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 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan  
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

**PASTOR**

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton ..... [tsutton@auburnac.org](mailto:tsutton@auburnac.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

Office, Kim Grant..... [parishoffice@auburnac.org](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.org)  
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**LAY MINISTERS**

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	

**PRAYER LINE**

Mary Jane.....(989) 513-5137 [vicmaryj@hotmail.com](mailto:vicmaryj@hotmail.com)  
 Sisters of St. Clare ..... [srsclare.com/prayer](http://srsclare.com/prayer)

**BEFRIENDER**

Mary Ellyn Gushow .....662-6745

**COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND**

Pam Graul-Gwizdala .....513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal .....662-6431

**MASSES**

Saturday 4:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM (Not July)  
 Sunday 9:30 AM Thursday 8:00 AM (Not July)  
 \*Currently Suspended

**WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Tuesday 8:00 AM (Labor Day through Memorial Day)  
 \*Currently suspended

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish \*Currently Suspended or 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](http://www.auburnacschool.org)  
 Clark Switalski, Principal ..... [cswitalski@auburnac.org](mailto:cswitalski@auburnac.org)  
 Chris Kaczynski, Secretary ..... [ckaczynski@auburnac.org](mailto:ckaczynski@auburnac.org)

**WEATHER POLICY**

If Bay City Public Schools 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 MAY 25, 2020

### MONDAY- Memorial Day

297:Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-5acd, 6-7b Jn16:29-33

### TUESDAY

298:Acts 20:17-27 Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 Jn17:1-11a

### WEDNESDAY

299:Acts20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-36a, 35bc-36b Jn17:11b-19

### THURSDAY

300:Acts22:30; 23:6-1 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Jn 17:20-26

### FRIDAY

301:Acts25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b Jn 21:15-19

### SATURDAY

302:Acts 28:16-20, 30.31 Ps11:4-5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

### SUNDAY

63:Acts 2:1-11 Ps104:1,24 29-31,34 1Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 Jn20:19-23



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

*Have you ever felt insecure and unready, yet excited and hopeful about something new? Jesus left his followers in the care of the Holy Spirit. How do you feel the presence of the spirit today?*

### Reflecting on the Word:

In their last earthly encounter with Jesus, we hear that the disciples worshipped, but they doubted. This seems to be a paradox. How could the disciples worship Jesus Christ and at the same time doubt the truth of his identity? But Jesus is not concerned with their doubt, just as he was not concerned with their betrayal in Jerusalem. He exhorts them to make disciples of all nations. Even when we, like the disciples, doubt and deny and are imperfect, we are still called to be missionaries of his Good News.



### Living the Word:

Images are important reminders of people we love. That is why we carry photos in wallets and phones, or place them on our dressers, desks or living room walls. Similarly, the presence of religious art in the home can be a way of remembering our relationship to God. Look for images or statues that resonate with your family and display them in your prayer space or in your children's rooms.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**All parish activities are currently suspended, we will keep you informed of any new developments. \* Please note, the tentative Phase 1 directives from the Bishop enclosed as well as the guidance issued by Father Tom.**

## STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962    Offering: \$11,678

Food Pantry: \$40.00

*Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the parish financially during the cessation of masses. It is truly appreciated!*

### Children Good Deeds

*...Even though there were no children's envelopes this week we hope that children at home are doing still "good deeds" and we would love to hear what they are. [parishoffice@auburnac.org](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.org)*

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

The end of the school year is drawing near and online instructions for our students will soon be completed. The students, teachers, and parents have all worked hard these past couple of months and I am grateful to all of them. They have been really working to provide a quality education so our students can continue to grow academically. As the year winds down, please keep our staff, students and parents in your prayers, because this has been hard on all of us.

The Ascension of the Lord is upon us. As Jesus stated, we are to go out and make disciples of all nations. AAC is a wonderful place to begin building the foundation for our students to go out and spread the Gospel. Giving the students an opportunity to experience Jesus and his Grace is an important part of what we do at our school. Our mission statement states that we will empower each student, along their academic journey, to develop their God-given talents and become a lifelong disciple of Christ. I pray that we make this difference in the lives of our students, so they can make a difference in the world.....**God Bless**

### Online Giving...

#### Your parish STILL needs your support.

You can drop off your donations at the parish office or mail them. *But don't forget the availability of online giving.* You can go to the parish website and "click" online giving, you can also go to My parish App or use the link below. While we may be unable to attend weekly mass, this is how **your vital support** can still happen. <https://www.osvhub.com/auburnac/funds>



### Good News!

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Lorraine Fournier turns 90 years young! She is Renee Krager's mother and she keeps herself busy reading her Easter booklet, working on large print crossword puzzles, reciting the rosary and watching mass everyday on TV. We wish her a very Happy Birthday!

## Church Reopening Update:

Bishop Gruss sent out last Friday directives to pastors and parishes on how to slowly and gradually reopen our churches. While parishes can begin on May 25<sup>th</sup> to have daily masses, the Governor's stay-at-home order mandate is extended to May 29<sup>th</sup>, so we will not resume the Wednesday and Thursday 8 am masses until June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Weekend Mass will resume on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with the feast of Pentecost. Given the guidelines at 257 capacity, we have set 100 as the number that can be accommodated for each liturgy, bearing in mind the necessary protocols. All Catholics in the state have been dispensed from the obligation of Mass attendance through the end of August. There is no doubt that a certain number of people will want to stay away from any large gatherings. To be as fair as possible the parish roster has been divided into four sections. The first 25% will be invited to the first weekend, the second 25% to the second weekend and so on. We have enclosed further instructions for your information. **A mask will be required, social distancing (6ft apart) will be observed, no sign of peace, no holding hands during The Lord's Prayer and no communion from the cup.** Patience is going to be a necessity. Initially this is going to be a learning process for all involved. Adjustments will be made when it is necessary. Let us be grateful that we can begin to go to Mass as a community. Let us be careful that we do so correctly. ~ Father Tom ~

### The attendance schedule is as follows:

May 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, A thru F

June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, G thru K

June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, L thru P

June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, R thru Z

**"Lord, let your blessings be upon me"**





FROM  
FR. TOM'S  
DESK

**Feast of the Lord's Ascension** Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Called the Great Commission by scholars, these verses conclude the Matthean gospel offer not only a clear mandate but also an enduring and encouraging promise. Paired with the agenda that the disciples of Jesus are to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing and teaching the good news without discrimination and without stinting is the pledge of Jesus, "know that I am with you always." What greater comfort could there be than in knowing and believing in the constant presence of Jesus. What greater guarantee that the work we are given to undertake can, be accomplished because of and by virtue of that presence.

No doubt, Matthew's Jewish readers would have appreciated the power and resonance of Jesus' promise for it had been God's own promise to the chosen people from the beginning. These words of encouragement were extended to all whom God called to service. To Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to David, to Isaiah, Jeremiah and all the prophets, the same words, "I am with you", translated into courage, tenacity and strength for the task at hand. Spoken by the risen Jesus, this promise of presence brings readers of the Matthean gospel full circle to its initial proclamation of good news in Matthew 1:23: "And they shall call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God with us.'"

It would be a mistake to regard the promised presence of Jesus as a gift restricted to the first disciples or solely to missionaries. This promise is surely made to the church, as a whole, i.e., not only to clergy but to the people of God. Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus' presence was promised for times of judgement and discipline in the Church (18:20). Here the promised presence is for empowerment. As in 8:23-27, the little ship of the Church, battered by life's storms and unforeseen calamities knows that it is never left to depend entirely on its own resources. The Lord Jesus, the risen, ascended, enthroned and gloriously powerful Lord remains with the Church. Literally, Matthew described Jesus abiding authoritative presence as with us "all the days, right up to the consummation of the age." Contemporary translators have rendered this qualifier simply as "always"; but that adverb does not preserve Matthew's intent. "All the days" emphasizes the daily nature of the presence of Christ-each day, every day, day by day.

**Powered by the Spirit: (Acts 1)** *Celebration*

The ascension narrative reveals the early Church's struggle to voice a reality that lay far beyond all explanatory categories. Struggles and problems notwithstanding, at the heart of the ascension story is the fact that the community, that fearful, bewildered, waiting and praying community, had no power of its own. It possessed none and could not generate any for itself. It had no claim or cause for self-congratulation. Yet, power was given that caused that fragile, little community to have energy, courage, perseverance, imagination and untold resources, completely disproportionate to its size. That power was given as a result of Jesus' resurrection and return to God. With the gift of an agenda that would take them to the ends of the earth.

Twice in today's first reading, the gift of the Spirit is announced (vv. 5,8) as a power that will infuse the Church, fire its energies and help in realizing the agenda Jesus gave. That agenda will include being Jesus' witnesses throughout the world. A really, authentic witness does not consist of words but deed.

**Body of Christ: (Ephesians 1)** *Celebration*

Couched in the form of a prayer for its intended recipients, this Ephesians text requests a deeper knowledge of God that will enable believers to fully appreciate the gift of their election by God (v.18). By reason of their baptism, those whom God calls are destined to become part of the heavenly community. This is described as "a glorious

heritage...distributed among the members of the Church." This immortal destiny is guaranteed because it is affected by God's power and strength (v.19). The fact that God's power has affected the resurrection of Jesus gives assurances to those who have been promised the same (v.20)

The ancient writer concludes this prayer with a reference to Christ who is the head of the Church which is his body. "Body of Christ" is the Church's greatest title. Perhaps this title could also be called the Church's most pressing agenda for if we are truly Christ's body, then, by virtue of our union with him and in him, the Church is quite literally the hands that do Christ's work, the feet that serve his purposes, the voice that speaks his words and the heart that loves, gives and forgives as he loves, gives and forgives. Today's Matthean gospel will feature Christ, the head of the Church, sending forth his hands and feet and heart and voice into all the world. That agenda is still in the process of being realized; it is our responsibility to see it through.

**Our Work: (Matt 28)** Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

The ascension of Jesus is a reminder that life conquers all, that because Jesus was lifted up to the father. The band has struck up-the ascension is our invitation to dance with the Lord of the Dance.

That's how the story goes so far. This next part is made up, but it feels like it might have happened. When Jesus arrived back in heaven, his Father asked him whom he had left to carry on his mission on earth. Jesus proudly told God that his friends would do it. And God replied, "You mean Peter, who betrayed you, and Judas who sold you, and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean to tell me that you left them to carry on your work?" Jesus answered, "Yes, Father, those are the very ones," And God said, "What is your backup plan?" "There is none. Either they do it or it doesn't get done." Whether or not that is a tape recording of their conversation, we know that it is the gist of it. Nobody has seen Jesus for 2,000 years; the nearest they can possibly get to him is his friends. And they look to us to see what God is doing in his world.

The church may rightly wait for others to discover a vaccine or to colonize the moon or to compose masterpieces in music and art. But there is no point in our looking around for others to carry on the Kingdom-or even to help us. That is the special job our Friend gave to us personally. And there is no Plan B.

**Parting Gift:** Rev. Michael Kwatera, *Celebration*

When Jesus was taken up to heaven, the apostles apparently were too surprised and confused to offer Jesus any kind of going-away present. What could they have offered to the risen Lord of glory that would have been worthy of him? Besides, they knew that Jesus always travelled light...So Jesus did something far beyond the demands of good etiquette: at his ascension, he gave the *bystanders* a going-away present. Jesus didn't have to think too long about how much it would cost, or how it would be wrapped, or whether it would be appropriate. He knew that it was the perfect gift, something that his disciples couldn't live without, something that they get from no one else. Jesus gave them his *blessing*.

God's blessing was something that Jesus had received from his Father in heaven as he began his saving work on earth. The Spirit of God blessed Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan River, and this blessing remained powerful throughout his ministry of teaching and healing. This blessing was something that Jesus gave to people throughout his life in many ways: curing the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, raising the dead.

It was Jesus' life of bringing God's blessing to his people that empowered him to accept death on the cross, the necessary prelude to his resurrection and ascension. Thus, the most natural going-away present that Jesus could give his disciples was a blessing. And it was no cheap present: Jesus was able to give them his blessing because he loved them enough to suffer and die for them. Only in that way could he be raised up as the source of their salvation and share God's everlasting blessings with them in heaven.



### Food Pantry Update:

We have been serving MANY people through the food pantry in the past few weeks as the economic situation has continued to decline. The St. Gabriel parishioners have been so very generous with donations both food and money, but we do need some replenishment:

- |                                |                         |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Canned Tuna</i>             | <i>Pancake Mix</i>      | <i>Hamburger Helper</i> |
| <i>Mouthwash</i>               | <i>Mac &amp; Cheese</i> | <i>Tuna Helper</i>      |
| <i>Instant Mashed Potatoes</i> | <i>Syrup</i>            | <i>Tissues</i>          |
| <i>Canned Tomatoes</i>         | <i>Canned Fruit</i>     | <i>Cookies</i>          |
| <i>Jelly</i>                   | <i>Taco Dinner</i>      |                         |



### Our Condolences...

We would like to send our deepest sympathy to the families of Cheryl Scott and Patricia Raymond who passed away recently. Please remember these families in your prayers.

### Masks Available: Stay Safe!

The Bishop has mandated that with masses resuming, ALL parishioners attending, over the age of 2, MUST wear masks to services. We do have face masks (including kids!) available at the Parish Office. A couple of parishioners have generously donated masks to make available to anyone who needs them. You are welcome to come by anytime that the office is open and pick-up what you need.



### **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE**

We have been working diligently on the pictorial directory. However, we are at standstill with the shutdown as Lifetouch has closed per the executive order in their state. Know that we are still in the process and hope that we can have it completed in the near future and then get it into the publisher when they reopen. Thank-you for your patience!

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St. Gabriel Parish is always looking for advertisers for our weekly bulletin. Support your parish bulletin and promote your business!. These advertisements are viewed on printed copies, plus online on the parish website and MyParish app affiliated with St. Gabriel Parish. **For more info contact the Parish Office at (989)-662-6861 or [parishoffice@auburnac.com](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.com)**



### **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

# St Gabriel Parish

## Liturgical Instructions as we Prepare to Reopen Our Churches

### Introduction

In mid- March, the Diocese of Saginaw released guidelines and protocols outlining ways to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments during the time of suspended public celebrations of the liturgical life of the Church. These have likewise been updated as we journeyed through these unprecedented days. In light of the planning process of how we will begin to reopen our churches, we have updated our resources as we prepare to do so in phases as outlined below:

**Phase One:** The celebration of Masses is suspended.

**Phase Two:** the celebration of public daily Masses may resume, with the protocols to ensure limited and restricted attendance in keeping with distancing and safety protocols as presented by and following civil and health authorities.

**Phase Three:** The celebration of public Sunday Mass may resume, with the limited and restricted attendance increasing over time, as presented by and following civil and health authorities.

Even when Sunday Mass is available, the Faithful will remain dispensed from any obligation to attend Mass on Sunday because of the continuation of restricted attendance.

**Phase Four:** the celebration of Sunday Masses at full capacity may resume, with a return to a state resembling Catholic life before the beginning of the pandemic.

*We are currently in Phase One moving into Phase Two*

**Public Mass** continues to be suspended until 5-30-2020. When we reopen the maximum number of people allowed in the church at any one time based on size, layout, ability to socially distance, and ability of the parish to clean the facility regularly here at St. Gabriel Parish is 100 people.

**Baptisms** are permitted if certain criteria are met. However, in order to limit any potential spread of the virus to a vulnerable population, only small, private family Baptisms with fewer than 10 attending are allowed. Use only fresh water that is blessed for each individual Baptism. Social distancing is to be followed (at least six feet between people at prayer.)

**Weddings** are permitted but should be attended only by asymptomatic (showing no signs of COVID-19) family members with fewer than 10 attending. This number should be strictly enforced with the assistance of the family. Social distancing is to be followed (at least six feet between people at prayer.)

**Funerals** are permitted but should be attended only by asymptomatic family members with fewer than 10 attending. This number should be strictly enforced with the assistance of the family. Social distancing is to be followed (at least six feet between people at prayer.)

**Cemetery:** The Rite of Committal may continue to be celebrated at any proper burial place pursuant to the guidelines of the cemetery but should be attended by asymptomatic family members with few than 10 attending. This number should be strictly enforced with the assistance of the family. Social distancing is to be followed (at least six feet between people at prayer.)

**Confessions** continue to be offered by appointment please call the Parish Office, 989-662-6861.

**Anointing of the Sick** for those in need of the sacrament should be performed as the priest is able to do so, please call the Parish Office, 989.662.6861.

**Confirmation and Celebration of First Eucharist** scheduled for 2020 are suspended until we have established a pattern for reopening.

**Reception of the RCIA:** Candidates for Reception into the Full Communion in the Catholic Church will take place at a date to be determined later.

## Safety and Hygiene in Our Worship Spaces

The following norms should be observed in our churches and other public spaces:

- When in doubt, err on the side of caution.
- Suspend offering the Holy Eucharist under both species. No cup.
- Suspend holding hands during the Lord's Prayer or offering a Sign of Peace.
- Baptismal fonts and holy water fonts should remain empty.
- Water for baptism is to be changed and blessed before each baptism.
- Vessels should continue to be washed after each Mass with hot soapy water.
- All liturgical vestments, including server albs, are to be regularly cleaned.
- High use areas within the church should be wiped down with disinfectant before and after each liturgy. This will include pews, chairs and ambos.
- Handrails, door handles, push plates, and knobs should be wiped down after each liturgy.
- Doors should be propped open to lessen contact.
- Restroom facilities should be sanitized after each liturgy and regularly.
- All hymnals and missalettes should be removed from the pews. At each Mass, disposable worship aids should be distributed, then discarded after each liturgy.
- Hand sanitizer will be available when entering church.
- **Face masks must be worn by ALL parishioners over the age of two.**
- Those who are sick, symptomatic or vulnerable should stay home!

## Social Distancing Moving Forward

As we begin to look to the future social distancing will be used before, during, and after liturgical celebrations.

- Social distancing requires each person outside your immediate family to stay at least six feet between people.
- Other than family/household units, parishioners should be seated six feet apart in all directions.
- Our worship space will be marked so that social distancing can be maintained. This means you may not be able to sit where you have "always" sat. There will be no exceptions.
- Appropriate spacing between individuals in the communion Process will be maintained.
- Large choirs should be discontinued until it is safe to resume.
- Reduced number of liturgical ministers will be necessary; 1 altar server, 1 lector, etc.
- No large gatherings before or after Mass in church or in the parking lot.
- Dismissal after church will look different; row by row so that social distancing occurs at the doors.

