



April 22nd, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



The Good Shepherd

From the earliest days the apostles encountered hostility from the Jewish leaders just as Jesus himself did. Even so, the first reading shows Peter fearlessly proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus. He asserts that the stone they rejected (Jesus) has become the cornerstone of a new building. The risen Jesus is the one and only Saviour.

The Gospel presents Jesus as the good shepherd who knows his sheep intimately and

is known by them. Unlike the hireling, he is willing to die to protect his sheep.

In the second reading John talks about the wonderful love God has shown for us by making us his children. Our future state will be like that of the glorified Jesus. This reading invites us to rejoice in our status as God's adopted children.

If there is a theme in all three readings perhaps it is this: the great love God has shown us in what he has done for us in Jesus, the Good Shepherd and our one and only Saviour.

Liturgical celebrations:

Wednesday – St. Mark (feast)

Mark was a member of the first Christian community in Jerusalem. He is the author of the earliest and shortest gospel. When Paul and Barnabas returned from Jerusalem, they took Mark back with them to Antioch in Syria. Later, they brought him along as their assistant on a missionary journey.

In Christian art Mark is often depicted with a winged lion. Legends speak of Mark as bishop of Alexandria, where he cured a shoemaker and was killed in the streets of the city. He is a patron of notaries.

Pope's prayer intention for April:

For those who have a responsibility in economic matters – that economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2018

The Church will mark the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, 22 April 2018. The Holy Father has released a Message entitled "Listening, discerning and living", which is available on the Vatican website. Pope Francis refers to three aspects of a vocation: "In the diversity and the uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to listen, discern and live this Word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness." The Message is also linked with the upcoming Synod of Bishops that will take place on October 2018 on the theme Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment.

This Week

Monday, April 23

7:00pm Mass +Geoff Whittaker

Tuesday, April 24

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass +Sofronio Cuevas, Jr.
10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Craft Group
7:00pm Mass +Luigi Antonioni

Wednesday, April 25

8:00am Mass +Julian Wlosinski
7:00pm Meeting Catholic Women's League/OLGC
7:00pm Mass +Doreen Mendes
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, April 26

8:00am Mass Int Joe Boileau
7:00pm Meeting Parish Pastoral Council
7:00pm Mass +Julian Wlosinski

Friday, April 27

8:00am Mass
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots Group
1:30pm Event Earth Day Walk – St. Augustine's School
7:00pm Mass

Saturday, April 28

8:00am Mass
9:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
1:00pm Wedding
5:00pm Mass
8:00pm Event Choral Concert/Tony Arujo

Sunday, April 29

9:00am Mass +Pietro Fusco
11:00am Mass
5:00pm Mass

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$7,991.45
 Loose: \$674.70

WELCOME

June Valentina Hannon
daughter of Justin Hannon & Kerry-Lee Harvey

Luke Jeremy Ting
son of Justin Ting & Lucy Hwi

Married in Christ

Anthony Balatico & Cheryl Ann Solatre

Pope's Message



In today's Gospel, we hear, over and over, the word "see". The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord (Jn 20:20). They tell Thomas: "We have seen the Lord" (v. 25). But the Gospel does not describe how they saw him; it does not describe the risen Jesus. It simply mentions one detail: "He showed them his hands and his side" (v. 20). It is as if the Gospel wants to tell us that that is how the disciples recognized Jesus: through his wounds. The same thing happened to Thomas. He too wanted to see "the mark of the nails in his hands" (v. 25), and after seeing, he believed (v. 27).

Despite his lack of faith, we should be grateful to Thomas, because he was not content to hear from others that Jesus was alive, or merely to see him in the flesh. He wanted to see inside, to touch with his hand the Lord's wounds, the signs of his love. The Gospel calls Thomas Didymus (v. 24), meaning the Twin, and in this he is truly our twin brother. Because for us too, it isn't enough to know that God exists. A God who is risen but remains distant does not fill our lives; an aloof God does not attract us, however just and holy he may be. No, we too need to "see God", to touch him with our hands and to know that he is risen, and risen for us.

How can we see him? Like the disciples: through his wounds. Gazing upon those wounds, the disciples understood the depth of his love. They understood that he had forgiven them, even though some had denied him and abandoned him. To enter into Jesus' wounds is to contemplate the boundless love flowing from his heart. This is the way. It is to realize that his heart beats for me, for you, for each one of us. Dear brothers and sisters, we can consider ourselves Christians, call ourselves Christians and speak about the many beautiful values of faith, but, like the disciples, we need to see Jesus by touching his love. Only thus can we go to the heart of the faith and, like the disciples, find peace and joy (cf. vv. 19-20) beyond all doubt.

Thomas, after seeing the Lord's wounds, cried out: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). I would like to reflect on the adjective that Thomas repeats: my. It is a possessive adjective. When we think about it, it might seem inappropriate to use it of God. How can God be mine? How can I make the Almighty mine? The truth is, by saying my, we do not profane God, but honour his mercy. Because God wished to "become ours". As in a love story, we tell him: "You became man for me, you died and rose for me and thus you are not only God; you are my God, you are my life. In you I have found the love that I was looking for, and much more than I could ever have imagined".

God takes no offence at being "ours", because love demands confidence, mercy demands trust. At the very beginning of the Ten Commandments, God said: "I am the Lord your God" (Ex 20:2), and reaffirmed: "I, the Lord your God am a jealous God" (v. 5). Here we see how God presents himself as a jealous lover who calls himself your God. From the depths of Thomas's heart comes the reply: "My Lord and my God!" As today we enter, through Christ's wounds, into the mystery of God, we come to realize that mercy is not simply one of his qualities among others, but the very beating of his heart. Then, like Thomas, we no longer live as disciples, uncertain, devout but waver-

ing. We too fall in love with the Lord! We must not be afraid of these words: to fall in love with the Lord.

How can we savour this love? How can we touch today with our hand the mercy of Jesus? Again, the Gospel offers a clue, when it stresses that the very evening of Easter (cf. v. 19), soon after rising from the dead, Jesus begins by granting the Spirit for the forgiveness of sins. To experience love, we need to begin there: to let ourselves be forgiven. To let ourselves be forgiven. I ask myself, and each one of you: do I allow myself to be forgiven? To experience that love, we need to begin there. Do I allow myself to be forgiven? "But, Father, going to confession may seem difficult...". Before God we are tempted to do what the disciples did in the Gospel: to barricade ourselves behind closed doors. They did it out of fear, yet we too can be afraid, ashamed to open our hearts and confess our sins. May the Lord grant us the grace to understand shame, to see it not as a closed door, but as the first step towards an encounter. When we feel ashamed, we should be grateful: this means that we do not accept evil, and that is good. Shame is a secret invitation of the soul that needs the Lord to overcome evil. The tragedy is when we are no longer ashamed of anything. Let us not be afraid to experience shame! Let us pass from shame to forgiveness! Do not be afraid to be ashamed! Do not be afraid.

But there is still one door that remains closed before the Lord's forgiveness, the door of resignation. Resignation is always a closed door. The disciples experienced it at Easter, when they recognized with disappointment how everything appeared to go back to what it had been before. They were still in Jerusalem, disheartened; the "Jesus chapter" of their lives seemed finished, and after having spent so much time with him, nothing had changed, they were resigned. We too might think: "I've been a Christian for all this time, but nothing has changed in me; I keep committing the same sins". Then, in discouragement, we give up on mercy. But the Lord challenges us: "Don't you believe that my mercy is greater than your misery? Are you a backslider? Then be a backslider in asking for mercy, and we will see who comes out on top". In any event, – and anyone who is familiar with the sacrament of Reconciliation knows this – it isn't true that everything remains the way it was. Every time we are forgiven, we are reassured and encouraged, because each time we experience more love, and more embraced by the Father. And when we fall again, precisely because we are loved, we experience even greater sorrow – a beneficial sorrow that slowly detaches us from sin. Then we discover that the power of life is to receive God's forgiveness and to go forward from forgiveness to forgiveness. This is how life goes: from shame to shame, from forgiveness to forgiveness. This is the Christian life.



PASS THE TORCH GALA IS IN TWO WEEKS!

APRIL 28th

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

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

This 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!

It's an incredible night and a wonderful way to meet other parishioners!

Tickets are \$80 and \$65 seniors and available at passtheorch.brownpapertickets.com or www.faithandfoundation.com

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

Project Advance

starts the first week in May and finishes the fourth week in May.

Volunteers are needed to help with donation cards for the Sunday 5:00pm Mass.

If you wish to help, please contact Cliff Nipp (604) 763-1070 or email cnipp@netrover.com



**Where: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,
2465 Crown St. Vancouver**

The annual New Evangelization Summit, held in Ottawa and streamed to 36 host-sites around North America including Our Lady of Perpetual Help and which is co-hosted by St. Augustine's, will feature world-renowned speakers who are leaders in the New Evangelization. Their talks will inspire, encourage and give practical advice on how we, as Catholics, can influence those around us with the Gospel message in the New Evangelization. All Catholics – pastors, missionaries, lay ministers, and lay faithful – will benefit from this opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church. **Friday, April 27, from 7–9:30pm and Saturday, April 28, from 8:45am–4:30pm. Ticket price - \$40** – Chili lunch to be provided. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.newevangelization.ca. email vollet@telus.net to learn more!

Last week in the Parish...

Parish Pasta Dinner



St. Augustine's Funeral Reception Committee



Terry Murphy, Vanesse Ng, Elizabeth Meek, Peggy Ho Yuen

Baptism



Dear Parishioner,

On behalf of St. Augustine's Community Life Committee, we wish to let you know of an upcoming initiative to enhance our Parish Family community. At all mass services on the weekends of May 12/13th and November 17th/18th we will be inviting parishioners to wear name tags displaying their first name only. Materials for the name tags will be provided at the entrance to church before service begins. Of course, this invitation is voluntary and there is no obligation to participate. We do encourage everyone to take part in this and other parish initiatives aimed at allowing us to all become one family in church during the celebration of mass. There will also be some refreshments after mass for us to get to know each other a little better.

- Community Life Committee

St. Patrick's Regional Secondary School Fundraiser Raffle:

Tickets for this all-cash prize raffle will be sold after all Masses on the weekend of **May 5 & 6, 2018**. The prize money totals \$18,000. The funds raised from the raffle will directly benefit the students; including *but not limited to* the school choir, the play and sports events. For more information about this fundraiser, please view: website.stpats.bc.ca.

Around the Archdiocese

Music for Voice and Organ

April 27, 2018 @ 8:00 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral - 646 Richards St, Van.
Cost: \$20/\$15 Contact: Holy Rosary Cathedral Concert Series 604 682 6774
Holy Rosary Cathedral's lead soprano Sarah McGrath and organist Denis Bedard in concert. Works by Bach, Pergolesi (from Stabat Mater), Mozart (Laudate Dominum and Alleluia), Saint-Saens (Ave Maria), Bedard and others.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Non-residential Weekend

April 28, 2018 – April 29, 2018 all-day at John Paul II Pastoral Centre - St John Paul II Way, Vancouver, BC

Cost: \$250/per couple Contact: Steve & Mary Bohnen 604-876-7298

Oblate Corner



PRESENT IN EACH OTHER'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Posted by Frank Santucci

We have spent a considerable amount of time reflecting on the private retreat in which Eugene meditated on the Constitutions and Rules. Now it is back to everyday life for him – and his concerns as the superior for his religious family.

To give you tangible proof of my good will, I cannot bring my retreat to an end without writing you at least a few lines.

From this you see, my dear ones, that you are first in my thoughts on my descent from the holy mountain where, in conformity with the Rule and following the counsel of our divine Master. I have just “quiescere pusillum” [ed. Mark 6:31 “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place”.]

I must even admit that I have not waited for the end of my retreat to turn my thoughts in

your direction. On many occasions you were in my thoughts and not by way of distraction.

Praying for the members of his religious family was always an integral part of his daily prayer. He wrote this letter on November 1, All Saints Day, the day in which the Oblates renewed their oblation – and on which new members of the family professed their first vows. Eugene gives thanks for the great gift of the Oblate vocation:

This morning as on others, in the deep silence of the pre-dawn celebration of the sacred mysteries in the seminary chapel, you were there in my thoughts to swell the number of the fervent disciples who had anticipated the break of day to give thanks to God for the great gift that has not been accorded to all.

Letter to Jean Baptiste Mille and to the Fathers and Brothers at Billens, 1 November 1831, EO VIII n 406

Today, all of us are invited to give thanks for the gift of our baptismal vocation and to remember that, as members of the Mazenodian Family, we are united in living and expressing our vocation.

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.

New Parishioner Need Envelopes 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

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

RECONCILIATION

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

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 & Scott Kenyon faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

LECTORS

Danny Camparmo lectors@staugustineschurch.ca

USHERS

Bill Borgen 604-224-2632

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Penny Rogers pennyrogers@hotmail.com