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Anne Dearington	Cheryl Gedraitis	Marilyn Welz
Kellie Deming	Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie
Tim Hadd	Pam Graul-Gwizdala	

**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 ..... (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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Monday

195: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

### Tuesday 8 am Word and Communion

196: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

### Wednesday

197: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

### Thursday

198: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8 Lk 46-56

### Friday

199: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

### Saturday 4:30 pm Mass Christmas Eve

13: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

### Sunday 9:30 am Mass Christmas Day

16: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Name some things you know about St. Joseph. The angel refers to Jesus as Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Why is this a good name for Jesus?

### Reflecting on the Word:



In today's Gospel, we hear Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus. In this story we see more of the person Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. We see his generosity when he wants to divorce Mary quietly so that she will not be humiliated. We see his lineage when he is called the "son of David," showing him as relative to King David. We see that he is obedient to what the angel has commanded him. Joseph, like Mary has been chosen by God to be entrusted with God's Son. Even though Joseph has no recorded words throughout the Bible, he is a strong example to us as Christians of obedience and trustworthiness. St Joseph, pray for us!

### Living the Word:

Jesus and Mary both have many names given to them. But what about Joseph? As a family, do some research about names for Joseph. Make a card to add to your prayer table with some of your favorite names for Joseph written beautifully on it.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – Choir Practice 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 1/2 day of School, Christmas Break**

**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Parish Office Closed**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Merry Christmas!**

## STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$11,153.84 **Offering:** \$6,708

**Retired Religious:** \$1660 **Food Pantry:** \$170

**Campaign for Human Development:** \$12

**Children's Good Deeds**

...Getting ready for church all by myself...Helping SJ...

...Helped Papa rake leaves...I wrapped for Christmas with Mom...

...Help go Christmas shopping...

...I shared a blanket with my brother when he was sad...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

cswitalski@auburnac.org 989-662-6431

We are into our fourth week of Advent and the time where we celebrate Jesus' birth in less than a week. The students will have 2 full days this upcoming week and a half day on the 21st. The 22nd is when we will be on Christmas break with the students' returning on Tuesday, 1/3/23. Hopefully everyone can take

some time to spend it with those who are important to us.

The Gospel this week focuses on Joseph and his decision to take Mary into his home. He was visited by an angel of the Lord which told him to not be afraid of making the decision to take Mary as his wife. God speaks to us through many different avenues, which includes dreams. Listening to God is a whole different story altogether. Many times, society tries to tell us what is proper and right, however are not right in the eyes of God. We must use our Right Judgement to determine how we will proceed when we are faced with difficult decisions. Have a great Sunday!

*God Bless*

## Medical Update

*Road to recovery—I have taken every side street possible. I have had many medical setbacks and numerous changes in my prescriptions. On the positive side, I have taken my first steps, with a walker, in more than 4 weeks all in effort to be able to go home as soon as possible. With Christmas bells in the background, all I can say is Hallelujah! ~ Fr. Tom*



## Thank you to everyone who bought gifts

**for the Giving Trees!** We were able to fulfill all the requests that we got from our selected charities. It is a wonderful feeling to hear the grateful appreciation from the organization representatives when they come to pick up the gifts. They always ask that we share how much of a difference your generosity makes!





## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### Fourth Sunday of Advent: Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Matthew tells us about Joseph not to prove the miracle of the virgin birth, but to reveal what it means to be a just person who is receptive to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of love. Matthew introduces us to Joseph as a man whose faith was strong enough to believe that God might be doing something he himself had never anticipated. In Joseph's dilemma we see someone seek to be faithful when justice seems at odds with mercy. As he followed the command to take Mary home without regard for his reputation and the potential for scandal, Joseph demonstrated a rare combination of humility and strength. The way those two qualities intermingled in him combined into the virtue of fear of the Lord, a profound reverence that filled him with the conviction that God would guide them through it all.

Joseph's choice had to be made at one particular moment, but his whole life had prepared him for it, and he would live its consequences for the rest of his days. Joseph could never have imagined the impact his decision would have on history. Isaiah would never have imagined how his prophecy would be used to calm the man called to give Emmanuel a home. None of us ever really know how far the effects of our choices will ripple. Rather, we can only hope that we, like Joseph, can be receptive to the Spirit's inspirations. That's exactly what Paul is talking about in his letter to the Romans. Joseph understood it as being open to dreams; Paul calls it being holy.

In this fourth week of Advent, these readings invite us to pray for Joseph's kind of openness to God's unpredictable projects for our world. As we kindle our fourth candle let us pray that we might open our minds to see beyond our own dreams and schemes so that Emmanuel might be ever more present in us and through us.

### The Gift of Joseph *Celebration*

In keeping with his Jewish insider perspective, unlike Luke, Matthew's nativity narrative emphasizes Joseph, the patriarch of the family. Without repeating the well-known details, we can note how Matthew presents Joseph as a bridge figure from one covenant to another. His name recalls Joseph as a bridge figure from one covenant to another. His name recalls Joseph, the son of Jacob, the rejected dreamer who saved his family from famine. Like Joseph of Egypt, Joseph of Nazareth would meet God in dreams that revealed how to save his own family.

Matthew's nativity account is the overture to his Gospel. As it announces coming themes through the details of a story with deep roots in the past, it bequeaths to us a narrative that is truer than any simply factual account could ever be. Matthew presents Joseph not only as a dreamer, but also the son of David which means he is the heir of God's promise of a kingdom that would last forever (2 Sam 7:12-16). Thus, there is a wonderful paradox in the angel's comforting message. Joseph is called, precisely as the son of David, to allow an unknown into the lineage, trusting that Mary's child has been engendered through the work of God's Spirit and carries its own purity, a holiness beyond what any ethnic lineage could assure.

The angel of the dream instructed Joseph to call the child "Jesus," a common name whose etymology probably means God saves, or God will save. In the act of naming him, Joseph both claimed Jesus as his own and foreshadowed his divinely determined vocation. As a last word, just to bolster him, the angel made the first evangelical reference to the fulfillment of prophecy. Joseph should not worry, the angel assured him. Isaiah the prophet had spoken of this day as the time when God would dwell among the people.

The time of Emmanuel had come. Although Matthew probably intended no double meaning, he explained that Joseph awoke and did what the angel had commanded. Mary's predicament and the best of his tradition had awakened him to the new thing God was working in his day.

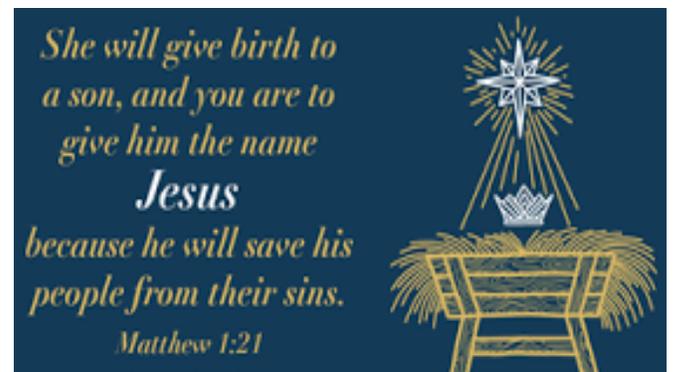
### Something About Mary *Celebration*

What was it about Mary that attracted and enticed, not only Joseph in today's Gospel story, but even God? I'd like to suggest two possible answers, with the reservation that there are surely a number of others.

First, she wasn't a preacher. She wasn't an evangelist. She wasn't an activist. Instead, Mary was a listener who embraced simplicity. She was one who paid attention, who reflected, who meditated. All those Advent qualities...Present. Open. Available. Receptive. Quiet. That's the kind of person Mary was. Perhaps it was that collection of gifts that most enticed God, and Jesus, and so many people down through the centuries.

But perhaps there is another appeal of Mary—her life experiences are being repeated continuously by millions of people even today. Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for a census that is now being mirrored by countless numbers of people displaced from their ancestral homes. The families flight into Egypt to avoid the death threats of a tyrannical king, just as today millions of refugees are doing the same. Mary's loss of her child by an unjust state execution paralleled today in the disappearance and murder of beloved children under dictatorial regimes—the Herods of today.

When asked what Mary meant to him, Pope Francis answered with one word, "She is my mama." May our "mama," the one who is "blessed...among women," assist each of us in birthing anew the Child that falls from heaven into our arms...our hearts...our souls.



*"Lord, help me read your signs"*



**Food Pantry Thank You...**

*We would like to offer a great BIG thank you to everyone who donated either via the "wagons of love" program through the school or the "giving tree" at church to our food pantry. This is the the first time in the last year that our pantry is stocked to serve clients for at least a few weeks! We normally shop weekly! Thank you for your generosity in helping us help those less fortunate.*



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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**