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 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal662-6431

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 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
 Ph.: 662-6431.....Fax: 662-3391..... www.auburnacschool.org
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 School Office..... schooloffice@auburnac.org

WEATHER POLICY

If Bay City Public Schools or AACCS 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 FEBRUARY 8, 2021

MONDAY

329: Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

330: Gn1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

3331: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

332: Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY

333: Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

334: Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-4c, 5-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

77: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Cor 10:31—11:1 Mk 1:40-45



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, Feb. 10th – 6:30 pm 1st Reconciliation Prep Session

Thursday, Feb. 11th – 7 pm Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 13th – Baptism

Sunday, Feb. 14th – St. Valentine's Day

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$8,724

Food Pantry: \$350 **Diocesan Collection:** \$50

We want to acknowledge your generous support of our Parish.

Thank-you so much!

Children G😊D Deed

...I stacked wood...I played with my cat...I watered the animals...

...I asked if my sister was OK when she feel down...

...I am kind to my sister when she falls...



AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

What is *Spreading the Spirit*? I have to say I

have been asked this question a lot in the past week. That tells me I need to explain it in a much better way than I have previously!! *Spreading the Spirit* is a fund within the Church's financial realm. This is a fund that directly goes to supplementing the tuition of students wanting a Catholic education but may not be able to fully pay for that education. In order to receive funding through the *Spreading the Spirit* fund, people must apply by writing a letter stating what their current situation is and how much they need. Then an amount is determined for those families requesting assistance. The fund itself is built up from donation from the parish, funeral "in memory of" bequests, parents, or endowment payments. Anyone can contribute to the fund, they would only have to designate it in the memo portion of their donation, or include a letter stating how much they would like to contribute.

Statistics from Spreading the Spirit:

2020-2021 – Families helped = 10 out of 63 families for \$7310.00

2019-2020 – Families helped = 11 out of 59 families for \$6800.00

The fund itself helping around 15-20% of our entire school population for anywhere between \$5,000 - \$7,310. This has helped give the gift of a Catholic Education to 20-30 children on a yearly basis. If you have any further questions or would like to donate, please contact me at the school 662-6431 or cswitalski@auburnac.org.

✝ **God Bless**

EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Is it quiet or loud when you pray? How did you focus when you heard God speaking to us in the readings at Mass?

Reflecting on the Word:



Jesus' fame was spreading, and more and more people were seeking healing from him. Amid this frenzy, Jesus sought time in solitude with his Father. He arose early, went to a deserted place, and prayed. The time with God rejuvenated him, and once again he

readied himself to preach to the people. Our lives are busy, but we need to seek out peace and quiet, so our hearts, minds and spirits may be replenished and refocused to God's purpose in our lives.

Living the Word:

Take time each day to listen to God's voice in prayer. Select a time that is suitable for all family members. Set up a prayer space in your home where family members may experience quiet prayer time. You might have a small table on which you could place a Bible, candle, and a cross or prayer cards. Prepare your children to listen and to be comfortable in silence by asking them a question to reflect on, such as "Where did you feel God's love today?" or "how might you follow Jesus more closely?" Start with a small amount of time and increase as you feel appropriate. Afterward, ask your children how they felt during prayer time?



Thank-you!

The Parish staff and the Food pantry volunteers would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to **Mike Switalski** (Principal Clark Switalski's Father) for the very generous donation of various bakery goods. He drove an overfilled pickup truck a long way to fill our pantry to the brim! What a **welcomed** addition to the boxes of food we give out!





FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Do you see the glass half-empty or half-full? In today's sacred texts, we will meet both kinds of people. Job who is featured in the first reading, is bemoaning the very fact of his existence. He is a representative figure from whom many lessons may be learned, but at this point in his story, Job epitomizes the person whose contentment and well-being are intrinsically bound to his success as a patriarch of a large family, to his health and material wealth, and to his good name. All these were regarded as blessings from God, who was pleased with Job. His glass was not just half-full; it was full to the brim. But then the bottom fell out of Job's world, and his optimism, hope and joy seemed to evaporate.

In today's Gospel, we will meet Peter's mother-in-law, who was sick with a fever. Her glass probably seemed half-empty because sickness was traditionally associated with sin. At the very least, her illness rendered her unclean and unable to participate with her family, friends, and neighbors in public events. But the difference between Job and Peter's mother-in-law was that she had people who cared enough about her to get her the help she needed. They told Jesus about her. Job, on the other hand, had "friends" who exacerbated his situation by trying to find someone to blame for his troubles.

With these readings, we are invited to consider our own response to the inherent difficulties of life and to examine how we help others cope with their struggles. Are we pessimists with a complaint for every evil in the world, or are we "hope-givers?"

Job's trust in God eventually enabled him to find hope and courage to endure all his sufferings. Paul (second reading) found such hope in God and in the Gospel, that he could not help but preach. When he did, he made every effort to adapt himself to the needs and circumstances of his listeners so that they too could find their hope in the good news of salvation. During his ministry, Jesus acted as a giver of hope to those he taught, healed, and forgave, and in the end, he died so that human hope might never be extinguished.

In Desperate Times-Trust: (Job 7) *Celebration*

A dear friend was caring for an invalid husband with no pension or insurance and working three minimum-wage jobs to support her family of six. Well-meaning friends assured her that there is no burden God does not give us the strength to bear. Weary with such assurances, Marguerite quipped, "Well, I wonder if God has checked my load lately!"

In today's first reading, Job exhibits a similar weariness with well-meaning friends whose advice has done nothing to ease his struggle. Miserable, despondent, with no other recourse, Job cried out to God, who, in the end, proved to be Job's sole support and strength.

Through the person and the story of Job, the ancient writer has taken on a perennial question: If God is good and just and caring, how could God allow someone as blameless as Job to suffer such a loss? Traditionally, suffering was associated with sin, and Job's friends explored with him the possibility that he or someone in his family had sinned and brought on his troubles. Through the several conversations with his friends, the sacred author shows Job coming to the profound realization that life, as we experience it, is a conundrum. Good people do indeed suffer. Children get cancer and die before they have a chance to enjoy a full life. Famines devastate entire populations. Calamities of nature cause immeasurable pain and loss. Have the sins of all these people brought on their sad untimely demise? Obviously, human suffering is a far more complex mystery that defies facile explanations.

When viewed in the light of today's Gospel, Job's complaint stands juxtaposed with the healing power over suffering and sin that God

revealed in Jesus. By his own innocent suffering and death, Jesus infused this mystery with new meaning. Jesus, who was fully just, suffered for the sake of the unjust. Through his willing sacrifice, the suffering of Jesus became a redemptive force, one in which he called his followers to be full participants. Rather than be overcome with hopelessness by the human condition, believers in God and followers of Jesus are to trust as Job did and confess, "I know that my redeemer lives" (Job 19:25).

With Authority: (1 Corinthians 4) *Celebration*

As is reflected in this excerpted text, Paul felt it necessary to defend his right and his authority to preach the Gospel. Some of his detractors insisted that he was not really an apostle and that his message was not authentic because he did not require his gentile converts to become Jews before coming to Christ. In order to preserve the integrity of his message and his right to preach it, Paul insisted that he had met the risen Christ on the Damascus road. Therefore, he concluded that his vocation was as valid as those who had been with Jesus during his earthly ministry. Paul may have been the first to insist on the continuity between the Jesus of faith and the earthly or historical Jesus. His insights continue to assist believers in this regard.

Pause in Prayer: (Mark 1) *Celebration*

Jesus punctuated his preaching, teaching, and healing with periods of prayer (v.35). Here, as well as in Mark 6:46, 14:35 and 14:39, the evangelist portrayed Jesus taking time to pray particularly in those stressful moments when the character of his messiahship was being misunderstood or challenged. These pauses for prayer kept Jesus centered and focused and enabled him to temper the enthusiasm of those who were so caught up in the wonders he worked that they did not see him for who he really was. For 21st-century disciples, Jesus' typical day holds valuable lessons, including the need to balance work with prayer. If we are to be givers of hope to others, then our own hope must be fed at the well of the word. In prayer, the Spirit of God breathes in us and takes away our narrowness. We receive new breath, new freedom, new life. Prayer is God breathing in us.

Mark's Approach: *Grace Works*

Throughout the early chapters of his gospel, Saint Mark tells the story of Jesus with a refrain of resistance to a premature announcement of Jesus' identity to the world. It is a strange tension. Jesus performs public acts of healing and teaching, which inevitably draw popular attention, but he often commands both evil spirits and adoring converts to keep silent about him. When the crowds grow, Jesus withdraws. Like a movie star or politician who lives a public life, yet who desires a private life instead, Jesus seems to have a paradoxical relationship to the populace. What is going on here? Is Jesus shy? Is he an introvert? Does he resent the push of the crowd? No, this reluctance, often referred to by Biblical scholars as the Messianic Secret in Mark's Gospel, is the method of Jesus to pace his unfolding ministry, lest the euphoria of the crowds, or the resistance of his enemies, cause his ministry to peak too soon. Jesus would not let anyone else set his clock or manage his career. He was committed to a single mission, to obey God and God alone. And that obedience would only climax on the cross. But before that crucial moment on Calvary, Jesus had to offer enough teaching and practice to his disciples so they could rightly interpret his death and resurrection.

*"You alone, Lord, are my
source of healing"*





We need your Palms!

Please bring your last years' palms to church so we can recycle them into this years' ashes for Ash Wednesday. Collection boxes will be available at the entrances of the church.

CMA (formerly CSA) Update:

These are the latest numbers for the CMA collection; Our target is \$71,201, pledged as of January 31st, \$63,575. We are at 89% of our targeted assessment by **only** 47% of parishioners. So, if you have not already sent in your pledge card, **PLEASE** do so. Remember that you can mail your pledge directly to the Diocese of Saginaw, drop it in the collection basket at week-end Masses or bring it to the parish office. **Thank you for your support to help us meet our goal!**



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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