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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](mailto:vicmaryj@hotmail.com)  
 Sisters of St. Clare ..... [srsclare.com/prayer](http://srsclare.com/prayer)

**BEFIENDER**

Mary Ellyn Gushow .....662-6745

**COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND**

Pam Graul-Gwizdala .....513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal .....662-6431

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
 Ph.: 662-6431.....Fax: 662-3391.....[www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org)  
 Clark Switalski, Principal..... [cswitalski@auburnac.org](mailto:cswitalski@auburnac.org)  
 School Office.....[schooloffice@auburnac.org](mailto:schooloffice@auburnac.org)

**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.

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2020

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

202: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

### WEDNESDAY

203: 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

**THURSDAY 4:30 pm**

204: 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18

### FRIDAY

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

**SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass**

205: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

**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



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
*What traditions do we observe in our family? What religious rituals and customs are important to us?*

### Reflecting on the Word:



The observance of Jewish rituals and customs were important to Mary and Joseph and were outward signs of their devotion to God. Though we know very little of Jesus' early years, we can imagine that his parent's love of God and trust in him bonded the family tightly together. We know Jesus grew and became strong, filled with knowledge and the grace of God

### Living the Word:

Have your children draw and color a picture of the Holy Family. Imagine the family activities they must have done together and what they talked about. On another day, have your children draw a picture of your family.

Talk about what your family does together, and what you frequently talk about when you are together. How are both families the same? How are they different? How might you become closer as a family. Place both pictures in a place of prominence in your home to review and reflect on throughout the week.

**H.O.P.E. for 2021**— have only positive expectations.” It is a quick way to give someone encouragement. After 2020 we all need some! What if we work on hope as a long-term way to exercise our trust in God and joy as Christians with a four-part plan for 2021.



**Happiness:** Jesus taught us the way to be truly happy is to live the beatitudes. These 8 happiness or blessing statements can be found in Matthew 5:3-12. They help us focus on having the right attitude as Christians. As a family, learn one beatitude each week and choose one way to live out the beatitude this year. For example, for “Blessed are the peacemakers” (v.9) come to an agreement that you will avoid loud arguments and make time to talk about disagreements together.

**Openness:** Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us have the strength to follow him. As a family, talk about the Holy spirit who comes as fire, wind and dove, and the ways you can see the Holy Spirit guiding you. Agree to be open to the Holy Spirit in a special way this year. Once a week, have each family member share all the different ways they have seen the Holy Spirit at work in nature, at church, at school or work, at home and in other people.

**Prayerfulness:** Jesus showed us how to pray, giving us the Lord's Prayer. But he also encouraged people to ask God for what they may need as a way to build up trust and reliance on God. Set aside time at least once a week to share needs you have noticed in family, friends, neighbors or the world at large. Make a list of these petitions and pray for god to help the people involved. Read the list aloud each week after making additions and then take a few minutes of silence and pray in your heart for trust in God's will.

**Enthusiasm:** Jesus encouraged us to live fully as children of God. The word enthusiasm comes from a Greek word meaning to live in God or to be inspired by God. If we are really living in God and seeing Christ in others, we will have a spirit of God's grace and love when we interact with them.



This year agree you will greet new ideas and people with enthusiasm—with a willingness to participate and work together. Also agree to greet difficulties that come up with the same spirit — a hopeful trust that God will bring about good.

## UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Cancellation Reminder-No New Year's Day Mass**

**Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>- parish office closing at noon**

**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - parish office closed**

## STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$10,962     **Offering:** \$15,826

**Food Pantry:** \$1200     **Diocesan Collection:** \$513

**Christmas Flowers:** \$25

*We want to acknowledge your generous support of our Parish.*

*Thank-you so much!*

Children G😊D Deed

...Helped with the dog... Helped wrap presents...

... Doing a lot of chores and helping Mom and Dad...

...Helped clean up the yard...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

I hope you all had a wonderful celebration of Christmas and Jesus' birth. This week, Jesus is going to Jerusalem to perform the Jewish ritual of being presented before the Lord. While on their journey they are blessed and spoken too by Simeon. Simeon was filled with the Holy Spirit and was shown that he would not die until he met the Christ of the Lord. Simeon gazes on Jesus and is filled with excitement and joy, because now he has seen the Christ of the Lord. I think of this story many times when I am approaching communion. I believe the body of Christ contains Jesus' body, blood, and divinity. When I receive him through communion, he becomes a part of my being and gives me a moment of Grace where I have a physical interaction with God. My wish is that I can deepen my relationship with God and help others to see what his Grace does for your body, mind, and spirit.

✠ **God Bless**



***A Prayer for New Days Ahead in 2021***  
**Heavenly Father, thank you for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

### 2019 Contributions:

If you would like to make another donation for 2020 for any specific area within the parish, the donation needs to be turned in by noon on Dec 31st to be applied to your 2020 contribution statement for tax purposes. Thanks for your stewardship!! Saint Gabriel Parish has some very generous parishioners!



**FROM  
FR. TOM'S  
DESK**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

For Paul, Love is not simply an attitude. Love is a bond; in fact, it is “the bond of perfection.” In that sense, love goes beyond every individual action. Love has a permanence that underlies and informs every action; it might be described as the will to belong wholly to one another. It is, as he will say in 1 Corinthians, the one virtue that is eternal, the bond that forms us as the body of Christ, whether in the family, the community or the entire mystical body.

The second theme Paul underlines in this selection is gratitude. Every form of prayer that Paul recommends has its roots in the gratitude that imitates the Lord Jesus—that is, a gratitude that expresses itself in offering our entire being to God, allowing the joy of knowing God’s love to be the fount of everything we, God’s chosen ones, pray and do.

Early devotion to the Holy Family saw Jesus, Mary and Joseph as an earthly reflection of the Trinity, calling them the “created trinity.” This points out that what makes human beings, images of God are loving relationships. As we celebrate this feast, we are invited to contemplate the potential of our own relationships and families, natural, created, extended and extraordinary. This feast celebrates the way we choose to bond ourselves to others in love. This is how we live in the image of the Trinity, and such love is both our earthly vocation, eternal destiny.

**Respecting Elders: (Sirach 3)** *Celebration*

Today’s selection from Sirach’s advice about family relations could be read quickly, and easily taken for granted, until we pause to consider the depth of his reflections on this most basic of human experiences. In our time, when so many elderly people end their days in loneliness, we would do well to meditate on Sirach’s admonition to look after parents when they are old and never to grieve them—even if their minds fail. We know well how this challenges our culture’s veneration of youth, beauty, the quick rejoinder, physical prowess, etc. Sirach calls us to learn how we can “be considerate” of, how we can cherish, those whose minds and bodies are failing.

One of the amazing statements in this reading is: “Whoever honors his father atones for sins and preserves himself from them.” “What is it about honoring the older generations that it even atones for sins? Perhaps it has something to do with practicing humility—the opposite of pride, often considered the root of all sinfulness. When we reverence the elderly or the helpless, we acknowledge that every person is an image of God, destined for union with God. We recognize that such dignity is not earned but given by our Creator in the form of unconditional love. As we grow in our love for our elders, we practice self-giving that seeks no reward but treasures the loving word or glance that may come back to us. Perhaps contemplation of the supreme value of every life, especially the lives of those who seem “useless,” offers a sure way to escape from prideful postures and self-serving activities. In the words of Ben Sira, kindness to those who are feeble of mind or body leads us to an attitude that can be described as dwelling in justice.

**Perfect Bond: (Colossians 3)** *Celebration*

For Paul, love is not simply an attitude. Love is a bond; it is “the bond of perfection.” In that sense, love goes beyond every individual action. Love has a permanence that underlies and informs every action; it might be described as the will to belong wholly to one another. It is, as he will say in 1 Corinthians, the one virtue that is eternal, the bond that forms us as the body of Christ, whether in the family, community or the entire mystical body.

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gratitude that imitates the Lord Jesus—that is, a gratitude that expresses itself in offering our entire being to God, allowing the joy of knowing God’s love to be the front of everything we, God’s chosen ones, pray and do.

**Importance of Family: (Luke 2:22-40)** Douglas Sousa, *Connect*

A wise spiritual director once said that God is not found in the “ideal,” but in the “real.” The traditional family is an important ideal. However, God is not found in ideal families or in ideal people, but in real families and in real people. As painful as our past may have been and as much as we may wish we could go back and fix our mistakes. God does not give us the option of turning back the clock. Rather, he is spending his grace on us in our real lives and in our real families as we find ourselves today. God’s grace is offered to families that are “blended” as well as those that need to be mended.

Families are never perfect, even when they are the ideal, traditional family. They are all marked by joy and pain, mistakes and good choices. The Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph—knew the pressures of family life. The difference was that they experienced God’s presence even in those difficulties. Even with the challenges of daily life in society, we can experience God’s presence with us and teach our children to recognize him as well. Then we have fulfilled our mission as a family, no matter what our family may look like.

**Importance of Home:** *Celebration*

Of Jesus’ early years, very little, if anything, can be known with certainty. Therefore, rather than speculate or buy into unsubstantiated, sentimental stories, we look to the adult Jesus, who was influenced, as we all are. By the families to which he belonged. From his relationship to the Creator God and the Holy Spirit, he learned perfect, selfless love. That love was affirmed within his earthly family, where he also learned character and values and developed a generous personality. There in that crucible of grace, Jesus learned to become who God intended him to be. His example challenges us to create homes where hearts can grow, hopes can soar, and faith can deepen to withstand all that life has in store for each of us.

**Having a Dream:** *Grace Works, Dallas Texas*

At the very heart of God’s plan for all creation is the reality of community. Yes, we pray that genuine community is the marrow of our common life in the Church. Yes, we long for creative and affirming community in our neighborhoods and city. Of course, in this time when a new president has been elected, a time weighed down with so many concerns, we pray that our nation will come together—Democrat and Republican, conservative and liberal, north and south, black, white, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian—and become once again the United States of America. My friends, this is God’s dream, this was Simeon’s dream, this can be our dream as we hold in our hearts the newborn Christ.

**New Year’s Day–Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God-a Holy Day:**

“Yahweh bless you and keep you! Yahweh look upon you kindly and give you peace!” This intimate blessing with the holiest of names Mary now gives to the whole world in the naming of her Babe-in-the-Manger. She calls him “Yahweh saves!” And she makes available to all of us the blessings of God, the shining face of God, the kindness and peace of God. Mary’s naming makes Jesus’ own mother to be our mother, and Jesus’ own father to our “Abba,” our father as well.

We begin the new year with an answer to our question, “What’s the baby’s name?” Now we know. With the name of Jesus on our lips, we are assured of the goodness of the new era that is arriving for us to live in and be liberated in and be liberators in.

Our God is the God who saves and who asks us, his children, to be the agents of salvation in the new year.



**“Come, Lord Jesus, live in me”**



**Christmas Family Update :**

The last of the gifts were picked-up this week to be delivered to less fortunate boys and girls in the area for Christmas. We were able to support 12 families this year with the wonderful kindness of so many parishioners!

THANK-YOU for your generosity, your donations made for a "Merry Christmas" for so many who otherwise may have missed out on a celebration this year.



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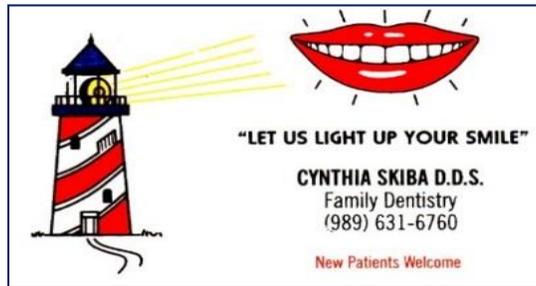


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Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861

Prices Effective July 1, 2019