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 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal662-6431

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 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
 Ph.: 662-6431.....Fax: 662-3391.....www.auburnacschool.org
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 School Office.....schooloffice@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 NOVEMBER 30, 2020

MONDAY

684: Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22

TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

176: 11: Is 11-10 Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

177: Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY 8 am Mass

178: Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

179: Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

180: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9: 35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

5: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Have you ever waited for someone to visit? What did you do while you waited? How do we prepare our home for the birth of Jesus?

Reflecting on the Word:



Today we begin a new liturgical season and year. We also begin a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus.

Waiting always involves patience and expectation. But in this Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we also must be

prepared, watchful, and alert. We must be vigilant and attentive in our waiting—hard to do amidst the distractions of the commerce of Christmas. In Advent, we must focus on Jesus.

Living the Word:

Write down ideas of how your family can actively prepare for Jesus' coming. Write your ideas on little slips of paper and fold them in half. Ideas include singing Advent hymns such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," making meals or baking cookies for someone in need or setting up a nativity scene. Invite your children to participate in these activities each day during Advent. How does each activity make you ready for Jesus? Don't forget to set up an Advent wreath with four candles. Light a candle for each passing Sunday; explain that the brighter the wreath grows; the closer Jesus' arrival is.



The Advent Wreath is a symbol that marks the season of Advent. It actually originated among the Lutherans of Eastern Germany in the 16th century. It was quickly adopted by both Protestants and Catholics throughout Germany, and it was brought to the

United States by German immigrants in the 19th century. It is a circular evergreen wreath that reminds us of God. God's eternity and endless mercy which has no beginning and no end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness of renewal, of eternal life. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Four candles are used to represent the four Sundays of Advent. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be light for others.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

***Giving Trees Gift Return* - Saturday & Sunday**
Saturday, Dec.5th - Confessions - 11 am

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$9,065
Food Pantry: \$40 **Diocesan Collection:** \$778
Christmas Flowers: \$190

* In Memoriam for Eleanor Drouin: \$30

We want to acknowledge your generous support of our Parish during this uncertain time. Your generosity is a wonderful testament to your faith in our local church. THANK-YOU!

Children 😊😊 Deed

...I made a get-well card... I raked the yard... Helped bag leaves...
... Helped my Dad stack wood... Helping my Mom fold towels...

Request... If you will be gone during the winter months, please notify the Parish Office. We can address your contribution envelopes to your temporary address OR place a hold on them until you get back to Michigan, so the parish isn't charged extra for returned envelopes.



Christmas News Corner



This is the last weekend, November 28th and 29th, for the Giving Trees. The gifts must then be returned by December 6th Either after masses or to the parish office Monday thru Friday 8:30 am till 4:30 pm.. This year we will have them staged in the Social Hall. We have added several "New" trees including one for the Food Pantry and

a tree for a family from Sanford who lost everything during the floods earlier this year. Please stop by and pick up a tag or two so we can make someone's Christmas "Merrier"!

Scrip Sale...

AACS will be selling Scrip after masses this weekend in the Social Hall. Remember that if you choose a tag off the Giving Trees for a gift card you can purchase it from Scrip at the same time and support our school!



AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

Advent is a beautiful time of the year where we are preparing for the birth of Jesus. The time we wait in preparation is a great time to think about our priorities and what is important to us. This past year has been a lot of different things emotionally in my household, but I can honestly say the extra family time has meant a lot to my wife and kids.

The Gospel this week is talking about being prepared for the coming of Jesus. You will never know when he will come, so you must make sure you are prepared for his coming. Being kind, respectful, participating in the sacraments, and showing patience are all ways I try to prepare myself for Jesus. Kindness is always a choice, and there are many times where I need to remember that in my day to day interactions with people. The schools can always use some extra prayers, so please consider saying a prayer for all children in all schools.





FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

First Sunday of Advent

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

When a potter takes an amorphous lump of clay to the wheel, it is the potter who molds and shapes and spins and scrapes until what is conceived in her mind's eye begins to find its form. Then it is the potter who places his handiwork in the kiln, where it is fired and given a certain permanency.

So it is with life. While we human beings are not exactly amorphous lumps of clay, our wills are nevertheless subject to a greater will and a keener vision. Through the experiences of living, giving and growing, the divine potter helps to shape our hearts, our minds, our wills. Through the suffering and struggles of life's "kiln," purification comes. Motivation becomes purer. Integrity becomes firmer. Faith becomes deeper. Hope grows stronger and love finds its greatest intensity.

The potter image clearly states another is "calling the shots" and forming the future. In today's second reading, Paul refers to the efforts of the potter on the clay, as grace. Grace enriches the believer with every good gift, Paul insists. Grace confirms the knowledge of Christ and the good news of salvation and invites our authentic witness to the same. Grace empowers change and growth and new beginnings. Grace allows God to throw and fire the pot and to decide how it will be used. Above all, grace helps us prepare for the moment of our ultimate encounter with the divine, whenever that moment will come.

Mark, in today's Gospel, reminds us that while we cannot know when, we do know *how* we are to prepare—through watchful waiting. While we may not know how God will shape the clay that is our life, we do know some things with certainty: Ours is a loving and merciful God. Ours is a God who looks down from heaven and sees us in all we are, in all we do. Ours is a God who gives new life and new beginnings to all who call out in hope.

God Alone: (Isaiah 63)

Celebration

While there is great trust in this communal lament, there is also impatience: It is not enough for God to "look down" upon (63:15) the people and hear their prayer. This prayer demands that the heavens be torn open and that God *come* down (64:1). In order for this to occur, the prophet recognizes that the people, whose sins have led them away from God and their homeland, must meet God halfway by "doing right" (v.4) and by humbling themselves in repentance. Confession of sin clears the way for the people to throw themselves upon the mercy of God. Confession washes them clear of the notion that they themselves or some political maneuver could bring salvation. Chastened, childlike, the people admit: You are father; you are the potter; you call the shots, O God, and we are content to be putty in your powerful hands. With an attitude similar to that of Job, the prophet and the people of Judah have exhausted their argument against God and have at last bowed to God, admitting that they do not have any power to change things on their own.

On Waiting: (1 Corinthians 1)

Celebration

Paul is in his assurances that God's grace is more than sufficient for whatever may come into our lives as we wait. Enriched with the Good News and with every spiritual gift, we are equipped to make a difference in this world. We are, after all, the church of Jesus Christ, who is the incarnate love and merciful forgiveness and saving redemption of God. This belonging charges us with a responsibility to be Christ in the world and for the world, and to live in such a manner as to be taken seriously. Every aspect of human life, from ecology to economics, from politics to prayer—all are part of the world that we are to grace by our words, by our witness, by our lives.

Active Response: (Mark 13)

Celebration

In this short parable, the Marcan Evangelist underscores the fact that even if he may be absent for a time, Jesus remains the master of the household of the faithful. In his absence, each of his followers has been entrusted with their own work. This uniquely personal task for the sake of the kingdom cannot be accomplished if one waits passively or procrastinates and leaves the work to another day. Since the details about the end are known only to God, being prepared is a daily priority for us.

Isaiah, Paul and Mark remind us that our times and our lives are yet to be written. At the beginning of this new liturgical year, while we await the celebration of another Christmas, we place all we are, all we love and all we hope for in God's competent care.

Call of Advent:

Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*

Helen Keller was only 2 when an illness left her blind and deaf. Until age 7, when she learned to communicate, Helen lived in a world of silence and darkness. When her "miracle-worker" teacher, Anne Sullivan spelled "w-a-t-e-r" on Helen's palm while holding her hand under the stream, Helen understood, and communication opened up the world to her again. She later wrote: "Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content."

Today begins the season of Advent. Like the Easter Vigil, Advent begins in darkness. In silence we wait patiently and anticipate this overture to the story of our faith. We wait for the storyteller's first words. Like sentinels on dark ramparts, we look for the dawn.

Safe Bet:

Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

Every Person and everything is destined for glory. All that every person and everything needs to do what it was created to do, just be itself where it is. Nothing beyond its ability. This system of salvation works perfectly for all non-human creatures. They are content to sit or growl as their nature determines.

It is only we humans who tend to think that we have a better plan. That is why we go against our own nature, create a life separate from God's plan, try to improve our chances of winning by hedging our bets. We put everything in the pot but the last penny. We try to save our life without losing it.

But we cannot win. God is mysterious, heaven is far away, the earth is delightful and tempting, the way is twisted and overgrown, the light is dim, the blood runs hot as and the spirit is exhausted to a whisper. It is fortunate that we are not responsible for the salvation of the world. It has already been accomplished.

Tis the Season:

Rev. William C. Graham, *The Liturgical Press*

Advent is our opportunity to rekindle in our own souls and hearts the power of God's presence and, in turn, to make that truth apparent to others by thoughtful prayer and active concern. The joy we anticipate should be balanced by a true sense of preparation, getting our hearts and homes ready for the coming of the lord as we wait in joyful hope.



*"Help me, Lord, be mindful
of you in my ways."*

❖ **CMA Update:** As of 11-18-2020 the Diocesan Report on CMA for St. Gabriel of Auburn is 141 pledges totaling \$32,360 which is 45% of the goal of \$71,201. Great progress!



Thanksgiving Giveaway :

We gave away more than 50 Thanksgiving Bags and turkey breasts last Monday! We also provided masks and hats and mittens made by our own parishioners. The recipients were so appreciative and all involved on that day felt a true sense of community. Thank-you for your generosity, your donations made this happen!



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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