so many others – then we too are called to do as Jesus did and hold out against those who would force messianism into a mold and salvation into a neat legalistic formula.

Jesus himself called "blessed" those who could embrace his purpose and ministry without taking offense at him. That blessing sanctified the work of his first disciples. That blessing reaches out with grace and power to embrace believers who today attempt to live and love and serve as Jesus did.

Preparing a Welcome: *Celebration*

Joy was the Hallmark of Jesus' approach of life. Oh, He got angry, frustrated, sad. He was human, after all. But through His life also ran a current of joyful optimism. People could change. Death was not the end. Love was the purpose of living. God was personally involved with each of us. In this very busy season, is there room in your life for joy? If not, you may be missing out on the real gift God wishes to give you. Take time to let Him show you how to claim it for yourself and your family.



“ Lord, let me be a sign of your presence “



On behalf of the Ron Gerulski family...

We would like to thank Father Tom, Marilyn, Sue and the choir, Mary Ellen and the luncheon committee, as well as all the parishioners who donated the food.

Your kindness is so greatly appreciated during this difficult time...

Tax law changes...

In last week's bulletin we gave you some important tax information and mistakenly gave the wrong phone number for Jim Zoller, the contact person for more details. The correct number is (989) 430-5162. Please make the correction.



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are attempting to schedule one more photo date for those who missed getting pictures taken or need retakes. We will start a wait list because we do need to have 20 appointments to make this happen, so please call the Parish office (989) 662-6861 if you are interested. We need to do this soon, so please let us know ASAP!

The photo sessions are complete for the upcoming parish directory, however you do have the option of using your photo from the prior directory for a \$10.00 fee and you will receive a copy of the *new* directory. Notify the Parish Office of this request and we will contact Lifetouch to retrieve your archived photo. *For questions or concerns call the Parish Office at 662-6861.*

Michael Kaczynski
Painting/Carpentry

989-662-7747
Cell: 303-242-2650
mckaczynski@sbeglobal.net

201 Weber St.
Auburn, Michigan 48611

"LET US LIGHT UP YOUR SMILE"

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New Patients Welcome

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Auburn
662-2352

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Weekdays: 8:00-6:30, Saturday 8:00-2:00, Sunday 10:00-2:00

SEEKING SPONSORS

St. Gabriel Parish is updating and adding sponsor advertisers displayed in our weekly bulletin. Support your parish bulletin and promote your business! Begin advertising or notify a potential advertiser of this opportunity. These advertisements are viewed on printed copies, plus online on the parish website and MyParish app affiliated with St. Gabriel Parish. **For more info contact the Parish Office 989-662-6861 or parishoffice@auburnac.org**

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



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

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

Prices Effective July 1, 2019

