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LAY MINISTERS

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
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 27th, 2021

MONDAY

697: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

TUESDAY

698: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8 Mt 2:13-18

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

202: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

203: 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

FRIDAY

204: 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 Jn 1:1-18

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

18:Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

20: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 30th – Office closed at noon

Friday, December 31st – Office closed - "Happy New Year"

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$17,301.30

Campaign for Human Development: \$20

Religious Retirement: \$958 Food Pantry: \$65

Children Good Deeds

... Making my grandma a birthday card...

...I helped get breakfast ready for my sister...I listened in class...

...Helped out with the baby...Run around the house with the dog...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



I hope you all had a *Merry Christmas* and wish you a *Happy New Year!* I want all of you to know that all the staff and students at AACCS appreciate everything you do for us.

Together we can help to build

Disciples of Christ for the next generation. Through our actions and words, we can continue to promote our faith to the next group of children. If you would like to contribute to providing a child the opportunity for a Catholic education, please consider giving to the Spreading the Spirit fund, or you may call me directly to discuss options.

See you next year!

Thanks so much to all the AACCS children who decorated Christmas trees for us to distribute to local assisted living homes. The kids put their hearts and souls into creating these masterpieces. They were delivered and helped make the residents holiday much brighter!



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

How do we show our joy and gratitude for Jesus' birth?

Reflecting on the Word:



The glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were going about their daily life, tending the sheep, when they were suddenly surrounded by the glory of

the Lord. The whole world is wrapped in glory. Two millennia ago, as well as today, the Word of God is born, the eternal Lord lowered himself to enter human life. With the angels, we proclaim this news of great joy: God has become man and has filled humanity with his glory. *Glory to God in the highest!*

Living the Word:

Spend some family time together. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, share what you see, hear, smell, and think. This humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.



The Family of Gertrude Kaczynski would like to thank Fr. Tom, the Parish staff, choir, and luncheon volunteers for their contributions to the

celebration of Gertie's life in this world. We would also like to thank the Parish Community for their kind thoughts and prayers.





FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Christmas Wishes:

On behalf of the staff of the parish, the school, and the religious education program. I extend to you our wishes for your joy and happiness at the Celebration of our Savior's birth. It is our prayer that the blessings from the Bethlehem event will fall upon you and your family. May you truly know the peace that comes in recognizing that the Incarnation of God's own son makes clear that we are deeply loved by our God. May the Lord be with you.

Christmas:

Connect

Never or since, in the entire course of human history, have men and women been able to gaze upon the face of God. But for a moment in time, God "became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This is the remarkable event we celebrate today.

Today we celebrate a holy day that is unlike any other. Indeed, we celebrate a belief that is unlike any other when we proclaim that God became man and walked in our midst. No other major world religion makes such an astonishing claim. And with this comes our unique understanding of the humble nature of God. We believe in a God whose glory is not the glory of the world. His majesty is not like that of earthly kings and rulers. Rather, we believe in a heavenly Father who loves his little children enough to live among them. Jesus once remarked that just as we desire to give good gifts to our children, "how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Mt 7:11). This Christmas may remember that the greatest gift is Christ himself.

Worry/Distractions: Rev. Mark Strobel, The Liturgical Press

Maybe we worry too much about Christmas. There is tremendous pressure built into these few days. On the one hand, it is not uncommon for personal worries and family stress to peak this time of year. There are houses full of relatives, some who manage to bring out the worst in you. Norman Rockwell might not be able to paint a portrait of Christmas at such stressed-out houses. But Pablo Picasso might have a clue about how it feels. On the other hand, there is also great stress during these holy days for people who are alone and lonely. They wonder how they are going to make it through a time of year that places such great emphasis on family. The days can seem anything but holy.

There is plenty to distract us from the quiet joy of this feast. The biggest worry is that, in all the distractions, the real meaning of Christmas will get lost in the shuffle. Parents with small children know how they can search high and low for the perfect gift for a child. Right when they give it, the child is thrilled. But it does not take long, and the child becomes distracted. The box the gift came in captures the child's imagination. For the rest of the day the box itself gets carried around. It becomes a boat or a house to play in.

The biggest worry is that, in all the distractions, the real meaning of Christmas will get lost in the shuffle. But perhaps that is the way Christmas has always been. The town of Bethlehem was too

distracted to notice the birth of God's Son. The town was packed with visitors. None of them were there for a religious feast. It was a secular observance, a census, that brought them there. No one was worried about the reason for the season or trying to keep Christ in that first Christmas. Only the parents, a few shepherds, and a couple of cattle took time to notice. But right there in the distractions and the worry about where to get a room for the night the Word became flesh and took on our life.

Maybe this is the way Christmas has always been. Maybe our distractions and worry are built right into the story itself. Jesus comes to us when we can still think of at least one more thing to cross off our lists. Sitting in the church might be the first time some have sat included people who are worried and worn down from their life. Who knows how many people gather to hear this story once again who look fine on the outside but inside they carry a deep hurt. But the message of Christmas is still proclaimed. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given." Christmas means that God comes to us exactly where we are. Christmas means that God joins his holy and divine life to you, no matter what shape your life is in now.

Maybe we worry too much about Christmas. But right in the middle of our worries and our distraction comes the message from the angels: "Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born . . . a Savior, Christ the Lord." Christ is born. Come let us adore him.

Our New Life:

Mary Lynne Rapien, Franciscan Media

Today we celebrate not only the birth of Christ, but in a way, this feast ushers in the beginning of our new life. Because of Christ's life, we have eternal life. Because of his light, we do not have to live in darkness. Because of his grace and truth, we have grace and truth. Because of Jesus, we know what God is like.

Jesus is God's gift to us. It is impossible to comprehend the magnitude of that gift. It is hard to wrap our minds around the concept of God becoming a human, humbling himself to that extent.

It is even more humbling to realize that God did this because he loves us—not only collectively, but individually and personally. The incarnation of God's gift to you and to me. God became one of us so that we could have eternal life with God. Happy birthday, Jesus! Thank you for being both the giver and the gift.

Light of Christmas:

Rev. John Craghan, The Liturgical Press

Luke notes the impact of the birth of Jesus on the shepherds, the audience, and Mary. The contagious joy of verifying the angel's message leads the shepherds to share the Good News with the audience and to return in loud praise of God. While the audience remains astonished, Mary ponders the mystery of her Son. She becomes Luke's ideal disciple, one who hears the word and keeps it. Though she does not grasp the total impact of the message, she does acknowledge God's mysterious presence.

Husbands and wives who do not take their mutual love for granted continue to deepen that love. Children who realize the demands of parental care seek to contribute to the family. Single persons who appreciated the possibilities of their vocation for others go on meeting their needs. The sick and the dying who recognize the creative dimensions of their suffering persists in preaching patience to others. All such people see themselves in the light of Christmas. Eucharist provokes all those who receive to perceive. To receive the Lord is to perceive the needs of the Lord's extended family.

The Christmas Tree:

Carole M. Eipers, Service

Each ornament is unique and glows with its own hue, but together they make one picture. In meditating on our tree, I, like Ebenezer Scrooge, am visited by three Spirits: The Spirit of Christmas Past, which brings memories of how I have met the Christ; The Spirit of Christmas Present, which enriches today's celebration with eyes of faith; The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come, when we will finally come to share in his divinity, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.



“Christmas Families”...



A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who was able to help us with our adopt-a-family program! We “adopted” 16 families, more than *twice* as many as last year, and were able to provide for *all of them* either by parishioners shopping for the whole family or donations made so the staff could shop for them. We lined the entire hallway at the parish center with tables that were piled high with gifts! Our “Santa’s Helper” who delivered the gifts was moved to tears by the outpouring of love the parishioners of St. Gabriel showed. Know that you made Christmas “Merrier” for some less fortunate families...

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