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 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

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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 January 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2022

### Monday

205: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

### Tuesday 8 am Word and Communion

206: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Ps 98:1, 3c-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

### Wednesday

207: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Jn 1:35-42

### Thursday

208: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-5 Jn 1:43-51

### Friday

209: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11

### Saturday 4:30 pm Mass

210: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 2:1-11

### Sunday 9:30 am Mass

20: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

*I wonder how Mary felt when shepherds who were strangers arrived not long after her son was born to adore him. The shepherds went in haste to find the baby. What would your reaction be after finding out about the birth of the Messiah?*

### Reflecting on the Word:



Mary was the first Christian, the first to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. She had an intimate perspective of the incarnation as God took on human form inside her body. As Jesus' mother, she loved him in a unique way that only a mother can. As miraculous and surprising things happened around her son, she reflected on these

moments in her heart. Mary models for us how to be a Christian as everything she does points to her son. She lived her life loving him and guiding others toward him. How much of our own lives are focused on Jesus?

### Living the Word:

This week have each member of your family write a letter to Mary. In their letters, they can be free to express themselves: ask questions or relay thoughts. For those unable to write yet, have them draw a picture about Mary. Place the letters and drawing on your prayer table. Ask Mary to pray for your family.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Resumes

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – Religious Ed 10:45 am  
Youth Ministry 6 pm

## STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$11,153.84 Offering: \$18,661.81

Retired Religious: \$367 Food Pantry: \$240

Campaign for Human Development: \$40

Priest Retirement: \$200

Children's Good Deeds

...Going on the potty...Helping wrap presents...

...Helping my big sister find the manger items...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

cswitalski@auburnac.org 989-662-6431

MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year everyone! The children will be returning to school this week on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>! As the students return, they will have roughly 2

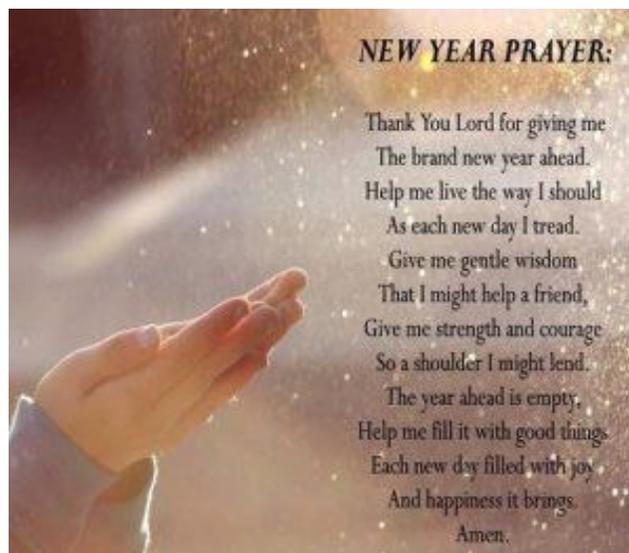
weeks before the end of the second quarter on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We will also begin our second round of NWEA testing. This gives us more data points to understand where we can help the children learn. I hope you all have made your New Year's resolutions and are going to work hard at keeping them, *best of luck!*

*God Bless*

**Medical Update...** Father Tom has hit a few bumps on the road to recovery and ended up back in the hospital to have a revision surgery. He wants to express gratitude for all the cards that have been sent to him over the last few weeks. We hope that this "New Year" brings new beginnings for his return to health. Please pray for him as he continues this journey.



**Update for CMA...** Here is the latest info for CMA. A recent report from the diocese indicates that \$44,946 (60% of our goal) has been pledged by 175 parish families toward our target of \$74,253. If you have not pledged please consider doing so and help us reach our goal. It will make Fr. Tom proud!





## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### **Solemnity of Mary:**

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

Today we celebrate the “Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.” That title would have surely overwhelmed the simple woman of Nazareth. But she didn’t have to concern herself with theology, dogma, titles, and solemnities. Instead, she has a new baby, a confused but faithful husband and unexpected visitors coming to witness the scene where her family was trying to make do despite the inhospitable circumstances they found themselves in.

When the shepherds appeared on the scene they knew far more than Mary could have expected. Delighted to discover her son in the manger, they started spreading the word as if they understood exactly what was going on. Like many of us, those shepherds were quick to make proclamations about what they thought God was up to in their midst. Like Jesus’ own disciples, these first witnesses may well have had the right vocabulary, but it’s highly unlikely that they fully comprehended what they had encountered. The shepherds talked, others were “amazed,” and we don’t hear a word from Mary.

Luke tells us that “Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Her name would be remembered in the scriptures of Christianity and Islam. Generations to come would call her blessed, and the Fathers of the Church would defend her title as “Mother of God.” But, from the day of Jesus’ birth until his death, the little we hear from her amounts to no more than one question, a subtle request on behalf of others and a reflection of her own discipleship: “Son, why have you done this to us?” They have no wine,” and “Do whatever he tells you.”

When Luke tells us that Mary kept things in her heart, the word he uses indicates a long process of mulling, a life of discernment, trying to put together disparate pieces of a mystery. While the process didn’t lead to quick conclusions, it doesn’t mean she gave up on it. Luke’s statement about her ongoing reflection is one of the reasons some conclude that Mary herself gave Luke the Nativity story.

Whether or not the narrative originated with Mary, Luke portrays her as the contemplative in action. Mary had more to ponder than anyone else in this story. She had to question her experience and her response. She had to make sense of all that she encountered while balancing it with the traditions of her people. She must have accepted living with more questions than answers and far more hope than certainties. In addition to all of that, she had to change the diapers and fix dinner.

Mary, Mother of the God who came in the flesh of a need infant, learned to remain open to God’s shalom, to allow her faith to exceed her uncertainties and her hope to give her resolve beyond her power to imagine. She sought to do God’s will as she baked their daily bread. We look to the Mother of God to teach us how to live simply as contemplatives in action.

### **Old Joke**

Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*

There is a story about a woman, pregnant with twins, who went into labor. Her husband was away on a business trip, so she had to drive herself to the hospital. On the way she got into a bad accident. The twins were safely delivered in the emergency room, but the mother lapsed into a coma. To avoid a mix-up the hospital staff insisted that the twins be named immediately. When the mother’s “loose cannon” brother showed up as next of available kin, he was asked to name

the babies. The next day when the mother awoke from her coma, she was worried that her brother would have named the twins something absurd or stupid. He explained: “The first one was a girl. I named her Denise!” The mom breathed a tentative sigh of relief. “What about the second one?” she asked. Her brother replied: “The second one was a boy, so I named him De-nephew.”

In today’s Gospel we are reminded that there were no problems with selecting the name of Jesus. He was named by God, through an angel, as foretold in Joseph’s dream.

### **New Year’s Blessing**

*Celebration*

The Hebrew Scriptures word for blessings, *berek*, covers a breadth of meaning. In some instances, a blessing seems almost magical, as was the case of Jacob who irrevocably stole his brother’s blessing in Genesis 27. Some linguists believe that the word *berek* is connected to kneeling down, conveying an awareness that blessing comes only from God. When the word *berk* is translated into Latin and its derivative languages (*bendecir* in Spanish), it means to speak well of someone, and to pray that God look on them with favor.

The blessing formula from the Book of Numbers which we repeat in both liturgy and common prayer has three doublets: asking that God show one with goodness and mercy (bless and keep), asking for God’s active presence and mercy (face shine upon you, be gracious to you), and finally asking that God be pleased and grant the other with fullness of life and inner harmony (peace).

In the Book of Numbers, this blessing comes at the end of a section concerned about how a frail people could be worthy to live in the presence of God. The solution was a series of cultic rules to help humans adapt to God’s holiness. Paul called that endeavor hopelessly flawed: no amount of human effort can make us worthy. God’s love is a gift that transforms us into a redeemed people, if we are willing. Therefore, it is particularly apt that the rules for holiness should end with this plea for God’s grace.

We can look to this blessing for at least two sources for our new year prayer. First, it is a reminder that all that is truly good comes to us as a gift from God. Secondly, as it encourages us to call upon God’s name, it reminds us of everything that the name of God connote. Beginning with the name of Jesus, we realized that every name we have for God points to God’s desire to share blessedness with us.

### **Model Disciple**

Ted Walgamont, *Celebration*

In the “Hail Mary” prayer, we use the words “full of grace” to describe Mary. But the Greek work used in Luke’s original writing means “favored to the greatest possible degree”—the strongest of all conceivable words to show how much God loved Mary and treasured her openness and her willingness to trust.

Abiding in such trust, Mary became the ultimate disciple, the epitome of which meant to follow Jesus. She is the one who surrendered her ego, who quieted her fears, who made the decision to trust—even though she had little knowledge of what was going on. In her wildest dreams, this poor, humble woman could never have imagined how significant her “yes” would be in human history.

In the language of new year’s celebrations, Mary made a resolution to open her heart to the amazing, enlivening fullness of grace; the resolution to voice a wholehearted “yes.” In today’s Gospel, Luke challenges us to do the same. On this first day of the new year, let us resolve to make the heart of Mary our own. Let us promise ourselves that we will clean out a room in our hearts so there will always be space for God to be wrapped in the swaddling clothes of our love and our trust – a space within us in which the child Jesus can be re-born.

*“Holy Mary, pray for us sinners”*



### Adopt a "Christmas Family" Wrap up...

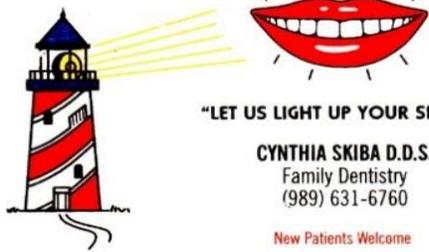
We would like to say a great **BIG** thank you to everyone who "adopted" a family either by shopping for them or donating money! We were able to give 13 families a brighter Christmas. Your generosity is overwhelming and appreciated more than you know. So **THANK YOU** for helping us help those less fortunate to have a Merry Christmas!




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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