



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

**PASTOR**

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton ..... [tsutton@auburnac.org](mailto:tsutton@auburnac.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

Office Administrator..... [parishoffice@auburnac.org](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.org)  
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 Youth Ministry  
 Stephanie Schacher..... [sschacher@auburnac.org](mailto:sschacher@auburnac.org)

**LAY MINISTERS**

Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Dan Derdowski	Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie

**PRAYER LINE**

Mary Jane..... 496-2873 [vicmaryj@hotmail.com](mailto:vicmaryj@hotmail.com)  
 Sisters of St. Clare ..... [srsclare.com/prayer](http://srsclare.com/prayer)

**BEFRIENDER**

Mary Ellyn Gushow .....662-6745

**HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE**

Stephanie Schacher.....878-2898

**COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND**

Pam Graul-Gwizdala .....513-3027

**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. 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 **or 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)  
 Chris Kaczynski, Secretary ..... [ckaczynski@auburnac.org](mailto:ckaczynski@auburnac.org)

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

School Principal ..... 662-6431

**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 DECEMBER 9, 2019

**MONDAY** Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary  
689: Gn :9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk :26-28

**TUESDAY** 8:00 a.m.- Word & Communion  
182: Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14

**WEDNESDAY** 8:00 a.m.- Mass  
183: Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30

**THURSDAY** 8:00 a.m.- Mass  
690A:Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38

**FRIDAY** 9:00 a.m.-School Mass  
185: Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

**SATURDAY** 4:30 p.m.- Mass  
186: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**SUNDAY** 9:30 a.m.- Mass-Third Sunday of Advent  
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  
John was telling people to turn their lives around in preparations for Jesus' coming. Get Ready!

### Reflecting on the Word:

All of us want to be prepared. We prepare for bad weather, medical emergencies, tests, job interviews, new babies, or first days of school. In most cases, our preparations included having proper supplies and a plan of action. John the Baptist preaches a different kind of preparation: the preparation of the heart. As Christians, we must be constantly vigilant and repentant, keeping our hearts pure and holy, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

### Living the Word:

Prepare your hearts for the Lord's coming by participating in a parish reconciliation service or going to confession. At home, have your children draw a picture of a path they are traveling to Jesus. What gets in between them and Jesus? Ask them to keep this obstacle in mind as they receive the sacrament.

### Congratulations to our Parish Children



who received 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation this past Tuesday evening. Twenty children were prepared this year to celebrate this Sacrament. It is a beautiful way to grow in love and a way to prepare our hearts and spirit during this Advent Season.

### Is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Obligatory in 2019?

No, at least not in the United States. The obligation to attend Mass is dispensed because December 8<sup>th</sup> falls on Sunday and the celebration is transferred to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The transfer is made as the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence.



## PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon, Dec. 9	6:30-8pm	Choir Practice
Tues. Dec.10	10am	Scripture Study (PC)
Thurs. Dec. 12	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat. Dec. 14	Pantry Weekend & Coffee and Donuts	
Sun. Dec 15	9:00am	CLOW & Nursery
	10:45am	Religious Ed
	5-8pm	Youth Ministry
	Pantry Weekend & Coffee and Donuts	

## STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$10,962    **Offering:** \$9,227  
**Religious Retirement:** \$355.00    **Christmas Flowers:** \$215.00  
**Campaign for Human Development:** \$15.00  
Children Good Deeds  
 Putting my clothes away...Helped my sister and brother  
 I cleaned my room...Helped my sister  
 Helped my Daddy and Mumma with our Christmas tree...  
 ... I helped the babysitter with Madison...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The school is in Advent "mode" and the students are preparing their hearts for Jesus. The new liturgical season gives us a fresh opportunity to center our hearts and minds and to accept Jesus into our lives. Advent helps us to stop and focus our energy on this special occasion. We can refocus on how to add those moments of Grace into our lives and move closer to God. The Gospel talks specifically about how we need to be ready and prepare our hearts for Jesus. Matthew tells us as descendants of Abraham, we can't just assume that we will be saved, but in fact we must produce good fruit from our words and actions and be humbled enough to admit our faults. I am a sinner, I am proud I can say that, but I am not to proud to ask for forgiveness.

Auburn Area Catholic School students participated in the **Tinsel Tree Challenge** on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Christa McAuliffe Middle School. **AACS**



had two trees on display in the challenge and participated in lots of other fun events which happened on that day. All votes for our trees brought money directly back to our school, with a funds match from the event sponsors. **Thank-you to everyone who supported our efforts!**

God Bless, Clark Switalski, Principal



### Giving Trees:

Gifts with tag attached can be returned December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. ALL gifts must be back **NO LATER than December 15<sup>th</sup> by 10:30am** (After the 9:30 Mass)

### Food Pantry requests . . .

With the holiday season upon us the food pantry is desperately in need of some replenishing! Here is our wish list:

Boxed Cereal	Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter	Pasta / Spaghetti
Jelly	Paper Towel
Canned Pasta	Toilet Paper
Mac & Cheese	Toothpaste / Mouthwash
Syrup	Laundry Detergent

We are also asking for donations of *can openers* as there seems to be a need, also any "holiday treats" would be greatly appreciated at this time of year...Please bring your *kind* donations to one of the masses next weekend. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING!



**FROM  
FR. TOM'S  
DESK**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Sr. Mary McGlone,

*National Catholic Reporter*

The first targets of John's wrath were Sadducees and Pharisees, folks who were traditionally enemies of one another. The Sadducees, aristocrats who held high positions in the priesthood and had incomes to match, saw John as an abomination. They were fundamentalists, accepting only the teaching of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and insisting on temple worship. The Pharisees, theological liberals, interpreted the scriptures and promoted the study and worship that could happen in synagogues. They promoted something like a priesthood of the faithful.

John's lumping them together as a brood of vipers was sufficient to bring them into that uniquely inhuman coalition forged by shared hatred for the same scapegoat. Like Jesus, John would be found guilty of telling the truth.

John's preaching was simple "Repent!" That meant, "Admit you've gotten it wrong, and make ready for something to come, something bigger than you anticipate; a humiliating dip in the cold river announces that you are waking up to it." John's message treated liberals and conservatives as equally in need of dunking.

**Reason for Hope (Isaiah 11):**

*Grace Works, Naples, FL.*

Of course, from the vantage point of many centuries later, we know that Isaiah's hopeful word about a shoot coming up from the stump of the Davidic line was even better news than the people of Judah knew. Isaiah's tender new growth, that fragile new king and the kingdom he would bring, was so much more than just the return of the exiles from Babylon to re-establish Judah in the sixth century B.C. For hundreds of years later, in the city of David, a tiny hamlet called Bethlehem, a tender, fragile young shoot would come forth to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy in ways so glorious even Isaiah could not have imagined it!

It is hard to imagine that something so fragile as a baby could become the anchor of humanity's hope. But it is true, isn't it? Every baby that comes into this world carries the message that God is not through with humanity yet. But Advent bids us to know this especially in the anticipation of the coming of Christ, the very incarnation of God's good news.

**Bond of Community (Romans 15)**

*Celebration*

Paul is calling on the community to live in faith – with all the endurance their circumstances might require. In Paul's mind, people who believe in Christ can never go it alone. They have been called together and only when they appreciate the fact that they were each called for one another can they become what God wants them to be. They are not a natural community; instead their ties come from God, not from any inclination of their own. In God's mysterious plan, the only way they can become what God knows they can be, is to do it in community. Because of this Paul tells them to receive one another, to accept one another, as Christ has received them. As they grow in community, the truth of who they are and becoming in Christ will serve as their greatest evangelizing tool. It is their love for one another – especially when it requires endurance – that will lead others to glorify God.

**Need for Repentance (Matthew 3)**

*Celebration*

The quality of the repentance required for kingdom participation is clearly affirmed through the exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees who approached him for baptism. Although they had made their way out to see John, he called them a "brood of vipers," expressing that he did not think their intentions were pure. It wasn't enough simply to show up. To prove themselves authentically repentant, John called them to produce "good fruit" as evidence. Nor would it be enough to have the right religious pedigree: "We have Abraham as our Father" (v.9). Rather, authentic repentance would require a thoroughgoing change of heart, mind and lifestyle.

Repentance is more than a name and more than simply being present at liturgy. The repentance that will best welcome the One who comes to save consists in a radical surrender to Jesus Christ in all our living, in all our believing, in all our hoping, in all our loving, in all our serving.

*"May the waiting of advent help me grow in patience."*

**Look Around You:**

Sr. Mary McGlone

*Celebration*

We might say that Advent invites us to consider God's wish list with as much attention as we put into finding the right presents for others. Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist all talk about God's hopes. Isaiah says that God wants us to yearn for and accept the Spirit who offers the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength and fear of the Lord. Those are the capacities needed to create the community Paul envisions, a community that attracts others to know and glorify God. The Baptizer then calls us to take all of those lofty ideals and make them as concrete as the fruits of the trees to which the world looks for nourishment.

We don't have to live like John the Baptist to be an Advent people, but we do need to listen to his message. He's telling us the time is always short for those in need. God is waiting on our roads, disguised in the people who have nothing left but hope. We'd better watch out!

**Stock Donations:**

Giving stock for one's charitable contribution enables the donor to receive the full benefit of the gift, at the same time avoiding capital gains taxes. If interested in pursuing this avenue, contact the parish office.



**You are reminded**

...The Collection for Religious is for priests, brothers and sisters belonging to Religious Orders. It is not for diocesan priests' retirement. That cause, while previously funded by the *Christmas collection* is now funded by an assessment and by a collection around Father's Day. The *Christmas collection* now remains in the parish.

***Mexican Legend***

attributes the beauty of the poinsettia to a miracle on Christmas night as a poor girl made an offering of some roadside weeds at the manger scene. When she placed the small bunch where the image of the Christ child lay, it burst into a bouquet of bright red flowers, ***las flores de Noche Buena*** – the flowers of the holy night.



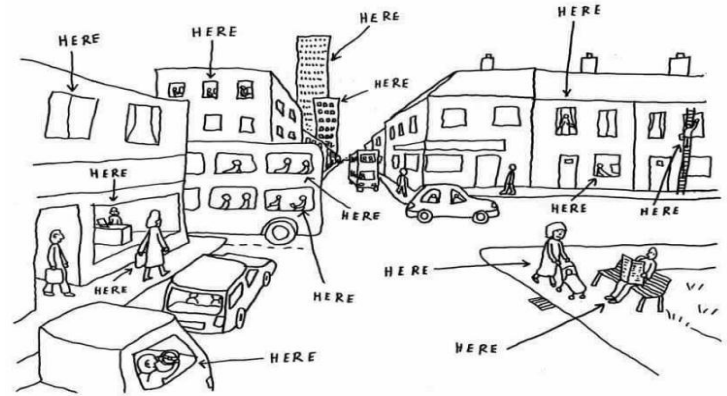
## Tax Law Changes:



Are you a senior citizen? Do you receive distributions from a Tax Deferred Retirement Account? Please read on. The tax law changes for 2018 enable you to claim the Standard Deduction and Contributions to recognize charities as deductions from your income. Instructions for 1040 Line 4 make this as clear as any government publication can be. Only about 15 of our parishioners take advantage of this important tax change. Up to 150 could be eligible. Contact the Parish Office and speak with Janet for more details 662-6861 or call Jim Zoller at 450-5162

## To make you smile...

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are attempting to schedule one more photo date for those who missed getting pictures taken or need retakes. We will start a wait list because we do need to have 20 appointments to make this happen, so please call the Parish office (989) 662-6861 if you are interested. We need to do this soon, so please let us know ASAP !

Use Prior Directory's Photo: If desired, you may use a photo from the prior Directory for a \$10 fee. You will receive a complimentary upcoming Directory. Notify the Parish Office of this request – no need for you to retrieve the photo.

Submit Photo: If you have a photo that you would like to use in the next directory please email it to the Parish Office at [parishoffice@auburnac.org](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.org) along with the full names of the people in the photo for correct identification. There is also a \$10. Fee and you do get a copy of the directory.

**Jack's TREE SERVICE, INC.**  
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 (989) 835-8901 • Fax (989) 752-0581  
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## SEEKING SPONSORS

St. Gabriel Parish is updating and adding sponsor advertisers displayed in our weekly bulletin. Support your parish bulletin and promote your business! Begin advertising or notify a potential advertiser of this opportunity. These advertisements are viewed on printed copies, plus online on the parish website and MyParish app affiliated with St. Gabriel Parish.

**Contact Parish Office**  
**989-662-6861 or [parishoffice@auburnac.com](mailto:parishoffice@auburnac.com)**

## 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