
Week of March 7, 2010

MONDAY

2 Kgs 5:1-15 * Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4 * Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion-St. Joseph

Dn 3:25,34-43 * Ps 25:4-9 * Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mass-St. Anthony

Dt 4:1,5-9 * Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 * Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass-St. Joseph

Jer 7:23-28 * Ps 95:1-2,6-9 * Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY 7:00pm Stations of the Cross-St. Joseph

Hos 14:2-10 * Ps 81:6-11,14-17 * Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass-St. Joseph

Hos 6:1-6 * Ps 51:3-4,18-21 * Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY 8:30am Mass-St. Joseph

10:30am Mass-St. Anthony

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Jos 5:9-12 * Ps 34:2-7 * 2 Cor 5:17-21 * Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Parish Activities

Mon., Mar. 8	6:15pm Elementary Religious Ed.-St. Anthony 6:15pm Walking in the gym-St. Anthony 6:30pm Choir Practice-St. Joseph
Tues., Mar. 9	10:00am Scripture Study-Parish Center 7:00pm Mom's Night Out-Lipinski Center
Wed., Mar. 10	6:00pm Soup Supper-St. Anthony
Thurs., Mar. 11	6:30pm Parish Commissions 7:30pm Parish Council-Lipinski C
Sat., Mar. 13	NO Confessions to end of March

Mom's Night Out: Please join us Tues., March 9 at 7pm in the Lipinski Center to share ideas on how to bring faith back into our homes. This time together gives insight as to what others do to nurture the spirituality of their families. *At Home with Our Faith* is the material used as a stepping stone for our discussions and contains wonderful stories and ideas. If you would like a copy of this month's issue please contact Michelle at 662-6861.

Pictorial Directory: Pictures will be taken at St. Anthony's gym by appointment on April 14-17 and April 27-May 1. On-line scheduling can be done by going to the Parish website at www.auburnac.org and clicking on the on-line scheduling option or by calling the Parish Office at 662-6861.

"Wondering about the symbols displayed in church for Lent?" The environment was geared toward our Mission held the last week of February.

† the **stones** represent *us, the living stones of the church*

† the **key** represents the *Keys to the Kingdom*

† the **cornerstone** represents *us as a foundation*

† the symbol of **community** represents *us at Eucharist*.

Education/Formation

Elementary

► **Please Join Us!** Monday, March 8, the 2nd grade class will present the second in the Lenten Prayer Services Series, "*Fasting and Feasting During Lent*". We will begin at 7:15pm in St. Anthony Church. Come and see what the children have been learning about the Lenten experience.

► **Catechists are needed:** The Parish Catechetical Team will

be in need of new members from the 2010-2011 program year. No previous experience is necessary, just a love for our Catholic faith and traditions and the willingness to help future generations embrace the faith. Training and materials are provided. If you are interested in joining this valuable ministry team or need more information, please contact Kellie Deming at kdeming@auburnac.org or 662-4335.

► **Don't Miss Out on any Rainforest Fun!** It is not too late to join the Rainforest Team. If you are interested in volunteering for this summer's Vacation Bible School to be held June 14-18, please contact the Rainforest Expedition Leader (Mrs. Deming) at kdeming@auburnac.org or at 662-4335 and join the Rainforest Guides. A team meeting is coming soon.

Youth Ministry

► **Middle School Retreat:** The theme this year is *The Climb* and will be on Sat., March 13-Sun., March 14 at Camp Rotary in Clare. Presentations will include parental relationships, bullying/peer pressure, appearance/relationships, and friendships. The retreat will include Mass, Reconciliation, mock rock, skits, games and lots of fun!! Permission forms are available on the youth ministry bulletin boards at both worship sites. Deadline to register is March 7. Any questions, please contact Michelle at 662-6861 or mbutterfield@auburnac.org

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **2010-2011 Enrollment** is now open. Enrollment packets are available at both worship sites by the bulletin boards. You may also pick up a packet in the school office. If you would like more information about our school, please call or stop by the school office or call 989-662-7747.

► **Bishop's Charity Ball:** Home & School is asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Please contact the school office if you would like to make a donation. One suggestion for a donation is SCRIP which may be purchased through the school office. Raffle tickets are available for purchase from any AACS family, the school office or parish center. Tickets are \$5 each.

► **March is Reading Month!** We encourage everyone to read with or to their children at least 20 minutes a day. AACS students, don't forget to turn in your reading raffle tickets. Prize drawings are every Thursday in March. Our theme for Reading Month is "*Pets*". This Tues., March 9, our guest speaker will be Kasper Kowalczyk from Animal Pal, on pet grooming.

► **The Bookmobile** will be at the St. Joseph Campus Thurs., March 11, 1:15-2:15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Stewardship

Target: \$11,538.50 * Offering: \$10,805.00

Budgeted YTD: \$400,000.00 * Actual YTD: \$406,214.83

Rice Bowl: \$355.00 * Easter Flowers: \$115.00

Catholic Relief Services: \$5.00

Food Pantry Collection is next weekend (March 13/14). There are baskets at each Church entrance with suggestions for the pantry.

Catholic Relief Services collection will be taken up next week. This collection helps to fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen

economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking, and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you **give hope to Jesus in disguise**. Please be charitable in next week's CRS Collection.

Catholic Services Appeal 2010 begins this week. CSA touches the lives of many in our diocese. At some time in your life, you or someone you love will be served in one way or another by the ministries supported by CSA. Your gift helps diocesan ministries reach out to thousands by educating our future priests, educating lay ministers, and passing on the faith through faith formation programs and our Catholic schools. This week you will receive a letter from Bishop Cistone asking for your support for this year's CSA. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's appeal. Fill out your pledge card and bring it to church next weekend (or mail it in). If you do not receive a letter, let the parish office know. Our parish goal is 100% participation as we move to our CSA goal of \$69,131.00. I am confident we will exceed this goal, but we need the help of everyone. Remember any amount raised above our goal stays in the parish. Thank you!!

March Wedding Anniversaries

30 yrs or more.....Robert & Janie Parks
20 yrs or more.....Anthony & Debra Lupo
10 yrs or more.....Jeffrey & Karen Gillman

You are invited to congratulate them and pray for the continuing success of their marriages. *(If you wish to be included please request a form to be sent to you by calling the parish office.)*

Lord, help our married couples to remember when they first met and the strong love that grew between them. May their love be worked into practical things so nothing can divide them. May the words they speak be kind and loving, and may their hearts always be ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Dear Lord, we put these marriages in your hands. Amen.

From Father Tom's Desk 3rd Sunday of Lent

Celebration

Jesus' parable about the fig tree underscores the urgency of his message. Those who cultivated figs usually expected a tree to bear fruit in three years' time. If no figs were forthcoming, the barren tree was cut down and another was planted in its place. In Jesus' parable, the unproductive tree was given yet another year, during which the gardener continued to tend it. Some scholars have compared the three years of waiting for the figs' growth to Jesus' three years of ministry. However, the more important message conveyed in the parable is the urgency of the situation. In a sense, the parable said, this is the 11th hour, and those who do not heed the call to repent *now* may find themselves in the same plight as the barren fig tree.

During Jesus' ministry, the message of this Gospel asked his contemporaries to accept the truth he taught and to let him draw them nearer to God, grace and salvation. At its second level of development in the Lucan community of the 80s, Jesus' message warned about being prepared to welcome the returning Jesus. This same message continues to challenge those who tend to put off a decision, thinking that there will be

time for such things at a later date. Such thinking causes missed opportunities that can never be reclaimed. This Lent with its many opportunity's awaits our decision to be better. What better time to do so than now?

Awareness of God

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

Have you ever had a burning bush experience? Have you ever known a moment in which you were so profoundly in touch with the presence of God that your life from then on was totally transformed by that encounter? Moses' experience of God, as shared today by the author of Exodus, was such an encounter. There, at the bush that burned but was not consumed, Moses knew the awesome presence of God, and from within that ambiance of fear and fascination he began to realize his true identity and his purpose in life. Burning bush experiences are fraught with absolute truth. There is no dissembling in that moment; there is only the sheer terror but also the great thrill of realizing who God is and who I am before God. This realization is followed by a further incredible awareness that despite who I am and who I am not, despite what I have done and what I have neglected to do, God chooses to be present to me, to call me, to grace me, to call and grace others through me.

Each of us is challenged this Lent of 2010 to be willing to discover those burning bushes through which God is revealed to us and we are revealed to God.

Lenten Practices

Connect, Liturgical Publications

God's promise to Moses in this week's first reading from the Book of Exodus was that he would free the people of Israel from slavery in the land of Egypt. Now that we've been thoroughly into Lent for a while, we have each probably discovered what sins we are slaves to. It is not slavery in the land of Egypt from which we seek liberation. Rather, it is the sin to which we are beholden day after day that needs to be broken by the power of God.

While fasting from food and drink is often in vogue during Lent, it might also be time to fast a bit from some of the noise of our world so that we can have some quiet time for self-reflection. This may be the week to turn off the cell phone or television for a brief period of time and listen to God speak to our hearts.

**“Lord, help me to
bear good fruit.”**