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

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Sisters of St. Clare srscclare.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 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 20TH, 2021

MONDAY

196: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

197: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

198: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps)1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d Lk 1:46-56

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

199: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

FRIDAY Christmas Eve 6 pm & 8 pm Mass

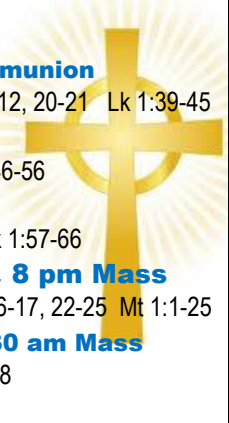
13: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

SATURDAY Christmas Day 9:30 am Mass

16: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Recall a time when you traveled far to visit relatives. What was the journey like? How did it feel to finally arrive and see them?

Reflecting on the Word:

Mary says yes in response to what God wants her to do. Then she immediately sets out on the way to become the bearer of Christ to others, by visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth realizes who Mary is and what she is called to do because Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that we might be filled with the Holy Spirit so that others may recognize us as Christ-bearers by the things we say and do.



Living the Word:



Just as we have our last-minute to-do list in preparation for Christmas, we too should make a list of spiritual preparations:

- Spend more time in prayer and quiet contemplation.
- Allow yourself to soak in the grace and love of God so that it overflows through your actions.
- Enjoy the loving, forgiving gaze of God and ask God to help you see others in the same way.
- Where there is brokenness in your life, seek wholeness.
- Where there is pain, seek healing.
- Where there is offence, seek forgiveness.
- Where there is conflict, seek peace.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 20th – Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 22nd – ½ Day of School

Thursday, December 23rd – Parish Office Closed/ No School

Friday, December 24th – Parish Office Closed/No School

“Merry Christmas from the Staff of St. Gabriel”

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$14,339.25
Food Pantry: \$440 **Religious Retirement:** \$2,331
Campaign for Human Development: \$15
Children’s G☺☺ Deeds

...Shoveled snow...Helped dry dishes without being asked...
...Helping Mom while Christmas shopping...Help with puppies...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



This week the students have been dressing in a bunch of Christmas accessories, got all decked out in Christmas gear, created their parent gifts to put under the tree that are made with love, and talked about how they

can patiently wait for Jesus to come through our 3rd Advent prayer service. All the students are excited, and anyone can tell their enthusiasm for the season of Christmas. Yes it’s a great time filled with family, faith, and giving. While children tend to focus on the gifts they receive, teaching them the true meaning of Christmas is extremely important.

Next week the school will only be in session Monday through Wednesday. Our Christmas break will last until January 3rd, 2022.

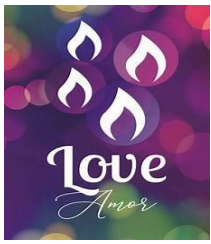
... God Bless you all!...



Fun Facts about Christmas



- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S.
- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well royalty.
- The evergreen Christmas tree is an ancient symbol of life during winter and have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.
- The French gave the biggest Christmas present ever in 1886. It was the Statue of Liberty, and they gave it to the United States of America.
- Approximately 36 million real (living) Christmas trees are sold each year in the U.S.
- Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are cut and sold.
- The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico, where it is also known as the ‘Flower of the Holy Night’. Joel Poinsett first brought it to America in 1829.
- The Twelve Days of Christmas: In England, for almost 275 years from 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics were not allowed to publicly live out their faith. To instruct children in the ways of the Catholic faith, a song rooted in symbolism was created to keep the beliefs of the church alive among Catholics in England.
- All the gifts in The Twelve Days of Christmas total to 364.
- Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song. It was first performed at Thanksgiving church service. Bonus fact: It’s also the first song broadcast from space.



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

For all believers Christmas is one of the most climactic moments of our story as a people. It keeps us in touch with the God who wants to touch and be touched. Christmas is about the passionate, powerful love of that God for human beings. The message of Christmas is summed up in today's liturgy by a pair of theological "bookends" that anticipate and interpret the wonder we celebrate on December 25.

Our first "bookend" was spoken by Isaiah. It was intended as a sign that God's care for sinful human beings has no limit and knows no measure. The sign would take flesh and be born into this world as a son; his name was to be Emmanuel, God-with-us. Isaiah's promise echoed in today's Gospel, where the Matthean evangelist affirms our Christian belief that Jesus, Son of God, born to Mary and Joseph, is indeed Emmanuel—God-with-us. This second "bookend" realizes and brings to fulfillment all the messianic hopes and expectations of a waiting people.

In that capacity as Emmanuel, God has affirmed the intrinsic goodness of human beings. In that capacity, God continues to reveal wisdom and truth. In that capacity, God continues to liberate us from troubles we make for ourselves and one another. In a sense, it could be said that God-with-us is the answer to every human question and the solution to every problem. As such, God-with-us could serve as a mantra that is never far from our life and always on our mind.

We might take away from today's liturgy a good word that will sustain us through all that life holds for us, both good and not-so-good. *God is with us!* And that makes all the difference.

Sign is Given (Isaiah 7): Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

Prophetic words were often accompanied by signs that served to affirm and illustrate the authenticity of the word that was spoken. Isaiah's words to Ahaz had, for the most part, fallen on ears unwilling to hear the Lord's bidding.

Isaiah approached Ahaz and told him to ask for a sign as proof that his words were true. Ahaz's refusal was not the result of his humility as it was fear that he would be condemned by his own infidelities.

Isaiah's sign, when first offered, probably referred to a young woman well known to the king and the prophet. Scholars suggest that it may have been a wife of Ahaz, based on the Greek Septuagint (LXX) reading of verse 14, "a maiden shall conceive...and you shall call his name Emmanuel." Through that child (Hezekiah?), the Lord's promise of peace would be fulfilled, and Judah would once again rejoice in the presence of God, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Paul's Gospel (Romans 1): Celebration

That "gospel," which is how his letters to Rome has often been described, began not with Paul but with God, who, as Paul has affirmed here (v.1), Called him to be an apostle and consecrated him for the purpose of announcing the good news to all the gentiles (v. 5). After clarifying his call and his role in God's plan, Paul declared his faith in Jesus by referencing his titles "Son of David," "Son of God" and "Jesus Christ, our Lord." During his ministry, Jesus had deflected attention away from his Davidic ancestry because of misconceptions as to how the coming Messiah would reestablish the power and place of Israel and Judah in the world. However, the post-Easter community was eager to associate Jesus with David to present him as the fulfiller of Nathan's promise to David that God would give him posterity (2 Sam 7:14). While the title "Son of David" affirmed Jesus' roots in history, the title "Son of God" established his exalted status, affirmed by his resurrection in glory.

Birth Announcement (Matthew 1): Celebration

When contemporary parents send announcements of their child's birth, they usually include the name, weight, length, and time of birth. Only as the child grows and develops will his personality and purpose in life gradually become known.

Here, however, Matthew's "birth announcement" for Jesus is full of information. Not only is Jesus named; the wondrous (albeit unusual) circumstances of his birth are celebrated in good Christological style. Born of Mary and Joseph through the Holy Spirit, Jesus—*Yeshuah*—will be true to his name; he will be one through whom God helps people and saves them from their sins. Moreover, in carrying out his mission of liberation and forgiveness, Jesus will become the flesh-and-blood presence of God amid humanity. He will be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Model of Joseph: Fr. James Smith, Celebration

Joseph loved God and Mary and Jesus as well as he could. But he must have wondered about the quality of their love for him. God needed him to take care of Mary; Mary needed him for support; Jesus needed him for security until he could go on his own. They all needed him—but did they really love him?

People enjoy being needed, but they rankle at being used. But how could Joseph tell the difference? He believed that God and Mary and Jesus loved him and needed him—but on a bad day, it could feel all the world liked being used.

From all of this, Joseph learned humility. He learned that he was not the most important person in the world, or even in this small family. He learned to put himself at the service of others, his plans on hold for the designs of others, his wishes aside for the desires of others. He soon recognized that he was not in control of his life, let alone of his family. He had to let them be what they wanted to be apart from him. And then he died. Probably in an ordinary, unremarkable way. And yet, he is the patron of a happy death. Maybe because he realized that his life work was accomplished.

We ordinary people might learn from this ordinary man that ordinary life has its own quiet value, its own little failures, and triumphs. Joseph teaches us that it is enough to do the task given to us, and that no work is unimportant.

"God be with us"

God's Gift: Grace Works, Dallas Texas

"What then is this child going to be?" this is the question that takes us from Advent to Christmastide. Of all the answers in human history, none is more eloquent than the prophet Micah's

*He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to
the end of the earth.
And he will be their peace (Micah 5:4-5a).*

This peace is what we long for. It is not granted with the stroke of a pen or won by the clash of armies in the night. The peace of God on earth is the same as the peace of God in heaven; it is that wholeness of life in every dimension which the Hebrews called *shalom*. It is the way things are where God's will reign.

So, we pray the angels to come fill the sky once more and sing us a song of peace on earth where we can see it, peace with the face of a child, peace that only comes when it's born in us as a gift from God above, peace not promised to everyone, but only to those who call him Lord.

"Gifts have been delivered"...

The Giving Tree gifts were all returned and found their way to their respective charities. Emmaus House, Mustard Seed and Life Clinic were picked up by their directors. Covenant Kids and the Juvenile Center will be delivered. The Food Pantry donations were brought over to the Parish Center to fill the pantry to the brim! We want to extend a **HUGE THANK-YOU** to all the *extremely* generous parishioners at St Gabriel. Once again you went above and beyond to brighten the holiday of the less fortunate.



Update for CMA...


Here is the latest update for CMA. A recent report from the diocese indicates that **\$46,078** approximately **66% 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. Please help us to be just as successful in reaching our goal as we have done in years past.



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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