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PARISH STAFF

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LAY MINISTERS

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie
Tim Hadd	Pam Graul-Gwizdala	

PRAYER LINE

Mary Jane..... (989) 513-5137 vicmaryj@hotmail.com

Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

MASSES

***Weekday masses suspended until further notice**

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

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

***Monthly schedule suspended until further notice**

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 January 30th , 2023

Monday

323: Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday 8 am Word and Communion

324: Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26-28, 30-32 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday 9 am Mass with the Bishop

325: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

524: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Friday

327: Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday 4:30 pm Mass

328: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

Sunday 9:30 am Mass

73: Is 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-9 1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

In what ways are you blessed by God? Which Beatitude do you find most challenging? Why do you think it is hard?

Reflecting on the Word:



The list in today's Gospel is called the Beatitudes. The word Beatitude means "blessedness," or "happiness." Just like Jesus tends to do, he takes what most scorn or see as a burden and call it blessed. Those who mourn,

who are meek, or who show mercy are blessed because God is with those who need him. Being poor in spirit is not about having a weak spirit but rather knowing that you need God, recognizing that all that you have comes from him and not from yourself. Jesus desires for us to make him the center of our lives and recognize that everything else flows out of his abundant love for us.

Living the Word:

Have your family make a list of all their blessings. Pray together thanking God, as he is the source of each of these blessings. Throughout the week, have members add to the list as they recognize more blessings in their lives.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Catholic Schools Week!

Monday, January 30th – Funeral @ 11 am

Saturday, February 4th – Parish Faith Night 5:45-8 pm

Sunday, February 5th – CLOW/Nursery 9:30 am
Youth Ministry 6 pm

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$11,153.84 Offering: \$11,064.80

Diocesan Collections: \$640 Food Pantry: \$355

Children's G😊d Deeds

...Getting my socks? ...Read a book to my brother...I fed my dog...

...Helped make dinner...Helped pick up my baby brother's toys...

...Made bed, cleaned room...Playing with my little sister...

Mom and Dad please help your children write their good deeds so that we can read them—sometimes it is hard!

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

cswitalski@auburnac.org 989-662-6431



The students and staff of AASC will observe Catholic Schools Week with a mass on February 1st at 9 am with *Bishop Gruss* to celebrate our community of faith here at St. Gabriel Parish. We are very excited for this celebration and welcome all of you to join us!



Parish Faith Night focused on the Practice of Prayer – Saturday,

February 4th following 4:30 p.m. Mass. A light dinner will be served, and attendees will be broken out by age—including childcare for those under the age of 5. A guest speaker will be presenting to adults and high school aged youth. Families and individuals will close the night by completing a fun activity together. All are welcome. To register for this event, sign up on the sheets at the church entrances or contact the Parish Office, 989-662-6861. *This event is being offered by the Parish Education Commission.*



Immediate Job Opening: Would you like to clean the



House of the Lord? We are looking for someone to clean the church and the gym at the St. Anthony site on a weekly basis. This position needs to be filled immediately so we are hoping that there is someone reading this that has the time and skill set to begin soon!

Please contact the Parish Office @ 989-662-6861 to obtain a complete job description.

Update for CMA... Here is the latest info for CMA. A recent report from the diocese indicates that \$54,856 (73% of our goal) has been pledged toward our target of \$74,253 by 44% of our parish families. If you have not pledged please do so and help us reach our goal. Fr. Tom is hoping we will hit our goal soon!



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

From Zephaniah, Paul and the Matthean Jesus, we hear words today like “humble,” “a remnant”; we listen as justice is promised for the oppressed, the hungry, the captive, the stranger, the widow, the orphan. We will squirm as the despised, the foolish and those of no account are described as God’s chosen ones. Then we will be confronted yet again with the slogans of the kingdom: “Blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful. Blessed are those who are starving for justice; blessed the peacemakers and the persecuted.”

These slogans challenge believers to accept the reign of God and live accordingly. They attest to the great paradoxes of our faith: I am richest in the ways of the kingdom when I am poorest in the ways of the world. The poor ones of the kingdom do not glory in destitution; rather, they value the wealth that cannot be counted—that is, belonging to God, bearing God’s image and being the heirs of all God’s blessings. I am most free when I am totally given to the Other and to all others in Christ. My will is strongest when I surrender to the will of God. My convictions are truest and firmest when suffering and persecution cannot wrench them from me. My faith, both professed and lived, is most real when outward circumstances suggest that it is futile or foolish to believe. My hope is deepest when, even though all else in my life dictates despair, I am aware that God has my back. I am nearer to the all-powerful God when I am the least powerful and the most vulnerable. I am at my greatest when I am smallest and humblest.

Great Reversal Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

The most obvious thing about the beatitudes is the reversal of roles in some of them: The hungry will be satisfied, the mourning will be comforted, the merciful shall be shown mercy. We should recognize this as a common theme of scripture. Sterile Sarah is given a son, David is God’s favorite king in spite of his lecherous ways, the virgin Mary bears God’s own Son, childless Abraham becomes the father of a great nation, poor Lazarus gets heavenly riches, and the humble are exalted.

What does this role reversal mean? Probably it means that the values of the kingdom are at odds with the values of this world, or that there is some hidden purpose in sorrow, some unknown value in poverty, some precious ingredient in humility. But most of all, the beatitudes offer hope to disenfranchised people and a promise that God does notice their plight and will take care of them.

Difficult Choice Fr. Roger Karban, *Celebration*

Today’s Gospel is Matthew’s introduction to his Sermon on the Mount: a three-chapter collection of some (but not all) of Jesus’ moral teaching. The evangelist wants his community to know that if they’ve agreed to buy into Jesus of Nazareth’s dreams, then this is how they’ll make those dreams a reality. If, for instance, they want world peace, they’ll achieve it only by building loving relationships with their enemies, not by being more powerful than they are.

Matthew is convinced that only a remnant willing to look at people and situations with different eyes than the majority of people look at them will actually carry out Jesus’ demands. This unique group experiences a blessing in being poor, in mourning and being meek.

They strive daily to do what God expects them to do: to show mercy, be single minded and bring peace. They’re always looking beyond the present to the future Jesus promised. Obviously such a radical belief isn’t for everyone.

What prompts a particular person to choose a commitment to God to become part of the remnant? I’m convinced among other traits, a person’s willingness to evolve and adapt is a key element in those who form the remnant.

It’s clear, especially from the synoptic Gospels, that the historical Jesus’ basic “stump speech” revolved around *metanoia*: the determination to change one’s value system. In Mark 1:15, he begins his public ministry by proclaiming. “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.”

Scholars tell us that in this context the “kingdom of God” refers to God present and working effectively in our everyday lives. This Galilean carpenter shuttered his Capernaum workshop and began his itinerant preaching ministry based on his insight that what everyone wanted—God in their lives—wasn’t an event to nostalgically reflect on, or project forward to some ideal day in the distant future. It’s a present reality.

On Being Humble

Tony Butel, *Celebration*

A priest friend shared that when visiting with his spiritual director he disclosed some of the struggles of his spiritual life. His director responded that a source of his struggles was his arrogance. The priest thought, “I’m not arrogant.” His director told him that the arrogance stemmed from his desire to not have to depend on God for help with his faults.

As my friend shared this conversation I was struck by the awareness: “That’s me.” I desire to not have to depend on God’s help with my faults’ instead, I prefer to overcome my inadequacies on my own. However, my memory bank can find multiple examples for each Beatitude of where I have failed. *Blessed are the poor in spirit*: How often am I filled with a sense of self-righteousness when I think I’ve been slighted or treated rudely resulting in a less than Christ-like response? *Blessed are the meek*: How often has pride kept me from helping someone in need because I don’t want to get involved or I am in a hurry? *Blessed are they who show mercy*: How often am I incensed about the stories of injustice that are broadcast on a seemingly daily basis, and yet don’t take the time to do anything in response? With each example of failure on my part I can lose a sense of hope that I am loveable. It is in these times that humility will allow me to know that I need God’s love and forgiveness to be more Christ-like, to become more the person God has created me to be. Is this true for you, too?





Beatitudes taken from **TAKEOUT**, November 2020.

Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. Read them and see how they can guide your actions.

1. **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** We depend on God.
2. **“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.”** When we are sad, God will comfort you.
3. **“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.”** Don't brag about your fits and talents.
4. **“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”** We should stand up for what is right.
5. **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”** Don't hold a grudge against others' mistakes.
6. **“Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.”** Keep your heart focused on God.
7. **“Blessed are the peacemakers; they will be called children of God.”** We must work for unity and understanding.
8. **“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** We should stand up for Jesus and our faith.

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For more information contact the
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St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611



COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,100	\$1,600
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,500	\$1,850
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 350 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 600	\$1,300
Burial	\$ 750	\$ 900
Burial of Cremains	\$ 250	\$ 275
Saturday Burial	\$ 250 additional	\$ 250 additional

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