
Week of March 14, 2010

MONDAY

*Is 65:17-21 * Ps 30:2,4-6,11,13 * Jn 4:43-54*

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

*Ez 47:1-9,12 * Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 * Jn 5:1-16*

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mass-St. Anthony

*Is 49:8-15 * Ps 145:8-9,13-14,17-18 * Jn 5:17-30*

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass-St. Joseph

*Ex 32:7-14 * Ps 106:19-23 * Jn 5:31-47*

FRIDAY

FEAST of ST. JOSEPH

9:00am AACS Word & Communion-St. Joseph

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

*2 Sm 7:4-5,12-14,16 * Ps 89:2-5,27,29 * Lk 2:41-51*

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass-St. Joseph

*Jer 11:18-20 * Ps 7:2-3,9-12 * Jn 7:40-53*

SUNDAY

8:30am Mass-St. Joseph

10:30am Mass-St. Anthony

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

*Is 43:16-21 * Ps 126:1-6 * Phil 3:8-14 * Jn 8:1-11*

Parish Activities

Mon., Mar. 15	6:15pm Elementary Religious Ed.-St. Anthony 6:15pm Walking in the gym-St. Anthony 6:30pm Choir Practice-St. Joseph
Tues., Mar. 16	10:00am Scripture Study-Parish Center 6:00pm Sacramental Retreat-St. Anthony 6:30pm Evening Scripture Study-Lipinski Cen 6:30pm RCIA-Parish Center
Wed., Mar. 17	10:00am Knitters-Parish Center 6:00pm Soup Supper-St. Anthony
Thurs., Mar. 18	6:00pm Home & School-St. Joseph 7:00pm School Committee-St. Joe
Sat., Mar. 20	NO Confessions to end of March 12Noon Confirmation-St. Anthony

Pictorial Directory: Time slots are filling up quickly! 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 or by calling the Parish Office at 662-6861.

Sale of the Plow: The parish has received a check for \$2,100 from Tiny's Welding for the sale for the Western Plow.

Education/Formation

Elementary

► **Please Join Us!** Monday, March 15, the 3rd grade class will present the third in the Lenten Prayer Services Series. Come and join us as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus on his way to the Cross. We will begin promptly at 7:15pm in St. Anthony Church. Come and join the children as they present their interpretation of the "Way of the Cross".

► **Catechists are needed:** The Parish Catechetical Team will be in need of new members for 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.

► **Sacramental Retreat Reminder!** Tues., March 16 at 6pm at St. Anthony Church, our 26 Sacramental Candidates will come together one last time for their Sacramental Retreat. Please remember them in your prayers.

► **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

► **Youth to Youth Retreat:** April 17-18 at Camp Rotary. Come join your friends in exploring the wonders of being part of God's plan. This high school retreat will include witness talks, God time, Mass, Reconciliation, free time, games, new friends, food and lots of fun. Deadline to register is Wed., April 7. Any questions, please contact Michelle at 662-6861 or mbutterfield@auburnac.org

► **Feed the Fire:** A monthly Youth Mass and evening program for teens in grades 8-12. On Sat., March 20, celebrate Mass at 4:30pm at St. Agnes Parish, Freeland. Immediately following Mass a meal will be served by their Altar Society (cost \$6 per person) followed by a guest speaker. The evening will conclude at 8pm. This is a great opportunity for our youth!!

► **No Session:** There is no Youth Ministry Session this Sun., March 14. We will meet again on Sun., March 21.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thanks from AACS** to the school families and parishioners for their generosity in giving towards the gift baskets for the Bishop's Charity Ball Silent Auction. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have purchased raffle tickets for this event. Raffle tickets are still available through any school family or at the school office.

► **SCRIP** will be available for purchase after each Mass this weekend. Charity Ball raffle tickets will also be available for purchase at the SCRIP table.

► **March is Reading Month!** We encourage everyone to read with or to their children at least 20 minutes a day.

► **Enrollment** is underway for the 2010-2011 school year. Registration packets are available by the school bulletin board at each worship site. If you have questions or would like to come tour our facilities, please call the school office 662-7747.

► **School Outreach:** One of the school's projects is the American Heart Association's "Hoops for Heart". This year's event was very successful— not only did the children have a great time, their efforts raised \$685 in donations. During Catholic Schools Week, students collected 7545 pennies to help Bay County Habitat for Humanity reach their goal of 5 million pennies.

Stewardship

"Let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!"

Target: \$11,538.50 * Offering: \$14,645.45
Rice Bowl: \$220.00 * Easter Flowers: \$1,640.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$220.00
In Memory of Richard Solosky: \$60.00

From Father Tom's Desk

4th Sunday of Lent

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

So often, our focus during Lent gravitates toward the wrong that we have done. We review the laws of God and the church and we realize that there have been infractions both great and small. We evaluate our relationships with God and with one another and admit that we have not been as faithful as we are called to be. We remember the goals we set for ourselves and are painfully aware that we have fallen short. We gauge the quality of our character, the depth of our spirituality and the fervor of our prayer and find that we are in great need of growth.

While it may be tempting to engage in this practice of negative navel-gazing, the mercies of our God call us to cultivate a more positive attitude. Admitting guilt and accepting responsibility is a necessary first step, but to remain in the morass of hopelessness created by our own sinfulness is to waste an opportunity to draw ever more closely and fall ever more deeply in love with God. Each of the sacred texts for this Sunday references this process of turning a negative into a positive by surrendering a sinful past to the past.

Upon their approval in the land of Canaan, the Israelites were instructed by God through Joshua to remember no more the reproach of Egypt. Instead of dredging up the memories of suffering and the failures of the desert days, they were to celebrate their Passover to freedom and renewed union with God.

Paul evokes a similar outlook in today's second reading. Let go of the old ways of sin, urged Paul, and embrace new life in Christ. The great apostle was so convinced of the rebirth that comes with living in Christ that he called baptized believers "a new creation."

Nowhere is joy more poignantly expressed than in today's Gospel. The son and brother we have come to call the "prodigal" is never named. Perhaps his anonymity makes it easier for readers to see something of themselves in him. His life, by his own choice, had spiraled down until it seemed that he could fall no further. He could have remained there, at the lowest point, wallowing in self-pity and self-loathing. He may have thought that he deserved his desperate situation, and no one would have disagreed with him. But there in that pigsty he decided to let go of his sinful past and try for a new beginning. At this turning point in the Lucan parable, the evangelist tells readers, "He came to his senses." Rather than dwelling on himself and the mess he had made of his life, the son began to think of the goodness and love of his father. This thought enabled him to let go of what he had become and entrust himself to his father's mercy.

Here lies the lesson for Lenten believers. Essential to the process of reconciliation and forgiveness is a willingness to let go and leave the past behind. Without such baggage, the one who seeks forgiveness is able to welcome God's mercy with empty, open arms.

**"If you don't know Jesus,
you're in for one hell of a time!"**

Going Home

Fr. James Smith, *Celebration*

God says, "All is forgiven. Come home." Like the Prodigal Son, we worry about how to explain ourselves. We make up excuses for our sins; we wonder what promises we have to make. We think that we have to become a better person before we go home.

Not so. All we have to do is go home. God is like bankruptcy: We give up all we have- and the balance is mysteriously restored. We are debt-free to start fresh again. Of course, we may want to avoid past mistakes, we may want to acquire better habits. But that comes later. First we go home. Where repentance is much easier in our Father's house among family.

***"Lord, let me be
at home with you."***

Today we collect pledge cards for the *Catholic Services Appeal 2010*. This is an opportunity for us to unite with all Catholics in the diocese to share our blessings. Every gift, regardless of size, is important to the success of CSA and the many ministries that it supports. If you did not bring your pledge card this week, please fill it out and return it as soon as possible (in the collection basket or by mail, or fill out a pledge envelope at the back of church). We need participation from everyone to support the many works for our diocesan church. Our goal is 100% participation. Again, any amount raised above the goal will stay in the parish. To those who returned their cards, thank you for your generous response!

Thank You: The Richard Solosky family would like to extend sincere gratitude to our fellow parish families who provided and prepared wonderful food for the luncheon, the beautiful Mass presided by Fr. Gerry, and the comfort and support provided to our family during his illness and passing into life eternal. We thank you.

The Richard Solosky Family

The Parish in the Community

► **Knights of Columbus**, Monsignor Eugene A. Forbes Council #3590, is having a membership drive weekend of March 20/21. Our founder, "Venerable" Fr. Michael McGivney has an excellent write up in the "*Little Black Book*" (March 15). Our local council has almost 300 members whose volunteering helps support our church, youth activities, the mentally and physically challenged, and local scholarships. Come join the ranks of other men who made a difference in their communities: men like Babe Ruth, Floyd Patterson, Bishop Cistone, and most importantly our priests. Please call Ed Piotrowski 859-8504 or Mike Markes 832-0282 to learn more about this great Catholic Family Oriented Fraternal Service Organization. Any man can join (18 years or older) and in good standing with the Church.

Auburn KofC Fish Fry: Great food at reasonable prices, Fri., March 19, 3-7:30pm. Adults \$9, seniors (dine in only) \$8.50, children (5-12 years old) \$4.50, kids under 5 are free.

News!! There was a "pastor sighting" this past week. Apparently, because he didn't see his shadow, he returned to his den!

Fr. Tom