

Christ the King



David had already been anointed King of Judah by his own people at Hebron. Now we hear how the northern tribes also acknowledge him as their king (first reading). Thus David becomes king of a united country. His kingship prefigured the universal kingship of Christ.

The second reading is essentially a liturgical hymn of praise of Christ. The first part speaks of his role in creation; the second of his role in redemption. On this feast we acclaim Christ as head of the Church and ruler of the universe.

In the Gospel we see how the inscription over the cross, and all those who witness the crucifixion (the crowd, the rulers, the soldiers, and thieves) unwittingly proclaim the true identity of Jesus. The irony is that the titles which are pronounced in mockery are true: Jesus is both: Messiah and King.

Liturgical celebrations

Pope's Saturday – St. Andrew (feast)

Andrew came from Bethsaida in Galilee. Like his father and his brother Simon, he was a fisherman. A disciple of John the Baptist, Andrew was present at Jesus' baptism. When John stated "Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew understood and followed Jesus. Going to his brother Simon Peter, Andrew told him that he had found the Messiah. Thus Andrew is known as the first disciple of Jesus. Later, when Jesus chose his apostles, Andrew was among the Twelve.

It is uncertain where Andrew preached or where he died, but ancient tradition associates him with Greece. Another tradition links him with Scotland, where his memory is said to have inspired the first bishop.

Prayer Intention for November

Universal: That a spirit of dialogue, encounter and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

This Week

Monday, November 25

7:00pm Mass +Mary Ryan

Tuesday, November 26

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass Private Intention
3:30pm Meeting Catechism of the Good Shepherd
7:00pm Mass Int Maria Azur
7:30pm Meeting Our Lady Bible Study

Wednesday, November 27

8:00am Mass Int Julie Finnie
7:00pm Mass +Leah McMahon
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, November 28

8:00am Mass Private Intention
7:00pm Mass +Sivi Elena Robredo de Velasco
7:30pm Event K of C Marian Prayer-Persecuted Christians
8:30pm Reception Knights of Columbus Marian Prayer Group

Friday, November 29

8:00am Mass Private Intention
10:00 Meeting Moms & Tots Play Group

7:00pm Mass Int Jaimie Nicole Poiron

Saturday, November 30

8:00am Mass +Anne Hirsch
3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm Mass Int Marnie McLeod
Food Collection

Sunday, December 1

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
9:00am Mass Int Peter & Helen Lo
Food Collection
10:00am Event CWL Christmas Fair
11:00am Mass RCIA Rite of Acceptance
Food Collection
5:00pm Mass
Bapt
Bapt
Food Collection

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$11,491.25
 Loose: \$900.90

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Blake Joseph Scott
 Luciano Salvatore Pellegrino
 Gabriel Luigi Terrance Peressini

Pope's Message...

In today's Gospel, Jesus astounds both his contemporaries and us. While every else was praising the magnificent temple in Jerusalem, Jesus tells them that "one stone" will not be left "upon another" (*Lk 21:6*). Why does he speak these words about so sacred an institution, which was not merely a building but a unique religious

symbol, a house for God and for the believing people? Why does he prophesy that the firm certitude of the people of God would collapse? Why, ultimately, does the Lord let our certitudes collapse, when our world has fewer and fewer of them?

Let us look for answers in the words of Jesus. He tells us that almost everything will pass away. Almost everything, but not everything. On this next to last Sunday in Ordinary Time, he explains that what will collapse and pass away are the penultimate things, not the ultimate ones: the temple, not God; kingdoms and human events, not humanity itself. The penultimate things, which often appear definitive but are not, pass away. They are majestic realities like our temples, and terrifying ones like earthquakes; they are signs in heaven and wars on the earth (*cf. vv. 10-11*). To us, these are front page news, but the Lord puts them on the second page. That which will never pass away remains on the front page: the living God, infinitely greater than any temple we build for him, and the human person, our neighbour, who is worth more than all the news reports of the world. So, to help us realize what really counts in life, Jesus warns us about two temptations.

The first is the temptation of haste, of the right now. For Jesus, we must not follow those who tell us that the end is coming immediately, that "the time is at hand" (*v. 8*). That is, we must not follow the alarmists who fuel fear of others and of the future, for fear paralyzes the heart and mind. Yet how often do we let ourselves be seduced by a frantic desire to know everything right now, by the itch of curiosity, by the latest sensational or scandalous news, by lurid stories, by the screaming those who shout loudest and angriest, by those who tell us it is "now or never". This haste, this everything right now, does not come from God. If we get worked up about the right now, we forget what remains forever: we follow the passing clouds and lose sight of the sky. Drawn by the latest outcry, we no longer find time for God or for our brother and sister living next door. How true this is today! In the frenzy of running, of achieving everything right now, anyone left behind is viewed as a nuisance. And considered disposable. How many elderly, unborn, disabled and poor persons are considered useless. We go our way in haste, without worrying that gaps are increasing, that the greed of a few is adding to the poverty of many others.

As an antidote to haste, Jesus today proposes to each of us perseverance. "By your endurance you will gain your lives" (*v. 19*). Perseverance entails moving forward each day with our eyes fixed on what does not pass away:

the Lord and our neighbour. This is why perseverance is the gift of God that preserves all his other gifts (*cf. SAINT AUGUSTINE, De Dono Perseverantiae, 2.4*). Let us ask that each of us, and all of us as Church, may persevere in the good and not lose sight of what really counts.

There is a second illusion that Jesus wants to spare us. He says: "Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' Do not go after them" (*v. 8*). It is the temptation of self-centredness. Christians, since we do not seek the right now but the forever, are not concerned with the me but with the you. Christians, that is, do not follow the siren song of their whims, but rather the call of love, the voice of Jesus. How is Jesus' voice discerned? "Many will come in my name", the Lord says, but they are not to be followed: wearing the label "Christian" or "Catholic" is not enough to belong to Jesus. We need to speak the same language as Jesus: that of love, the language of the you. Those who speak the language of Jesus are not the ones who say I, but rather the ones who step out of themselves. And yet how often, even when we do good, does the hypocrisy of the self take over? I do good so that I can be considered good; I give in order to receive in turn; I offer help so that I can win the friendship of some important person. That is how the language of the self speaks. The word of God, however, spurs us to a "genuine love" (*Rom 12:9*), to give to those who cannot repay us (*cf. Lk 14:14*), to serve others without seeking anything in return (*cf. Lk 6:35*). So let us ask ourselves: "Do I help someone who has nothing to give me in return? Do I, a Christian, have at least one poor person as a friend?"

The poor are valuable in the eyes of God because they do not speak the language of the self: they do not support themselves on their own, by their own strength; they need someone to take them by the hand. The poor remind us how we should live the Gospel: like beggars reaching out to God. The presence of the poor makes us breathe the fresh air of the Gospel, where the poor in spirit are blessed (*cf. Mt 5:3*). Instead of feeling annoyed when they knock on our doors, let us welcome their cry for help as a summons to go out of ourselves, to welcome them with God's own loving gaze. How beautiful it would be if the poor could occupy in our hearts the place they have in the heart of God! Standing with the poor, serving the poor, we see things as Jesus does; we see what remains and what passes away.

Let us return to our initial questions. Amid so many penultimate and passing realities, the Lord wants to remind us today of what is ultimate, what will remain forever. It is love, for "God is love" (*1 Jn 4:8*). The poor person who begs for my love leads me straight to God. The poor facilitate our access to heaven: this is why the sense of the faith of God's People has viewed them as the gatekeepers of heaven. Even now, they are our treasure, the treasure of the Church. For the poor reveal to us the riches that never grow old, that unite heaven and earth, the riches for which life is truly worth living: the riches of love.

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.

Development & Peace



Let's defend the defenders of our common home!

"The native Amazonian peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are now." - Pope Francis, Peru, January 2018.

This is true for Indigenous peoples, but also for traditional communities of the Amazon. Here are two communities in Brazil under threat:

- The way of life of Machadinho d'Oeste's *seringueiros* (artisanal rubber tappers) is being destroyed by industrial logging.
- The Mura Indigenous people of Manaus were not consulted before a phosphate mining company began operations on their lands.

Sign the Development and Peace - Caritas Canada Solidarity Letter to-day to support these two communities. Your signatures will allow us to call for their protection and respect of their rights.

Together, let's defend the defenders of the Amazon. To sign the Solidarity Letter online: devp.org/act.

Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians



Join us in an hour of Marian prayer on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019 after the 7:00pm daily mass, honouring the martyrs over the centuries as we call attention to the sufferings of today's Christians in various parts of the world. This Knights of Columbus prayer program is highlighted by the icon of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians that is transferred from one jurisdiction to another wherever the program is scheduled. An important feature of the prayer program is an open intercessory portion allowing all the participants to voice out their personal concerns and intentions.

Refreshments will be served at the Parish Hall after the event.

Christmas Fair Save the Date!

Sunday, December 1st



The Bake Table Co-ordinator is requesting parishioners for any donation of regular & Christmas theme home-baked goodies (squares, short bread, tarts, loafs, pies, biscotti, cookies, scones, soda bread, biscuits, etc); homemade jams, chutney & preserves (fruits & vegetable); etc. Please contact Geri for instructions re drop-off place and times at 604-738-1155 or gerifuji@telus.net.

Donations for the fair would be gratefully appreciated including: jewellery, gift items, crafts, Christmas decorations, raffle prizes, etc. Lurana can pick up if unable to deliver. Call 604-736-3182.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

"For I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35



St. Augustine's now has a "Vocations Ministry".

What is a "Vocation Ministry" you may well ask...Rhonda Gruenewald in her book "Hundredfold" put it well: "The overall mission of any Catholic parish is to help its members fulfill their primary vocation: to grow in holiness. Within this broad context a Vocation Ministry has a narrower task: to help parishioners (especially youth) discern God's will for their specific vocations".

If you are interested in this work, we invite you to join us on the 2nd Monday of the month after the 7:00PM mass.

For more information contact: Ben Hume bhume03@gmail.com

FORMED

Looking for good, whole-some 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.

Featured on formed.org this Advent:

LET'S JOURNEY WITH THOSE AROUND US



Looking for a way to include the whole family this Advent season? Kids can journey alongside you with daily reflections from Brother Francis. Simply add the option when you sign up for Advent Reflections!

School News...

Fall Campaign Update

Over 90% of school families have made a donation to the Fall Campaign in support of the new school. Two grades have now achieved 100% participation. \$370,000 has been raised to date – getting closer every day to our \$500,000 goal. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SCHOOL AND PARISH DONORS. For more information please pick up a copy of our newsletter at the entrance of the church or go to our school/parish websites:

faithandfoundation.com or staugustinechurch.ca. If you are making a cheque to the campaign, please make it payable to **St. Augustine Parish - School Building Fund**. Donations will be received until December 31, 2019.

Around the Archdiocese...

Pro-Life Mass and Prayer Vigil



One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Please join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of each month at a different parish for a new culture of life. Mass will be Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Burnaby. For upcoming dates, visit:

rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil

Mass of Remembrance

Join us for our monthly Mass of Remembrance on Sunday, Dec. 15 as we pray for our family members that have passed away. Masses are at both 12:30pm and 2:30pm in our Evangelist Chapel, at Gardens of Gethsemani.

Oblate Corner

God's showman



The history of the Oblates contains some accounts of sudden conversion, not unlike that of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. The life of Brother François Leriche offers a typical example.

A call from the Blessed Virgin

At the age of fifteen, this restless child from Mayenne, near Brittany, joined the circus and became a professional showman. He played the violin, did a few acrobatic stunts in a clown costume, and made people laugh. This adventurous life alienated him from his Christian life. For several years, he abandoned all practice of religion. He no

longer set a foot in church. However, one day, somewhat by chance, he heard a sermon on the Blessed Virgin that made him reflect seriously. "See the star, and invoke Mary" the preacher repeated many times, with conviction. François decided to change his life. From that moment he evolved into a model of piety and devoted himself to the good works of his parish. But he wasn't satisfied with this regular and peaceful life. He wanted to do more in order to "redeem himself completely" as he would say.

Bishop Grandin accepts him

In 1867, Bishop Vital Grandin, missionary bishop in Canada, passed through Aron, the site of François' native parish. The new convert was then forty-five years old. He assisted at the religious profession of young Oblates. On this occasion, the one who was known as "l'évêque pouilleux" (the abjectly poor bishop) preached on vocations. "My good friends, if you want to come with me, do not forget that your life will be one long martyrdom. If you come only for my sake, you will not last. But if you come for God, He alone will reward you, as He has promised." Nothing more was needed to attract the former showman. He sought out Bishop Grandin and offered to follow him. The prelate hesitated, because of aspirant's age, and the fact that he had to take care of his elderly sick mother.

François insisted. He won the Sisters of the Poor to his side. The nuns were ready to receive and care for his mother until her death, for 100 francs per year. The Bishop was ready to accept responsibility for this annual payment, but he was still hesitant. On the following morning, to his great surprise, he saw Leriche taking his mother, with infinite precautions, up to the hospice in a wheelbarrow. Deeply moved, Bishop Grandin accepted the candidate at once. "We can count on him" mused the bishop, "for he loves his mother."

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
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

Peggy Ho Yuen 604.266.1803

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 momstots@staugustineschurch.ca

FOOD COLLECTION

Terry Murphy 604.736.5288

LEGION OF MARY

Mary Lou Barin 604.767.8087
maryl.barin@gmail.com