



December 17, 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



### Third Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, the writer declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation for Jerusalem and all God's people. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the program of his own ministry.

The subject of the Gospel is the same as that of last Sunday: the witness of John the Baptist to Jesus. John summons all to faith in Jesus. He declares that he himself is not the light, and tells the people that unrecognized by them the light (Jesus) is already present among them.

In the second reading Paul takes a very practical line, telling the Thessalonians how they should live as they await the second coming of Christ.

### The Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday."

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is gaudete (Latin, "rejoice")

What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."

### Papal Prayer Intentions for December

The Elderly – That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



### Advent Penitential Service

Our Advent Penitential Service will take place on **Friday, December 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

## This Week

### Monday, December 18

7:00pm Mass +Liana Pulice

### Tuesday, December 19

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group  
8:00am Mass +Dino Geronimo  
6:60pm Meeting Knights of Columbus Executive  
7:00pm Mass +Maureen Levelt

### Wednesday, December 20

8:00am Mass  
7:00pm Mass +Josie Gunn  
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

### Thursday, December 21

8:00am Mass  
6:30pm Meeting Faith Formation Group  
7:00pm Mass +Albert Noronha

### Friday, December 22

8:00am Mass  
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots  
10:00am Meeting CLC Group  
12noon OFFICE CLOSED  
7:00pm Penitential Service (No Mass)

### Saturday, December 23

8:00am Mass Int Dominga Jimenez  
**5:00pm Mass** +Antonia Campa Ortigas

### Sunday, December 24

**9:00am Mass**  
**11:00am Mass**  
**5:00pm Mass** Children's Anticipatory Christmas Mass  
**9:00pm Mass** Christmas Eve  
**12 Midnight Mass** Christmas

### Monday, December 25

**9:00am Mass** Christmas  
**11:00am Mass** Christmas

## OFFERTORY

December 10th, 2017

We are grateful for these gifts:

ENVELOPES: \$7,829.00

LOOSE: \$789.76

## REST IN PEACE

Beryl Daoust

## WELCOME

Victoria Summer Bekar  
Daughter of Ryan Bekar & Laura Nendick

## Pope's Message

Beloved brothers and sisters: because these our sons, who are your relatives and friends, are now to be advanced to the Order of priests, consider carefully the nature of the rank in the Church to which they are about to be raised. It is true that God has made his entire holy people a royal priesthood in

Christ. Nevertheless, our great Priest himself, Jesus Christ, chose certain disciples to carry out publicly in his name, and on behalf of mankind, a priestly office in the Church. For Christ was sent by the Father and he in turn sent the Apostles into the world, so that through them and their successors, the Bishops, he might continue to exercise his office of Teacher, Priest, and Shepherd. Indeed, priests are established co-workers of the Order of Bishops, with whom they are joined in the priestly office and with whom they are called to the service of the people of God.

Now, dear sons, you are to be raised to the Order of the Priesthood. For your part, you will exercise the sacred duty of teaching in the name of Christ the Teacher. Impart to everyone the word of God which you have received with joy. Meditating on the law of the Lord, see that you believe what you read, that you teach what you believe, and that you practice what you teach.

In this way, let what you teach be nourishment for the people of God. Let the holiness of your lives be a delightful fragrance to Christ's faithful, so that by word and example you may build up the house which is God's Church. Remember, when you gather others into the people of God through Baptism, and when you forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church in the sacrament of Penance; when you comfort the sick with holy oil and celebrate the sacred rites, when you offer prayers of praise and thanks to God throughout the hours of the day, not only for the people of God but for the world – remember then that you are taken from among men and appointed on their behalf for those things that pertain to God. Therefore, carry out the ministry of Christ the Priest with constant joy and genuine love, attending not to your own concerns but to those of Jesus Christ.

Finally, dear sons, exercising for your part the office of Christ, Head and Shepherd, while united with the Bishop and subject to him, strive to bring the faithful together into one family, so that you may lead them to God the Father through Christ in the Holy Spirit. Keep always before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve, and who came to seek out and save what was lost.

I also encourage you, today, to keep praying for your priests, especially for these who will now receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. The people of God support their priests by prayer. It is your duty to support your priests. Some of you may ask me, "But Father, how do we go about supporting priests?" Trust in your generosity. The generosity of your heart will tell you how to support your priests. But the primary support of priests is prayer. The people of God – all of us, every one of us – support priests by our prayers. Never tire of praying for your priests. I know you will do this. Thank you! Now, let us continue with the rite of ordination of these deacons who will be your priests. Thank you.

## Archbishop Miller's Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One holy night 2,000 years ago, the Son of God became man. Born in a lowly stable, the Mighty God and Prince of Peace came to dwell among us.

"I bring you good news of a great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

This Christmas, the Angel's proclamation rings out once again, inviting each of us to welcome our Saviour. Let us not hesitate to allow him into our homes, parishes, schools, workplaces, and communities!

It's understandable that today many ask whether we still need a "Saviour." After all, this is 2017. Is a saviour still required by a civilization that has reached the moon and peers to the ends of the universe? By a humanity that has deciphered the intricate codes of the human genome, navigates the Internet and has made the earth, our common home, a global village? Despite these great achievements, however, there is another side to the coin. In the Lower Mainland, homelessness abounds, and human trafficking robs countless women and girls of their dignity. Others are victims of ethnic and religious intolerance and discrimination. Political interference and coercion with regard to the free exercise of religion and conscience are growing.

And what of people who are trapped in the loneliness of our neighbourhoods and who, seeking solace, often end up addicted to alcohol or drugs? What about those who "choose" death in the belief that they are celebrating life?

All of us need to be saved, freed from all that holds us back from living as God wants us to live. All of us need a Saviour.

Humanity today is searching for a way ahead, a reversal of the suffering and evil of our world. It is looking for "something better." Perhaps, unconsciously, it is waiting for the coming of the "Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Yes, we need a Saviour. And God in his merciful goodness has sent the world that Saviour, who became flesh in Mary's virginal womb. At Christmas we celebrate that even now Jesus comes "unto his own," and to those who receive him he gives "the power to become children of God" (Jn 1:11-12).

Jesus comes to offer to everyone the joy and peace that alone can fulfil the deep yearnings of the human heart. He gives us the chance to see the Father's glory and to open ourselves to others in love. This is Jesus' Christmas gift to us.

The proclamation of joy – that God is with us in Jesus Christ – is meant for all men and women. Jesus was born as Saviour for everyone. Just as Mary, in Bethlehem, presented him to the shepherds, we too are called to present Jesus to one and all, so that each person and every human situation may come to know the tenderness of God's merciful love.

May the joy of Christmas spur us all to proclaim joy to the world because God is present in our midst and walks with us in our journey through life!

With my prayers and blessing, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

St. Augustine's Oblate Parish is a Catholic community centered in Christ and the Eucharist that has a shared mission to – welcome and invite all to participate – celebrate in Word and Sacrament – foster evangelization and spiritual formation – advocate for social justice – care for our common home.

**Did You Know...**

This year, because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sunday, Catholics are obligated to attend Mass two days in a row in each of two weeks -- or maybe two masses on one day.

We have an obligation to attend Mass on the following Sundays and Holy Days:

Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 25: Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 31: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Monday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

However, on December 24, we could attend a Sunday Mass in the morning, and a Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord after 4 p.m.

And on December 31, we could attend a Sunday Mass in the morning, and a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God after 4 p.m.

But for those who are wondering, no, we cannot fulfill both obligations on December 24 or 31 with just one Mass.

**School News**

If you are interested in enrolling your child in St. Augustine School next year and missed the Open House for Parishioners held in October, please come to the next Open House on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Learning Commons at St. Augustine School. Please RSVP the Office at (604) 731-8024 or [office@staugustineschool.ca](mailto:office@staugustineschool.ca). Adults only please.

**Fall Campaign Update #6 – THANK YOU**

A big "thank you" to the more than 300 donors who have given to the new school campaign which has now raised more than \$400,000. More than 97 percent of our school families have made a gift. Our non-school families have donated nearly \$100,000 of the total.

Our goal remains \$500,000 and we will be accepting gifts until December 31, 2017. You can deposit your donations in the Sunday collection or drop them off at the parish or school offices during the week. If you are writing a cheque please make it out to: St. Augustine Parish - School Building Fund. For more information about the school and campaign please go to: [faithandfoundation.com](http://faithandfoundation.com).

We are accepting donations until December 31, 2017. You can deposit your donations in the Sunday collection or drop them off at the parish or school offices. If you are writing a cheque please make it out to: St. Augustine Parish - School Building Fund. For more information about the school and the campaign please visit: [faithandfoundation.com](http://faithandfoundation.com)

**Around the Parish...****Year 2018 Parish Envelopes**

Personalized year 2018 Envelope Donation boxes are available for pick-up outside the parish hall. Please do not take a box if it does not have your name on it. There will be volunteers from our new Community theme committee to assist you in finding your envelopes 10 minutes before Mass as well as after Mass. Also, if there is not a box with your name on it

please ask one of the volunteers and they will assign an envelope number to you. DO NOT use 2017 in the year 2018 as your donation may be credited to another individual.

**Congratulations****Sr. Monica Guest, SCIC**

On the 60th Year Anniversary of her religious vows as a Sister of the Immaculate Conception we congratulate our own very dear Sr. Monica. Sr. Monica currently serves as a Spiritual Advisor to the CWL and actively continues to counsel those in the 5th step program. Sr. Monica grew up in New Brunswick and responded to a call to join the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, NB in 1967.

Sr. Monica taught in elementary and Junior High Schools in New Brunswick for 13 years. From there she went on to mission in the Oblate parish of Chincha Baja in Peru for 9 years

Sr. Monica has made Vancouver her home since 1986, being involved in campus ministry at St Mark's College for 2 years, then at Bountyfull House in Sacred Heart Parish, Vancouver until 2011.

St. Augustine's Parish Church & School is proud to have Sr. Monica ministering and working in our faith community.

**School Advent Concert December 14th, 2017**

**Oblates of Mary Immaculate – "Why did we not think of this sooner?"**

Posted by Frank Santucci

Once the decision had been made, and Eugene had requested this new name, he was filled with joy at having done the right thing.

Oblates of the Immaculate Mary. But this is a passport to heaven! How have we not thought of it sooner?

*Letter to Henri Tempier, 22 December 1825, EO VI n 213*

Why had he not thought of it before? In the coming days I will explore some of the texts that show the place of Mary in Eugene's life before this decision.

Eugene "seems to become aware of the fact that, even if he had always loved Mary, he had not yet understood the essential role she played in the plan of Redemption. In searching for the patron who best expressed the goal of his Congregation – that is a person walking in the footsteps of Christ, committed to the apostolate of service and to the instruction of the poor – he had not thought of Mary. While in Rome, he understood who Mary really was. The title of the Congregation was thus born from a discovery that, in order to respond in an authentic way to the urgent needs of the Church, its members should identify with Mary Immaculate "to offer themselves" to the service of God's plan of salvation like she did." *Casimir Lubowicki, "Mary" in the Dictionary of Oblate Values, <https://www.omiworld.org/lemma/mary/>*

*A word from Fr. Andrzej...*

**What do we mean by 'salvation'?**

This world is full of wonder and beauty. But it is also a broken world, full of poverty and wounds. It is a world which needs salvation. But what kind of salvation?

In the past there was a tendency to see salvation in a purely spiritual sense – as the salvation of the soul from final damnation. It was also understood in a very individualistic way – I save my soul and more less forget about the salvation of others.

Today, while we are more conscious of our common destiny, there is a tendency to go to the opposite extreme. Salvation is seen in a purely secular sense – as salvation from suffering and oppression. Salvation is seen in purely political, economic and social terms.

The biblical idea of salvation is much a much deeper and richer one. In the Bible salvation embraces the idea of salvation from the ills of body and soul. It is a struggle against all the forces of death wherever they are manifest – a struggle for life in the fullest sense.

We see this understanding of salvation fulfilled in Christ: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me ... he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, freedom to those in prisons ...

While he took care of his own needs, Jesus spent himself ministering to others. He cared not just for the soul but also for the body.

While we work for a better world, we must not put all our hopes in this world. Our ultimate hope of complete salvation lies in Jesus Christ.

If you are new to our Parish Community or have an address or telephone change, please fill out the information below and submit it to the parish office or drop into the collection basket. please print in block letters.	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner <input type="checkbox"/> Need Envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> Information Change	
First Name	First Name
Spouse First Name	Spouse Last Name
Children: Name(s) & Date of Birth	
Mailing Address	
City	Phone
Postal Code	Email
Comments	

**Parish Information****RECONCILIATION**

Weekdays 15 minutes before weekday Mass  
Saturday 4:00pm–4:30pm

**PASTOR**

Rev. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI 604.736.4455 x 227  
astendzina@rcav.org

**PARISH OFFICE**

Monday & Friday 9:00am-12noon,1:00pm-5:00pm  
Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:00am-12noon,1:00pm-5:00pm  
Monday is the Priest's day off.

Email: parish.saug@rcav.org

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Linda Arnold 604.736.4455 x 229

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Jayne Le Vierge 604.736.4455 x 221

**PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM—PREP**

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY  
Vea Coronado 604.736.4455 x 224  
vea@staugustineschurch.ca

**FAITH AND FOUNDATION**

Campaign Office 604.736.4455 x 231  
donate@faithandfoundation.com

**ST AUGUSTINE SCHOOL**

2154 West 7th Avenue V6K 0E3 604.731.8024  
office@staugschool.ca

**BAPTISM**

604.736.4455 x 221  
Preparation classes held first Thursday of the month

**MARRIAGES/WEDDINGS**

604.736.4455 x 221 parish.saug@rcav.org

**PARISH MINISTRIES****RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)**

Linda Arnold rcia@staugustineschurch.ca

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Peter Allen 604.257.3525  
Manfred & Suzanne Milbers 604.255.0567  
Mary Ellen Turnbull 778.995.6423

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK**

Nelson Cheung 604.328.3882

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Sonny Harsono em@staugustineschurch.ca

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Mary Ellen Turnbull parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca

**CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE)**

Samantha Strudwick 604.255-1662

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Roy Pimentel 778.330.6850

**LEGION OF MARY**

Sr. Lilia Yearley 604.734.0535

**ADULT FAITH**

Alyssa DeMarco & Scott Kenyon  
faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

**LECTORS**

Danny Camparmo lectors@staugustineschurch.ca

**USHERS**

Bill Borgen 604-224-2632

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Penny Rogers pennyrogers@hotmail.com

**MOM'S N TOTS**

Cat Leung cat\_murtha@hotmail.com

**BUSY HANDS & GARDENING**

Shirley Brown 604.738.0429

**ARTS & ENVIRONMENT**

Helen Velazquez ae@staugustineschurch.ca