



December 9th, 2018
Second Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

Preparing the way for the Lord



The prophet Baruch delivers a comforting message to Sion. In the First Reading we hear that Sion's sorrows are ended and her children will be restored to her from exile. God will level a highway to facilitate their return, and bring about a great restoration. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the picture painted here, it did point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel where Luke introduces us to the Messiah and his herald, John the Baptist. To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets

the event within the framework of world history. In the manner of an Old Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Savior by calling them to repentance.

The Second Reading deals with the final coming of Christ. In his love for his fellow Christians, Paul urges them to prepare for the Second Coming by pure and blameless lives.

Liturgical Celebrations

Wednesday – Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast)

This memorial commemorates the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 at Tepeyac, on the outskirts of Mexico City. Our Lady appeared four times, twice to aboriginal convert Juan Diego, with whom she left orders to build a church and an imprint of her image on a cloak. In 1946 Pius XII named her a patron of the Americas.

Thursday – St. Lucy (memorial)

Lucy was born in Syracuse, Italy, and martyred about 304. Details of her life have been lost in the ensuing legends. During the Middle Ages, people suffering from eye trouble began invoking Lucy's aid because her name is derived from lux ('light'). She is also associated with festivals of light, especially in Scandinavia.

Friday – St. John of the Cross (memorial)

John was born in 1542 in Spain. He entered the Carmelite community and was ordained in 1567. With a great Carmelite mystic, Teresa of Avila, he worked for the reformation of his order. He died in 1591, was canonized in 1726 and was proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1926.



Advent Penitential Service—December 2018

The Parish Advent Penitential Service will be held at 7:00pm on Friday December 14th.

This Week

Monday, December 10

10:00am Event Bach with Baby—Babies in Tow
7:00pm Mass +Gertrude Behrend

Tuesday, December 11

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass +Repose & Int. Boileau family
11:00am Rehearsal SAS Advent Concert
7:00pm Mass +Leone Scharback
7:30pm Meeting Bible Study Group

Wednesday, December 12

8:00am Mass +Marie Sherwin
9:00am Rehearsal SAS Advent Concert
7:00pm Mass +Adolf Behrend
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
7:45pm Event Taizé Prayer Service

Thursday, December 13

8:00am Mass +Connie To
7:00pm Event St. Augustine's School Advent Concert

Friday, December 14

8:00am Mass
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots
10:30am Meeting Circle of Friends (Luncheon)
5:00pm Mass
7:00pm Event Penitential Service

Saturday, December 15

8:00am Mass +Estella Livelo
9:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
5:00pm Mass +Lourdes Yaptinchay
Bapt

Sunday, December 16

9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass RCIA Dismissal
5:00pm Mass +Clemencia Manrique



OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$8,157.00
 Loose: \$985.09



Pope's Message



Let us look at three things Jesus does in today's Gospel.

First: while it is still day, he "leaves". He leaves the crowds at the height of his success, acclaimed for his multiplication of the loaves. Though the disciples wanted to bask in the glory, he tells them to go ahead and then

dismisses the crowd (cf. Mt 14:22-23). Sought by the people, he goes off by himself; as the excitement was winding down, he goes up the mountain to pray. Then, in the dead of night, he comes down and goes to the disciples, walking on the wind-swept waters. In all of this, Jesus goes against the current: first, he leaves behind success, and then tranquillity. He teaches us the courage to leave: to leave behind the success that swells the heart and the tranquillity that deadens the soul.

To go where? To God by praying, and to those in need by loving. These are the true treasures in life: God and our neighbour. And this is the road Jesus tells us to take: to go up to God and to come down to our brothers and sisters. He tears us away from grazing undisturbed in the comfortable meadows of life, from living a life of ease amid little daily pleasures. His disciples are not meant for the carefree calm of a normal life. Like Jesus, they make their way travelling light, ready to leave momentary glories behind, careful not to cling to fleeting goods. Christians know that their homeland is elsewhere, that they are even now – as Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading – "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (cf. Eph 2:19). They are used to being wayfarers. We do not live to accumulate; our glory lies in leaving behind the things that pass away in order to hold on to those that last. Let us ask God to make us like the Church described in the first reading: always on the move, good at leaving and faithful in serving (cf. Acts 28:11-14). Rouse us, Lord, from our idle calm, from the quiet lull of our safe harbours. Set us free from the moorings of self-absorption that weigh life down; free us from constantly seeking success. Teach us, Lord, to know how to "leave" in order to set out on the road you have shown us: to God and to our neighbour.

The second thing: in the heart of the night, Jesus reassures. He goes to his disciples, in the dark, walking "on the sea" (v. 25). The "sea" in this case was really a lake, but the idea of the "sea", with its murky depths, evokes the forces of evil. Jesus, in effect, goes to meet his disciples by trampling on the malign foes of humanity. And this is the meaning of the sign: rather than a triumphant display of power, it is a revelation of the reassuring certainty that Jesus, and Jesus alone, triumphs over our greatest enemies: the devil, sin, death, fear, worldliness. Today, and to us, he says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" (v. 27).

The boat of our life is often storm-tossed and buffeted by winds. Even when the waters are calm, they quickly grow agitated. When we are caught up in those storms, they seem to be our only problem. But the issue is not the momentary storm, but how we are navigating through life. The secret of navigating well is to invite Jesus on board. The rudder of life must be surrendered to him, so that he can steer the route. He alone gives life in death and hope in suffering; he alone heals our heart by his forgiveness and frees us from fear by instilling confidence. Today, let us invite Jesus into the boat of our life. Like the disciples, we will realize that once he is on board, the winds die down (cf. v. 32) and there can be no shipwreck. With him on board, there will never be a shipwreck! Only with Jesus do we then become capable of offering reassurance. How greatly we need people who can comfort others not with empty words, but with words of life, with deeds of life. In the name of Jesus, we are able to offer true comfort. It is not empty words of encouragement, but the presence of Jesus that grants strength. Reassure us, Lord: comforted by you, we will be able to bring true comfort to others.

The third thing Jesus does: in the midst of the storm, he stretches out his hand (cf. v. 31). He takes hold of Peter who, in his fear and doubt, was sinking, and cried out: "Lord, save me!" (v. 30). We can put ourselves in Peter's place: we are people of little faith, pleading for salvation. We are wanting in true life and we need the outstretched hand of the Lord to draw us out from evil. This is the beginning of faith: to cast off the pride that makes us feel self-sufficient, and to realize that we are in need of salvation. Faith grows in this climate, to which we adapt ourselves by taking our place beside those who do not set themselves on a pedestal but are needy and cry out for help. This is why it is important for all of us to live our faith in contact with those in need. This is not a sociological option, the fashion of a single pontificate; it is a theological requirement. It entails acknowledging that we are beggars pleading for salvation, brothers and sisters of all, but especially of the poor whom the Lord loves. In this way, we embrace the spirit of the Gospel. "The spirit of poverty and of love – says the Council – is in fact the glory and witness of the Church of Christ" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 88).

Jesus heard the cry of Peter. Let us ask for the grace to hear the cry of all those tossed by the waves of life. The cry of the poor: it is the stifled cry of the unborn, of starving children, of young people more used to the explosion of bombs than happy shouts of the playground. It is the cry of the elderly, cast off and abandoned to themselves. It is the cry of all those who face the storms of life without the presence of a friend. It is the cry of all those forced to flee their homes and native land for an uncertain future. It is the cry of entire peoples, deprived even of the great natural resources at their disposal. It is the cry of every Lazarus who weeps while the wealthy few feast on what, in justice, belongs to all. Injustice is the perverse root of poverty. The cry of the poor daily grows louder but is heard less and less. Every day that cry gets louder, but every day heard less, drowned out by the din of the rich few, who grow ever fewer and more rich.

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

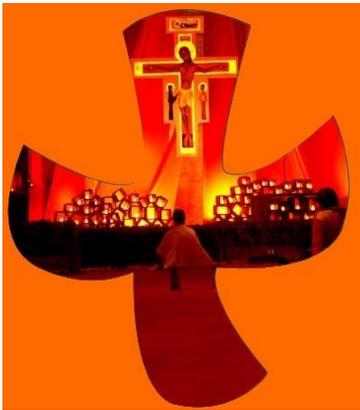
Advent Giving Tree

Don't forget to purchase your items for Covenant House, Sancta Maria House, and the Kits Shower Programme (new items only, please - see list of items on the poster by the Giving Tree.) Place all **UNWRAPPED** items under the tree by noon on Sunday, December 23rd. Anyone who can help sort and package the collection and/or drive to Covenant House on December 23rd (12:00 pm - 2:00 pm), please contact Eileen at dcampar-mo@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Feature Organization: Sancta Maria House.

Sancta Maria House is a Catholic, Christian recovery home that embraces the 12- Step Programme; they accept women from all faith backgrounds. They offer a structured, supportive, abstinence program for women in a loving family-like setting. Their mission is that women who come to the home will hear Jesus' message of love, and experience His healing powers as they journey through recovery and heal. Their goal is to provide loving support, direction and encouragement as women journey in achieving freedom from their addictions. See the poster by the Giving Tree for some special donation requests from Sancta Maria House.

Taize Prayer Service



Come and experience a quiet meditative Taizé prayer service with candle-light, music and prayers, scriptures and silence.
Prayer Service Time: 7:45 pm - 9 pm, at the Church.
Song practice session: 7:30 pm - 7:45 pm, at the Parish Centre

The monthly Taizé Prayer Service is on every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

TaizePrayer@staugustineschurch.ca or Agnes Tao: 604.868.8063



Second Sunday of Advent - Rite of Welcome

is celebrated only with candidates (those already baptized –usually in another Christian denomination—who are seeking reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church or Catholics who are seeking completion of their Christian initiation).

Candidates for Full Profession of Faith:

Craig Meier Karen Hefford Lizabeth Zoppi

St. Augustine's New Years Eve Dinner

Monday December 31st Parish Hall

Social at 6:00pm

Prime Rib Roast Dinner @ 6:30pm

Adults: \$20 Children 12 & under \$10.

Ticket sales begin after all Masses on Dec 8 & 9; limited seating.



FORMED®

Looking for good, wholesome Catholic content...tired of searching the internet? Check out formed.org a virtual library with video and ebooks for adults and children! Find comprehensive and inspiring content. Share with your friends and family! Simply sign up for FREE by visiting formed.org and entering our parish access code **4FX3T6**. You may then create your personal account.

This site has numerous Advent resources aimed at Children, Teens and Adults.

Experience Advent with Dr. Tim Gray

Enrich your Advent preparation with daily videos from Dr. Tim Gray that will ready your heart for the coming of Christ.

Add on children's reflections with Brother Francis to get the whole family spiritually prepped for Christmas!



Around the Archdiocese...

Sharing Christ with the World

"An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" – Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Every Christian is called to be actively engaged in evangelization, but where does one begin? What is true evangelization and why is it important? Hear from Michael Dopp, founder of the New Evangelization Summit (NES) on what it takes to evangelize in today's culture.

Evangelizing means sharing Christ with the world in every human situation and we are all called to share the good news! Learn how to develop a missionary zeal to live out our baptismal vocation. Experience joy in your heart as we await the birth of our Saviour during this Advent season. True joy leads to evangelization.

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Free Admission (free-will offering taken during the event).

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

Join us as we celebrate life on Friday, Dec. 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m.

Oblate Corner..



200 YEARS AGO: NOTA BENE – THE SCHOOL OF JESUS
 Posted by Frank Santucci

In his Rule, Eugene shares his enthusiastic vision that embraces the whole world. The way to “become” this ideal is to do what Jesus did:

In a word, put into practice the same means our Savior employed when he wanted to convert the world; you will achieve the same results.

Looking at what Jesus did, Eugene began “first of all to form a group” modeled on the group that Jesus formed with the apostles. Jesus had given the apostles an ideal, centered on the Kingdom of God that they were unable to grasp fully, and a world-wide commission that was beyond their capacity of understanding. For this they

needed to be continually formed by the Holy Spirit in the “school of Jesus.”

What did Our Lord Jesus Christ do? He chose a certain number of apostles and disciples whom He formed in piety and filled with His spirit; and after having trained them in his school and the practice of all virtues, He sent them forth to conquer the world which they soon brought under the rule of his holy laws.

The Missionaries are co-operators of the Savior in sharing His Kingdom vision, and need to be constantly open to the challenges of a changing society in order to do this effectively.

What must we, in turn, do to succeed in winning back for Jesus Christ so many souls who have cast off his yoke?

Eugene had defined the Missionaries as a group “who live together and who strive to imitate the virtues and examples of our Savior Jesus Christ.” Rephrasing this in the light of the apostolic model he says:

We must work seriously to become saints, walk courageously in the footsteps of so many apostles who have left us such fine examples of virtue in the exercise of a ministry to which, like them, we are called...

1818 Rule, Part One, Chapter One. The ends of the Institute, §3. Nota Bene.
 Missions, 78 (1951) p. 16

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

Ferial Khan 604.736.4455 x 224
 ferial@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 - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

604.736.4455 x 221

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

Bill Borgen 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

Clara Lum faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

LECTORS

Danny Camparmo lectors@staugustineschurch.ca

USHERS

Bill Borgen 604.224.2632

MOM’S N TOTS

Cat Leung cat_murtha@hotmail.com

FOOD COLLECTION

Terry Murphy 604.736.5288