

WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2019

MONDAY 7:00pm Mission

*Lv 19:1-2,11-18 * Ps 19:8-10,15 * Mt 25:31-46*

TUESDAY 2:45pm AACCS Stations of the Cross

10:00am Mission

7:00pm Mission & Mass

*Is 55:10-11 * Ps 34:4-7,16-19 * Mt 6:7-15*

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

*Jon 3:1-10 * Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19 * Lk 11:29-32*

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

*Est C:12,14-16,23-25 * Ps 138:1-3,7-8 * Mt 7:7-12*

FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

*Ez 18:21-28 * Ps 130:1-8 * Mt 5:20-26*

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

*Dt 26:16-19 * Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8 * Mt 5:43-48*

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

*Gn 15:5-12,17-18 * Ps 27:1,7-9,13-14 * Phil 3:17 - 4:1 * Lk 9:28-36*



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sun., March 10	6:00pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Mission <i>Eucharist: Hunger of the Human Heart</i>
Mon., Mar. 11	6:00pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Mission <i>Eucharist: We Are the Body of Christ</i>
Tues., Mar. 12	10:00am	Mission <i>Eucharist: The Real Presence</i>
	6:00pm	Dinner
	7:00pm	Mission <i>Eucharist: Our Sacred Meal</i> Mass will be celebrated after the presentation.
Wed., Mar. 13	6:00pm	Soup Supper & Talk
Thurs., Mar. 14	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Mar. 17	10:45am	Religious Education
	6:30pm	Lent Scripture Sharing

Inscription Sunday is this weekend for our parish children who are preparing to complete their Sacraments of Initiation this year. We have 18 children preparing to receive Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. The children will pass out their prayer cards after Mass on Sunday. There will be a display with the children's pictures on it hanging on the south wall of the church next weekend and prayer cards at both entrances. If you did not get a prayer card this weekend, please take one and keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacraments.

Check Out the Café Kiosk for these new Catholic Updates in preparation for Lent: *Lenten Customs: A Journey to Conversion*; *Ash Wednesday: Our Shifting Understanding of Lent*; *Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Liturgies of Holy Week*; *Agony in the Garden: Understanding the Passion of Jesus*.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$11,756.50
Monthly Target: \$47,500.00 & February Offering: \$47,064.44
Year-to-Date Target: \$380,000.00 * Year-to-Date: \$369,990.32
Easter Flowers: \$105.00 * Catholic Relief Service: \$30.00

Children's G@od Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...carried firewood in. ...I helped make the island in the kitchen.
 ...holding the door for a man with a walker. ...I did my dishes.

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families*, Sara McGinnis Lee
 Describe something or someone that is hard for you to say no to even if you should. Why?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The devil tempts Jesus to serve himself. Jesus could feed himself, possess all power, and have the angels come to aid him. But Jesus knew who he was and that he did not come to this earth to serve himself. Any power that Jesus uses reveals the glory of God. During this Lent, we may want to examine what tempts us to be a replacement for God. How do you keep your eyes focused on worshipping God alone?

► **Living the Word:** Lent is a time to explore our relationship with God. At the heart of that relationship is knowledge of ourselves as children of God. During the next few weeks, take your family on a journey of self-exploration. To begin, invite all of them to draw a portrait that shows how they see themselves. When the portraits are finished, invite each person to talk about his or her work. Place the drawings prominently in the home.

LENT: *Raising Faith-Filled Kids: Ordinary Opportunities to Nurture Spirituality at Home*, by Tom McGrath

HOW TO GET STARTED
 If you want to improve your spiritual life this Lent, the best place to start is right where you are.

Let go of a bad habit. What would you list as your worst habit as a parent? Nagging? Inattention? Interrupting? Lack of time? Pick one habit and try, a day at a time, to let go of it. Jesus came to free the prisoners. If you feel like a prisoner to a bad-parenting habit, take advantage of Lent to loosen its grip on your life.

Strengthen a good habit. Take a minute to write down three parenting skills that you're really good at: coaching, keeping a sense of humor, staying calm when everyone else is flying off the handle, taking care of the daily details, seeing the big picture. Pick one and think of how you can put this strength to good use on a daily basis. When the flu hits your household, you know how illness can be passed from person to person. But healthy living is contagious too. Exercising your strengths can benefit those you live with.

Ask God to lead you. Every morning, first thing, ask God to help you be a better mom or dad. You have a mission from God to be the kind of parent your child needs. Sometimes when I'm worried about a difficult situation in my family, I think ahead to that situation and picture God already there. With the thought that God is present there, my attitude changes. My fear diminishes; my love grows. I no longer see it as a "godforsaken situation."

Think of an ocean liner traveling the seas. A small change in its course will, over time, greatly change the destination. Lent is an opportunity to have small changes in your daily life making a big difference in your family over the long run. Practice Lent, right where you are. It's where God is waiting for you.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **Registration is now open for Preschool-5th grade** first-time families to AACCS are offered scholarships through AACCS and the Diocese of Saginaw. If you would like to make an appointment or receive more information about AACCS, please call 662-6431. You may also visit our website, auburnacschool.org, for enrollment applications and other registration/scholarship/financial aid information.

► **Sister Edna Michel** will be speaking to our students as part of St. Gabriel Parish's Mission and the school's Lenten observations.

► **Mondays during the Lenten Season**, the K-5th grade students are taking turns with planning and preparing weekly Stations of the Cross

services for our school students. There is an open invitation to attend. Services begin at 2:45pm and last about 15 minutes.

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

First Sunday of Lent

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus' temptations centered on how he would assume and grow in his identity as God's beloved, fully human son. The temptations to selfishness, power and manipulating God, were surely as real in his life as they are in our own. Luke tells us that at the end of the temptations, the devil left Jesus "for a time." This scene in the desert reminds us that the powers of evil never tire of offering cheap, attractive and corrupt ways to fulfill our real human needs for sustenance, self-expression and genuine relationship with God and others. The Son of God chose to enter into the struggle. Lent is our annual opportunity to do the same.

Be a Grateful People (Dt 26)

[Celebration](#)

This reading has great potential to orient us as we enter the 40 days of preparation for Easter. It reminds us that the sacrifices we make are to be sacrifices of praise; it calls us to become ever more mindful of the reasons for our gratitude to God. The Israelites understood their national history as salvation history. Their arrival in the promised land was both a political and a religious event. A primary reason for remembering their background was to engender compassion for others who suffered as they had.

This reading puts Lent in the context of salvation history and reminds us that our own history should be the springboard for us to treat others as God has treated us, to see the good that we have as a reminder of what we can give, not what we have made for or of ourselves. Our ancestors would tell us that what they had made of themselves left them in slavery in Egypt. God made them a people capable of giving.

Lived Faith (Rom 10)

[Celebration](#)

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This selection from Romans orients us to Lent in a rather unexpected way. Just when tradition would have us thinking about what we should do to make these 40 days fruitful, Paul calls us to grow in faith rather than works. This takes the emphasis off ourselves and calls us to discover God's presence in our hearts and in the thoughts and words that spring from inside us.

Another dimension of Paul's message in this saying is that faith has real effects. To believe that Jesus is Lord means to believe that his life, death and resurrection reveal God's very being and God's immeasurable love. The more we believe in God's love for us, for each of us individually, the more we realize that sharing God's love is what life is all about. According to Paul, salvation is the transformation that happens in us as we come to understand that.

Temptations of Life (Luke 4)

[Celebration](#)

The First Sunday of Lent always features Jesus' temptation in the desert, and today, we hear Luke's rendition of the story. Luke carefully presents this incident in conjunction with what came before it and as a foretaste of what is to come in the rest of his Gospel.

Luke sets the scene by connecting Jesus' baptism with what follows immediately thereafter. At the baptism, Jesus heard the divine voice call him "Son." Now, filled with the Spirit, he is led into the desert to be tempted. These 40 days recall Israel's desert sojourn, the 40 days Moses spent fasting and writing down God's law (Ex 34:28), and Elijah's

40-day walk to the place where he would meet God (1 Kg 19:8). Those three events provide the backdrop for Jesus' 40 days in the desert.

Jesus' temptations are prototypes of every individual's temptations and the things that can destroy the life of any community, including the church. Jesus' responses offer guidelines, reminding us of the implications of claiming our status as children of God. When it comes to bread, we have every reason to trust in God's providence.

When we experience the desire or opportunity to exercise power, Jesus teaches us how to ask, "Whom does it serve?" Finally, he shows us that faith is an invitation to growth in relationship, not an insurance policy or a tool to manipulate God.

A Matter of Time

Carolyn Wright, [Celebration](#)

There are three scriptural accounts of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. The accounts from the Gospels of Matthew and Mark end with the angels coming to support Jesus after the third temptation. But this account, the one from the Gospel of Luke which we read today ends, "When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time." He departed from him for a time? *For a time?* What does that mean?

We all know from experience that temptations to be less than or to be more of what we are *not* called to be as Christians, stares us in the face more often than we would like: Take credit for the success even though there was a team who did most of the work. Accept the promotion which should have been offered to another person in the department. Make a decision which impacts those in our care negatively because of our foolish pride. It is only a matter of time; temptations return again and again needling us where we are weakest in our resolve to live fully our call as Christians.

Whether it is the temptation toward relevancy, popularity or power, any resolve I have to combat these is grace and is founded in my relationship with God; it is founded in prayer.

The Gift of Faith

[GraceWorks](#), Dallas TX

Before we can even imagine the Gospel's good news for us, we must face the bad news about us. There is a sentence on us, meted out by judgment that has come from our own hand. We have broken God's law. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have abandoned the poor, the widow, the stranger, the dying and the abused. That which is wrong with us is our doing. If we are brutally honest, we must confess with Paul, "Wretched one that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Fellow pilgrims on this Lenten road, the faith we confess is first an absent faith. There is nothing in and of ourselves that can make whole what is broken or heal what is sick.

But where do we go and to whom do we turn? This faith that saves us, at first absent, comes to us in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Someone has rightly said that faith is not something we find; not even something we obtain, procure, earn or deserve. Faith, said a wise friend long ago, is a gift we receive, born in us and through us by the work of One from whose life we receive a love that never lets us go.

**"MAY THE SPIRIT SUPPORT
ME ON THE JOURNEY FROM
ASHES TO EASTER."**

Carpe Diem: An opportunity is present in the Parish Mission of this week to come. Let it not pass by!
Fr. Tom