

August 24, 2025

21th Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Teresa of Avila

11600 Atwood Road, Auburn, CA 95603

www.stteresaauburn.com

Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalms 116(117)

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Luke 13:12-30

The Narrow Door: A Story About Jesus' Special Invitation

One sunny morning, Jesus was walking through villages and towns, teaching people about God's Kingdom. Many people followed Him because they loved to hear His stories and wanted to know how to get to Heaven. A man in the crowd raised his hand and asked, "Jesus, will only a few people go to Heaven?" Jesus looked kindly at the man and then at everyone around Him. He didn't say yes or no. Instead, He told them something important.

Jesus said, "Try your best to go in through the narrow door, because one day the door will be shut, and some people won't be able to get in." The people looked at each other. A narrow door? What did that mean? Jesus explained, "When the master closes the door, people will knock and say, 'Let us in!' But the master will say, 'I don't know you.'"

Some of the people were surprised. "But didn't we eat with you, Jesus? Didn't we listen to your stories?" they might have asked. Jesus said, "It's not enough to just hear My words. You must follow them. Love others, help the poor, forgive everyone, and obey God with all your heart."

Then Jesus smiled and said something amazing. "One day, people from all over the world—from the north, south, east, and west—will come and sit at God's table in Heaven!" That means Heaven isn't just for one kind of person or special group. It's for everyone who chooses to love and follow God.

Jesus ended with a surprise: "Some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last."

That means that even if someone is small, poor, or forgotten by others, they can still be great in God's eyes if they follow Jesus.

Jesus wants us to walk through the narrow door—the path of love, kindness, and faith. It may not always be easy, but it leads to the most wonderful place: God's forever home!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 8/23	5:00pm	+	Helen Voges
Sunday 8/24	8:30am	+	Warren Bonner
		+	Maria Tu Bui
	10:30am		Rachel Fenner
			Mary Aguilar
	4:00pm		For The Faithful
Tuesday 8/26	8:30am		Leo Baustian.
Wednesday 8/27	8:30am	+	Julie Merriam
Thursday, 8/20	8:30am	+	Robert & Rose Champion
Friday, 8/29	8:30am	+	Abe Swartz
Friday 8/22	8:30am		For The Faithful

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE August 23rd & 24th, 2025

Altar Servers

Saturday, 5:00pm:	Kendall, Landen & Claire Douglas
Sunday, 8:30am:	Manleys
Sunday, 10:30am:	Alana & Chase Grafe, Matt Clifton

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, 5:00pm:	Jackie Carlson, Claudia Beckwith, Carol Coleman, Steve McCullough,
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Sunday, 8:30am:	Trish Jensen
Sunday, 8:30am:	Tom & Kris Epperson.
Sunday, 10:30am:	Bob & Fran Sypnieski, Luciana Curtis
Sunday, 10:30am:	Mario Vilamor, Nati Magowan, Barbara Kilborn, Mary Aguilar,
	Lisa Avila, Erin Anguillo, Rhemee Brockway

Lectors

Saturday, 5:00pm:	Ron Roussey, Bob Thomas
Sunday, 8:30am:	Catherine Durant, Jim Sette
Sunday, 10:30am:	Chuck Manzer, David Pohorsky

Sacristans

Saturday, 5:00pm:	Steve McCullough, Trish Jensen
Sunday, 8:30am	Julia Eggert
Sunday, 10:30am	Chuck Manzer, Danny Bernal



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Rev. Arbel S. Cabasagan, Pastor
Deacons: John Sheehan & Adam Crawford

Mission Statement

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in My Love." In Christ's Love, the Eucharistic community of St. Teresa of Avila, Auburn, embraces and welcomes all as part of God's family. We value every parishioner and strive to reflect the mercy, forgiveness, and healing of Jesus Christ.

Parish Office: 11600 Atwood Rd., Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-2254, fax (530) 889-2643
info@stteresaauburn.com

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00am—4:00pm
Closed for lunch 11:30am—12:30pm

Pastor: Fr. Arbel S. Cabasagan
(530) 889-2254 ext. 100
E-mail: fr_arbel@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary: Barbara Freuler
(530) 889-2254, ext. 101,
E-mail: barbara_freuler@stteresaauburn.com

Religious Education Coordinator: Sister Rosemary (530) 889-2254, ext. 104
E-mail: msmstaauburn@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Jean Sawyer
(707) 567-2541, E-Mail, jeansawyer8@aol.com

St. Joseph School: Kristen Mendonsa, Principal
(530) 885-4490 E-mail: info@saintjosephauburn.org

OFFERTORY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Thank you for your generous donations

August 17, 2025:	\$ 9,701
Online Giving:	\$ 3,631
Total:	\$13,332

Assumption of Virgin the Virgin Mary: \$ 1,306

Thank you for your generous donations

Sunday Mass:
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am,
4:00pm Spanish

Daily Masses:

Tuesday— Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Friday. 9:00am—10:00am
Saturday 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday's 9:00am—6:00pm

Baptisms:

Every 3rd Saturday of the month @ 2:30pm
Classes, every 3rd Friday of the month @ 6:30pm. Call the parish office to register..

Marriage:

If you are a member of our parish, please contact a priest or deacon of your choice at *least* six months in advance of your desired wedding in order to participate in a process of marriage preparation.

Confirmation:

For teens, the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two-year preparation process; please contact our coordinator of religious education; for adults not yet confirmed, please call the parish office.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, English):

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or becoming Catholic, contact Karen Sheehan @ 916-812-3737

OCIA, (Spanish): Leticia Aceves @ 530-613-4302

Prayer Chain Requests:

For those in need of prayers please e-mail Liz Rhodes: esrhodes32@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul: (530) 305-1904

Luke 13:22-30

This Sunday's Gospel from our Lord Jesus gives us a striking image — the narrow door. Someone asks Him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Jesus does not answer with a number. Instead, He offers a challenge: "Strive to enter through the narrow door."

This is not just a reply — it's a loving invitation and a warning. Salvation is not something we drift into; it is a door we must choose to enter — with effort, perseverance, and grace.

1. The Narrow Door: Christ Himself

The narrow door is not a thing — it is a Person. Jesus says in John 10:9, "I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved." He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). To enter the Kingdom of God, we must pass through Him — His truth, His mercy, His cross.

But why is the door narrow?

Because it requires humility. Because it requires letting go of sin, pride, selfishness, and comfort. It means choosing Christ over the world. That door is narrow not because God is stingy with His mercy, but because we often carry too much baggage to pass through it.

2. Strive — Don't Assume

Jesus says, "Many will try to enter and will not be strong enough." This is a call to spiritual effort — not in a worldly sense, but in a personal commitment to live the Gospel daily. It's easy to say, "I go to church" or "I know Jesus", but the Lord reminds us: it is not enough to know about Him — we must know Him and live in Him.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) §2015 tells us:

"The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle." Heaven is a gift, yes — but like any gift, we must accept it and prepare our hearts to receive it. Grace is freely given, but discipleship costs everything.

3. The Last Shall Be First

Jesus then surprises us: "People will come from the east and west... and will recline at table in the kingdom of God." The Kingdom is not limited to a chosen few, but is open to all — Jew and Gentile, saint and sinner — who truly turn to Christ. God's mercy is wide, but the door remains narrow.

Some who are "last" in the world — the poor, the humble, the repentant — will be first in Heaven. Others, who assumed they were "first," may find themselves outside if they never truly lived the Gospel.

This is not meant to fill us with fear, but with holy urgency. There is still time. The door is still open. But we must strive — not out of anxiety, but out of love for Christ.

4. A Catechetical Call to Action

So what must we do?

Examine your conscience regularly. What baggage are you trying to carry through the narrow door?

Deepen your relationship with Christ through daily prayer and the sacraments — especially Confession and the Eucharist.

Teach your children and families that faith is not cultural or habitual — it is a living relationship with Jesus.

Serve others, especially the poor and the forgotten — they may be closer to the Kingdom than we think.

The Catechism reminds us:

"God created us without us: but He did not will to save us without us." (CCC §1847)

He invites. He opens the door. But we must say yes, with our whole lives.



A Parent's Blessing Prayer for their Children

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father,
With grateful hearts, we thank You for the precious gift of our children.

You have entrusted them to our care, and we ask for Your grace to raise them in Your love and truth.

Lord Jesus,
Place Your hand upon [child's name] and bless them.

Guide their thoughts, protect their hearts, and guard their steps.

May they grow in wisdom, age, and grace before You and before others.

Holy Spirit,

Fill our child with Your gifts:

wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Help them to know You, to love You, and to serve You all the days of their life.

Bless their friendships, their studies, and their dreams.

Keep them safe from all harm, temptation, and sin.

When they are afraid, be their peace. When they are uncertain, be their guide.

Mary, our Mother, wrap your mantle around our child.

St. Joseph, protect and strengthen them.

Guardian Angel, watch over them always.

And Lord, bless us as their parents.

Grant us patience, wisdom, and faith as we lead our children to You.

May our home always reflect the light of Your presence and love.

We entrust our child to Your care, now and forever.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Donut Ministry – Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday Donut Ministry!



If you can assist with picking up, setting up, and serving donuts after the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Masses, we'd love to have you join us.

It's a simple way to serve our parish community, and a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and share some Sunday joy!

Interested?

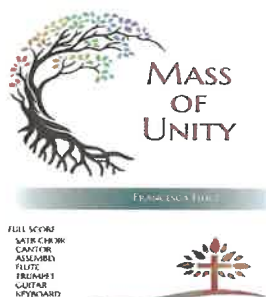
Please contact the parish office to learn more or to sign up.

Thank you for helping make our Sundays sweet!

New Mass Setting

We are excited to announce that we will be introducing a new song Mass setting this September. It was composed by our pianist, Francesca Filice, and she has lovingly dedicated it to all of us at St. Teresa's. To make it easier for you to learn your parts so you can participate as fully as possible during the liturgy, we have recordings of each part available on our parish website on the Music Ministry page.

For easy access, you can scan this QR code:



Evening Online Scriptural Rosary with KofC Auburn Council 6149 every Sunday @ 7:00pm

During difficult times our faith tells us that we need to come together in prayer and pray to our Blessed Lord as one people. In accordance with that tradition, Auburn KofC Council 6149 would like to invite everyone to come and share in the Prayer of the Gospels with us online every Sunday evening at 7:00pm. In each decade the Hail Mary will be preceded by a scripture reading. To view the scripture reading please use the following link for a guide to a scriptural rosary:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/faith/rosary-program/319-scriptural-rosary.pdf>

Given the time of the year we will also include the The Litany of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus. This prayer can be accessed with the following link:

<https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/litanies/p03476.htm>

The Knights of Columbus Auburn Council 6149 would like to offer this scriptural rosary publicly to help others find their faith and come together in common prayer. The rosary is our expression of faith, and we would like to offer this as a service to the Christian community and to those of like mind to come together and pray for the common good.

We are open to questions, comments and feedback in an attempt to make this a more spirituality fulfilling experience. Also, if you have any prayers or intentions that you want to offer, please let me know. Comments, prayers & intentions can be addressed to me at kofc6149@gmail.com.

"If I had an army to say the Rosary, I could conquer the world."

Blessed Pope Pius IX

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) There are just a couple weeks left to register your children for Family Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep classes. Registration forms are available in the parish office. There will be a Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep Orientation meeting on Sunday, September 7th at 8:45am in the parish hall and again on Tuesday afternoon in the parish hall at 4:30pm for all parents and children who will be attending classes.

2) The Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) classes begin this week on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30pm in the Beatitude Room. These classes prepare adults and young teens interested in the Catholic faith, coming into full communion in the church and for those who have not yet been confirmed.

3) The Well-Read Catholic Reading Group is for anyone who would like to join in fellowship reading and discussing writings related to our Catholic Faith. The group meets the on 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 7:00pm in the Beatitude Room.

St John Henry Newman set to become newest Doctor of the Church

By Alessandro De Carolis, Vatican News



One of the great modern thinkers of Christianity, a key figure in a spiritual and human journey that left a profound mark on the Church and 19th-century ecumenism, and the author of writings that show how living the faith is a daily “heart-to-heart” dialogue with Christ. A life spent with energy and passion for the Gospel—culminating in his canonization in 2019—that will soon lead to the English cardinal John Henry Newman being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

John Henry Newman was 32 years old when this poignant prayer rose from his heart during his return to England after a long journey through Italy. Born in 1801, he had already been an Anglican priest for eight years and was widely recognized as one of the most brilliant minds in his church—a man who captivated with both spoken and written word.

The 1832 trip to Italy deepened his inner search. Newman carried within him a thirst to know the depths of God, His “kindly Light,” which for him was also the light of Truth—truth about Christ, the true nature of the Church, and the tradition of the early centuries, when the Church Fathers spoke to a still undivided Church. Oxford—epicenter of his faith and the place where the future saint lived and worked—became the road along which his convictions gradually shifted toward Catholicism.

In 1845, he distilled his spiritual journey into the *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, the fruit of a long pursuit of that Light, which he came to recognize in the Catholic Church—a Church he saw as the very one born from the heart of Christ, the Church of the martyrs and the ancient Fathers, which, like a tree, had grown and developed through history. Soon after, he asked to be received into the Catholic Church, which took place on October 8, 1845. He later wrote of that moment: “It was like coming into port after a rough sea; and my happiness on that score

remains to this day without interruption.

”Newman was deeply drawn to the figure of St. Philip Neri—another soul, like himself, “adopted” by Rome. When Blessed Pope Pius IX encouraged him to return to England, Newman went on to found an Oratory there, dedicated to the saint with whom he shared a joyful disposition. That good humor remained intact even through the many challenges he faced in establishing Catholic institutions in his homeland, many of which seemed at first to falter. Still, his mind continued to produce brilliant writings in defense and support of Catholicism—even under fierce attack.

In 1879, Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal. Upon hearing the news, Newman wept with joy: “The cloud is lifted forever.” He continued his apostolic work with undiminished intensity until his death on August 11, 1890. On his tomb, he asked that only his name and a brief phrase be inscribed, one that encapsulates the extraordinary arc of his 89 years of life: *Ex umbris et imaginibus in Veritatem*, “From shadows and images into the Truth.”

Benedict XVI beatified him in 2010, honoring a man of deep prayer who, in the Pope’s words, “lived out that profoundly human vision of priestly ministry in his devoted care” for people: “visiting the sick and the poor, comforting the bereaved, caring for those in prison.

‘Cor ad cor loquitur’

Newman was canonized in 2019 by Pope Francis, who, in the encyclical *Dilexit nos*, explained why the English cardinal had chosen as his motto the phrase *Cor ad cor loquitur*—“Heart speaks to heart.” Because, the Pope noted, beyond any dialectical argument, the Lord saves us by speaking from His heart to ours: “This realization led him, the distinguished intellectual, to recognize that his deepest encounter with himself and with the Lord came not from his reading or reflection, but from his prayerful dialogue, heart to heart, with Christ, alive and present. It was in the Eucharist that Newman encountered the living heart of Jesus, capable of setting us free, giving meaning to each moment of our lives, and bestowing true peace.”

The beheading of St. John the Baptist **August 29**

1. A Prophet's Courage

The imprisonment and martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist, the last and greatest of the Old Testament prophets, boldly spoke truth to power. He confronted King Herod Antipas for his unlawful marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife.

John's message was clear and uncompromising: "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." (v.18)

This cost him everything. He was imprisoned, then beheaded — not for a political cause, but for defending the truth of God's law.

2. Truth and Morality Are Not Optional

John the Baptist's witness shows us that God's moral law is not subject to human power or preference. Even when truth is unpopular, inconvenient, or dangerous, it remains true.

This aligns with the teaching of the Church: "Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions." (CCC §1782)

Yet, "In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path." (CCC §1785)

John formed his conscience according to God's Word and was not afraid to speak that truth, even to a king.

3. Herod: A Conflicted Heart

Herod is a tragic figure. The Gospel says he feared John, "knowing him to be a righteous and holy man" (v.20). He liked to listen to him, but remained torn between his conscience and his desires.

This internal conflict is familiar to many. The Catechism teaches:

"Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil..." (CCC §1777)

Herod knew what was right. But instead of following his conscience, he gave in to peer pressure, lust, and pride — ultimately choosing sin over righteousness.

4. Herodias and the Danger of Hardened Hearts

Herodias, on the other hand, shows the danger of resentment and hardened hearts. Rather than repenting at John's call to truth, she allowed hatred to grow — and manipulated her daughter and Herod to silence the prophet.

This is a warning for us all: unrepented sin can lead to spiritual blindness and cruelty. As the Catechism says:

"Sin creates a proclivity to sin... it engenders vice by repetition of the same acts." (CCC §1865)
Without repentance, sin can deform the heart.

5. John the Baptist: A Model of Holiness and Martyrdom

John is the forerunner of Christ — not only in preaching, but in suffering and death. He prepared the way of the Lord, and like Christ, he was rejected by the powerful and killed unjustly.



The Church honors John as a martyr, one who gave his life for truth.

"Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith..." (CCC §2473)

His life reminds us that truth is worth dying for, and that every Christian is called to bear witness — even when it costs something.

6. A Catechetical Challenge for Today

What does this Gospel teach us today?

Speak the truth in love. Don't compromise the Gospel, even when it's hard.

Form your conscience. Let God's Word shape your understanding of right and wrong.

Repent and forgive. Don't allow sin to harden your heart.

Honor the martyrs. Their blood is the seed of the Church (Tertullian).

Be courageous. In a world that often silences moral truth, be like John — bold, humble, faithful.

The importance of a Faith Community praying together as a family

1. Unity and Fellowship

Praying together strengthens the sense of belonging and unity within the faith community.

It reminds individuals that they are not alone in their faith journey — they are part of a spiritual family.

Shared prayer helps break down barriers of age, background, and culture, promoting deep fellowship.

2. Spiritual Growth

Corporate prayer deepens the spiritual maturity of individuals by exposing them to different expressions of faith and insight.

It encourages people to grow in their personal relationship with God through the collective experience.

It fosters a rhythm of prayer and devotion that can carry into personal life.

3. Support in Times of Need

When a faith community prays together, they bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Collective prayer offers comfort, strength, and hope in times of grief, crisis, or confusion.

It's a way of standing in the gap for others — interceding for healing, guidance, or peace.

4. Teaching and Discipleship

Praying as a community is a powerful way to teach the next generation how to pray.

It shows younger members and new believers how prayer can be a natural and vital part of life.

It models humility, dependence on God, and the beauty of spiritual intimacy.

5. Encouraging God's Presence

Scripture says, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

There's a special sense of God's presence when believers unite in prayer.

This shared experience can lead to revival, deeper worship, and transformative encounters.

6. Empowerment for Mission

Prayer unifies the community around a common purpose or mission.

It renews commitment to living out faith in the world — in acts of service, justice, and love.

Collective prayer can ignite vision, courage, and clarity for the work ahead.

7. Healing and Reconciliation

Praying together can lead to healing of relationships within the community.

It's hard to hold grudges in the presence of God — prayer promotes forgiveness, empathy, and peace.

It allows for confession, restoration, and unity under a shared spiritual vision.

Summary

When a faith community prays together as a family, it creates a powerful spiritual bond that:

Deepens faith

Builds unity

Offers comfort

Teaches future generations

Invites God's presence

Empowers mission

Heals divisions

It transforms a group of individuals into a true spiritual family, united in love, purpose, and trust in God.





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- Fill a grocery bag with shelf-stable food, and deliver it to:
 - **Your Neighborhood Food Drive**—Bags are distributed on Saturday Sept. 13th, and picked up on Saturday Sept. 20th
 - **Deliver the bag directly to the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet** on the 20th or M-F 10:00 to 2:00.
- Donate home-grown produce from your garden or orchard

DONATE TO THE VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

- To help us buy eggs, milk, cheese, meat and produce, donate online at www.auburnfoodcloset.org

TELL A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR ABOUT AIFC

- We serve guests at our facility—1788 Auburn Ravine Road. We also serve those in our community who are registered for our home bound delivery program.

SIGN UP FOR A FOOD DRIVE ROUTE

- Contact AIFC for a route near you or scan the QR Code



ITEMS MOST NEEDED

Boxed Cereal
Meal in a Can
Pasta/Pasta Sauce (no glass jars)



Assorted Canned: Fruits,
Vegetables, Tuna/Chicken
Mac & Cheese



Auburn Interfaith Food Closet

Location: 1788 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn

Mailing Address: PO Box 132, Auburn, CA 95604

Website: www.auburnfoodcloset.org Telephone: (530) 885-1921

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PEREGRINOS DE ESPERANZA

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September is "Hunger Action Month"

**LET'S FIGHT
HUNGER
Together**



Thank you for your Generosity

Please fill this grocery bag
with non-perishable food items that are commercially
packaged, unopened and unexpired,
NO GLASS JARS PLEASE.
Place the filled bag on the curb or near the street on
September 20th BEFORE 9 AM

Food Drive



Auburn
Interfaith
Food Closet

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

Assorted Canned: Fruits,
Vegetables, Tuna/Chicken
Boxed Cereal
Pasta/Pasta Sauce (no glass)
Meal in a Can
Mac & Cheese

Location: 1788 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn
Mailing Address: PO Box 132, Auburn, CA 95604
Telephone: (530) 885-1921 Website: www.auburnfoodcloset.org

Agency Partner of Feeding the Foothills

This institution is an equal opportunity provider
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EVERY WEDNESDAY

EXCEPT ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE WEDNESDAY DURING HOLY WEEK LEADING UP TO EASTER



TEXT - BINGO to 530-444-2103

Get on the text list for real time updates and changes.

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Game Starts: 6:30 pm

GAMES | PRIZES | FOOD | FRIENDSHIP

116100 Atwood Rd Auburn, CA 95603

St. Teresa of Avila Church Parish

All proceeds benefit St. Teresa of Avila Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph School, and the Auburn Community



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