



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

PASTOR

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton tsutton@auburnac.org

PARISH STAFF

Office, Kim Grant parishoffice@auburnac.org

Bookkeeper
 Janet Woronoff bookkeeper@auburnac.org

Director of Religious Education (989) 662-4335
 Sandy DesJardins 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 | Karen Willsie |
| Tim Hadd | Pam Graul-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 Graul-Gwizdala (989) 513-3027

MASSES

***Weekday masses suspended until further notice**
 Saturday 4:30 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 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

***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
 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 AACCS 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 26th, 2022

MONDAY

696: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17 Mt 10:17-22

TUESDAY

697: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

WEDNESDAY

698: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8 Mt 2:13-18

THURSDAY

202: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5-6 Lk 2:22-35

FRIDAY

17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass New Year's Eve

204: 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 Jn 1:1-18

SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass New Year's Day

18: Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21



UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 26th – Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 30th – Parish Office Closes at noon

Sunday, January 1st – Happy New Year!

STEWARDSHIP

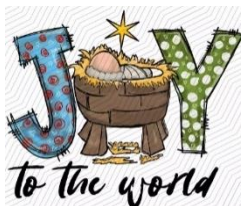
Weekly Target: \$11,153.84 **Offering:** \$19,053
Food Pantry: \$1520 **Retired Religious:** \$1,180
Campaign for Human Development: \$20

Children's Good Deeds

- ...Cleaning the sink...Learning to go potty...
- ...Help with my cousin and help wrap presents...
- ...Helping my little sister learn how to go potty...
- ...Singing loud at the Christmas program...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal



The children are on break now and will return on January 3rd. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy this little break to celebrate our Lord's birth and refocus our minds for 2023! Please be safe in your travels

wherever you may roam during the holiday season and always keep Jesus in your hearts and minds, even when a family member decides to bring up religion or politics around the dinner table! *Merry Christmas!*

...God Bless...

Cantor Practice

There will be a cantor practice on Monday, January 9th, 2023, at 6 pm followed by our first choir practice for the New Year at 6:30 pm. Please plan on attending or contact Sue LeVasseur @ 989-205-4322. See you next year!



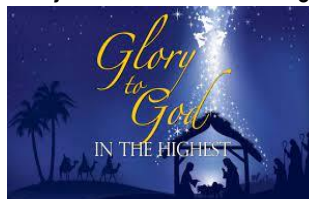
EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Why do you think God's messengers chose to make this announcement to shepherds and not to rich or powerful people?

Reflecting on the Word:

Glory to God in the highest! When Jesus was born angels rejoiced, a star shone brightly in the sky, both Jewish



shepherds and non-Jewish wisemen came to adore him, and Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, was lying in a feeding place for animals. God chose a young woman named Mary to be his

mother, and a small town called Bethlehem as a place for his Son to be born as a vulnerable baby. God's Son could have come to us as a strong king, with earthly power and influence, but God chose to come as a baby. Small and vulnerable must not mean the same thing to God! This baby wrapped in swaddling clothes is the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, and Wonderful Counselor!

Living the Word:

Now that the Christmas season has officially begun, change your prayer tablecloth from a purple cloth to a white one. If you received any Christmas cards that have beautiful pictures of the Nativity, display them as a prayer card on your table.

Fun Facts about Christmas

- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S.
- "Silent Night" is the most recorded song. We all know the same few handfuls of Christmas songs play at stores and on the radio in a loop all season long. But one of them has been adapted more than others. "Silent Night" earns that title, as the most-recorded Christmas song in history. It's had more than 733 different versions copyrighted since 1978.
- The evergreen Christmas tree is an ancient symbol of life during winter and have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.
- Christmas wreaths are religious symbols: The Christmas wreath first originated as a symbol of Christ. The holly represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion and the red berries stand for the blood he shed. So, when you see a wreath this holiday, you'll remember the reason for the season.
- The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico, where it is known as the 'Flower of the Holy Night'. Joel Poinsett first brought it to America in 1829.
- *The Twelve Days of Christmas*: In England, for almost 275 years from 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics were not allowed to publicly live out their faith. To instruct children in the ways of the Catholic faith, a song rooted in symbolism was created to keep the beliefs of the church alive among Catholics in England.
- All the gifts in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* total to 364





FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Feast of Christmas

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Christmas day has finally dawned. There's been so much anticipation, so much hype, that it is hard for one day to bear the weight all the expectations. That's obvious as we look at gifts scattered around the living room and wrapping paper on its way out. Great expectations have a lot to do with this feast, but they are great expectations that go through significant revisions along the way.

We know that the expectation of a Messiah had a long, long history. The downtrodden people of God yearned for the savior God would send them. Their hopes were chronicled in their history and the writings of the prophets. Like ourselves, they turned to God's word for hope and like us, they brought their own images to their reading of the scriptures. They read God's word in the light of their own mindset and created their own images of the savior God would send. They who had been bowed down would be raised up and all the world would see that they were God's own people.

Today's readings tell us the story of God's greatest response to human hopes. God sent a savior who was neither king nor warrior. One of the clearest signs that a message or happening is from God is that something extraordinary good is happening and it is not all how we anticipated it would be. No matter how much we learn from the Scriptures, God surprises us by working from another script.

Like a Shepherd

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Because the shepherds loom so large in Luke's story it is worth looking to them for a perspective on the Nativity. Shepherds were among the least esteemed people of their day. Their profession demanded little more than someone who could stay awake most of the time, stop strays, and effectively aim a slingshot at dangerous creatures. Tied to a career that offered no Sabbath breaks, they couldn't observe the letter of the law and would hardly have been among those who could have read it. By reputation they were not overly committed to honesty and would have always appeared on the scene with a liberal dose of the fragrance of their flocks. All in all, they were about as different from religious elites as anyone could be.

We can assume that the shepherds had no sophisticated presuppositions clouding their perspective. When it came to waiting for a savior they lacked a theological checklist by which to judge any contender. We are told that angels appeared to them, and whetted the shepherds' curiosity. Following the angel's instructions, they went to Bethlehem to see for themselves.

They went looking for "a savior," and the "Messiah and Lord." In Bethlehem they stooped down to gaze upon a newborn wrapped up like every other infant, with the singular distinction that this one was lying in a manger—just like the angel said he would be. Our shepherds were the opposite of cynics. Having heard that God was coming to them as a child born in the poorest circumstances imaginable, they thought that it was worth seeing for themselves. We don't know exactly what they believed. They never could have answered the questions necessary to receive confirmation, but they shamelessly told others what they had seen and heard. Uneducated as they must have been, they were the first evangelists.

The Gospel of Christmas invites us to reexamine our expectations. Where do we seek God? For thousands of years God has been in the habit of appearing among us in the most unobtrusive ways. Supernovas and skies full of music only point us toward something

much simpler, something we must be meek enough to learn about from the humble. We will have to stoop very low to perceive it.

Isaiah 62:11-12

Celebration

This reading from Isaiah summarizes all the promises the prophet has repeated. It is well worth considering phrase by phrase. First, what we are about to hear is a proclamation from the Lord. It is not somebody's theological theory or a politician's promise that good times are coming. It is God who is speaking, and the message is to go out to the ends of the earth. This proclamation has cosmic consequences. Secondly, as we celebrate Christmas, this proclamation situates us precisely in our own moment of history, on this exact day between the time Jesus and the final consummation of history. The proclamation says, "Your savior comes." That verb is in the present. We are in the middle time. What Christ accomplished, as Paul says, is happening and yet to be completed (Col. 1:24). Our Advent journey has prepared us to appreciate this message. We have recognized the truth that our Savior comes somehow every day in varied ways.

On this day, God invites us to rejoice in the times we have experienced Christ's presence. The oracle says he comes with "his recompense before him." We have seen his recompense each time we have seen justice flourish. We have known his recompense each time we have experienced the transformation of enmity or mistrust into community-building peace.

People who recognize God's presence—Christ's ongoing coming into the world—cannot but be transformed. The oracle says they shall be called holy. We are holy not by any deed of our own but because of what we have seen and heard, what we have allowed to touch and mold our heart.

Luke's Method

Celebration

Luke wove this story as a careful prologue to his Gospel and a bookend to pair with his nearly final story about the disciples on the road to Emmaus. In both cases we have a journey: to Bethlehem or out of Jerusalem. In both stories Angels announce Jesus: in the first, that he had been born, in the second that he was alive. In both Bethlehem and Emmaus, Luke mentions an inn, the place where travelers lodge. In the first case there is no room for Mary and Joseph who are awaiting the birth of their child. Going to Emmaus the disciples make room, inviting the stranger to remain with them at the inn. In the nativity story the baby was found wrapped and lying in the place where animals fed. In the Emmaus story the disciples recognized the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. Finally, both the shepherds and the Emmaus-bound disciples went to others with the joyful news of what they had seen and heard.

Luke's technique of placing mirroring stories at the beginning and end of his gospel is more than simply artistry. Luke is telling us that everything, from the beginning to the end of his Gospel, is an adventure, a pilgrimage of encounter with Christ. He is showing us that discipleship comes only from that encounter. He is also using simple shepherds and unperceptive disciples as models for all the followers of Christ who will read his story through the ages.

The feast Christmas is a celebration of a new beginning, of the inauguration of God's presence on earth in the person of Jesus the Christ. Christmas is a reminder that God appears in our midst as unobtrusively as a diapered baby or a fellow traveler on the road. There have been grand announcements, prophetic oracles, the equivalent of heavenly light and music shows, but as Elijah learned, God comes in the gentlest of ways (1 Kg 19:12). We can't control the ways or times when God will become manifest in our lives. We are invited to seek God in the word, in sacrament, in community, in creation. Each of these carries the power of real presence.

"Come into my life, Emmanuel"



Christmas Wishes... on behalf of the Parish Staff for church, school, and religious education,

I wish to extend to all of you best wishes in this blessed season of Christmas. May the birth of the child Jesus bring new life to our Parish and continue to bring us closer together as family. Having experienced the importance of support from individuals in my current situation makes me most mindful of "People."

During this holiday season may your activities strengthen the bond that connects you to others and strengthen the ties that bind you to those you are closest too. ~ Fr. Tom ~



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St. Anthony Cemetery



COLUMBARIUM

Single (1 Urn)
Double (2 Urns)
Inurnment

CEMETERY

Plot
Burial
Burial of Cremains
Saturday Burial
Foundation

4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Parishioner | Non-Parishioner |
| \$1,100 | \$1,600 |
| \$1,500 | \$1,850 |
| \$ 250 per niche | \$ 350 per niche |

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Parishioner | Non-Parishioner |
| \$ 600 | \$1,300 |
| \$ 750 | \$ 900 |
| \$ 250 | \$ 275 |
| \$ 250 additional | \$ 250 additional |
| \$ 0.40 per sq. inch | \$ 0.40 per sq. inch |

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