



December 1st 2019
First Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

Advent



The chief function of the season of Advent is to prepare for Christmas. However, to understand Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation.

God's plan of salvation is centered in Christ and realised through him. Advent looks back at the promise of the first coming, when that plan was announced. And it looks forward to his second coming, when that plan will reach its complete fulfilment. And, of course, it celebrates his actual coming in time.

The first readings of the Advent Sundays (from Isaiah) are concerned with the Messiah and the messianic times. Isaiah kept the hopes of the people alive in very dark times. In today's reading we have the theme of universal peace and salvation. The Gospel and the second reading deal with the Lord's second coming, which the first Christians believed was imminent. Both readings convey a sense of urgency through phrases such as, 'Wake up', 'Stay awake', 'Stand ready'.

Liturgical celebrations

Tuesday – St. Francis Xavier (memorial)

Francis was born in 1506 in Navarre, Spain. He met St. Ignatius of Loyola at the University of Paris, and was one of the first members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spent many years working as a missionary with the people of Goa, Southeast Asia, and Japan. He had excellent organizational skills: the communities he established continued to flourish long after his departure. He died in 1552. He is a patron saint of all foreign missions.

Saturday – St. Ambrose (memorial)

St. Ambrose was born in Germany about 340. Although he was only a catechumen, the laity elected him as bishop. He hesitated at first, but later was baptized and ordained. Ambrose became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized.

Prayer Intention for December

Evangelization: *The Future of the Very Young*—That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



Advent Penitential Service—December 2019

The Parish Advent Penitential Service will be held at 7:00pm on Friday December 20th.

This Week

Monday, December 2

7:00pm	Mass	+Derek Meade
6:30pm	Meeting	CWL Executive Report Writing
7:45pm	Meeting	Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 3

6:00am	Meeting	Men's Prayer Group
8:00am	Mass	Int Francis Narvaez
3:30pm	Meeting	Catechism of the Good Shepherd
7:00pm	Mass	+Oronzo Pavone
7:30pm	Meeting	Our Lady Bible Study

Wednesday, December 4

8:00am	Mass	+Gregorio Linsangan
7:00pm	Mass	+Emory Magtang
7:30pm	Meeting	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, December 5

8:00am	Mass	Int Marilyn & Jim
7:00pm	Mass	+Peter Fusco

Friday, December 6 First Friday Adoration to 6:45pm

8:00am	Mass	+Rune Bjorkman
10:15am		
	Meeting	Lectio Divina/Circle of Friends
5:00pm	Mass	Serra Club
6:00pm	Event	Serra Club Dinner (private)
7:00pm	Mass	+Marietta & Donato Fusco

Saturday, December 7

8:00am	Mass	+Peter Zanatta
3:30pm	Meeting	Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm	Mass	
	Bapt	
	Bapt	
6:00pm	Event	Lighting of the outdoor Nativity with Carols
6:30pm	Reception	Outdoor Nativity Lighting participants

Sunday, December 8

8:30am	Meeting	Legion of Mary
9:00am	Mass	+Mariano Rivera
11:00am	Mass	RCIA Rite of Welcoming
12:15pm	Meeting	Lector Rehearsal & Training
5:00pm	Mass	Int Bosco Lee

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$10,715.00
 Loose: \$763.45

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Fionnuala Margaret Dixon
 Eleanor Therese Dixon

REST IN PEACE

Betty Barrows

Pope's Message...

Let us go out to meet Christ the Lord, for he is coming!

The Gospel we have just heard invites us to set out, to look to the future in order to encounter the most beautiful thing that it can bring us: the definitive coming of Christ into our lives and into

our world. Let us welcome him into our midst with immense joy and love, as only you young people can do! Even before we set out to seek him, we know that the Lord is seeking us; he comes out to meet us and calls us to make, create and shape a future. We set out joyfully, for we know he is waiting for us there.

The Lord knows that through you, young people, the future is coming into this land and the world, and he is counting on you to carry out your mission today (cf. *Christus Vivit*, 174). Just as God had a plan for the Chosen People, so he has a plan for each of you. He first dreamed of inviting all of us to a banquet that we have to prepare together, with him, as a community: the banquet of his kingdom, from which no one could remain excluded.

Today's Gospel speaks of ten young women called to look ahead and share in the Lord's banquet. The problem was that some of them were not prepared, not because they had fallen asleep, but because they lacked the oil they needed for their lamps, the inner fuel to keep the fire of love burning. They had great excitement and motivation; they wanted to take part in the feast to which the Master had invited them. But as time passed, they grew weary, lost their energy and enthusiasm, and they arrived too late. This parable is about what can happen to any Christian. Full of excitement and interest, we hear the Lord's call to be a part of his kingdom and share his joy with others. But often, as each of you is well aware, in the face of problems and obstacles like the suffering of our loved ones, or our own helplessness before apparently hopeless situations, unbelief and bitterness can take over and silently seep into our dreams, making our hearts grow cold, causing us to lose our joy and to arrive late.

So I would like to ask you three questions. Do you want to keep alive the fire that keeps you burning brightly amid darkness and difficulties? Do you want to be prepared to answer the Lord's call? Do you want to be ready to do his will?

How can you obtain the oil that will keep you moving forward, that impels you to seek the Lord in every situation?

You are heirs to a precious history of evangelization that has been handed down to you as a sacred treasure. This beautiful cathedral is a witness to your ancestors' faith in Jesus Christ. Their deeply rooted faithfulness led them to do good works, to build that other, even more beautiful temple,

made up of living stones, in order to bring God's merciful love to all the people of their time. They were able to do this because they were convinced of what the prophet Hosea proclaimed in today's first reading: God had spoken to them tenderly; he had embraced them with steadfast love forever (cf. *Hos 2:14.19*).

Dear friends, in order that the fire of the Spirit will keep burning, so that you can keep your eyes bright and your hearts aflame, you need to be deeply rooted in the faith of your ancestors: your parents, grandparents and teachers. Not to be stuck in the past, but to learn to find the courage that can help us respond to ever new situations. They had to endure many trials and much suffering in their lives. Yet along the way, they discovered that the secret to a happy heart is the security we find when we are anchored, rooted in Jesus: in the life of Jesus, in his words, in his death and resurrection.

"I have sometimes seen young and beautiful trees, their branches reaching to the sky, pushing ever higher, and they seemed a song of hope. Later, following a storm, I would find them fallen and lifeless. They lacked deep roots. They spread their branches without being firmly planted, and so they fell as soon as nature unleashed her power. That is why it pains me to see young people sometimes being encouraged to build a future without roots, as if the world were just starting now. For "it is impossible to grow unless we have strong roots to support us and to keep us firmly grounded. Dear young friends, it is easy to drift off, when there is nothing to clutch onto, to hold onto" (*Christus Vivit*, 179).

Let us go out to meet Christ the Lord, for he is coming! Do not be afraid of the future or allow yourselves to be intimidated. Rather, know that the Lord is waiting for you there, in that future, in order to prepare and celebrate the banquet of his kingdom.

Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB

Parish Visit December 13th–15th 2019



Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will celebrate a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick at 7:00pm on Friday December 13th at St. Augustine's Church.

All are encouraged and welcome to attend this very special event in our Parish life.

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



What commitment will you make for Our Common Home?

Last week, you took action by signing a Solidarity Letter for the *seringueiros* and the Mura people of Brazil. This week, begin your own ecological conversion by signing the intergenerational pledge for our common home. Choose a personal change to put into action and attach a photo of yourself for our mosaic of committed citizens. Let's act together to enable present and future generations

to live a dignified and happy life: devp.org/pledge.

Without your action, there is no change and no justice!

Around the Parish...

Parish Community Meeting: Arbutus subway proposal

Please join us on Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm at the School gym to hear the latest on the proposed subway station and bus loop at Arbutus and Broadway. This is an important meeting to learn about the station proposal and potential impacts on our school and community. The Parish is seeking to work with the project to ensure that any risks are minimized for the school and the broader Parish and neighbourhood.

Advent Giving Tree



The Social Justice Committee invites you to observe Advent by participating in the Parish Advent Giving Tree. Take an "ornament" off the tree in the foyer and purchase items for Covenant House, Sancta Maria House or Kits Shower Programme (new items only, please.)

Place all **UNWRAPPED** items under the tree by noon on Sunday, December 22nd. If you can help sort and package the collection and/or drive to Covenant House on December 22nd (12:00 pm- 2:00 pm), contact Eileen at dcamparmo@hotmail.com.

Featured Organization: Covenant House

Covenant House's Residential Crisis Program welcomes homeless, run-away and at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24. When they arrive, young people are often distraught. They are scared, sick, hungry and exhausted. Covenant House's first priority is to meet their basic needs: medical attention, nutritious food, safe place to sleep. Along with safe, supported housing, young people receive food, clothing and hygiene supplies. They can also receive substance misuse counselling, treatment for mental illness and support with finding a job and a safe place to live when they leave.

When out of their crisis, many young people apply to Covenant House's long-term supportive transitional housing program, [Rights of Passage](#), where they are provided with support in an environment that feels like home. For more information about Covenant House, visit their web-site at www.covenanthousebc.org.

All Children in the Parish



are invited to sing at the Sunday 9 AM mass on December 8. Rehearsal will begin at 8 AM in the Church. School uniforms are not required and all children grades 1 to 12 are welcome from the School and the Parish.

Refugee Family Update

We have the wonderful news that the Gatere family has received all of the required documentation to leave Kenya and come to Canada. They will arrive in Vancouver on December 19. Representatives from St. Augustine's Parish and Christ the Redeemer will meet them and bring them to their new home in Surrey. The two Parish communities have been working hard since September to find a rental property and furnish it for this family of nine.

RCIA—Rite of Acceptance

First Sunday of Advent - Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

The Rite of Acceptance is of the utmost importance. Assembling publicly for the first time, the candidates who have completed the period of enquiry and are preparing for all the sacraments of Christian initiation declare their intention to the Church and the Church in turn, accepts them as persons who intend to become its members. God showers their grace on the candidates, since the celebration manifests their desire publicly and marks their reception and first consecration by the Church. Following the Rite of Acceptance, these Candidates are now known as Catechumens.

Catechumens for the Sacraments of Initiation:

Jacky Tang	Stephanie Law	Elizabeth Chang	Liam Fergusson
Melissa Pham	Emma Tang	Gabriel George	Isla Rolfsen

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

What is a Vocation? The word vocation comes from the Latin *vocare* which means **to call**. God *calls* or *invites* you to a particular vocation: single life, marriage, priesthood or consecrated life. Although each of us must make a decision about our vocation, that choice is a response to an invitation from God. Pope Francis has commented on this personal aspect of vocation: "In calling us God says to us: "You are important to me, I love you, I count on you." Jesus says this to each one of us! Joy is born from here, the joy of the moment in which Jesus looked at me. To understand and to feel this is the secret of our joy. To feel loved by God, to feel that for Him we are not numbers, but persons; and to feel that it is He who calls us"

(Vatican City, 9 July 2013).

We invite you to learn more about what a Vocation is and how it can impact your life. 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 re-flections from Brother Francis. Simply add the option when you sign up for Advent Reflections!

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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



Oblate Corner

**Father Lacombe frees a captive woman**

Father Albert Lacombe, OMI, known as “the man with the kind heart” by the Western Amerindians, was staying with the Cree in the environs of Sainte-Anne Lake, in Alberta. One evening, he was chatting with them and smoking a peace pipe. Suddenly, a group of young warriors approached, shouting cries of victory. Once in the camp, they began dancing around an ill-fated woman while brutally striking her.

Captured by the Cree

She was a woman of the Blackfoot tribe. Her husband had been skinned live before her very eyes. On seeing the black robe, the poor captive succeeded in freeing herself from her torturers, and threw herself at the feet of Father Lacombe. She cried as loud as she could: “Kimotit minna!” “Save me, have pity!” Then the Oblate approached the group: “To whom does this woman belong?” A young Cree warrior put his hand on her shoulder, saying: “She is mine, I killed her husband... she belongs to me.” “Since she is yours,” continued the priest, “will you sell her to me?” “No,” was the reply, “because I know that Black Robes do not take a woman.” “I’m not asking for myself,” said the priest, “I want to return her to her grieving family. As for you, you can choose a woman from your own nation.” Again, “No, she is my woman... I won her, and no one has the right to take her away from me.”

Freed by the Black Robe

The missionary would not give up. After a moment of silence, he spoke once again: “Very well, my dear Cree, and you, young warrior, who will not grant my request, I’ll remember this. When they come to steal your women and your horses, and you can no longer defend yourselves, you will come to me to beg for protection. I’ll have to respond: ‘What can I do? The Cree had no pity for others... Now, I can do nothing for them, for never forget: The Great Spirit has no pity for those who want to harm others.’... That’s what I’d say.”

This short speech had an amazing effect. The young man, fearful of a curse from the man of prayer, hurriedly released his captive in return for three horses and a rifle. All during the discussion, the poor Blackfoot woman had remained fearful and trembling, since she didn’t understand the Cree language. The missionary took her by the hand, and brought her by his side, saying: “Do not fear, young lady, you belong to me, I bought you. Soon, I’ll bring you back to your own people, who will be all the more happy to see you since they believed they had lost you forever.”

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

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LECTORS

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LEGION OF MARY

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