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PASTOR

Rev. Marc Hopps.....mhopps@auburnac.org

PARISH STAFF

Office
 Kim Grant.....parishoffice@auburnac.org
 Bookkeeper
 Janet Woronoff.....bookkeeper@auburnac.org
 Music Director
 Sue LeVasseur.....musicdirector@auburnac.org
 Youth Minister
 Misty Michelle.....youthff@auburnac.org

LAY MINISTERS

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

PRAYER LINE

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

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

MASSES

***Weekday masses suspended until further notice**
 Saturday 4:30 Sunday 9:30 AM

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

***Monthly schedule suspended until further notice**

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 AACS 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 July 24th, 2023

MONDAY

395: Ex 14:5-18 (Ps) Ex 15:1b-6 Mt 12:38-42

TUESDAY

605:2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 126:1b-6 Mt 20:20-28

WEDNESDAY

397: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15 Ps 78:18-19, 23-28 Mt 13:1-9

THURSDAY

398: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Mt 13:10-17

FRIDAY

399: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 13:18-23

SATURDAY Mass 4:30 pm

3400: Ex 24:3-8 Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 607: Jn 11:19-27

SUNDAY Mass 9:30 am

109:1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Ps 119:57,72, 76-77, 127-130 Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, July 25th-Thursday, July 27th – *Vacation Bible School*

Friday, July 28th – Funeral 11 am

Parish Office closes at noon (July & August)

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$11,153.84 Offering: \$6,032

Food Pantry:\$25 Priests Retirement: \$20

\$125 in memory of Joan Bouza

Children's Good Deeds

...Helping Papa trim bushes...Helping at the store...

...Helping my baby brother...Helping take care of puppies...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

cswitalski@auburnac.org 989-662-6431

This year we are rolling out a new student information system. The staff has been trained and we have been working to get all of the information transferred over to the new system. This will allow a lot more integration between all the areas our school covers, and hopefully, it can create some more clarity and help with communication.



This year we were pleased to have the Diocesan teacher of the year for grades K-8 on hand! Mrs. Jessica Spencer was recognized in the most recent edition of Great Lakes Bay Catholic magazine. She is an asset to the school and works tirelessly and diligently to make sure all her Kindergarten students do the best they can to be disciples of Christ. *Congratulations Mrs. Spencer!*

...God Bless ...

EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time:

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Where in your life and throughout the universe do you see a growth of less to more? What happened to the mustard seed? What happens to bread when you add yeast? How is this like the Kingdom of heaven?

Reflecting on the Word:



The Kingdom of heaven is so grand and mysterious that Jesus gives us these parables to help us ponder its greatness, we hear that even the smallest of all seeds grows into the largest of plants, and the tiny yeast transforms flour into a large loaf of bread. Today's Gospel invites us to

think deeply about how something so small can become something very large. It is our job now to take these images that Jesus gave us and use them as springboards to ponder the whole universe: history, nature, ourselves, and, of course, the Kingdom of heaven. What power made the mustard seed grow into the largest plant? We can see this power everywhere, this beautiful force that propels less to more.

Living the Word:

The parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29) is very similar to the two in today's Gospel. This week read it together as a family and discuss how it is similar and different.



Vacation Bible School starts this week!

The kiddos are getting ready for a fun three days,

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, under the guidance of Mrs. Mocny and her crew! This will be a wonderful week and a great way to "Shine Jesus' Light!"

Job Posting

A position has recently been posted on the Diocesan website for a Vicariate Liaison and Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Office of Parish Life and Evangelization. The application deadline is Friday, July 28, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Details of the opening and the job description can be found at:

<https://saginaw.org/employment/diocese-saginaw/vicariate-liaison-and-coordinator-youth-and-young-adult-ministry-0>

Update for CMA...the end is near. As of July 12th, these are the numbers for CMA. A recent report from the diocese indicates that \$63,841.60 (86% of our goal of \$74,253) has been pledged by 51% of the parish. We are still \$11,000 away from reaching our target and this year's CMA is ending, so let's give a big push to reach our goal!



God is our Help.

The readings this week offer insight concerning how God is totally merciful and just at the same time. The book of Wisdom

praises the way God is the all-powerful ruler, but He judges and acts with clemency. It says that the perfection of God's power is demonstrated when it is disbelieved and in those who know God excessive boldness is rebuked. God demonstrates His power when people need to be shaken up, but He also humbles followers and friends who become overly confident. This scripture also tells us that justice is not opposed to kindness. The Lord is utterly kind to us. One of the primary ways that God shows generosity is by giving us the Holy Spirit. We continue reflecting on the gift of the Holy Spirit in the letter to the Romans. We are assured that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we pray. It is also a good reminder that prayer is not reducible to a set formula but is rather a relationship. The Holy Spirit searches the mind and heart and helps us communicate to God with words and our desires. The parable of the weeds and what remind us that God's patience is directed towards conversion and pursuing holiness. There will come a time where God's judgment will be dispensed, and people will reap the fruit of their labors.

You Will Be in My Heart



I will be leaving for World Youth Day next week and will be gone for two weeks. World Youth Day is an international event for Catholic youth all over the globe to come together and pray, worship, learn, and be encouraged in their faith. I will be going with the diocese and a group of 20 others. We will be in Lisbon, Portugal for the festivities this year. This is a pilgrimage and not a vacation. As such, our journey is extremely prayerful and surrounded by intercession for ourselves and others. I want to hold each one of you in my prayers as my parish family. As such, please look to the ends of your pew and write some prayer intentions on the pieces of paper. I will collect them and carry them with me throughout my journey. They will be prayed for at Fatima where Mary appeared to three children in the 20th century. When I return I will tell of my travels and experiences and relate how God moved in my heart. Please hold me in your prayers and I will do the same. ~~ **Blessings, Fr. Marc**

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Were there weeds in the Garden of Eden? The day I heard that there is such a thing as dandelion wine I started to question the classification of plants as good or weeds. Who are we to judge?

That is the question we start with in today's Gospel. A landowner's servants notify him that his crops have been corrupted. Somebody has sown alien seed in the field reserved for wheat. The servants are quick to offer to cleanse the land of the intrusion, but the landowner has a different point of view. He's not ready to make a final determination about the worth of everything out there. There may be some surprises, and harvest time will tell the final tale.

There is no doubt that the landowner sees his servants as too precipitous in their eagerness to fix the field. One question here might be, "Just what is a weed?" Wikipedia defines a weed as "a plant considered undesirable in a particular situation." Of course, the next question must be "What is undesirable to whom?" The servants saw the weeds as undesirable. The owner saw the servants' presumed horticultural infallibility as undesirable. What needs to be eliminated here?

When Jesus interpreted the parable of the weeds, he talked about the world with good and evil people, and he specified that the task of weeding questionable people out of the community was not part of the disciples' job description. As the landowner, he mandated that there was to be no weeding. The sifting would happen at harvest. Until then everything would have a chance to grow.

Weeds or not?

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

When Jesus told the story of a landowner whose pristine field had been sullied, he may have been talking a bit of tongue in cheek, nudging his listeners to ask what makes the difference between produce and weeds. Adding to the humor he used to make his point, he followed the weed story with one of sowing a mustard seed in a field. He painted a wonderfully comic scene as he described a planter setting out into the field armed with a first-century shovel and one tiny mustard seed. Add to that the fact his audience knew that mustard was a pernicious plant that took over everything around it.

When Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, he may well be saying that it is something growing prodigiously, much to the chagrin of many who see it. In that case, the mustard seed refers to the tale of the weed-infested field and underlines the idea that it's not always so easy to know who or what should be uprooted.

With the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus talked about planting a fast-growing weed as a symbol of his ministry. That takes us right back to the first question; Who gets to judge what is weed and what is worthy? Frustrating as it may be, Jesus is not giving us the answers. One can imagine Jesus saying, "Let it grow together until the harvest, then I'll send dome angels to evaluate the situation."

Jesus is not giving us the answers—perhaps we would find them too hard to accept. Regarding weeds in the Garden of Eden.




“Lord, help me leave the judging to you.”

SAVE THE DATE! We have set a date for the Parish Picnic! It will be held on Sunday, September 10th from 12 - 3:30 pm. Details to follow. Please make plans to attend!



*Always pray to have
Eyes that see the best in people,
a Heart that forgives the worst
a Mind that forgets the worst
and a Soul that Never
loses faith in God.*

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St. Anthony Cemetery

COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,100	\$1,600
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,500	\$1,850
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 350 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 600	\$1,300
Burial	\$ 750	\$ 900
Burial of Cremains	\$ 250	\$ 275
Saturday Burial	\$ 250 additional	\$ 250 additional
Foundation	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch

Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861