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 Facebook: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan
 MyParish App: St. Gabriel Parish, Auburn, Michigan

PASTOR

Rev. Thomas E. Sutton tsutton@auburnac.org

PARISH STAFF

Office Administrator..... parishoffice@auburnac.org
 Bookkeeper
 Janet Woronoff..... jworonoff@auburnac.org
 Director of Religious Education.....662-4335
 Sandy DesJardins sdesjardins@auburnac.org
 Music Director
 Sue LeVasseur.....slevasseur@auburnac.org
 Youth Ministry
 Stephanie Schacher..... 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.....(989) 513-5137 vicmaryj@hotmail.com
 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

School Principal662-6431

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 2nd 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 1st 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
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 Chris Kaczynski, Secretary ckaczynski@auburnac.org

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.

EDUCATION / FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
How did Jesus challenge his disciples to follow the law? How does he challenge you?

Reflecting on the Word:

As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law, Matthew's community needed a way to understand how Jesus takes this understanding of the Law even further. Following the law is more than just rote obedience: we must take the law to heart. We must not only eliminate violent conduct, but also angry thoughts; not only greedy actions, but also selfish desires; not only dishonest words, but also deceitful plans. When we follow the law in our hearts, we build up relationships: with ourselves, with others, and most importantly with God. We conform ourselves more and more to Christ. We live a life built on and sustained by love.



Living the Word:

Jesus teaches that we should mean what we say and say what we mean. This week pay attention to how you use words. How are you honest with one another? With classmates or teammates? With friends? Discuss with your children why truth and honesty are important to good, healthy personal relationships.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Last week we held our school open house and we had a wonderful turnout! It was a great opportunity to promote our school to new and existing families. We are here to help bring Jesus' message to all those who want to hear it, and the school is a great way to see evangelization at work on-a-daily basis.



In the Gospel this week Jesus talks about how he is the fulfillment of God's promises and how people should treat each other. We should promote honesty, respect, and peace when in difficult situations. The staff and students here at AACS work hard to learn these virtues and use them daily in their lives. Treating people with dignity and respect is something we should all do without hesitation or a second thought. We are all God's children regardless of circumstances in life.

✠ **God Bless, Clark Switalski, Principal**

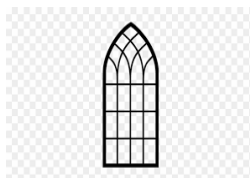
Bulk Mailing

We will be doing our bulk mailing for Lent on **Monday February 17th** starting at 10 am at the Parish Center. If you are able to help we would really appreciate it! If you are available you can just show up that morning. Thank-you in advance for your help!!



Window Project:

The windows in church have been-in-need of repairs or replacement for some time. Rotting frames, broken glass and mold necessitate replacement. That will be happening this week Monday and Tuesday, February 17th & 18th, with Lawrence Smith Distributors doing the installation.....*Fr. Tom*



Have you noticed the banner hanging in church?

During Catholic Schools Week the students focused on the theme of community. We are individual students, but we come together as one community to help be the hands and feet of Christ. As part of our outreach program we collected money for St. Jude Hospital and made cards for the patients there. During the week we had many school wide activities including our collage project hanging in the church. Each student made one circle and then as a school we made a cross with all the circles showing that we are truly **"The Body of Christ"**



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17 , 2020

MONDAY

335: Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76 Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY 8:00 am - Word and Communion

336: Jas 1: 12-18 Ps 94:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY 8:00 am - Mass

337: Jas 1:19-27 Ps 15:2-5 Mk 8:22-26

THURSDAY 8:00 am - Mass

338: Jas 2:1-9 Ps 34:2-7 Mk 8:27-33

FRIDAY

339: Jas 2:14-24, 26 Ps 112:1-6 Mk 8:34---9:1

SATURDAY 4:30 p.m.- Mass

535: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-16

SUNDAY 9:30 a.m.- Mass

79: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1 Cor 3:16-23
 Mt 5:38-48



PARISH ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mon. Feb.17 | No School Church windows being installed 10 am Bulk Mailing-(PC) 6:30-8 pm Choir Practice |
| Tues. Feb18 | Church windows being installed 10 am Scripture Study-(PC) 6:30 pm Quilters-(First Baptist) 6:30-8 pm RCIA-(PC) |
| Wed. Feb.19 | 10 am Knitting Club-(PC) 6-8 pm Lay Ministry Info Program-(PC) |
| Thurs .Feb.20 | 6 pm AACS PTO Meeting 7 pm School Committee 6:30 pm Youth RCIA-(RB) |
| Sat. Feb.22 | 4:30 pm Rite of Sending-RCIA @ mass |
| Sun. Feb.23 | 9:30 am Nursery and CLOW 9:30 am Rite of Sending-RCIA @ mass 10:45 am Religious Ed |

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$10,132
 Children Go😊Deeds

- ...To help my Dad with working on kitchen demo...
- ...Helped Mom and Dad with Eagle Palooza shopping...
- ...Make popcorn for the movie...Holding the door for someone...
- ...Helped my sister turn on her tablet...Giving Wilbur food and water..
- ...I helped my babysitter with my sister...Playing with Reid ...
- ...Helped my Dad build chairs...I played with my sister...

Employment Opportunities!



The school is looking to hire an **administrative assistant** for Auburn Area Catholic School for the 20-21 school year. This is a fulltime position within the school year. Must be a well-organized multi-tasker, proficient in Word, Excel and Publisher and have good inter/intra-personal skills with children and adults.

We are also looking to hire a **maintenance person** for the St Anthony site.. This is a part-time position (20 hours per week). Must be a well-organized person and able to maintain the building and grounds (lawn care & snow removal) as well as make *minor* repairs as needed to equipment, including plumbing and electrical.

* See the parish office for a *complete* job description of either position.





**FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Sanchez

Celebration

Writing in the second century B.C.E., the ben Sira underscored the importance of choosing rightly, or of using one's free will for good rather than for evil. God never coerces us. Human beings remain free to choose to obey the commandments or not, and to trust in God or not. However, as the ancient sage pointed out, each free choice brings with it a pair of consequences: fire or water; death or life; evil or good. Only a fool would choose badly, some may argue, but history attests otherwise. In the primeval history, poor choices are represented as the basis of humankind's alienation from God. This alienation deepens with every abuse of freedom and every bad choice.

The Matthean Jesus sets choices and freedoms of another sort before us in today's Gospel. In this series of antitheses, which represent some of the greatest challenges of the Great Sermon, believers are asked to use their free will to choose rightly. But the choice here is not between good and evil or life and death. Our choice is, whether or not we will use our freedom to reach beyond the commandments and follow the far more challenging law of love. These antitheses presume that anyone listening to Jesus that day was already keeping the law, as that was the bare minimum of what it meant to be holy, righteous and just. But Jesus called his listeners to leap beyond minimum observance into that realm of love where there is no measure, no limit, no end. "You have heard it said," challenged Jesus, "but I say to you..." That challenge points directly at human freedom and to all the possibilities for good that are inherent in this gift. That challenge recalls and affirms the invitation of Jesus: "If you would be my disciple..." That challenge assures us that even when we, like good servants, have done everything prescribed in the law, we have only scratched the surface of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Our love of him leads us to choose not the letter of the law but the spirit of the law, which is love.

Choices to Make: (Sirach 15)

Celebration

Jesus ben Sira advised his contemporaries to exercise their freedom carefully. Wise choices would involve harmonizing their will with God's will, fully aware that God intends only good for every creature. Wise and free choices would require that they (we) choose good over evil, justice over injustice, and thorough integrity of mind, heart and spirit. Inherent in every choice is a consequence that is consonant with that choice; in the end, wise choices will lead to life.

Hebrew tradition, understood human beings as essentially good, created so by God. While the Greeks imagined themselves to be pawns of fickle gods who used them at their whim, ben Sira wrote of a loving and caring God who respected human freedom and invited the full exercise of that freedom in every human choice. Instead of casting blame on interfering gods or the fates that could not be controlled, ben Sira placed the responsibility for the world on human shoulders and showed that evil found in it came from free human choices.

Joys That Await: (1 Corinthians 2)

Celebration

For those who thought that even if they surrender to God's will, God might find them wanting, Paul offered reassurance with what has become a comforting statement for all generations of believers: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard...what God has prepared for those who love God" (2.9).

Paul's point is unmistakable: Human efforts can approach and stand in awe but can never fully grasp the enormity of what God has done

for us in Jesus. Nor can even the liveliest imagination envision the joys that are being held in store for those who give themselves fully and freely to God in love. As one who knows these joys, Paul continues, through his words, to urge us onward.

Always Something More: (Mathew 5)

Celebration

The attitude of many of Jesus' contemporaries whose dedication to keeping every dot and title of the law can only be described as admirable. However, their sense of satisfaction was severely challenged when Jesus insisted that the law was not enough. Jesus did not abolish the law but used it as a launching pad to propel his followers beyond the mere letter of the law, however demanding, to the spirit of the law, which can never be satisfied or fulfilled.

Imagine if you were there that long-ago day when the Matthean Jesus challenged his would-be disciples to a holiness that presumed the law and reached far beyond it. Imagine being told that perfect legal observance is not enough, but it is a good start. No doubt many were disappointed; others were disillusioned. Some may even have been angry. But there were others who were able to look with Jesus beyond the law to the loving God who inspired it. These were willing to give themselves over to grace and to a way of life where self-satisfaction would become a distant memory. Those who accepted Jesus' challenge would begin to frame their lives with new questions: What more can I do? What more can I become? How far will love's labor lead me?

Our Witness:

Mark Strobe, *Liturgical Press*

Like a physician diagnosing our need and caring for an infected wound so that healing can begin, Jesus the Great Physician uses shocking words and exaggeration to clear the infection of sin in our lives and make room in our hearts for the healing work of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Jesus did this in his life. He refused to go the way of anger. Instead, he took the anger and sin of his enemies and carried them to the cross. He bears the sin of the world and brings life and light and healing. Because of his death and resurrection, a life of peace, faithfulness, and reconciliation is not simply an ideal to strive for, it is an achievement alive in the world and the gift of Jesus Christ for us.

It is our calling. "Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing," says the first letter of Peter (3:8-9). We are called to be the community where God's reconciling power is on display, not where others are objects to be consumed or demeaned but where they are recognized as image-bearing children of God and where our language is filled with the steadfast love and truth of God. This is what it means to "choose life" as it says in today's first reading. This is what it means to be real and living signs of God's faithfulness, using words and actions that witness to life in Christ.

From the Heart:

Sr. Stephanie Weisgram, *Liturgical Press*

Everything that we have is a gift from God: our body, our sexuality, our talents. These are not private possessions to be disposed of as we will. They come with the obligation to use them as intended and to use them responsibly. This is what God expects of us. They weren't given to us with a printed handbook giving directions on how to use them. We'd probably toss that handbook or put it in a safe place conveniently forgotten. The directions we need come from God and the gifts God gives to all of humanity. Any help we need in following them is available if we listen---to our elders, our church, our government, a good friend, even our own heart. Remember Jesus' words: "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes' and your 'No' mean 'No.'" Listen truly from the heart so that you can do this.

"Lord, what more can I do?"



Fat Tuesday Soup Supper:

Please join us on Tuesday, February 25th at the St Stanislaus Parish Center, for a soup supper sponsored by the St Stanislaus K of C. Featuring 5 homemade soups; *Czarina, Chicken, Chili, Beef Vegetable, and Potato.* Also, Kluski, Paczki and beverages. Dine-in or take-out.



LENTEN FISH FRY

Prince of Peace Parish in Linwood will be having an *All-You-Can-Eat* fish fry on Fridays during Lent. This will take place at the St. Anne Church basement from 4-7 pm or until gone. All are welcome!



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY NEWS

Unfortunately, we were unable to get enough appointments to schedule another photo session. So those who did not get your picture taken will have to submit a photo to the Parish Office of your choosing or use your photo from the last directory for a \$10.00 fee and you will receive a copy of the *new* directory. Notify the Parish Office of this request and we will notify Lifetouch to retrieve your archived photo. For questions or concerns call the Parish Office at 662-6861.

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St. Gabriel Parish is always looking for advertisers for our weekly bulletin. Support your parish bulletin and promote your business!. These advertisements are viewed on printed copies, plus online on the parish website and MyParish app affiliated with St. Gabriel Parish. **For more info contact the Parish Office at (989)-662-6861 or parishoffice@auburnac.com**



St. Anthony Cemetery
4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd., Auburn

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| COLUMBARIUM | | |
| Single (1 Urn) | Parishioner \$1,000 | Non-Parishioner \$1,500 |
| Double (2 Urns) | \$1,400 | \$1,750 |
| Inurnment | \$ 250 per niche | \$ 300 per niche |
| CEMETERY | | |
| Plot | Parishioner \$ 500 | Non-Parishioner \$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

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019

Attendance: Fr Tom, Bob Huskins, Renee Krager, Sue LeVasseur, Kim Grant, Deb Lupo, Janet Woronoff, Sascha Rivet, Keith Charbonneau, Marty Spencer, Clark Switalski, Tim Hadd

Absent: Sandy DesJardins, Teresa Finner

Guest: Nate Pfenninger

Review of Minutes: Motion to approve by Marty Spencer and seconded by Keith Charbonneau

New/Old Business

Nothing to report

COMMISSION REPORTS :

Education/Formation – Sasha Rivet

*Religious Ed classes will start up for the new year January 12th.

*Activities are being planned for Mardi Gras

*Sacramental Prep meeting will be with the parents only on January 21st.

*Several baptisms scheduled for the Spring and Fall.

*Mission trip applications for the Youth Group are due January 13th. They will be going to David Kentucky July 15th-19th.

*RICA Rite of Acceptance will be Saturday, January 18th. Three adults and four youths.

*Will Soup Suppers during Lent. Will have mass but no speakers.

Dates are March 4th, March 11th, March 18th, March 25th – Penance Service and April 1st.

*School will hold a penny drive and St Jude will receive the donations.

*For Catholic School Week, Clark will speak at both masses.

*Eagle Palooza will be held on February 8th. Can purchase tickets and raffles after the masses the weekend of January 18th and January 25th.

*It will be AACCS weekend at the Auburn Hotel January 17th-19th. No coupon is needed just mention you are from AACCS.

*Family Dance is January 24th.

*Half day of school on January 17th.

*Marketing measures are being looked at such as bulk mailing, visiting other parishes and advertising the school especially the Open House which is February 12th.

*Several inquiries for the Dave Ramsey Program which will be a nine week program and will be held at St Agnes beginning February 5th.

*Our next commission meeting would be held during Holy Week so the meetings will be moved to April 16th.

Worship – Sue LeVasseur for Teresa Finner

*Discussed the Penance Service which we ran out of key chains. Ordered 450. Sue discussed with Father Tom the possibility of having two masses due to the large crowd.

*Taking down Christmas decorations after Sunday mass

Christian Service Commission – Renee Krager

*No coffee and no donuts this weekend. Will have them the following week of Rite of Acceptance.

*Food pantry is this weekend. In need of items as the items we are receiving are being used up.

*Discussed the pros and cons for the Giving Trees. Received appreciation from the Beacon of Hope, Bay Area Women's Shelter and Plainview.

*Going again this year with River Side Restaurant for the soup suppers. Will have the same set up as last year with Leslie Clare assisting. Renee will send out the schedule for the commissions

Administration Commission – Bob Huskins

- *Mark LeVasseur will work on the leak at the west campus from the roof over the sanctuary when warmer weather arrives.
- *Down to two classrooms to replace the doors. After all replacements, they will be keyed the same.
- *The key issue at the west campus is not resolved. Too many have keys.
- *Having a heat issue in the new classroom. Electric bill was up about \$200. Will review it further and look in to a more efficient heater.
- *Windows are ordered for the north and south sides and the cost is under \$25K. Discussed putting in two new plugs under the windows.
- *Nine-mile property is going good. The buyer spoke with the farmer and they will continue to farm that land this coming year.
- *Discussed the issues with the current security system. May need to look at a different service and the possibility of replacing the system.
- *Talked about church security. The school has been trained but some questions have come up about the parishioners. Ideas were discussed.
- *Reviewed the Financial Report. Budget is at \$1,056,000.00 with an income of \$580K. Contributions were up due to the Holiday and expenses were up also.

MISC

- *Contribution Statement - Janet is working on the contribution statements and will be mailed out soon. An income comparison graph was done from a year ago to the past six months. Six months ago we were at \$568K and we are now at \$580K. Expenses are up and a year ago we had a surplus of \$39K and now we have \$23K.
- *We had a \$10K less target for our CSA. This was due to the sale price of St Anthony's rectory which was included as income and we were taxed on it. Also, due to the agreement, the nine-mile property will be spread over the years as we will have to pay taxes on that. We have received \$5,800 from CSA because we exceeded our target. It was projected only to receive back around \$5,000 but it is expected to be in the \$8,000 to \$9,000 area.
- *Bulletin Sponsors - Bob brought up he was at another parish and he noticed that they had quite a few sponsors for their bulletin. Fr Tom stated that there is a company out of Grand Rapids for Diocesan Publications that would come in and they would solicit sponsors. But they keep all the money for themselves. Fr Tom feels uncomfortable with that because we don't know what they are charging. They were here several years ago and at that time they concluded that there were not enough businesses in the area. It could be looked at again. No issues currently.

Upcoming Events:

- Virtus Training – January 13th
- Rite of Welcome – RICA – January 18th
- Catholic Schools Week – January 26th-February 1st
- Registration for new Parishioners – after masses January 25th-26th.

Next Meeting: February 13th - 7:30pm

Prayer led by: Education Commission

Motion to Adjourn by Keith Charbonneau and seconded by Marty Spencer

Submitted by Deb Lupo