

March 24th, 2019
 Third Sunday of Lent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

Unless you repent



The First Reading tells us how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and revealed his name as I AM WHO I AM. God has heard the cries of his oppressed people, and sends Moses to liberate them. It is a turning point in the Old Testament. It leads to the Exodus and beyond.

In the Gospel we see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews that they will lose the promise unless they repent. The barren fig tree symbolizes the barren state of Israel. But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though the time is getting short.

The role of Moses prefigures the role of Jesus. Through Moses God saved his people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt. We are the new people of God saved through the waters of baptism from the slavery of sin, and now on the road under the leadership of Jesus to the promised land of eternal life. We too are fed with food 'from heaven', namely, the Eucharist.

In the Letter to the Romans Paul says that in spite of all God has done for them, most of the Israelites were not pleasing to God. Christians must not think that just because they have received the sacraments they are automatically saved.



11:00 am Mass—first Scrutiny

As the Israelites journey through the desert, Moses provided them with the life-saving gift of ordinary water. Jesus, the new Moses, gives the people something infinitely better – 'living water', a share in the very life of God.

Parish Penitential Service:

Friday, April 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm. There will no Evening Mass on that day.

Stations of the Cross

Beginning Friday, March 8th at 7:30pm—and for every Friday in Lent—we will have the Stations of the Cross led by one of our Parish Groups. Please note that each group will **choose** the format they wish to use, e.g. the CWL and Legion of Mary may choose to use Mary's Way of the Cross, the Knights may choose a different one. A full list will be posted in the foyer of the Church.

This Week

Monday, March 25

7:00pm Mass +Bea Colwill

Tuesday, March 26

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
 8:00am Mass Int Thomas Ng
 10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Women's Craft Group
 7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, March 27

8:00am Mass Int Shirley Lorraine Jewitt
 7:00pm Mass +Preciosa Echevarria
 7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, March 28

8:00am Mass
 7:00pm Meeting St. Augustine's Parish Pastoral Council
 7:00pm Mass

Friday, March 29

8:00am Mass
 11:00am Funeral +José Dino
 7:00pm Mass

Saturday, March 30

8:00am Mass
 9:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
 10:30am Meeting Defibrillator Training
5:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 31

9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass Second Scrutiny—RCIA
5:00pm Mass

Pope's Prayer Intention for March:

Evangelization: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$7,610.00
 Loose: \$657.85

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Marcis Idalyn Ong Siy
 &
 Landon Rafael Dy

Pope's message

Today's readings tell us of the God of life, who conquers death. Let us pause in particular on the last of the miraculous signs which Jesus performs before his Easter, at the sepulchre of his friend, Lazarus.

Everything appears to have ended there: the tomb is sealed by a great stone; there is only weeping and desolation there. Even Jesus is shaken by the dramatic mystery of the loss of a dear person: "He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (*Jn 11:33*). Then "Jesus wept" (*v. 35*) and went to the sepulchre, the Gospel says, "deeply moved again" (*v. 38*). This is God's heart: far from evil but close to those who are suffering. He does not make evil disappear magically, but he endures the suffering; he makes it his own and transforms it; he abides it.

We notice, however, that amid the general despair over the death of Lazarus, Jesus does not allow himself to be transported by despair. Even while suffering himself, he asks that people believe steadfastly. He does not close himself within his weeping but, moved, he makes his way to the sepulchre. He does not allow the resigned, emotional atmosphere that surrounds him to seize him, but rather, prays with trust and says, "Father, I thank thee" (*v. 41*). Thus, in the mystery of suffering, before which thoughts and progress are crushed like flies against glass, Jesus offers us the example of how to conduct ourselves. He does not run away from suffering, which is part of this life, but he does not allow himself to be held captive by pessimism.

A great "encounter-clash" thus occurred at that sepulchre. On the one hand, there is the great disappointment, the precariousness of our mortal life which, pierced by anguish over death, often experiences defeat, an interior darkness which seems insurmountable. Our soul, created for life, suffers upon hearing that its thirst for eternal good is oppressed by an ancient and dark evil. On the one hand, there is this defeat of the sepulchre. But on the other, there is the hope that conquers death and evil, and which has a name: the name of hope is Jesus.

He neither brings a bit of comfort nor some remedy to prolong life, but rather, proclaims: "I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live", (*v. 25*). It is for this reason that he says decisively, "Take away the stone" (*v. 39*) and he calls to Lazarus, "Come out" (*v. 43*).

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are called to decide on which side to stand. One can stand on the side of the sepulchre or on the side of Jesus. There are those who allow themselves to be closed within their pain and those who open up to hope. There are those who remain trapped among the ruins of life, and those who, like you, with God's help, pick up the ruins of life and rebuild with patient hope.

In facing life's great 'whys?', we have two paths: either stay and wistfully contemplate past and present sepulchres, or allow Jesus to approach our sepulchres. Yes, because each one of us already has a small sepulchre, some area that has somewhat died within our hearts; a wound, a wrongdoing endured or inflicted, an unrelenting resentment, a regret that keeps coming back, a sin we cannot overcome. Today, let us identify these little sepulchres that we have inside, and let us invite Jesus into them. It is curious, but we often prefer to be alone in the dark caves within us rather than invite Christ inside them. We are tempted to always seek [solutions for] ourselves, brooding and sinking into anguish, licking our wounds, instead of going to him, who says, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest", (*Mt 11:28*). Let us not be held captive by the temptation to remain alone and discouraged, crying about what is happening to us. Let us not give in to the useless and inconclusive logic of fear, resignedly repeating that everything is going badly and nothing is as it once was. This is the sepulchral atmosphere. The Lord instead wishes to open the path of life, that of encounter with him, of trust in him, of the resurrection of the heart, the way of: "Arise, Arise, come out". This is what the Lord asks of us, and he is by our side to do so.

Thus, we hear directed to each one of us Jesus' words to Lazarus: "Come out". Come out from the gridlock of hopeless sadness; unwrap the bandages of fear that impede the journey, the laces of the weaknesses and anxieties that constrain you; reaffirm that God unties the knots. By following Jesus, we learn not to knot our lives around problems which become tangled. There will always be problems, always, and when we solve one, another one duly arrives. We can however, find a new stability, and this stability is Jesus himself. This stability is called Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life. With him, joy abides in our hearts, hope is reborn, suffering is transformed into peace, fear into trust, hardship into an offering of love. And even though burdens will not disappear, there will always be his uplifting hand, his encouraging Word saying to all of us, to each of us: "Come out! Come to me!". He tells all of us: "Do not be afraid".

Today, just like then, Jesus says to us to: "take away the stone". However burdensome the past, great the sin, weighty the shame, let us never bar the Lord's entrance. Let us, before him, remove that stone which prevents him from entering. This is the favourable time to remove our sin, our attachment to worldly vanity, the pride that blocks our souls, so much hostility among us, in families.... This is the favourable time for removing all these things.

Visited and liberated by Jesus, we ask for the grace to be witnesses of life in this world that thirsts for it, witnesses who spark and rekindle God's hope in hearts weary and laden with sadness. Our message is the joy of the living Lord, who says again today, as he did to Ezekiel, "Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people (*Ez 37:12*)

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.

Share Lent 2019

Solidarity Supper - April 7th



Come and be part of a Culture of Encounter!

The Share Lent Solidarity Supper will be on April 7th at 6 pm. in the Parish Centre. This event will be a way to participate in what Pope Francis is calling "a culture of encounter". Come encounter the stories of refugees around the world supported by Development & Peace.

Come encounter your fellow parishioners over a meal of solidarity with all who have been displaced from their homes. Come and encounter Christ as we learn, pray, and eat together on Solidarity Sunday. Tickets available after Mass in the Arcade and by e-mailing Eileen at dcampamro@hotmail.com.

Week 3: March 24

Share the journey with the Rohingya of Myanmar



Facing persecution and violence, 723,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar since August 2017 and taken refuge across the border, in neighbouring Bangladesh. Development and Peace's long-time partner Caritas Bangladesh is working hard to restore some dignity to these people who simply yearn to live in peace. Thanks to your donations, Caritas Bangladesh has been able to provide temporary shelters, access to clean water, safe latrines and showers for women and girls, and hygiene kits, and to raise awareness among refugees about safety issues.

Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of the Rohingya!

devp.org/give

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Starting this month, Liturgy of the Word for Children will be offered at the 11 am Mass once a month on the last Sunday of the month in addition to each Sunday at the 9 am Mass. If your child is 3 years old to Gr. 3 they will be invited up after the opening prayer to go to have their own Liturgy of the Word in the Sacristy with two LWC presiders. Children will come back to the main assembly after the prayers of the faithful at the start of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents may come with 3 & 4 year olds but are encouraged to send their children on their own if they are of school age (second year of pre-school and up). Email questions to: lwc@staugustineschurch.ca

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.

Visit Formed.org this Lent for a Lenten Study of Prayer

RCIA AND THE SCRUTINIES

Every year on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent the Church solemnly celebrates the scrutinies with the elect (catechumens) who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The gospel readings are all from the gospel of John. For the first Scrutiny, the gospel reading is the Samaritan woman at the well, the second scrutiny's gospel is the man born blind and the third scrutiny's gospel is the raising of Lazarus. Here at St. Augustine's these scrutinies are celebrated at the 11:00AM Mass. The purpose of these rites is 'self-searching and repentance'; they are intended 'to uncover', and then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.

In the foyer of the Church is our RCIA board with pictures of our elect and candidates. Please view it and pray for these individuals as they prepare for the Easter Vigil.

Parish Pasta Dinner ~ Saturday, April 27, 2019, 6:00 PM



The *Community Life* team is hosting a spring Pasta dinner and you are cordially invited to come and join us! Tickets are \$10.00/adult and \$5.00 for children over 5 years of age. We are planning for 100 guests and the meal will consist of Lasagna (meat or vegetarian), garlic bread, fresh salad and dessert.

You may register by sending an email to coberndorf@shaw.ca stating family name, names of those attending, adult or child, phone number, and the type of lasagna you wish to have.

We ask that you then submit the correct amount in an envelope with the collection with PASTA DINNER on the front of the envelope.

Tickets will be available at the weekend masses on March 23-24 if you wish to sign up in person.

Welcome everyone, and come and join us for this Parish Community Dinner!

Understanding Wills and Estate Planning

Everything you wanted to know... but were reluctant to ask about wills and planning your estate. St. Augustine's has the benefit of parishioners with expert knowledge on these matters who have volunteered to explain the practical realities of organizing your will and related estate issues:

Do I need one? What do I need to think about? Do I need a lawyer? How often should I update my will? When is it time to get a will? Is a hand-written will sufficient?

These and other questions will be answered for you at the following information session at the Parish Centre, second floor meeting room:

Sunday, April 14th at 12:15pm

(after the 11:00am Mass)

Excellent handouts and resource materials will be shared. Please RSVP: Colleen at 604-736-4455 Ext. 231

School News...

Fifteenth Luncheon for all the Seniors of St. Augustine's Parish

Venue – The School

Monday April 8th at 12:00 pm

Cost – No cost

As there is maximum seating, please RSVP – by March 26th to Geri Fujisawa at 604-738-1155 or

gerifuji@telus.net Some parking will be available at the School.



Oblate Corner..



Capitalizing on an awkward situation

Posted by Frank Santucci

We have seen how Fr Dupuy had left the Oblates to be a diocesan priest and how he had been appointed pastor of the parish at Osier. On his own, he had asked the Oblates to come to join him to develop the pilgrimages to the sanctuary and preach missions. Fr Dassy had spent some time recuperating from an illness there, and had managed to persuade the Bishop to give the direction of the sanctuary to the Oblates.

The problem was that Eugene as Superior General and the Bishop of Grenoble had not spoken about this impulsive personal initiative. Thus, Eugene was nervous and used a diplomatic approach to the Bishop before agreeing to send Oblates to the Marian shrine:

M. Dupuy has written to ask me for another man from our Congregation, and he assures me that he takes this step with your approval. I confess, Your Lordship, that I was so upset at first for not having followed the impulse of my heart which inclined me to write to you when he urged me to add M. Guigues to M. Dassy, whom he had taken with him, first with the intent of restoring his health, but whom he then retained as being very helpful to his work, so that nothing could determine me to accede to M. Dupuy's wishes prior to knowing explicitly from yourself whether you agreed with this.

Eugene then gives the reasons why Dupuy chose the Oblates instead of local clergy of the diocese:

There is no doubt that M. Dupuy, who is on the spot wherein he at first expected to accomplish the work of religion all by himself or with the help of a few priests of the area, saw that it would be too difficult and even impractical to form a community made up of heterogeneous elements, and he probably did not feel strong enough to spend his life in close association with strangers, each with his own will, divergent ideas, and unique spirit. He had come to know and appreciate the priests of our Congregation...

Letter to Bishop Philibert de Bruillard of Grenoble, 18 August 1834, EO XIII n 82

LET US AT LEAST TRY TO TEACH THEM SOME MANNERS TO MAKE THEM LIVABLE WITH

An insight into Eugene's wry sense of humor:

My dear Courtès. just a brief word, through the courtesy of Father Pons. I am sorry to hear that you are suffering from your usual fever. These annoying guests set themselves up as masters in our poor bodies. If we cannot get rid of them, let us at least try to teach them some manners to make them liveable with.

Letter to Hippolyte Courtès, 17 July 1834, EO VIII n 482

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

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
prep@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

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