



January 7th, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



Searching for the King

God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Since the Magi were Gentiles, Matthew shows them receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox of how the Jews who have the

Scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scripture, find and adore him. For Matthew the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection.

There is little to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was only the means by which a great mystery was revealed – the revelation of Christ as the Savior of the Gentiles too.

The second reading expresses the theological meaning of the feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ. The feast shows that election by God is not a privilege for some but a hope for all.

Liturgical celebrations:

Monday – Baptism of the Lord (feast)

The feast of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Friday – Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys (memorial)

Marguerite is often referred to as the 'Mother of the Colony' for her contributions to the establishment of Ville-Marie, the place we know today as Montreal. Born in France she crossed the Atlantic in 1653 and she began to develop educational opportunities for aboriginal children and the families of the French settlers. Other women joined her and they formed an institute of uncloistered sisters, the Congregation Notre-Dame. She died in 1700 at the age of 80. Marguerite is a patron saint of poor people.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who shared their gifts of time and talent decorating the church and preparing the liturgies so that we could have wonderful Christmas celebrations. The whole Christmas season at St. Augustine's was very beautiful and heartwarming.

I also would like to express a deep gratitude for all the Christmas cards and gifts we had received during this special time of the year. Thank you very much.

Have a very Happy New Year! God bless!

Fr. Andrew

This Week

Monday, January 8

9:00am	Meeting	St. Augustine's School Staff Retreat
10:00am	Meeting	Busy Hands Craft Group
1:00pm	Meeting	Community Group
7:00pm	Mass	+Anne McFadden

Tuesday, January 9

8:00am	Mass	
10:00am	Meeting	Busy Hands Craft Group
6:30pm	Meeting	Leaders Group
7:00pm	Mass	+Brian Mahon

Wednesday, January 10

8:00am	Mass	
9:30am	Mass	St. Augustine's School
7:00pm	Mass	Int Paul Behrend
7:00pm	Meeting	CWL Region 1 Presidents
7:30pm	Meeting	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, January 11

8:00am	Mass	
6:45pm	Meeting	Baptismal Preparation Class
7:00pm	Mass	+Moira Gately
7:30pm	Meeting	Prayer Renewal Group

Friday, January 12

8:00am	Mass	
10:30am	Meeting	Moms & Tots Group
7:00pm	Mass	+Ibrahim & Khalil Alashhab

Saturday, January 13

8:00am	Mass	
9:30am	Meeting	Legion of Mary
10:30am	Meeting	Faith Formation Group
12:00pm	Meeting	St. Augustine's School Staff
5:00pm	Mass	

Sunday, January 14

9:00am	Mass	
10:00am	Meeting	CWL General Meeting
11:00am	Mass	
5:00pm	Mass	
	Bapt	

We apologize for the bulletin error in Mass times on 2 January 2018.

OFFERTORY

Christmas

We are grateful for these gifts.

Envelopes: \$22,255.00

Loose: \$4,455.00

OFFERTORY

December 31st

We are grateful for these gifts.

Envelopes: \$14,756.95

Loose: \$2,638.33

WELCOME

Olivier Szkudlarek

son of Aleksander Szkudlarek & Angnieszka Zadzilko

Cole Joseph Telford & Luke Martin Telford

sons of Bradley Telford & Carmen Yarksie

Pope's Message

The year opens in the name of the Mother of God. Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady. But we might ask why we say Mother of God, and not Mother of Jesus. In the past some wanted to be content simply with the latter, but

the Church has declared that Mary is the Mother of God. We should be grateful, because these words contain a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves. From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity. There is no longer God without man; the flesh Jesus took from his Mother is our own, now and for all eternity. To call Mary the Mother of God reminds us of this: God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb.

The word mother (mater) is related to the word matter. In his Mother, the God of heaven, the infinite God, made himself small, he became matter, not only to be with us but also to be like us. This is the miracle, the great novelty! Man is no longer alone; no more an orphan, but forever a child. The year opens with this novelty. And we proclaim it by saying: Mother of God! Ours is the joy of knowing that our solitude has ended. It is the beauty of knowing that we are beloved children, of knowing that this childhood of ours can never be taken away from us. It is to see a reflection of ourselves in the frail and infant God resting in his mother's arms, and to realize that humanity is precious and sacred to the Lord. Henceforth, to serve human life is to serve God. All life, from life in the mother's womb to that of the elderly, the suffering and the sick, and to that of the troublesome and even repellent, is to be welcomed, loved and helped.

Let us now be guided by today's Gospel. Only one thing is said about the Mother of God: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She kept them. She simply kept; Mary does not speak. The Gospel does not report a single word of hers in the entire account of Christmas. Here too, the Mother is one with her Son: Jesus is an "infant", a child "unable to speak". The Word of God, who "long ago spoke in many and various ways" (Heb 1:1), now, in the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), is silent. The God before whom all fall silent is himself a speechless child. His Majesty is without words; his mystery of love is revealed in lowliness. This silence and lowliness is the language of his kingship. His Mother joins her Son and keeps these things in silence.

That silence tells us that, if we would "keep" ourselves, we need silence. We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib. Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savour the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart. His lowliness lays low our

pride; his poverty challenges our outward display; his tender love touches our hardened hearts. To set aside a moment of silence each day to be with God is to "keep" our soul; it is to "keep" our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the glare of commercials, the stream of empty words and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.

The Gospel goes on to say that Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. What were these things? They were joys and sorrows. On the one hand, the birth of Jesus, the love of Joseph, the visit of the shepherds, that radiant night. But on the other, an uncertain future, homelessness "because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7), the desolation of rejection, the disappointment of having to give birth to Jesus in a stable. Hopes and worries, light and darkness: all these things dwelt in the heart of Mary. What did she do? She pondered them, that is to say she dwelt on them, with God, in her heart. She held nothing back; she locked nothing within out of self-pity or resentment. Instead, she gave everything over to God. That is how she "kept" those things. We "keep" things when we hand them over: by not letting our lives become prey to fear, distress or superstition, by not closing our hearts or trying to forget, but by turning everything into a dialogue with God. God, who keeps us in his heart, then comes to dwell in our lives.

These, then, are the secrets of the Mother of God: silently treasuring all things and bringing them to God. And this took place, the Gospel concludes, in her heart. The heart makes us look to the core of the person, his or her affections and life. At the beginning of the year, we too, as Christians on our pilgrim way, feel the need to set out anew from the centre, to leave behind the burdens of the past and to start over from the things that really matter. Today, we have before us the point of departure: the Mother of God. For Mary is what God wants us to be, what he wants his Church to be: a Mother who is tender and lowly, poor in material goods and rich in love, free of sin and united to Jesus, keeping God in our hearts and our neighbour in our lives. To set out anew, let us look to our Mother. In her heart beats the heart of the Church. Today's feast tells us that if we want to go forward, we need to turn back: to begin anew from the crib, from the Mother who holds God in her arms.

Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life. Looking to the Mother, we are asked to leave behind all sorts of useless baggage and to rediscover what really matters. The gift of the Mother, the gift of every mother and every woman, is most precious for the Church, for she too is mother and woman. While a man often abstracts, affirms and imposes ideas, a woman, a mother, knows how to "keep", to put things together in her heart, to give life. If our faith is not to be reduced merely to an idea or a doctrine, all of us need a mother's heart, one which knows how to keep the tender love of God and to feel the heartbeat of all around us. May the Mother, God's finest human creation, guard and keep this year, and bring the peace of her Son to our hearts and to our world. And as children, with simplicity, I invite you to greet her as the Christians did at Ephesus in the presence of their bishops: "Holy Mother of God!"

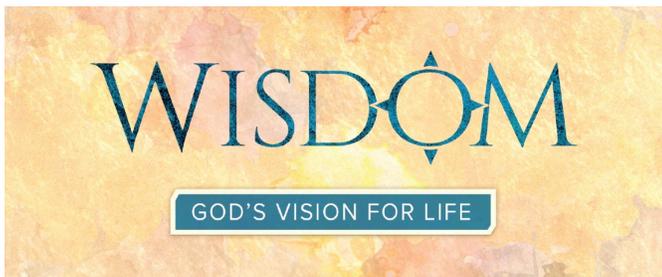
WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

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.

Around the Parish...

Food Collection for The Door Is Open

Food Collection on January 7th—the first Sunday of the month. Collection boxes located at each entrance at all Masses.



"Wisdom is seeing with God's eyes." – Pope Francis

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. To help you learn to gather and live with greater wisdom, St. Augustine's adult faith group invites you to join us as we begin Wisdom: God's Vision for Life on Tuesdays at 7:30pm (February 6 - March 27) at the parish hall. For more information or to register, email Alyssa: alysademarco@hotmail.com. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.

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 you donation may be credited to another individual.



School News..

Fall Campaign says "Thank You"

Our deepest appreciation to all of the 317 donors who made gifts to the 2017 Fall Campaign for a grand total of \$427,855. These funds are directed towards our new school and completion of the third floor construction this past spring which now allows us to continue expanding our enrolment – currently at 300 students. These significant gifts also help us meet our financial obligations as we reduce our \$4 million loan and eventually set the stage for construction of a new gymnasium. An amazing 98 percent of school families made contributions to the Campaign - the highest rate of participation we've ever experienced. Nearly 100 gifts were also received from parishioners who do not have children in the school, an ongoing sign of faithful support in our broader community for Catholic education.

Happy New Year from the Faith & Foundation Team!

Thank You for supporting children and families

A big heart-felt thank you to parishioners, school families and others who contributed to this year's Fall Campaign in support of our new school. A remarkable \$427,855 was raised.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this project. You are sustaining Catholic education at St. Augustine's for generations to come.

Fr. Andrew

Did You Know...



What the feast of the Epiphany is about?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. the great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the

East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.

In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.

The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.

Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament.

The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires Israelitic dignitas (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel") [CCC 528].

Around the Archdiocese..



World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass 2018

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is home to Catholics from many countries and where the Holy Mass is celebrated in over twenty-two languages. Migrants leave their homes in search of a better life and face the difficult experience of migration in its various forms. As an Archdiocese, for the past 6 years we have commemorated and observed the "World Day of Migrants and Refugees" by celebrating a Mass inviting as many cultures (both old migrants and recent arrivals) to share and pray on this day as an universal church.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees." (To read His Holiness' full message, [click here](#)) As Christians, "we have the unique opportunity to advocate and support the concrete actions [to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate our migrant and refugee neighbours]," and to share this message with all, especially our political and social leaders.

On January 21, 2018, the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB at St. Patrick Parish in Vancouver. This is a family event! To participate in the preparation of this special day, contact wdmr@rcav.org

Oblate Corner



MAKING SPACE FOR OUR GOD SHAPED VACUUM

Posted by Frank Santucci

Eugene placed high importance on the period of novitiate formation of the young Oblates – it was an opportunity to make space for God and to learn and imbibe the values of Oblate religious life. The spirit of a “novitiate” period is not only for future Oblates. All who are serious about wanting to grow spiritually need to make space so as to focus on God’s presence and work in their lives.

Letter to Jean Baptiste Honorat, 4 May 1828, EO VII n 299

A Word from Fr. Andrzej...

In the stories of Jesus’ birth, two special groups of people came to visit the newborn baby: the shepherds and the magi. The church has no special feast to commemorate the visit of the shepherds but we have this special feast of Epiphany to celebrate the visit of the magi. Why is that? It is because the visit of the magi is an eye-opener. The shepherds learnt of the birth of Jesus through a direct revelation from angels appearing in the midnight sky. The magi on the other hand learnt of the birth of Jesus by observing a star. The star did not say anything to them. They had to interpret this natural sign of the star to know what it meant and where it led.

Everyone needs a star to follow, just as ships in the sea need a lighthouse beacon to guide them safely to port. Daily life is full of little epiphanies for those who have eyes to see and minds to reflect. They slip in through the cracks in our busy armour – a moment of peace, or of beauty, or of goodness.

On this day, feast of Epiphany, there was a mysterious parting of the veil which enabled the Magi to catch a glimpse of the radiance of the Child of Bethlehem. Some people looked at the Christ-child and saw just another child. Others, such as Herod, saw the child as a threat. But the magi recognised the Christ-child as their saviour. All those people had the same eyes, yet they didn’t see the same things with those eyes.

Yet for them too the veil closed again, the star disappeared, and they had to return home. What difference did the experience make to them? I think that it made the world of difference. They now had a new vision and a new hope. And on those cloudy days they could draw courage and hope from the epiphany that had been granted to them.

In our lives today we are called to follow the star as well – the same star the magi had followed. That light leads us to Christ who in turn offers us his help to bear good fruits in our lives. It doesn’t matter where the star is leading us – over the hill, on left or right side of the hill. We are called to persevere and to bring the good fruits of our lives

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

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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

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