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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 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 30, 2019

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY 4:30 pm Vigil Mass

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

WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m. – Solemnity of Mary Holyday Mass

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

206:1 Jn 2:29---3:6 Ps 98: 1, 3-6 Jn 1:29-34

SATURDAY 4:30 p.m. - Mass

207: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Jn 1:35-42

SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. - 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 are some of your family qualities? What do you have in common with the Holy Family?

Reflecting on the Word:

The Holy Family was rooted in fidelity to God. They faithfully followed his command to flee to Egypt and then to return after Harrod had died. They went to a foreign country, leaving family, friends, and livelihood, without knowing what the outcome would be. In the quiet simplicity of the Nazareth household, the child Jesus learned about virtue, obedience, and holiness from his parents. The Holy Family is an icon of family life: a life built upon faith, fidelity, and love.

Living the Word:

To celebrate this feast, plan a family fun day. Visit a museum, go sledding or ice skating, or do some other family activity. Finish the day by preparing a special meal: let each family member choose one food item for the meal. For prayer that evening, have each member of the family light a candle (baptismal candles would be especially appropriate), and pray that the flame of faith may be strengthened for each of you.

Did you know... Taken from: What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Advent and Christmas by Kevin McGloin

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. In order 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.

The symbols of the Twelve Days of Christmas are:

My true love (God)

Me (any baptized Christians)

A partridge in a pear tree (Jesus Christ)

Two turtle doves (the Old and New Testaments)

Three French hens (faith, hope and charity)

Four calling birds (the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Five gold rings (the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Torah or Pentateuch)

Six geese a laying (the six days of creation)

Seven swans a swimming (the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit)

Eight maids a milking (the eight Beatitudes)

Nine ladies dancing (the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit)

Ten lords a leaping (the Ten Commandments)

Eleven pipers piping (the eleven apostles who were faithful to Jesus)

Twelve drummers drumming (the twelve statements in the Apostles' Creed)



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon.,	12-30	No School
Tues.,	12-31	No School/Parish Office closing at Noon
Wed.	1-1	Parish Office Closed Happy New Year!
Thurs.	1-2	No School
Fri.	1-3	No School

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$10,140.25

Christmas Flowers: \$20.00 **Religious Retirement:** \$300.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$20.00

Children Good Deeds

To color a Christmas nativity for my uncle...Helped my sister...
 Helping unpack the moving truck...Helping my sister get dressed...
 Playing with my Dad...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I hope you are all enjoying this holiday season! This week there aren't any children except my own. We are gearing up for the start of the New Year where students will take their 2nd part of the NWEA test. This is an important part of the testing cycle, because the more data you can get on a student, the better academic picture you can see as an educator. This information helps us to tailor our teaching to find those areas where students need help.

Joseph is again visited in a dream by an angel. Like last time, he listens to the angel and follows its instructions to keep Jesus safe. Think of the sacrifices Mary and Joseph had to endure to protect their son. There are a lot of things I would do for my children, protecting them is at the top of my list, so I commend and thank Joseph for saying yes in this instance.

God Bless, Clark Switalski, Principal

Virtus Session Scheduled:

We have made arrangements with the diocese to have another VIRTUS session here at St. Gabriel Parish to accommodate the many parishioners who still need to either register for the first time or renew their registration (which expires after 3 years). The

date is Monday, January 13th at 6:30 – 9:30pm, and you must register online to attend. If you are uncertain if you fall into one of these categories please check with the Parish Office (989) 662-6861



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Catholic New Year Resolutions

1. Read the Bible
2. Get to know the Saints
3. Read a spiritual book
4. Commit to silent prayer daily
5. Celebrate the Sacraments
6. Fast occasionally
7. Give
8. Forgive

A reminder from Father Tom...

2019 Contributions:

Donations received this weekend will, of course be credited to 2019. Any other contributions received in the parish office by noon on December 31st will credited in the same way. Anything received after that time will be credited to 2020.



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Feast of the Holy Family

Patricia Sanchez

Celebration

Obviously, no family is perfect in every way. Sometimes the ties that bind family members are strained. It is often within the family unit that our greatest wounds are inflicted, but it is also within that same unit that our brokenness can be healed. For a much-needed lesson in healing the ties that bind us, it is especially necessary to return again and again to the Holy Family to find, in every visit, the strength and the courage to continue being a family.

In today's first reading, Jesus ben Sira drew on his faith family's wisdom tradition to offer advice to families everywhere. He draws attention to those very necessary family virtues like honor, kindness, reverence, obedience and prayer. These are not virtues that wear out or become passe'. They are the essential building blocks in any good and lasting relationship. Some may be inclined to dismiss ben Sira's advice, arguing that such "old-fashioned" values are out of sync with today's world. However, the very freshness of God's living word allows it to continue to speak and to teach us, despite the generations that have elapsed since it was first spoken.

Similar advice presented in today's second reading has received a cool welcome by those who focus on one line or one word rather than appreciate the message in its entirety. Perhaps the heart of the Colossian's message to families is best summed up by the ancient author, who urges, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." How many hurts and squabbles could be avoided (or at least settled amicably) if this were the norm by which every family chose to live?

Today's Gospel is part of the Matthean infancy narrative (Matt 1-2) which proclaims the identity and saving purpose of Jesus in what scholars have called a literary nutshell. In this pericope are several references to the care Joseph and Mary took to protect Jesus from harm. All their actions, as presented here by the evangelist, were guided by their openness to God and to God's will. In their willingness to endure personal sacrifice and inconvenience for the sake of their child, Mary and Joseph continue to teach parents everywhere. Because they were so attuned to God, they were willing to undertake impractical and seemingly impossible measures—and not to see their son wearing the finest clothes or going to the most prestigious schools or driving the latest model car, but to keep him aware of the guiding influence of God in his life.

Honor Your Parents (Sirach 3):

Celebration

Given the strongly patriarchal character of Judaism and the surrounding cultures, Sirach gives a surprising amount of attention to the respect and honor due one's mother as well as one's father.

This reading, typical of wisdom literature, demonstrates the religious as well as the pragmatic advantages of following the commandments. It picks up on the fact that the commandment to honor parents is the first commandment in the Decalogue that promises a reward for its fulfillment ("Honor your father and your mother *that you may have a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you,*" Exd. 20:12). Speaking to his male students, Sirach makes an exceptionally strong case to respect one's parents, guaranteeing that such reverence will bring a happy family life for generations and going on to promise that filial reverence brings forgiveness of sin and an answer to prayer.

Importance of Family (Colossians3)

Celebration

Wherever the early evangelists established a new Christian community, they worked diligently to foster among their converts a sense of belonging. Their belonging to the family of God was affirmed through baptism. Also affirmed was their membership in the family of the church, locally and universally. Membership in each family came with privileges and responsibilities, both of which are beautifully enunciated in this portion of the letter to the Christians at Colossae.

Part of a longer section on baptism (3:5-4:1), this text may have been part of a homily for celebrating the sacrament. In verse 12, the reference "put on" recalls the custom of dressing the newly baptized in white garments as a symbol of their new life in Christ. With that garment. With that garment came the challenge of living the virtues cited here. This is not an easy feat, considering the struggles that are inherent in every relationship. Nevertheless, God, who is greater than every struggle, offers grace within the crucible of family so that each member and all members together may grow in love and holiness. Guided by that living and ever-relevant teacher, members of the family of God are to live in peace and help one another to become their very best selves.

Aware that no human family is perfect, the author of Colossians called for a generosity of spirit that bears with the other and forgives instead of holding on to hurts or nursing grievances.

Growing Up (Matthew 2):

Celebration

Of Jesus' early years, very little, if anything is 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.

"May I, Lord, be an instrument of love and peace in my family"

Quotable:

Celebration

*At the very start of his novel **Anna Karenina**, Leo Tolstoy writes "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."*

Hear Ye, Hear Ye:

GraceWorks, Dallas, Texas

Hear the Good News! In Jesus Christ. We are God's Holy Family, made brothers and sisters because this One who lays in a hay-strewn cradle is the Lord of life and love. His story, his ministry, his death and resurrection show us the way of love is the way of life. Ours is a faith that sings not because we have cleverly crafted carols and songs to cradle us in nostalgic wonder, but solely because he is the Lord of heaven and earth. Ours is a faith that sings even when we don't think we will ever sing again.

So where are you this first Christmas Sunday? Would you dare believe that no matter how bleak life may appear at winter's nativity, God in Christ offers us a song worth signing, a tune full of joy, a promise full of wonder? Believe and sign that God is among us. Take up the Christmas story and discover anew this faith that sings and in whose gift we become God's family now and forever



Thank You

We received heartfelt thank you notes from *Beacon of Hope* and *Bay Area Women's Center* for the gifts they received from our Giving Tree collection. They expressed Christmas wishes for everyone at St. Gabriel and

hopes for a Happy and Healthy New Year! It is wonderful to see how much appreciation small acts of kindness can generate. Thank-you to all who donated!

Fish Fry...

The Auburn area K of C are having a fish fry to benefit the seminarians on January 3rd, 2020. The fish fry and bake sale will be held at the Auburn K of C hall and will be TAKE OUT ONLY. Take outs may be eaten on site but there will be NO BUFFET. Desserts may be purchased separately. **Hope to see you there!**



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.*

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St. Anthony Cemetery
4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd.
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

