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 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

PASTOR

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PARISH STAFF

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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

BEFRIENDER

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 evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5.

EDUCATION / FORMATION

WEEK OF DECEMBER 23 , 2019

MONDAY

199: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Lk 1:57-66

TUESDAY

**Christmas Eve -5 pm & 8 pm Mass
(Prelude 4:30 & 7:30)**

Vigil:

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

Night:

14: 14:Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

WEDNESDAY

Christmas Day – 9:30 am Mass (Prelude 9:15)

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

THURSDAY

696: Acts 6:8-10: 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

FRIDAY

697: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

SATURDAY

4:30 p.m.- Mass

698: 1 Jn 1:5---2:2 Mt 2:13-18

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.- Mass

17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



Family Talk Time

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

Think about how courageous Mary and Joseph were to say yes to God, and how they demonstrated great faith by responding affirmatively. Have you ever said yes to God even though you felt scared or nervous?

Reflecting on the Word:

Today we hear the central message of Advent: "God is with us." Mary was afraid when the angel Gabriel revealed that she had been chosen by God to bear his son. Joseph was perturbed when Mary was found to be pregnant, for he was a righteous man. Yet, because they both, in faith, said yes to the call of God, God was with them in a deeply personal and miraculous way. Likewise, we have each been called and chosen to make the light of Christ shine in the dark places of the world.

Christmas Dinner Prayer

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations through out the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life on Christmas Day and forever. Amen



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon, Dec. 23	No School	
	6:30-8pm	Choir Practice
Tues. Dec..24	Christmas Eve	School & Parish Office Closed
Wed. Dec. 25	Christmas Day	School & Parish Office Closed
Thurs. Dec..26	No School	
Fri. Dec. 27	No School	

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$13,292.37
Religious Retirement: \$1,130.00 Christmas Flowers: \$12.00
Campaign for Human Development: \$25.00
 Children G☺☺d Deeds

Played with my sister...Helped decorate the Christmas tree...
 Helped make the gingerbread cottage...Helped Mom wrap presents
 Got my brother a boo-boo pack when he got hurt...Helping friends...
 Helped clean up the toy room...Help my sister get ready for her day..
 Helping Cole potty train...Helped my Dad pick up the basement
 ...Helped Mommy make a little bit of my shirt

Giving Trees....As we prepare to deliver the gifts from the

*giving trees, we are again overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of St. Gabriel Parish .A big **Thank you** to everyone who donated and helped lighten the Christmas of many people. Your simple gesture is truly in the "The Spirit of the Season."*



AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The students are on break this week celebrating Jesus' birth. This is the perfect time to get together with loved ones and take in all those wonderful traditions our families hold dear. While I know presents are a fun to give and get, I really want you to think about what this time of year is represents. For me, it represents an abundance of gifts overflowing from the giving tree tables, the bell ringer at Sam's Club in Flint that sings carols the entire time or going to mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning and giving thanks for having the ability to do what I do for my family. No matter what you think, Christmas is an offering of second chances and Salvation to all of us.

A second chance is offered in our Gospel this week. Joseph is really having a hard time with the information he has been given about Mary. He quietly wants to get a divorce but is visited by an angel. The angel offers assurances about the difficult decision he must make, and eventually Joseph decides to be Mary's husband and Jesus' father.

Think, how many times have you been given the right advice, you know it is right, but you choose not to follow it? In the end, I am happy Joseph listened to the angel and made the right choice.



God Bless, Clark Switalski, Principal



**FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
*Celebration***

Patricia Sanchez

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. Indeed, the message of Christmas is summed up in today's liturgy by a pair of theological "bookends" that anticipate and interpret the wonder we will celebrate on December 25th

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 is 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 the 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 readily 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.

The Prophecy: (Isaiah 7): *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 so much the result of his humility as it was of his 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 the 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 promises 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*

The centerpiece of Paul's opening is what he calls "the gospel of God." That is the good news about God's Son, descended from David and revealed as Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in his resurrection. This complex idea is one of Paul's attempts to interpret Christ for people who knew the Jewish tradition. The fact that Christ was the son of David emphasized not only his humanity, but the fact that he came from the royal line of humble origins to whom God had promised an eternal reign. Thus, in those few words Paul has explained in detail that Jesus is the awaited savior. When Paul says that Jesus was "established as Son of God in power," he's not implying that the divine sonship was an add-on to Jesus' identity, but that in the

resurrection he assumed the life-giving power that only resurrection could unleash, the power to bring all flesh into unity in himself. The Gospel Paul describes is the good news of the incarnation on behalf of all people. The good news is that salvation means sharing in Christ's resurrected life.

"May I, Lord, give birth to your presence"

It's in the Name: (Matthew 1) *Celebration*

The angel of the dream instructed Joseph to call the child "Jesus," a common name whose etymology probably means God saves, or God will save. In the act of naming him, Joseph both claimed Jesus as his own and foreshadowed his divinely determined vocation. As a last word, just to bolster him, the angel made the first evangelical reference to the fulfillment of prophecy. Joseph should not worry, the angel assured him. Isaiah the prophet had spoken of this day as the time when God would dwell among the people.

The time of Emmanuel had come. Although Matthew probably intended no double meaning, he explained that Joseph awoke and did what the angel had commanded. Mary's predicament and the best of his tradition had awakened him to the new thing God was working in his day.

Example of Joseph: *Celebration*

Matthew's nativity account is the overture to his gospel. As it announces coming themes through the details of a story with deep roots in the past, it bequeaths to us a narrative that is truer than any simply factual account could ever be. Matthew presents Joseph not only as a dreamer, but also the son of David which means he is the heir of God's promise of a kingdom that would last forever (2 Sam 7:12-16). Thus, there is a wonderful paradox in the angel's comforting message. Joseph is called, precisely as the son of David, to allow an unknown into the lineage, trusting that Mary's child has been engendered through the work of God's Spirit and carries its own purity, a holiness beyond what ethnic lineage could assure.

The time of Emmanuel had come. Although Matthew probably intended no double meaning, he explained that Joseph awoke and did what the angel had commanded. Mary's predicament and the best of his tradition had awakened him to the new thing God was working in his day.

Transition Point: Catherine Upchurch *Liturgical Press, Minnesota*

The underlying truth of our lives as Christians is captured in the name pronounced in Isaiah and in Matthew: *Emmanuel. God is with us!* This truth is the source of our identity, the reason for our hope, the birthplace of courage, the motive for our actions, and the antidote for our fears.

"God is with us" is the truth that takes us from the Advent wreath to the manger, from the crib to the cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb where we realize that life and light and love, always have the final say. In these final days of Advent, may we offer to God our thanksgiving for this time of preparation and anticipation, and make it a priority to ask for the grace of a faith that trusts that God's presence is real and God's presence is enough.



Christmas Greetings:

The days of our Advent journey, draw to a close, replaced by the announcement that the prophecies of old are soon to be fulfilled in the little town of Bethlehem. On behalf of the entire parish staff – those who serve you through the office, the school, religious education and youth ministry, best wishes to all who comprise our parish family. May the light that is Christ be in you and through you shine forth in the activities and programs that are St. Gabriel Parish



Thank-you!:

To all the very *generous* people who donated either monetarily or by shopping for the families we “adopted” for Christmas. All we can say is **THANK-YOU!** We were able to make Christmas merrier for *five* families who would otherwise go without this holiday season. It is a wonderful gesture to spread Christmas Joy to those in need



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 !

Use Prior Directory's Photo: If desired, you may use a photo from the prior Directory for a \$10 fee. You will receive a complimentary upcoming Directory. Notify the Parish Office of this request – no need for you to retrieve the photo.

Submit Photo: If you have a photo that you would like to use in the next directory please email it to the Parish Office at parishoffice@auburnac.org along with the full names of the people in the photo for correct Identification. There is also a \$10. Fee and you do get a copy of the directory.

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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

Prices Effective July 1, 2019