

WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2019

MONDAY

Sir 17:20-24 * Ps 32:1-2,5-7 * Mk 10:17-27

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Sir 35:1-12 * Ps 50:5-8,14,23 * Mk 10:28-31

ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00am School Mass & Ashes 7:00pm Mass & Ashes

Jl 2:12-18 * Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17 * 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2 * Mt 6:1-6,16-18

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Dt 30:15-20 * Ps 1:1-4,6 * Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Is 58:1-9 * Ps 51:3-6,18-19 * Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Is 58:9-14 * Ps 86:1-6 * Lk 5:27-32

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass & Rite of Inscription Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Dt 26:4-10 * Ps 91:1-2,10-15 * Rom 10:8-13 * Lk 4:1-13



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon., Mar. 4	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Tues., Mar. 5	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	7:00pm	Bible Study-WC
Thurs., Mar. 7	7:00pm	Baptism Prep I
Sat., Mar. 9	6:00pm	YM Trivia Night
Sun., Mar. 10	10:45am	Religious Education
	6:00pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Parish Mission Presentation

NEXT WEEKEND – MARCH 9/10

FOOD PANTRY: Items most needed are corn, green beans, baked beans, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, deodorant shampoo, Kleenex, dish soap and cleaning supplies.

COFFEE & DONUTS after Mass.

SCRIP for AACCS will be available after Mass.



Card & Board Game Night was filled with dinner, prizes & games. Thanks for those who attended this fun-filled evening. A special shout-out to the Education Commission for preparing the meal and offering this social opportunity for our Parish family.

Lent Bulk Mailing: Thank you to the group of volunteers who helped to prepare this mailing.

The Rice Bowl Program gives us the opportunity to put our faith into action during Lent. As we fast in solidarity with those who hunger, we deepen our relationship with God and help change the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. Rice Bowls/envelopes are available at church entrances for your contribution to Operation Rice Bowl 2019.

LENT 2019 MISSION – Eucharist: A Diamond in our Midst

Join our parish community for three evenings and a morning hearing about the Eucharist.

Sunday, March 10 Eucharist: Hunger of the Human Heart 7:00pm

Monday, March 11 Eucharist: We Are the Body of Christ 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 12 Eucharist: The Real Presence 10:00am

Eucharist: Our Sacred Meal 7:00pm

Mass will be celebrated after the presentation.

Dinner will be served each night at 6pm. There will be child care available for ages 6 months through 5th grade. Sign-up sheets are at the church entrances for those who will be attending dinner, the Tuesday morning session and utilizing the childcare option. Please sign up by March 3.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$8,935.44

Easter Flowers: \$40.00

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...helping Mom fold clothes ...reading books with my Dad.
...helped a friend that was hurt. ...I helped my Mom with groceries.

Parish Remembered: One of Mary Ann Periard's daughters informed the parish the mother had remembered the parish in her Will. We received a check for \$10,000. A similar action was done when the father, Neil, passed away in 2001. That money was pooled with monies left to the parish by Fr. O'Neill to pay for a new baptismal font. With a pastor's bias, I think all parishioners should consider remembering the parish via memorials and bequests. It's a most appropriate way to give thanks for what the parish has offered over the years. I've made personal arrangements to do that. I challenge you to give thought to the possibility.

Fr. Tom

Parishioner's Tragedy: Many parishioners were shocked and saddened to hear of the fire that destroyed Bernie Hetherington's house. There were numerous inquiries about possible assistance. I informed Bernie that we would respond as needed. Their immediate needs have been covered by insurance. If time reveals ways we might assist, I will inform the parish.

Bernie was at Mass last Sunday. I went to her at the sign of peace. She said, "I may have lost one home, but I still have this (the parish) home." Indeed, she does!

Fr. Tom

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
How can you be more aware of what may be standing in the way of seeing clearly?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." Each day we build up habits and attitudes that either orient us toward God or away from that love. When an individual uses opportunities to do good, virtue is fostered. Even when the gestures of goodness are small ones, the person is increasingly conforming to the image of God. As we prioritize what is important in our lives, we want to remember that we will be known by our fruits.

► **Living the Word:** Play a memory game with the family. Gather some objects and lay them out on the table under a cloth. As you uncover the items briefly, let everyone look at them for the first time. Then, cover them up and ask the family to write down the things they remember seeing. Discuss whether additional time or working together would aid memory. What faults act like the cover and make it hard for us to see things clearly? How can we remove these obstacles?

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **March is Reading Month!** The theme for the month is "The Journey – Oh, the Places You'll Go When You Read". We have special guest speakers talking about their journeys to faraway places and many other activities centered on reading.

► **Spreading the Spirit Program!** This program provides financial assistance to families who would like to send their child(ren) to Auburn Area Catholic School but may not be able to afford it. It is also used to assist larger families with multiple children in the school. If you are interested in donating, or would like more information, please call the school office at 662-6431. All donations will be provided with a charitable donation receipt.

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Lawrence Mick, [Celebration](#)

This last Sunday before Lent offers us a rich array of themes that lead us right into this season of conversion and renewal.

The first reading raises the issue of speech and how what we say reveals our faults. We may try to avoid this by lying, of course, but that just adds to the faults we need to admit. These words might prompt us to think about the sacrament of reconciliation. Speaking our faults in confession should be an integral part of the season of Lent.

In a very different way, the second reading invites us to embrace the Lenten journey with confidence. Admitting our sinfulness is a kind of death to self, but Paul insists that death has lost its sting because of the resurrection of Christ. "Where, O death, is your victory? ...But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Gospel calls us to self-examination. What kind of fruits are we producing in our lives? What changes are needed? This passage also reminds us not to spend our time judging the faults of others but to remove the beam from our own eyes. That is good advice at any time of the year, but it also sets the stage for celebrating the scrutinies with the elect during Lent. We can only hold them up as examples of the need for continued conversion if we admit that we all are in need of such spiritual growth.

Sirach's Wisdom (Sir 27)

[Celebration](#)

Ben Sira created the first of the aphorisms we hear today by combining what he saw in the kitchen with what he heard around the town square. Long before Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, Ben Sira understood the idea of psychological projection: When you critique others, you are often revealing your own faults.

Then moving from food preparation to the art studio, he considered how moldable clay takes a definitive shape when it goes through the firing oven. Just so, he says, people who want to be ethical will only see their potential fulfilled when it is tried and tested.

Finally, in what seems to be the inverse of much traditional wisdom, Ben Sira advises us to withhold judgment on people until we hear what they have to say. Suggesting that our words come from our inner being, this might double back on the first saying, indicating that gossips are often quick to catch someone whose error is a mirror of their own. The same principle would demonstrate that people note and praise in others what they value for their own life. Sirach's homey wisdom is part of the tradition from which Jesus drew his store of sayings.

Resurrection (1 Cor 15)

[Celebration](#)

In this week's reading, Paul focuses on the impotence of death in the light of Christ's resurrection. Reinterpreting a phrase from Hosea (13:14), Paul speaks of death as an entity defeated by Christ. He takes an idea about death as a punishment and inverts it to taunt death itself. Francis of Assisi took this one step further because he believed that no one and no thing is our enemy, but all are our benefactors when seen in God's light. Thus, Francis could welcome death as a sister who would carry him into an unknown which would be better than he could imagine.

We might ask ourselves what this reading offers us today. At the very least, it urges us to consider what we believe about resurrection and eternal life. Pushing us far beyond the idea of spring flowers and bunnies, it calls us to consider the real transformation that awaits us and how to let it begin to happen.

Beat the Easter rush...come to church THIS week!

Necessary Humility (Luke 6)

[Celebration](#)

This passage uses a typical "sandwich" technique in which Jesus says two things about seeing and between them talks about disciples and teachers. In this technique, the middle idea is key, and the other two illuminate it. The middle idea here has to do with disciples learning from the master in order to slowly become like the master. That leads us to look at the mercy with which Jesus called people beyond their faults. Whether with humor, compassion or harsh sayings, Jesus called people forth with the intent to open them up to new possibilities. The only people Jesus ever called condemned were those who chose to ignore his invitation and refused to admit their need for conversion and growth.

With the example of the blind leading the blind, Jesus uses humor to point out the deadly seriousness of the situation in which people find themselves when they accept false guides. The very example shows the craziness of the situation: A person with something protruding from his eye cannot come close enough to another nor see the other clearly enough to help. Therein lies a key dimension of the problem. The person with a beam in the eye does not see another clearly; only a person who looks on another with the clarity of compassion has what is necessary to help the other grow.

Today's Gospel is actually a summary of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain and its reversals of common knowledge. The blind guides he warns us about are those who think they see clearly. The people who admit their limited vision and minuscule understanding of God's ways are the ones whom we can trust to orient us toward the mysteries God wants to reveal to us.

All God's Children

Denise Simeone, [Celebration](#)

We don't often talk about enemies in polite circles; we use euphemisms. We talk about "that other group." Or we talk about "those people." Or we use phrases like their own kind, people like themselves. We do all we can to distance ourselves from the "others." Yet inherent in all that Jesus said and did while walking among us as one of us is that all people – every single kind and every group of people – are all God's kind. All people are loved abundantly by God and God invites us to that same kind of loving. That is at the heart of the judgment that Jesus invites us to look at today.

Do we want to love like that? Do we want to get past the sawdust and see clearly not only how deeply we are loved, but how deeply we are called to love? There are indeed pearls in this Gospel passage, and they invite us to reflect on them in light of our baptismal promise to be a follower of Jesus.

Slow to Judge

Margaret Michaud, [Collegeville MN](#)

In today's gospel, Luke also shares some sound advice regarding human interaction and speech. He quotes Jesus' teaching as he points out that sitting in judgment and criticizing the lives of other people is profoundly foolish. Rash judgment can lead to disastrous errors and misunderstandings. There is no way that we can accurately understand another person's motivation just by observing the person's behavior. If people do speak to us and reveal the reasons for their actions, we can get some sense of their rationale. Even when they talk about it, however, often the real reasons are not expressed. Furthermore, as Jesus teaches in the gospel, our own short-sightedness and prejudice can prevent us from understanding the true meaning of another's acts. The safest course is to avoid making judgments unless our own integrity requires it.

**"LORD, HELP ME FOCUS ON
THE PLANK IN MY OWN EYE."**