



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
 Ph.; (989) 662-6861 Fax: (989) 662-0064
www.auburnac.org
 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan
 My Parish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

PASTOR

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

PARISH STAFF

Office Kim Grant.....parishoffice@auburnac.org
 Parish Office Hours...Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Bookkeeper
 Janet Woronoff.....bookkeeper@auburnac.org

Director of Faith Formation..... (989) 662-4335
 Cassie Romzek.....faithformation@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 Gaul-Gwizdala

PRAYER LINE

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

BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Gaul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday 8 AM (On the *First Thursday* of the month the daily Thursday Mass is at 6:30 PM)
 1ST and 3RD Wednesday of the month 9 AM
First Thursday of the month 6:30 PM (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm and Night prayer 8pm to follow Mass*)
 First Friday of the month 8 AM
 Saturday 4:30 PM Sunday 9:30 AM

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Must be active, registered member of parish. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made by contacting the 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

Also, by appointment. Please email Fr. Marc
 5 -6 pm *First Thursday* of the month
 3-4 PM Saturday

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 Auburn Area Catholic School close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of all (including the St Anthony site) evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5

Week of December 4th, 2023

Monday

175: Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday 8 am Mass

176: Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

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

**First Thursday Confessions 3-4 pm 6:30 pm Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7 pm and
Night Prayer 8 pm**

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

Friday 9 am Mass 7 pm Mass

689: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday Confessions 3-4 pm 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



PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday, Dec. 5th – Scripture Study 10 am and 6:30 pm
hand chimes practice – 6:30 pm RCIA info meeting – 7 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 6th – Children’s 1st Reconciliation-6:30pm
Friday, Dec. 8th – Immaculate Conception**

Coffee & Donuts, Scrip Sale Weekend

Saturday, Dec. 9th – Baptism Delta College Chamber Choir 7pm

Sunday, Dec. 10th – CLOW 9:30 am Religious Ed 10:45 am

Penance Service 2 pm Giving Trees Ending

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$11,153.84 Offering: \$6,698

Campaign for Human Development: \$165 Food Pantry: \$800

Retired Religious: \$155 World Mission Sunday: \$25

Children’s GOOD Deeds

...Vacuuming the basement...Taking care of the Fall décor...
...Helping Dad set up the Nativity outside...Playing with S.J...
...I cleaned my room, helped with Thanksgiving, and last night helped my mom cook dinner...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org 662-6431

This week we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of our Mother Mary on Friday December 8th. Mass will be at the normal school Mass time of 9:00 AM. As we wrap up the virtue of gratitude, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the staff of

AACS There are so many flexible people who help to make our school day run smoothly. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to do the best for all our children. They may not be our children by birth, but they are our children by choice.

...God Bless...

EDUCATION / FORMATION

Cassie Romzek, Director of Faith Formation

Family Talk Time: *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families:*

By Sara McGinnis Lee As we are entering the first week of Advent we need to stay awake and be alert. How can we watch for Jesus today?

Reflecting on the Word:



As parents, we must stay awake with late-night feeding, with a sick child, or waiting for a teenager to return home from an evening out with friends. Although we are tired, we are alert for our children’s needs. We are asked to have that same

kind of alertness about our spiritual life. God has given us the responsibility as His servants. We know he is coming. How do we keep our eyes open? How do we keep our hearts open, ready for His return?

Living the Word:

Be attuned to the many occasions God is present in our daily lives. Create a “Be Watchful” list every time you are aware of how or when Jesus has come to your home or heart. Note the date, the time, and a description to help you track how often we are aware of Jesus’ presence in our daily lives.

Have you considered becoming a Catholic?

Those who have not been baptized or baptized in other Christian Communities or baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation, are invited to participate in a process of initiation in the Catholic faith. We welcome new members through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) at Saint Gabriel’s Parish. **There will be a meeting on December 5th, 2023, at 7:00 pm for anyone who is interested in the church.**

Th RCIA is a formation period and journey of faith that offers:

- Reflect on questions about life, faith, & Christian living.
- Meet other people on a similar spiritual journey.
- Learn about the Holy Trinity and Catholic teachings.
- Grow spiritually & deepen your relationship with God.
- Reflect on Scripture readings and pray as a small faith-sharing group.

If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more about RCIA, please contact Cassie Romzek/Director of Religious Education at 989-662-4335 or faithformation@auburnac.org.

23-24 Christ’s Mission Appeal update

Our Christ Mission Appeal assessed amount is \$65,504 this year. The current pledged amount is \$33,230 which is 50% of our assessment pledged by 28% of Parish families as of November 29th. **We are half-way there!**



Father Marc's Minutes...

Happy New Year

I want to wish everyone a very happy new year! This weekend we officially inaugurate a brand-new liturgical year. Advent is a time of active participation where we intensely wait for the Lord Jesus' coming at Christmas. How can we be active and wait at the same time? Isn't waiting a purely passive exercise? To answer these questions, I want to use the analogy of the watchmen standing on top of the castle walls. On the surface their job sounds boring. They must spend the entire night or day just standing in one area while keeping their guard up for potential adversaries. The secret to the entire exercise is to always be scanning the horizon and resist the urge to become complacent. That is how the season of Advent can be transformative and make a difference for our celebration of Christmas. Advent is a specific time to establish habits of gratitude, prayer, self-reflection, and silence so that we notice and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This season of Advent we will also usher in some changes during the liturgy. I want to explain the rationale for this.



The first change has to do with the Book of the Gospels. The first half of mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. This part of the mass we hear from the scriptures and hear our Christian story. We encounter the power of story to transform our hearts and touch our minds. We are reminded of who we are by recounting the stories that inform our identity. The second Vatican council called us to immerse ourselves in God's word. While all the scriptures are holy, the Gospels stand out. They explicitly talk about Jesus' life, teachings, and mission while on earth. We honor them with our physical posture by standing when the gospel is proclaimed. Another way we can honor the gospels is by using a particular book that is decorated and stands out in beauty. The lector will process in with the Book of the Gospels and place it on the altar. The book is carried high and proudly into the sanctuary.

Parish Reconciliation Service

I want to talk a little bit about our parish reconciliation service during Advent. We will celebrate this wonderful sacrament on Sunday, December 10th at 2pm. This service will not be a communal reconciliation/penance service. I know this is a change from the past, and so I want to explain it. However, I cannot explain everything

in this one article. Today and for the weeks leading up to December 10th. I will break down the sacrament, its scriptural basis, and the practical aspects of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In this section I want to talk about what is a sacrament and the aspects of this sacrament. One simple but deep definition of a sacrament is that a sacrament is a visible sign, instituted by Christ, to give us grace. The sacraments also affect what they signify. In other words, the symbol becomes reality. For example, in Baptism the symbol is a cleansing of sin and death and rebirth. Saint Paul makes that abundantly clear when he says we were buried with Christ in Baptism and rise to new life. The pouring of water over the head or immersion is a symbol of this cleansing and rebirth. However, because of the power and nature of a sacrament, there is a substantial and real cleansing that takes place in Baptism. The sacraments are visible signs that use physical matter such as water, words, hand gestures, oil, and more. Secondly, all sacraments flow through the connection to Christ. Christ is the bridge between God and man. Why did God give us the sacraments? He gave them to us so that we may receive God's own life, God's help, and be divinized or transformed more into Christ.

That is a crash course on sacraments. The sacrament of Reconciliation is aimed at forgiveness of sin, both mortal (serious and grave) and venial (less serious), and thereby restoration of the individual to God and the church. This restoration is done by having contrition for our sins, confessing them to a priest, and performing a penance to demonstrate our desire for conversion. The discipline for this sacrament has always involved a verbal confession of sin, performing a penance, and having contrition. In the early church the confession of sins and performing a penance were more public. Over time and especially due to the rise of monastic life, the discipline shifted to a private confession and more personal interaction with the priest. General confession and absolution are a practice allowed by canon law but is reserved for exceptional circumstances where people do not have access to the sacrament or to be used in extreme emergencies. However, even when this is legitimately done, the law expects that the person goes to individual confession at their next opportunity. Due to these reasons, we will not be having communal confession. The reconciliation services will look like this: gathering with song, reflecting on God's mercy with some scriptures, a communal examination of conscience, then time for individual confession with a priest, and finally giving thanks to God together at the end. To receive sacramental absolution or forgiveness from your sins, you will need to go and talk to a priest.





Save the date for our next Blood Drive

Our last Blood Drive of the year here at St. Gabriel Parish is on December 13th from 1:30-6:30 pm in the Social Hall. We would like to close out this year exceeding our goal. We try to get at least 22 donations each drive but being that it is the "Season of Giving" 30 would be a blessing! You can call 866-642-5663 to make an appointment and remember that walk-ins are always welcome.

RaiseRight Gift Card Weekend!

Time to stock up on gift cards for Christmas! Gift cards will be available for purchase after both Masses next weekend, December 9 & 10, during coffee and donuts. Cash or check payments accepted. If you'd like to place a larger gift card order, pick up a RaiseRight order form from the Parish entrances or School hallway and return it by Dec. 6. Gift card orders will be ready by Dec. 17 just in time for Christmas. Thank you for supporting AACCS.



Food Pantry... We would like to take this time to say

thank you to all our angels who have supported the pantry throughout the year. The school with their "Wagons of Love" food collections, the monthly food collections at church, the support of the Thanksgiving boxes and of course the Giving Tree! We gave out **over 800 boxes** of food to needy families this last year so far! We could not have done it without the kindness of this parish and school. We will still welcome your donations this month, we just wanted to take this moment to express our sincere gratitude!



~ ~ Hunger is something no one should struggle with or be judged for ~ ~ Dawn, 10



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Maxwell K Hogue DDS
 Karl Hogue DDS
 989-662-6061
 Fax: 989-662-2676
 702 W. Midland Road maxwellhogue@hoguedental.com
 Auburn MI 48611 after hours: 810-990-5673



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St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611 Contact the Parish Office at (989) 662-6861



	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
COLUMBARIUM		
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