



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611  
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[www.auburnac.org](http://www.auburnac.org)  
 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan  
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

**PASTOR**

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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)

**BEFIENDER**

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)

**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 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 \*Please 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)  
 Lisa Gandy, Secretary.....[lgandy@auburnac.org](mailto:lgandy@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 SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

### MONDAY

455: Jb 1:6-22 Ps 17:1b-3, 6-7 Lk 9:46-50

### TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

647: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51

### WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

457: Jb 9: 1-12, 14-16 Ps 88: 10b-15 Lk 9:57-62

### THURSDAY 8 am Mass

458: Jb 19:21-27 Ps 27:7-9c, 13-14 Lk 10:1-12

### FRIDAY

459: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14b 650: Mt 18:1-5, 10

### SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

460: Jb 42:1-2, 5-6, 12-17 Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 Lk 10:17-24

### SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

139: Is 5:1-7 Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21: 33-43



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

*Did you ever agree to do something and then not do it? When you didn't follow through on what you promised, how did it make the other person feel?*

#### Reflecting on the Word:



Sometimes what we say and what we do are very different. Jesus makes a point about those who promised to follow their word but didn't, and those that do. If your initial response to something is not in accordance with God's will, we can always change our minds and turn back to God. There is humility in changing one's mind, and in returning to God after initially turning away. No matter what we have done, it is never too late to return to God.

#### Living the Word:

Sometimes we impulsively say things that are not aligned with God's will. Discuss as a family when you have each said things you didn't mean. How did you feel when you acknowledged that you spoke too quickly and rashly? What did you do to turn back to Jesus? How might we more easily think of how Jesus wants us to act before we do and say things we don't mean? Think of ways to help one another focus on responding in a way that reflects God's will.

**Elementary Religious Education Registration** begins Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45 – 11:45 am. Registration information is available by contacting Sandy, 989-662-4335 or at [sdesjardins@auburnac.org](mailto:sdesjardins@auburnac.org)

**Youth Ministry Registration** will be taken at the Parish Center. Sessions begin October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Schacher at [sschacher@auburnac.org](mailto:sschacher@auburnac.org)

**Sacramental Preparation Applications** will be available at the Parish Center or by contacting Sandy, 989-662-4335 or at [sdesjardins@auburnac.org](mailto:sdesjardins@auburnac.org). Please carefully read over this application. Prayerful consideration should be given as to the suitability of committing your family to sacramental preparation.

#### Baptism Preparations Sessions.

We offer 2 preparation sessions, Prep I session is for first time parents & Prep II is for those parents who have already attended a Prep I session. We are currently offering these sessions in person and virtually. Contact Sandy, 662-4335 or [sdesjardins@auburnac.org](mailto:sdesjardins@auburnac.org) to register for a preparation session and set your celebration date.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$10,962 **Offering:** \$7,977.26

**Food Pantry:** \$450

*Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the parish so generously. We need your support and it is truly appreciated!*

Children Good Deed

...I apologized to a friend ... Washed dishes...

...Helped my sister learn to ride her bike without training wheels...

... Helped out with my baby sister...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

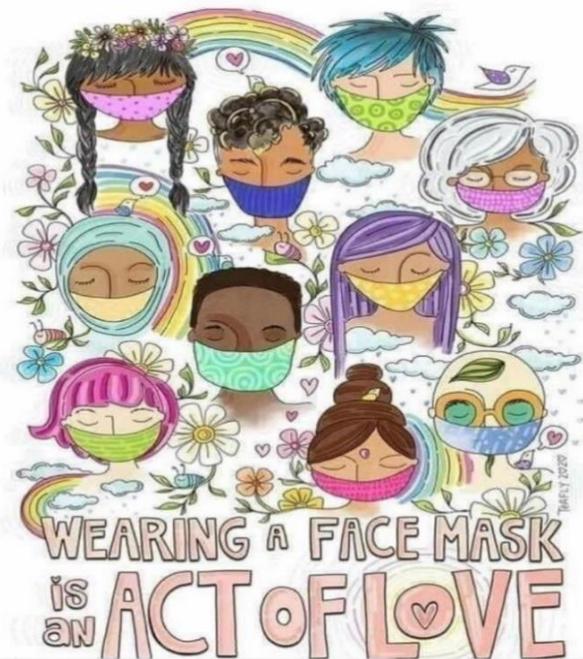
### Clark Switalski, Principal



As fall approaches and the leaves begin to change, I am reminded of how we all have the power to change. Change is never easy but remains one constant in an ever-changing world. I would be lying if I said I enjoyed every time I encounter a change, but there is a part of me that does. While some look at it with fearful eyes, I approach it with open eyes ready to create something new. This year has been something new with the current state of things. We must change constantly to make sure the kids and staff are safe and able to attend school. I pray every night with my family for all the students and teachers regardless if they are in person or online, because either way it is a change that is not always the easiest.

This week's Gospel talks about how God speaks to us as humans. God will speak through people's actions and words and guide us if we listen. The problem we encounter in this is our hesitation to change our habits and follow those of someone new as well as truly identifying who God is using to speak to us. There isn't a good way to know who or what is the right thing to do, but the attempt and effort will reward us with either a positive or negative consequence. It is only in those moments where we are granted clarity into God's plan for us, and we only need to wait for the second chance and say yes when God gives us the opportunity.

† God Bless





**FROM  
FR. TOM'S  
DESK**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Questions of consequence lie at the heart of today's scriptural message. Both Ezekiel and the Matthean Jesus engage their listeners by asking, "Is the Lord's way unfair?" and "What do you think of this case?" Both questions are intended to involve believers in a comparison of God's ways with those of humankind. Both point to the fact that by God's mercy, human life is not defined by one question only but by a series of questions that punctuate all the moments of our days and nights.

Each morning, as the day begins anew, there are questions. Shall I choose virtue? Shall I turn from it? Shall I do the right thing, or shall I choose what I wish to be right? All these questions, all these turnings this way and that, insists Ezekiel, are permitted to us by God. Those who choose rightly are graced in their efforts to live accordingly; those who choose wrongly are frighteningly free to do so. Nevertheless, when their turning takes them back toward God, their way homeward shall be generously graced. We are cautioned, however, against falling into the habit of turning from God, lest in the end, when death brings us to the moment when we must give "our final answer," we shall have become immune to God's loving and grace-filled overtures.

Today's Gospel aptly illustrates that we are afforded the opportunity to change our mind with regard to life's significant and non-significant questions. Two sons are asked by their father to share his work in the vineyard. One says yes but does not go. His answer, though affirmative, results in a lie. His final answer, his final choice, is to refuse his father. After regretting his initial negative answer, the other son amends his will, his answer and his behavior. His no becomes a yes; his final answer restores him to communion with his father.

**Who is to Blame?: (Ezekiel 18)** *Celebration*

An issue in this text is the duty of the individual to choose to do what is right and adhere to that choice. As a result of her choice and faithful follow-through, the virtuous individual will live. However, should the virtuous person turn from good to do evil, she will be held accountable for her choice and behavior. By the same token, the one who freely chooses to turn from evil to do good will reap the benefits of God's blessings.

For Ezekiel's contemporaries, the challenge was to assign blame to no one but themselves, and, if applicable, to realize that by turning from sin to God, even in the throes of the exile, they would be met with healing and forgiveness. For us the challenge is similar. Rather than seek a scapegoat for this world's ills or our own particular struggles in life, and rather than decide what punishments are appropriate for those whom we have accused and condemned as guilty, it is better to stand in truth before God as a sinner in need of mercy, willing to change. Then will the grace of God work in us, transforming us, and through us the world.

**Empty Thyself: (Philippians 2)** *Celebration*

Christians are not expected to copy all the actions of Christ. Rather, we are to be shaped by the same way of thinking. Christ's way of thinking, which reached its most eloquent expression in Gethsemane ("not my will but yours be done"), dictated the obedience that was appropriate for him. Believers who make their own his way of thinking will thereby find the obedience to God that is right for them.

Integral to this process is something that is almost foreign to the customary cultural mores: leaving one's ego at the door in a society that generally subscribes to the popular notion of "everyone for himself" and "looking out for number one," Paul advocated what he

described as kenosis, or self-emptying that emulates the sacrificial and selfless giving of Jesus. By emptying himself of his own will, his own choices, his own desires for living his life as he might have wished, Jesus became a vessel with the capacity of being filled with God's will, God's choices, God's ways. While we, as his followers, may not be challenged to be so radically "emptied," there are opportunities for leaving ego at the door so as to be united in love, spirit and ideals (v.2) The self-emptying that forges community values the opinions, desires and preferences of another above our own.

**Not to Assume: (Matthew 21)** *Celebration*

When Jesus first shared this parable, he did so within the context of a controversy with the chief priests and elders (v.28). These had assumed that their righteousness had earned them entrance into God's kingdom. These had also assumed that the sinfulness of the tax collectors and prostitutes of their day had sealed their fate as kingdom-outsiders. They had, in all their assuming, overlooked the possibility of grace to turn around lives and situations that seemed hopeless.

Nevertheless, Jesus brought the chief and elders to the point where they had to admit that the son who first said no and then changed his mind and heart was the one who did what his father wanted. This admission left them to deal with the fact that those whom they despised as beyond the pale of salvation would be granted a share in God's kingdom.

Today, this parable remains a source of comfort and encouragement for sinners, prompting us to grasp the grace that allows us to say yes to God. By the same token, it remains a source of challenge to us sinners, warning us against that undue self-righteousness that overlooks the need for grace in all we are, in all we do, in all we choose, in all we think, in all we say.

**If at First:** Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*

A CCD teacher was introducing the ten commandments to her young students. After explaining the command to "Honor your father and mother," she asked the class, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

A bright young boy's hand shot up. "Thou shall not kill?" Today's Gospel story reminds us of the commandment to honor our parents. The first son first refuses his father's request, but later decides to obey it and goes to work in the vineyard. The second son promises to do what his father asks, but never gets around to it. This adage was never truer: the road to hell is surely paved with good intentions.

**You Are Here:** From Grace Works, Dallas, TX

Here is a picture filled with all our faces, colored by all our choices. Here is where we find ourselves today, having said "Yes" and doing "No," speaking our "No" and choosing "Yes" Here is the place where God can work in our lives. What do you think? What if you came to church today and never thought about worship being a transforming experience? What if the "No" was not so much a defiant rejection as it was a quiet, disengaged, even unconscious refusal? What if we awoke this morning with a "No" that has, in these moments, become a "Yes"?

I deeply believe that the heart of God is a winsome, inviting "Yes" that bids us sing and speak and live our "Yes" with God. Every hymn and prayer, every anthem and reading, all the spoken and unspoken pieces of an hour's worship are God's gifts inviting us to live the "Yes" of the Christian life.

So here we are, "Yes" and "No" people before the God in whose image we are made. If we listen, we will hear the invitation of the Father who never accepts the fact that "No" is our final answer. In the most negative, cynical moment of your life, God believes you have a "Yes" that longs not only to be said, but to be lived. So, no matter what may have been your "No," live into a yes and in doing so, become God's gift in Christ to yourself and others. Amen



*May I seek Lord, to do your will*



### Food Pantry Needs:

We are hoping to replenish our food pantry and need your help! Last week we gave out 15 boxes of food! We really need the following items:

- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Tissues
- Dish Soap
- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Canned Pasta
- Mac & Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti



The Toni and Trish House in Auburn is looking for individuals who would like to *volunteer* their time for a few hours a week or every other week. We will provide a one-hour training and /or mentorship to make sure that people have all the skills necessary to help us care for our terminally ill guests. If you have any questions please give us a call at (989) 662-6400

### **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE**

We have been working diligently on the pictorial directory! We have completed the activity pages and submitted them along with the parish roster of names and addresses. The publisher will produce a proof and once we have approved everything it will go to print. Thank-you for your patience!

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