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

PRAYER LINE

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

Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

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. (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 (Not July) in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish call Parish Office for appointment.

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 March 28th, 2022

MONDAY

244: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

245: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY 7 pm Mass

246: Is 49: 8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

247: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

FRIDAY 7 pm Stations of the Cross

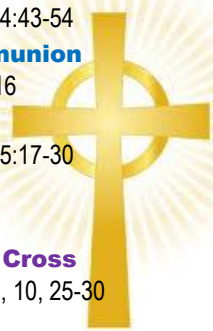
248: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

249: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

36: Is 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

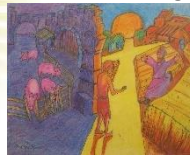


EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

The Gospel story is about how a family relates to one another. How would you describe the relationships in your own family? After hearing the story of the prodigal son, which character do you relate to the most?

Reflecting on the Word:



It is easy to think of ourselves as the good son. But the good son is also guilty of sin. He refuses to accept the goodness of the father. He considers his brother unworthy of their father's generosity and forgiveness.

It is important to reflect on the action of the father who reaches out with love and mercy to both sons. He runs out to greet the younger son on the road, and he leaves the feast to bring the older son inside. Mercy and forgiveness are lessons we must learn.

Living the Word:

Lent is a good time to experience God's forgiveness and mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation. Before Easter, schedule a time for you and your older children to celebrate this sacrament. Children under the age of six do not understand the idea of sinning, so you want to ask them to think of a time they did something wrong, and you hugged and kissed them. Explain God is like a forgiving parent.

40 Lent Activities for Families

GIVING:

1. do someone else's chore
2. give someone a hug
3. help someone
4. make a card for someone
5. make a craft for someone
6. do something nice for Mom/Dad
7. do something kind for the earth
8. read a book to a sibling
9. say something kind to a family member
10. say something kind to a friend
11. play with someone different at recess
12. tell your teacher one thing you like about her
13. smile at as many people as you can
14. write a letter/draw a picture for a sponsor child
15. bring some baking to a neighbor
16. give something of yours to a family member
17. give something of yours to a friend
18. wash someone's feet
19. do someone else's laundry
20. clean a bathroom
21. make someone else's bed
22. use your own money for giving to church
23. use your own money to shop for the food bank



FASTING

24. fast from TV
25. fast from dessert
26. fast from candy
27. fast from a bad habit
28. fast from sweet drinks
29. fast from meat
30. fast from reading anything but the Bible

PRAYING

31. praise God for who He is
32. confess something to God you feel bad about
33. thank God for your favorite people
34. pray for someone who is sick
35. sing a song of praise to God
36. kneel before God and pray
37. pray for a refugee
38. pray for someone who needs to know Jesus
39. pray for your pastor
40. read a Bible story together

PARISH ACTIVITIES

"School Spring Break Week"

Monday, March 28th – Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 29th – Lenten Scripture Study 10 am

Wednesday, March 30th – Soup Supper 6 pm

Saturday, April 2nd - Confessions 11 am

Synod Listening Session 5:45 pm

Sunday, April 3rd – CLOW/Nursery 9:30 am Mass

Communal Penance 1 pm

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$10,200

Catholic Relief Services: \$430 Food Pantry: \$340

Children's Good Deeds

...I gave a note to my prayer buddy...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

The weather is warming, the birds are chirping, and the children are starting to come out of their winter hibernation. Officially, they are on spring break this week, and whether they go somewhere or not, it is a great time to recharge their batteries for a busy end of the school year. I do hope everyone has a great spring break and comes back

refreshed and ready to learn!

This week, Jesus gives us the parable of the prodigal son. There are many different messages we can take from this Gospel. Even though the young man took his inheritance and squandered it, his father still offered his son forgiveness and received him back with an elaborate banquet. Jesus has opened the door for all of us to be forgiven when we are sorry for our sins. Being humble and asking for forgiveness will help us to share in the ultimate treasure of spending eternity with God. I am not perfect, and by trying to do better when I fail, I can ask for forgiveness when it is needed and take a step closer to having a life with God.

I hope you all have a great week!

The family of Edmond Matuszewski

would like to thank Father Sutton, our organist and parishioners who sent cards, brought food, or just showed your support in our time of sorrow. We truly appreciate your kindness.

The Matuszewski Family



FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Etymologically, conversion means a complete turn-around or about-face as well as an absolute change of heart and mind. The radical character of the son's decision to be converted is shown in his statement, "I will break away and return to my father" (v.18).

Breaking away, difficult as it may be, is, however, only the first step in a lengthy journey homeward. Nevertheless, those who accept the Lenten challenge to conversion will find reassurance in the fact that no step toward God, however small or feeble, goes unanswered. Notice that the loving father in Jesus' parable "ran out to meet his returning son while he was still a long way off" (v.20). While the Father could have easily reproached his son and treated him with an understandable and justifiable sternness, he did not. Rather, "he embraced him and kissed him" (v.20) and within the warmth and security of his father's love, the son was able to admit the truth of his guilt. "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son" (v.21).

In that moment, the son learned the lesson of his father's love; in that same moment, believers are to learn the lesson of their heavenly Father's love. A love that is neither earned nor deserved, the love of God for returning sinners is lavish, uncalculating, unquestioning, free.

New Beginning: (Joshua 5): *Celebration*

The event portrayed in today's first reading is a climactic one; at last, the desert wandering was ended and the escapees from Egypt, led by Joshua, had crossed the Jordan into Canaan. Encamped at Gilgal, they celebrated the fact that God had removed Egypt's "reproach" (v.9). Some have interpreted this reproach as the failure of the Israelites to be circumcised in Egypt; this they did upon their arrival at Gilgal (see Joshua 5:28). Others have understood the reproach to be a result of living in the unclean land of Egypt. Still others, and these are probably more correct, have suggested that the reproach now removed was a reference to the slavery and oppression suffered by God's people in Egypt.

Messengers: (2 Corinthians 5) *Celebration*

For Paul, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was the dividing line between the old order and the new (v.17) and the starting point of what he refers to as "a new creation" (v.17). The "old order" of sin, death and darkness has passed away and the new order of holiness, life and light is made available to all by God in Christ. This is the message or reconciliation of which each of us is privileged to be the first a recipient and then an ambassador. Once again Paul teaches us that the message must not only be heard; it must also be lived.

Son or Father: (Luke 15) *Celebration*

While this parable that is unique to Luke's gospel is read once again in our hearing, we too will be challenged by it. With which son do we identify? The elder brother? Do we share his annoyance at the tender mercies of God for repentant sinners? Do we bristle at the seeming injustice of the father's, i.e., God's generosity and decry his purposeful "amnesia" as regards the sins of his errant son? Or, perhaps, we may see a likeness of ourselves in the younger son's thoughtlessness and disrespect for his father. Like him, we may find ourselves alienated from God and in need of God's reconciling grace. Like the younger son, we may see the need during these weeks of Lent to "come to our senses" and enter anew into the process of conversation that will carry us home to God.

Whether we identify with the sinful younger son or the sinful elder brother, this parable assures us of a father's love and forgiveness.

Henri Nouwen once suggested that we should also be willing to identify with the father in Jesus' parable: "Do I want to be like the father? Do I want to be not just the one who is being forgiven, but also the one who forgives; not just the one who is being welcomed home, but also the one who welcomes home; not just the one who receives compassion but the one who offers it as well."

Isn't this the challenge of Christianity...to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we are loved, and to rejoice when the lost are found and the dead come back to life.

Working for it: *Grace Works*, Dallas, Texas

Years later, as Israel would look back on the morning the manna disappeared, they would smile with wisdom and gratitude. For by now they had become farmers and herdsmen and merchants. They had settled and inhabited the Promised Land, and they had learned to realize that this more varied diet was no less a gift from God's hand, just as the manna had been for their forefathers. They knew, looking back, what they could never have known on that first morning. The manna was God's way of keeping His people alive in the wilderness. But it was also His way of keeping them moving. If it were not for the manna, the wandering Israelites would either have perished, or become adept to living in the wilderness as Bedouins. In either case, they would not have made it to the land of Canaan. They would never have developed into the full-grown people of God for which purpose God's grace was extended to them in the first place.

We live now, as Israel did after Gilgal, learning to look at the variety of God's ample provision, and to pray with thanksgiving, "Give us this day our daily bread," knowing full well that the daily bread will not just appear outside our door. And for that grace too, we thank God.

On Being Wasteful: Catherine Upchurch, *The Liturgical Press*

Traditionally, this story is referred to as the parable of the Prodigal Son. The word "prodigal" means "wasteful extravagant" or "lavishly wasteful." It's true that the younger son is wasteful. He wastes his share of an inheritance he has not yet earned, and he wastes precious time in regret and misery. But wait...the older son is also wasteful. He wastes his energy on jealousy and anger, on resentment toward the father's celebration of his brother's return. Both brothers are prodigal, or wasteful, in ways that can damage their bonds to each other and in ways that can damage their own sense of self.

But the biggest surprise is that the father acts in a way that is prodigal as well, turning the meaning of lavish wastefulness on its head. He is lavish in his mercy and forgiveness, excessive in his celebration of a son who returns home, extravagant in ignoring the shame brought by the younger brother, who has damaged the family name, and the shame brought by the older brother, who publicly refuses to honor his father's wishes to celebrate.

When Jesus tells this story, he is really inviting us to step into the shoes of the father, the shoes of his Father God, in fact. He is inviting the scribes and Pharisees of his time, and he is inviting us. We are being challenged to be prodigal in the best way—to see sin through the eyes of mercy, to hear pridefulness with ears of compassion, and to set a banquet where the aromas draw others in to celebrate God's mercy and goodness. In the words of Paul from our second reading today, we are "given the ministry of reconciliation," knowing it is not possible to be too lavish with God's love.



*"Help me, Lord, to
come to my senses"*

"Journeying Together"



Some have already participated in a listening session. If not prayerfully consider signing up today. Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated? What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own? What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

Let us trust in the Holy Spirit, and let us enter this synod with joy, hope, and a new energy for the future of the Church! Information can be found in the brochures available at church entrances or the parish website along with *The Synod Prayer*

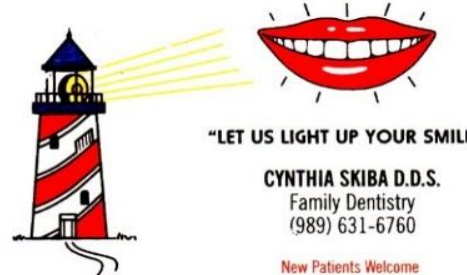
For questions or to volunteer to help with upcoming listening sessions, contact Kelly Hadd (tkhadd@hotmail.com, 989-295-5339).




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St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611

	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
COLUMBARIUM		
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,000	\$1,500
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,400	\$1,750
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 300 per niche
CEMETERY		
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