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Kellie Deming	Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie
Tim Hadd	Pam Graul-Gwizdala	

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Sisters of St. Clare ..... [srsclare.com/prayer](http://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 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

**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**

**\*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](http://www.auburnacschool.org)

Clark Switalski, Principal ..... [cswitalski@auburnac.org](mailto:cswitalski@auburnac.org)

School Office..... [schooloffice@auburnac.org](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Monday

181: Is 35:1-10 Ps 9:1-4 Lk 5:17-26

### Tuesday 8 am Word and Communion

182: Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10-13 Mt 18:12-14

### Wednesday

183: Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 10 Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday 9 am Mass - Immaculate Conception

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

### Friday

185: Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday 4:30 pm Mass

186: Sir 48:1-4, 8-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Sunday 9:30 am Mass

7: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11: 2-11



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Reflect silently on the mystery of God becoming man and how he will come again. Listen to the proclamation of the Gospel at Mass and think about why we need to pay attention to John's word. What does the word repent mean? Why is this important as we prepare for Jesus to come?

### Reflecting on the Word:



John the Baptist tells us in today's Gospel to: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" and he recalls the words of Isaiah when he says, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path." John the Baptist is reminding us what this season of Advent is all about: preparation. It is easy to get distracted by all the physical preparation for Christmas, but John the Baptist is reminding us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. We remember that Jesus came into this world over two thousand years ago but we also waiting for him to come again! We must prepare our heart, minds, and our souls so that when Jesus comes, he finds us ready and waiting for him! What a gift that will be for him?

### Living the Word:

As a family, take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation during this Advent season. Many parishes offer Advent reconciliation services. Services at St. Gabriel are Sunday, Dec 11 at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, December 13 at 7 p.m. Take the whole family

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary we recognize that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was sinless from the moment she was conceived in her mother's womb. God chose Mary from all women throughout time to be the mother of his Son. The angel Gabriel calls Jesus "great," "holy," "Son of the Most High," ruler over the house of Jacob forever, and "Son of God." All of these are supersize descriptors for a tiny baby. But this is so important that the woman who carried him must be immaculate, without sin. We honor Mary, who was made perfect by God because his Son was so important that he needed a perfect dwelling place.

**Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**



### Medical Update

Father Tom is on a long road, but he has faith that he will be back on his feet in the foreseeable future. Keep saying those prayers for him!



## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

cswitalski@auburnac.org 989-662-6431

We are officially into December! It is a great time of the year to fill those around you with the joy associated with the Advent season. It is a time to build our excitement for the birth of Jesus! This month, the children at school will get into the festive spirit with several themed dress up days. We also will be having our second round of holiday SCRIP sales. We are asking that the order forms, located at the entrances of the church or at the parish office, be returned by December 9th to either the school or parish office. This is a great way for you to get your gift cards for Christmas and help the school out at the same time!

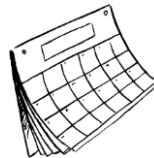
The Gospel is right in line with the Advent season as John begins to lay the foundation for Jesus coming. Preparing to receive Jesus into our lives takes commitment and effort on our part, so however you prepare yourself, I pray you have a wonderful Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

*God Bless*

**Don't Forget...SCRIP Sale this weekend!**

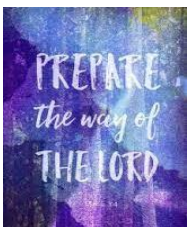
### Calendars for 2023 have arrived!

You can pick up your calendar at either of the entrances to church or at the Parish Office during regular hours.



### CMA Update:

As of 11-25-2022 **50% (\$37,816)** of our target of **\$74,253** has been pledged. These pledges are from *only* 33% of parishioners, Fr. Tom would like to encourage anyone who has not yet made their pledge to please do so and help us reach our goal!





## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### Second Sunday of Advent: Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

If ever there was a more eloquent description of the Messiah and the reign of peace and justice he will establish for all the peoples of the earth, I have not known it. With rich images and even richer prose, Isaiah of Jerusalem (first reading) shares with us the same vision that has filled hearts with hope and joy for almost three millennia (ca. 2,800 years). All that anyone might wish for is there—a leader who is endowed with God's own Spirit and with God-given gifts that will ensure good and wise and just leadership...a leader who champions the afflicted and the poor...a leader whom all nations of the earth will acknowledge and accept...a leader whose reign shall no animosity, harm, or ruin. Knowledge of the Lord will prevail; everyone will know God and be known by God in a relationship that knows no end.

But before this leader and this reign were to be established, preparations had to be made. To that end, God sent prophets. Nearer to the time of Jesus, John the Baptizer was sent as herald, crying, "Repent!". There in the desert of Judea, John called for change of heart and mind and lifestyle that people would need to undergo to welcome the One who baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire.

It is significant that John retreated to the desert. So much of Israel's relationship with God was set against a desert matrix. Called out of Egypt, Israel was led by God through a desert where their relationship was formed, broken, and renewed. There in the desert, Israel knew an intimacy with God they would remember and long for during later periods of history. Although the desert could be fraught with untold dangers, for the Israelites it conjured up the joys of a honeymoon. Each Advent, we follow Israel's lead and John's example and withdraw to the desert, where we will find God and ourselves anew.

### Trust in God:(Isaiah 11) *Celebration*

At a time when Israel's leaders were anything but praiseworthy and when their political fortunes were being threatened, Isaiah of Jerusalem, priest, prophet, and royal advisor, shared this vision. Closely related to similar visions (9:1-6;7:14), today's first reading describes an ideal king born from David's line, as well as the kingdom that God would establish through him. When the prophet shared this vision, Ahaz was king of Judah and the Syro-Ephramite war was raging (ca. 735-752 B.C.E.). Fearful and indecisive, Ahaz favored foreign alliances to shore up Judah's defenses against invaders, but Isaiah counseled a more sublime strategy: reliance on God alone. Even in the wake of the Assyrian invasion, the prophet continued to reassure Ahaz that God would intervene to maintain their survival as a people.

### Unity: (Romans 15) *Celebration*

Today's second reading is a part of a longer section of his letter (14:1-15:13;16:17-29) in which Paul appealed to those whom he called the "strong" and the "weak" to set aside their differences and live in harmony. Those whom Paul called "strong," with whom he identified, were the ones who embraced Christ and his death on the cross without exception or reserve. These did not think it necessary to go to Christ through Moses; that is, they understood that they were not required to become Jews before becoming believers in Jesus. Those who were called "weak" clung to their Jewish rites and to their Jewish rites and traditions and continued to observe when they became Christians. Although he did not share their scruples and sensibilities, Paul was truly concerned for the so-called weak members of the community. For that reason, he called upon the strong to respect the weak and not to offend or scandalize them as they exercised their freedoms in Christ. He also challenged both

factions to exercise mutual acceptance of one another's differences to preserve the unity of the community.

### Conversion: (Matthew 3) *Celebration*

John's call to repentance has its roots in an earlier summons made by Isaiah ((40:3). This prophet was a companion to his fellow Jews during their sixth century B.C.E. exile in Babylonia and encouraged his people to prepare the way for the Lord, who would affect for them a new exodus. Having seen their predicament and having heard their cries, God promised to clear a path through the desert so that the people of Judah might return home. When John repeated Isaiah's words, he gave them a new context. Speaking for God, he called his contemporaries to retreat to the desert to prepare for the One who will establish God's reign among them forever.

That preparation would begin with conversion. In Hebrew, the term for "conversion" (*shub*) indicates that people have taken a wrong path, and once they become aware of the detour, they resume the straight and narrow road to God. In a similar way the Greek word *metanoia* involves not only remorse for sin but a thorough change of mind and heart that results in a positive commitment to a new way of life. Notice the dynamic at work in today's Gospel. John called his contemporaries to repent, thus indicating that conversion is more than a human decision; repentance and conversion are human responses to the prior initiative of God.

John's warnings and his call to repentance continue to speak to all who await the return of Jesus. Until he appears with the winnowing fan of judgement in his hand, we must be about the daily task of making our crooked ways straight and our rough ways smooth.

### Ready or Not *Celebration*

John the Baptist takes center stage in the Second Week of Advent Matthew portrays him as a prophet's prophet. Although Luke presents him as a son of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Matthew has him "appear" in the desert as if out of nowhere other than from God's eternal plan. John is as unlike his ordinary contemporaries as Jesus will be like them. Between them they almost depict the contrast between belief in a fearsome, punishing image of God and the shepherd of lost sheep. John knows he is not the centerpiece of his day, but he also knows that he plays a vital role.

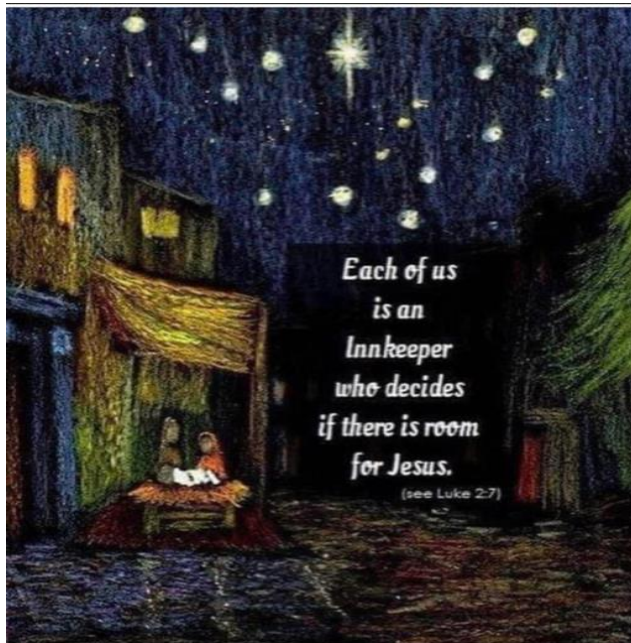
John's mission was to gear the people up, to remind them of how all the promises of old assured them that the broken world they knew was neither the will of God nor was it definitive. Relying on his religious traditions, John interpreted his times and preached that God would soon intervene, but the people had to be ready if they were to be a part of what God was about to do in their midst.

John's baptism was the sign of their preparation. It was a proclamation of each one's desire for metanoia. John stirred up the hearts of his people, reminding them that the shallowness of their lives and the institutional injustice of their society was sin and therefore both unnecessary and evincible. John's mission was to drive home the message that the way things were was not the only possibility, that God had something much better in mind.

John's apocalyptic images were geared to explode every sluggish mindset. He wasn't saying that there was no good in his society. There were fruit-bearing trees, and there was wheat as well as chaff, but it was time for a major shakeup. John wanted each person to judge her or his own life, sifting weed from grain and then go into the water to come out renewed and ready for what was to come.

*"Guide me, Lord, along  
right paths"*





### Food Pantry Requests...

*We had a very busy November! We gave away a total of 56 boxes to needy families for Thanksgiving and 52 regular monthly boxes. We anticipate that December will be just as busy. Thank you!*

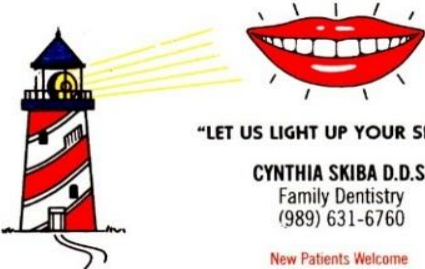
- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Toilet Paper     | Paper Towels   |
| Boxed Cereal     | Baked Beans    |
| Sloppy Joe Mix   | Mac and Cheese |
| Box Spaghetti    | Peanut Butter  |
| Hamburger Helper | Tuna Helper    |
| Jelly/Jam        | Canned Pasta   |
| Spaghetti Sauce  | Tooth Paste    |
| Laundry Soap     | Tissues        |
| Pancake Mix      | Syrup          |
| Bars of Soap     | Shampoo        |




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## St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611



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

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