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 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

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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

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE

Stephanie Schacher..... (989) 878-2898

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 in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish *Please 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 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 August 22nd, 2021

MONDAY

425: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10 Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b Mt 23:13-22

TUESDAY

629: Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145: 10-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

427: 1 Thes 2:9-13 Ps 139:7-12b Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

428: 1 Thes 3:7-13 Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17 Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY

429: 1 Thes 4:1-8 Ps 97:1-2b, 5-6, 10-12 Mt 25:1-13

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

430: 1 Thes 4:9-11 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Mt 25:14-30

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

125: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 Ps 15:2-5 Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, August 23rd – School Starts – Welcome Back!

Friday, August 27th – Parish Office closed at noon – summer hours

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 Offering: \$10,157

Food Pantry: \$40

Children G☺☺D Deeds

...Blowed leaves off the sidewalk...Got the mail...Mowed the lawn...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

SCHOOL STARTS MONDAY!!! With the students returning, we are tasked with having to find a replacement for our 5th grade teacher. PLEASE, do you know a retired teacher looking to dip his/her toes back into teaching? How about a student teacher? What about a substitute teacher who could perhaps help us for a couple months? Put your thinking caps on and reach out to possible candidates. Sometimes it takes a village, and we are asking the village of St Gabriel to help us find our new teacher! We have faith, that with your help, God is going to send us the perfect person! Sent all inquiries to cswitalski@auburnac.org

A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**



EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Have you ever felt it was too hard to be a Christian? What changed your mind? If Jesus asked you, "Do you want to leave?" what would you say?

Reflecting on the Word:

Some of Jesus' followers had a hard time with some of Jesus' teachings and decided to leave him and return to their former way of life. We wonder: how can they walk away from Jesus?



We know that sometimes it is hard, scary, exhausting, and challenging to follow Jesus and accept his gifts to us. We are all called to build up the kingdom of God. When discipleship becomes frustrating and discouraging, when it is hard to have faith, when those we know might be leaving the church, or when we feel unwanted, God is calling us. We can choose to walk away, or we can choose to remain in relationship with him. It is a daily choice, one that we must recommit to on a regular basis.

Living the Word:

Why do you believe in Jesus? Together write all the reasons why your family believes in God. Ask the children for their answers especially. Then display the list in your prayer space or somewhere all may be reminded why you believe and trust in God, especially in moments of doubt, confusion, or difficulty.

Baptism Prep Sessions:

We have a wonderful team offering two preparation sessions: Prep I session is for the first-time parents & Prep II is for those parents who have already attended a Prep 1 session. We are currently offering the sessions in-person and virtually. Contact Sandy, 989-662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburn.org to register for a preparation session and set your celebration date.



BAPTISM

Parish Picnic Countdown!

We are 3 weeks and counting! The Parish Picnic is Sunday, September 12 from 12-3:30 pm. We will have food, drink, games, and giveaways but most important a chance to gather with our fellow parishioners and enjoy a summer afternoon! Hope to see you there!

Good Question...

If a stranger were to ask whom you serve, what evidence could be found to show that you serve the Lord?





**FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK**

Twenty-first Sunday Ordinary Time: Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Commitment is a key to today's scriptures. First we hear that Joshua, Moses' protégé and successor, is facing the end of his days. He wants his people to remember who they are before God. We listeners are invited to imagine a vast throng gathered before their revered patriarch. The great leader, now an old man, wants to hand on his legacy so that it will be kept intact and be fruitful. Joshua stands up like a revivalist preacher and reminds his people of all God has done on their behalf. After working the crowd up to a high emotional pitch, he thunders out his challenge: "Decide whom you will serve! As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!" The people follow suit. Echoing his rendition of their history, they renew their commitment: "We will also serve the Lord!" We can almost hear the cheering.

The situation John describes is quite different. Jesus' Bread of Life discourse had caused such division that most of his disciples were leaving him. What they could not accept was the immediacy of Jesus' words. Jesus claimed to be the bread come down from heaven: not a bread-line miracle worker, but the very source of spirit and life. Purveyors of free food will always be popular. People don't often worry about the source of the supply, and they care little about the dependence they create. But Jesus didn't fall into the trap of being the all-powerful benefactor. Instead, he offered himself—at the price of total commitment.

Half-measures were no option for the disciples at this juncture. The people hearing Jesus had to accept or reject his claim to be God's unique envoy, the source of Spirit and life. As a result, in John's simple, tragic words, "many of his disciples...no longer accompanied him." Whether because of scandal or lack of commitment, they walked away.

After that, Jesus, looking not at all like a formidable patriarch, turned to the few still standing by him and asked about their intentions. He didn't ask what they believed, only if they too would leave him. Peter, responding for all who were left, asked his own question: "Lord, to whom should we turn?" Then, like Joshua's people, Peter affirmed Jesus' own words: "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe..."

John wants us to understand that this was the disciples' most critical moment between the time of their call and the Passion. While many of their friends and companions turned away, they chose to remain. That couldn't have been a purely rational decision. Jesus' words spoke to their hearts and rang true to them because that grace had been "granted them by the Father." Jesus had truly become their source of "Spirit and life."

Time of Renewal: (Joshua 24): *Celebration*

Just as the Eucharist is the source of Christian unity—the most eloquent expression of the ties that bind believers to God and to one another in Christ—so was the covenant for Israel. And just as the shared sacrificial meal provided by Jesus sealed the covenant he made with his own, so did Israel consummate their relationship with God by a meal shared in the divine presence. "I belong to you; you belong to me; you are mine; I am yours. I will protect; I will forgive; I will redeem; I will comfort; I will love"... This is the love-language of the covenant that God shared with Israel, but because this love-language frequently fell on hardened hearts and disinterested ears, the covenant was frequently breached and had to be renewed. Today's excerpted first reading constitutes one of those renewal ceremonies and the conclusion to the book of Joshua.

Perhaps even more significant than the exhortation to mutual submission is the attention focused on husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. Ancient household codes ordinarily instructed the recognized head of the household on how to "rule" or "govern" his wife rather than how to love her. In our contemporary culture, the exhortation for wives to submit blares out at us, but in the ancient writer's culture, the exhortation to husbands to love would have appeared much more surprising.

By Example (Ephesians 5): *Celebration*

So also, would the suggestion that Christ be the role model for that love. As defined in this pericope from Ephesians, Christ's love is self-sacrificial and geared toward service. So also, must be a husband's love for his wife and a wife's love for her husband. If this were the code by which every marriage and every household were inspired, how great would be the witness that Christians could offer to the world. How great in our world is the need for such witness.

Need to Choose (John 6): *Celebration*

The disciples caught on quite clearly. They understood that Jesus had handed them an all-or-nothing proposition. Those who couldn't buy into it chose to return to their former way of life.

What of others, the Twelve and those who stayed on with them? When Jesus turned to them and articulated the question that had caused so many to turn back. Peter spoke up for everyone and laid out the essence of discipleship.

Peter's response, beginning with "To whom shall we go?" (v. 68), can spur profound meditation on the process of discipleship. Peter makes no sophisticated creedal or theological statements. He simply reflects on the human hunger for God and says that only in Jesus have they found it satisfied. Jesus said that his words were Spirit and life. Peter may not know how to explain that statement, but he says they have felt its truth; they have grasped what Jesus meant in saying, "No one can come to me unless it is granted by my Father."

As Peter continues, he gives us a hint of the discernment the community of disciples has been doing. He says, "We have come to believe." They have talked among themselves and confirmed the interior experience each has had. Somehow, they know that Jesus' words give them life. That is enough to convince them that he is the "Holy One of God." That is something they will continue to discover for the rest of their lives. For the moment, it is enough that they believe and know it is true.

Growing in Faith: Pat Morin, *Celebration*

Faith, by definition, asks us to accept truths we cannot understand. The existence of God may be logical, but the existence of a personal God who is love, who sent the divine Word into history in Jesus, the God Man who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead for our redemption—all of this is beyond proof. To affirm the real presence of Jesus on Communion requires a deep act of faith every time we receive it. Our own trust that we will survive death in some other existence with God is an act of faith we must make at every funeral, or as we imagine our own final moments on earth.

The great temptation is to postpone our act of faith, to cruise within a culture that frowns on religiosity and approves sophisticated skepticism. We may think we can get by being decent and fair, a good person who cares about others. But when the time comes, either a health crisis or loss of a friend or family member, we will begin to rediscover our need for God.

This is normal, the way most of us grow into our faith, even as we grow in wisdom as we age. Life gets more complicated as we go, and deeper questions require deeper answers. No one escapes the mystery of suffering and loss that leads to either hope or despair.

"Live in me, and through me, Lord"

Another Successful Blood Drive!

The blood drive last week ended up with 32 registered donors and 29 successful donations! Two of those donors were first time donors! Those 29 units will go to help the lives of 87 people. This drive was designed as a fundraiser for AACCS and a check will be forthcoming from Versiti. Thank-you to everyone who tried or was able to donate, your efforts are truly appreciated! Our next scheduled Blood Drive is Thursday October 6th, and you can make your appointment now at versiti.org/MI or by calling 866-642-5663. We are on a roll! Help us keep our donation numbers up. We have already in 2021 had over 120 successful donations!



**THANK YOU
FOR BLOOD GIVING**

John D. McNally 989-662-6952



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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**