



Cure of the leper

Leprosy is the clear theme of the first reading and the Gospel. In biblical times lepers were treated as outcasts. Leprosy was the ultimate uncleanness. It made the victim an outcast not only socially, but also in the religious sphere.

Jesus broke through all the religious and social taboos and reached out a loving and healing hand to the leper. In this way we see how Christian community should deal with sinners and people society rejects. Besides, a Christian is one who has been 'cleansed' by Christ in baptism, and who ought to spread the good news.

In the Gospel we have an early instance of what scholars call Mark's 'Messianic Secret,' whereby Jesus seems to hide his identity as the Messiah and Son of God until it is made apparent after his death and resurrection.



World Day of the Sick

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observance started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

People around the world take the

time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith organizations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance.

Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers.

Pope Benedict XVI declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.

Papal Prayer Intention for February

Say "No" to Corruption – that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

This Week

Monday, February 12 – Family Day (B.C.)

10:00am Mass Int Jesusa Guzman

Tuesday, February 13

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass +Erlinda Rivera
10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Group
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Meeting Wisdom Bible Study group

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass St. Augustine's School
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, February 15

8:00am Mass
6:30pm Meeting Faith Formation Group
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Prayer Vigil +Antonina Sapiecha

Friday, February 16

8:00am Mass
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots Group
10:30 Meeting Circle of Friends
11:00am Funeral +Antonino Sapiecha
7:00pm Mass

Saturday, February 17

8:00am Mass
9:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
5:00pm Mass +Leo & Rose Doucette

Sunday, February 18

9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass RCIA Dismissal
5:00pm Mass

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.

Envelopes: \$8,003.50

Loose: \$738.60

WELCOME

Jocelyn Cheryl Mo

daughter of Simon Siu Tai Mo & Wendy Yin Yi Chan

Harris Douglas Payette

son of Ryan Stuart Payette & Carla Marie Filippone

REST IN PEACE

Antonina Sapiecha



Pope's Message

Forty days after Christmas, we celebrate the Lord who enters the Temple and comes to encounter his people. In the Christian East, this feast is called the "Feast of Encounter": it is the encounter between God, who became a child to bring newness to our world, and an expectant humanity, represented by the

elderly man and woman in the Temple.

In the Temple, there is also an encounter between two couples: the young Mary and Joseph, and the elderly Simeon and Anna. The old receive from the young, while the young draw upon the old. In the Temple, Mary and Joseph find the roots of their people. This is important, because God's promise does not come to fulfilment merely in individuals, once for all, but within a community and throughout history. There too, Mary and Joseph find the roots of their faith, for faith is not something learned from a book, but the art of living with God, learned from the experience of those who have gone before us. The two young people, in meeting the two older people, thus find themselves. And the two older people, nearing the end of their days, receive Jesus, the meaning of their lives. This event fulfils the prophecy of Joel: "Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (2:28). In this encounter, the young see their mission and the elderly realize their dreams. All because, at the centre of the encounter, is Jesus.

Let us look to our own lives, dear consecrated brothers and sisters. Everything started in an encounter with the Lord. Our journey of consecration was born of an encounter and a call. We need to keep this in mind. And if we remember aright, we will realize that in that encounter we were not alone with Jesus; there was also the people of God, the Church, young and old, just as in today's Gospel. It is striking too, that while the young Mary and Joseph faithfully observe the Law – the Gospel tells us this four times – and never speak, the elderly Simeon and Anna come running up and prophesy. It seems it should be the other way around. Generally, it is the young who speak enthusiastically about the future, while the elderly protect the past. In the Gospel, the very opposite occurs, because when we meet one another in the Lord, God's surprises immediately follow.

For this to occur in the consecrated life, we have to remember that we can never renew our encounter with the Lord without others; we can never leave others behind, never pass over generations, but must accompany one another daily, keeping the Lord always at the centre. For if the young are called to open new doors, the elderly hold the keys. An institute remains youthful by going back to its roots, by listening to its older members. There is no future without this encounter between the old and the young. There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds. There is never prophecy without memory, or memory without prophecy. And constant encounter.

Today's frantic pace leads us to close many doors to encounter, often for fear of others. Only shopping malls and internet connections are always

open. Yet that is not how it should be with consecrated life: the brother and the sister given to me by God are a part of my history, gifts to be cherished. May we never look at the screen of our cellphone more than the eyes of our brothers or sisters, or focus more on our software than on the Lord. For whenever we put our own projects, methods and organization at the centre, consecrated life stops being attractive; it no longer speaks to others; it no longer flourishes because it forgets its very foundations, its very roots.

Consecrated life is born and reborn of an encounter with Jesus as he is: poor, chaste and obedient. We journey along a double track: on the one hand, God's loving initiative, from which everything starts and to which we must always return; on the other, our own response, which is truly loving when it has no "ifs" or "buts", when it imitates Jesus in his poverty, chastity and obedience. Whereas the life of this world attempts to take hold of us, the consecrated life turns from fleeting riches to embrace the One who endures forever. The life of this world pursues selfish pleasures and desires; the consecrated life frees our affections of every possession in order fully to love God and other people. Worldly life aims to do whatever we want; consecrated life chooses humble obedience as the greater freedom. And while worldly life soon leaves our hands and hearts empty, life in Jesus fills us with peace to the very end, as in the Gospel, where Simeon and Anna come happily to the sunset of their lives with the Lord in their arms and joy in their hearts.

How good it is for us to hold the Lord "in our arms" (Lk 2:28), like Simeon. Not only in our heads and in our hearts, but also "in our hands", in all that we do: in prayer, at work, at the table, on the telephone, at school, with the poor, everywhere. Having the Lord "in our hands" is an antidote to insular mysticism and frenetic activism, since a genuine encounter with Jesus corrects both saccharine piety and frazzled hyperactivity. Savouring the encounter with Jesus is also the remedy for the paralysis of routine, for it opens us up to the daily "havoc" of grace. The secret to fanning the flame of our spiritual life is a willingness to allow ourselves to encounter Jesus and to be encountered by him; otherwise we fall into a stifling life, where disgruntlement, bitterness and inevitable disappointments get the better of us. To encounter one another in Jesus as brothers and sisters, young and old, and thus to abandon the barren rhetoric of "the good old days" – a nostalgia that kills the soul – and to silence those who think that "everything is falling apart". If we encounter Jesus and our brothers and sisters in the everyday events of our life, our hearts will no longer be set on the past or the future, but will experience the "today of God" in peace with everyone.

At the end of the Gospels, there is another encounter with Jesus that can inspire the consecrated life. It is that of the women before the tomb. They had gone to encounter the dead; their journey seemed pointless. You too are journeying against the current: the life of the world easily rejects poverty, chastity and obedience. But like those women, keep moving forward, without worrying about whatever heavy stones need to be removed (cf. Mk 16:3). And like those women, be the first to meet the Lord, risen and alive. Cling to him (cf. Mt 28:9) and go off immediately to tell your brothers and sisters, your eyes brimming with joy (cf. v. 8). In this way, you are the Church's perennial dawn. You, dear consecrated brothers and sisters, are the Church's perennial dawn! I ask you to renew this very day your encounter with Jesus, to walk together towards him. And this will give light to your eyes and strength to your steps.

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

Around the Parish...

**STARTING FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH 2018 -
EXTENDING HOURS OF THE EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

St. Augustine's will now be **extending Eucharistic Adoration hours to 6:45pm** for those unable to attend during normal business hours.

What is Eucharistic Adoration? It is when Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated host), is exposed to those seeking to worship Him in thanksgiving, respectful silence and in reverence.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, February 14th, 2018.

Ash Wednesday is an integral part of the Lenten season in many Christian religions including Catholic, Orthodox and some Protestant religions. Lent is a religious time period of 40 days before Easter Sunday focusing on prayer, penance, and a renewal of faith.

Ashes used on Ash Wednesday

In the Catholic tradition, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are remnants of the palm leaves distributed from the prior year on Palm Sunday. Catholics keep the palm leaves throughout the year and return them to the Church before Ash Wednesday of the next year. The leaves are then turned into ashes for use in the Ash Wednesday services. During the service, the parishioners proceed to the front of the church and the ashes are placed on each person's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes are not to be washed off but are to remain on the forehead throughout the day of Ash Wednesday.

Way of the Cross

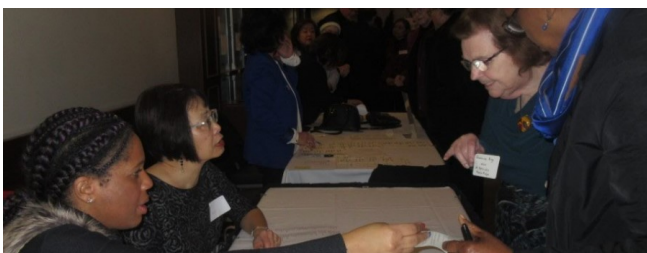
During Lent we will pray and meditate the Way of the Cross on every Friday after the 7:00 pm Mass.

Penitential Service

Lenten Penitential Service will take place on Friday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm

Priest's Appreciation Dinner

The Priests' Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Catholic Women's League was a great success with almost 50 priests in attendance with a total attendance of almost 500 people. The St. Augustine's C.W.L. members were very busy in charge of reception.

**FOOD for the Poor Collection**

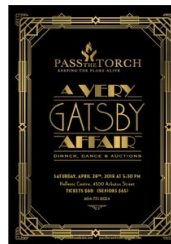
REMINDER for the Door is Open. The weekend of Feb. 17/18 will be our next collection. We thank you for your support in helping feed the hungry of the Downtown Eastside.

"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.

School News...

We invite you to celebrate
Saturday April 28th, 2018
A Very Gatsby Affair!



Pass the Torch is an annual gala hosted by the Parish of St. Augustine's.

Enjoy a spectacular evening of live entertainment, dancing and dining.

It's an incredible night, guaranteed to excite your senses!

This fundraising event includes a three-course dinner, live & silent auctions with over \$50,000 worth of items and dancing to a live band and a DJ!

For more info contact:

St. Augustine's School: 604 731-8024

Info: Faithandfoundation.com

Tickets: Passthetorch.brownpapertickets.com

Email: passthetorchtickets@gmail.com

Around the Archdiocese...**Mass and Anointing of the Sick celebrated by Archbishop Miller**

Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, will be celebrating a Mass of Anointing in honour of World Day of the Sick 2018, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 555 S. Slocan Street, Vancouver, on Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Anointing will be administered after the Homily. All the sick and their caregivers are invited to attend. Following Mass, a simple refreshment will be offered in the parish hall. Plenty of parking is available.

For further information visit <https://www.chabc.bc.ca/world-day-of-the-sick-february-13-2018/> or call 604-524-3427, or email info@chabc.bc.ca

"Trust in the Lord"

Fr. Paul Burchat, a Madonna House priest is coming to lead us this month of Morning of Recollection. Come join us for a talk and time of silent reflection, followed by fellowship and sharing.

When: Saturday, February 17th, 2017

Where: St. John the Apostle Parish Hall (5457 Trafalgar St, Vancouver)

What time: 9:30 am to noon

For more information contact Madonna House: madonna02@shaw.ca

Or call 604-267-1757

Oblate CornerMAY THEY REMEMBER WHAT GRACE INSPIRED THEM WITH *Posted by Frank Santucci*

... the Church, inheritance purchased by Christ the Savior... has in our days been cruelly ravaged. This beloved spouse of God's only begotten Son is torn with anguish as she mourns the shameful defection ... "The sight of these evils has so touched the hearts of certain priests, zealous for the glory of God, men with an ardent love for the Church..." , that they are willing to give their lives, if need be, for the salvation of souls.

Nothing being loftier than this offering, what do I conclude? It is that nothing should seem too difficult, or too painful, when one has given oneself as an offering. *Retreat notes, October 1831, EO XV n.*

A Word from Fr. Andrzej...

The man in today's Gospel came out of the shadows and emerged from the pit of loneliness and rejection to confront the one man he believed would not reject him – Jesus Christ. The most important thing was not that Christ cured him but the caring way in which he did so.

It is quite common today to help a person but, as it were, from a distance, that is, without getting deeply involved with the person. This was not the way Christ dealt with the leper. He allowed the man to approach him. A little dialogue took place – probably longer than Mark indicates in his story. Then Jesus did the unthinkable. He reached out to touch him. Imagine how good it made that poor man feel – how privileged he was.

No doubt Christ could have cured the man without touching him. But before curing his wounded body he had to cure his wounded spirit. He had to touch the wounds caused by rejection and cure them first. By touching him he made him feel not worthless as society made him believe he was. He was worthwhile, even precious, to God and to him.

But we have no lepers among us, so you may ask – what is the relevance of all this for us? Well, we already saw that the worst suffering of the leper was caused, not by leprosy itself, but by the consequences of it – being rejected by people. The relevance for us lies there – in the people we reject, whom we treat like lepers. We see then all around us in society. Old people abandoned by everybody. Young people from broken homes, unloved and unwanted, the handicapped, the unemployed.

But perhaps the worst way of rejection is indifference. Many people have so little self-awareness that they are not conscious of the ways in which they are rejecting others.

It doesn't cost much these days for a medicine to cure a person of leprosy. What does it cost to cure a person of feelings of rejection? A little dose of the oldest drug of all – love. Everybody has a great capacity for love. The pity is that it often goes undiscovered and therefore unused.

Christ shows us that he accepts everybody regardless of the circumstances. Let have the courage and faith to truly believe in that. It will make all the difference in our lives and in the lives of others.

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

Preparation classes held first Thursday of the month

604.736.4455 x 221

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