



December 15th 2019
Third Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

Words of comfort



Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities – blindness, deafness and lameness – will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people.

John the Baptist's image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus did not fit that image. Hence, John's doubts about him. Jesus dispelled John's doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, Matthew sees Jesus as the one who fulfils the messianic prophecies.

James is talking about the Second Coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday."

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is *gaudete* (Latin, "rejoice")

What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."



Advent Penitential Service—December 2019

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

This Week

Monday, December 16

7:00pm	Mass	Int Dal Hayden (Gradish)
7:00pm	Meeting	Private AGM

Tuesday, December 17

6:00am	Meeting	Men's Prayer Group
8:00am	Mass	
6:00pm	Event	Parish Religious Education (PREP) Social
7:00pm	Mass	
7:00pm	Meeting	Knights of Columbus Executive

Wednesday, December 18

8:00am	Mass	Int Judith Dajay
7:00pm	Mass	+Weon Hee Yoo
7:30pm	Meeting	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, December 19

8:00am	Mass	+Dino Geronimo
7:00pm	Mass	
7:45pm	Event	Taizé Service

Friday, December 20

8:00am	Mass	Private Intention
9:15am	Mass	St. Augustine's School
10:15am	Meeting	Circle of Friends/Lectio Divina
4:00pm	Office Closed	
7:00pm	Penitential Service	

Saturday, December 21

8:00am	Mass	
3:30pm	Meeting	Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm	Mass	+Blair Cafferky

Sunday, December 22

8:30am	Meeting	Legion of Mary
9:00am	Mass	+Erlinda Torres
11:00am	Mass	
12:00pm	Event	Covenant House Donation Packing & Delivery
3:00pm	Meeting	Mass Rehearsal
5:00pm	Mass	Int Paul Behrend

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts.
 Sunday Envelopes: \$10,435.00
 Loose: \$647.05

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Colette Huynh
 Sophie Elizabeth Johnston

Pope's Message...

The Gospel we have heard is part of Jesus' first great sermon. We know it as the Sermon on the Mount, and it describes for us the beauty of the path we are called to take. In the Bible, the mountain is the place where God reveals himself and makes himself known. "Come up to me", God says to Moses (*cf. Ex 24:1*). A mountain whose summit is not reached by willpower or social climbing, but only by attentive, patient and sensitive listening to the Master at every crossroads of life's journey. The summit presents us with an ever new perspective on all around us, centered on the compassion of the Father. In Jesus, we encounter the summit of what it means to be human; he shows us the way that leads to a fulfillment exceeding all our hopes and expectations. In him, we encounter a new life, where we come to know the freedom of knowing that we are God's beloved children.

Yet all of us know that along the way, the freedom of being God's children can be repressed and weakened if we are enclosed in a vicious circle of anxiety and competition. Or if we focus all our attention and energy on the frenetic pursuit of productivity and consumerism as the sole criterion for measuring and validating our choices, or defining who we are or what we are worth. This way of measuring things slowly makes us grow impervious or insensible to the really important things, making us instead pant after things that are superfluous or ephemeral. How greatly does the eagerness to believe that everything can be produced, acquired or controlled oppress and shackle the soul!

Here in Japan, in a society with a highly developed economy, the young people I met this morning spoke to me about the many people who are socially isolated. They remain on the margins, unable to grasp the meaning of life and their own existence. Increasingly, the home, school and community, which are meant to be places where we support and help one another, are being eroded by excessive competition in the pursuit of profit and efficiency. Many people feel confused and anxious; they are overwhelmed by so many demands and worries that take away their peace and stability.

The Lord's words act as a refreshing balm, when he tells us not to be troubled but to trust. Three times he insists: "Do not be anxious about your life... about tomorrow" (*cf. Mt 6:25.31.34*). This is not an encouragement to ignore what happens around us or to be irresponsible about our daily duties and responsibilities. Instead, it is an invitation to set our priorities against a broader horizon of meaning and thus find the freedom to see things his way: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (*Mt 6:33*).

The Lord is not telling us that basic necessities like food and clothing are unimportant. Rather, he invites us to re-evaluate our daily decisions and not to become trapped or isolated in the pursuit of success at any cost, including the cost of our very lives. Worldly attitudes that look only to one's own profit or gain in this world, and a selfishness that pursues only individual happiness, in reality leave us profoundly unhappy and enslaved, and hinder the authentic development of a truly harmonious and humane society.

The opposite of an isolated, enclosed and even asphyxiated "I" can only be a "we" that is shared, celebrated and communicated (*cf. General Audience, 13 February 2019*). The Lord's call reminds us that "we need to acknowledge jubilantly that our life is essentially a gift, and recognize that our freedom is a grace. This is not easy today, in a world that thinks it can keep something for itself, the fruits of its own creativity or freedom" (*Gaudete et Exsultate, 55*). In today's first reading, the Bible tells us how our world, teeming with life and beauty, is above all a precious gift of the Creator: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (*Gen 1:31*). God offers us this beauty and goodness so that we can share it and offer it to others, not as masters or owners, but as sharers in God's same creative dream. "Genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others" (*Laudato Si', 70*).

Given this reality, we are invited as a Christian community to protect all life and testify with wisdom and courage to a way of living marked by gratitude and compassion, generosity and simple listening. One capable of embracing and accepting life as it is, "with all its fragility, its simplicity, and often enough too, with its conflicts and annoyances" (*Address at the Vigil of World Youth Day, Panama, 26 January 2019*).

The proclamation of the Gospel of Life urgently requires that we as a community become a field hospital, ready to heal wounds and to offer always a path of reconciliation and forgiveness. For the Christian, the only possible measure by which we can judge each person and situation is that of the Father's compassion for all his children.

Pope's 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.

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.

Advent Giving Tree



ADVENT GIVING TREE- Only one more week to go! 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 for special Sancta Maria House items. Anyone who can help sort and package the collection and/or drive to Covenant House on

December 22nd (12:00 pm - 2:00 pm), please contact Eileen at

dcamparmo@hotmail.com.

Feature Organization: Kits Shower Programme

The Kitsilano Community Centre offers a weekly Shower Programme on Saturdays from 7:30 am to 9:00 am available to anyone in need. The program is hugely successful in restoring the dignity of its participants and demonstrating that every demographic in our city deserves respect and nurturing. The volunteers that run this programme are wholeheartedly dedicated to the well-being of everyone involved and providing a safe environment for friendships to begin and grow.

Donations for the program are always needed and greatly appreciated! Besides bars of soap, toothbrushes, razors, travel sized shaving cream, toothpaste, and shampoo, this programme is looking for small sized jeans and track pants, rain gear, hoodies, and sturdy runners or hiking shoes (new or gently used).

Refugee Family Arrives Early

We received news that the Gatara family will be arriving in Vancouver on December 17, a few days earlier than first announced. Please continue to pray for their safe arrival. Representatives from our Parish and Christ the Redeemer will meet them at the airport 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, in addition to making other plans for their orientation to their new country. Thank you to everyone for the contributions of your time, resources and funds.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Thank you for supporting Project Advance. Our goal this year is \$65,000. To date we have raised \$57,000. You can still contribute by making out a cheque to Project Advance and putting it in the Sunday collection basket. You can also make online gifts to Project Advance for our parish by visiting www.projectadvance.ca Any shortfall from our goal will be made up from our Sunday donation collection.

Year 2020 Parish Envelopes

Personalized Year 2020 Envelope Donation Boxes are available for pick up outside the Parish Hall. Please do not take a box unless it has your name on it. If there is not a box with your name please pick up a box at the Parish Office during regular office hours. Do NOT use 2019 Envelopes in the year 2020 as your donation may be credited to another family.

Charitable Donations and Tax Receipts: Canada Revenue Agency

Donations must be received by the Parish by **December 31, 2019** in order for the donor to receive a tax receipt for 2019. This is a requirement of the Canada Revenue Agency. If you date a cheque December 31, 2019 but it is not received in the Parish Office until 2020 the amount of your donation will be reflected in your 2020 donation receipt.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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



Rite of Acceptance



Candidates for Rite of Welcoming

School News...

School Registration 2020

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in Kindergarten at St. Augustine School for the 2020-2021 school year, please come to the general Open House on Thursday, January 9th, 2020 at 7:00pm at the School.

Please RSVP the School Office at (604) 731-8024 or office@saschool.ca. Adults only please.

Fall Campaign Update

Fall Campaign enters final weeks

The Parish campaign to support our new school is now in its final stretch with more than \$440,000 raised. Our goal of \$500,000 is still within reach and the deadline is December 31, 2019. Over 98 percent of School families have made a contribution to the campaign and non-school families have contributed nearly \$100,000. You can still make a donation by dropping your gift in the Sunday collection or at the School or Parish offices during the week. If you are writing a cheque, please make it payable to:

St. Augustine's Parish – School Building Fund.

Oblate Corner



For whom does the bell toll at midnight?

Elsewhere in these stories, I recounted how Father Elphège Allard, OMI, had drowned in the Dense River, and was found with the help of a picture of the Virgin Mary. This priest had two older brothers who were Oblates: Joseph and Odilon.

Missionary in the Yukon

Joseph's life also had its adventures. He was born on April 26, 1871, in Saint-David-de-Yamaska. After working for a few years on his father's farm, he went to Montreal for commercial courses, and found employment at Worcester, Mass. It was only at the age of twenty-four that he began his classical studies at the Sacré- Coeur Juniorate, in Ottawa. On June 6, 1903, he was ordained to the priesthood with the Oblates, and the following year, was sent as a missionary to the Yukon. For thirty-eight years, he traveled across this vast region, visiting numerous Amerindian tribes. He built four Churches and as many schools. His apostolic zeal was remarkable. He left a deep impression on all the people he evangelized. His teaching was founded on respect for God, faith in Jesus-Christ, and filial love for the Virgin Mary. Even to this day, thirty five years after his death at Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, older men who knew him recall with emotion certain moments they shared with him.

Christmas at Atlin

In the 1930's, while he was living at Lejac, Father Allard made frequent visits to Atlin, a small mission of the Klondike, a mission that he had founded with pain and suffering, in 1907. He had organized a lay ministry long before Vatican II. When he was not there, on Sundays and Holy Days, the local people assembled in Church or in one of the homes for customary prayers. Most often, it was a woman, better prepared for this ministry, who took on the direction of this ritual. One year, it happened that a few weeks before Christmas the Church bell had remained jammed in its belfry. No one dared climb up on the roof during this time of winter. Thus, the bell remained silent.

On Christmas Eve, a small group of Christians met at the home of an Amerindian named Leo. They always expected the missionary, for he had promised: "I'll come at Christmas." Around nine o'clock at night, worry set in... an accident is always possible. Nervousness began to circulate throughout the house. But everyone knew, as a matter of fact, that Leo had his provision.

Three peals in the night

All of a sudden, to everyone's surprise, the sound of the bell was heard. Three distinct rings: Ding! Ding! Dong! "That's it," said Leo, "Father has certainly arrived." Without hesitation, he donned his anorak, his cap and his caribou gloves to go out and meet the missionary. Lantern in hand, he reached the church. In spite of his expectations, he found no traces of footprints in the snow, not on the front steps nor around the building. He returned to the house and shared his findings with the others. Mystery! Why and how did the bell ring?

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