



A light shines in the dark



The territory occupied by the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali (later known as Galilee) was the most northerly part of Israel. Because it bordered on pagan territory it would have been associated with darkness. It was the first province of Israel to be conquered by Assyria in 732 BC. Isaiah predicted future liberation for the people of that region. In his Gospel, Matthew sees Isaiah's prophecy as fulfilled in Jesus.

February 2, 2020



In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the

light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Liturgical celebrations:

Tuesday – Saint Thomas Aquinas (memorial)

Saint Thomas Aquinas is one of the greatest minds in the history of the Church. A prodigious writer, his most famous work is the Summa Theologica, one of the greatest examples of theological thought ever composed. St. Thomas Aquinas is a patron saint of universities and schools.

Friday - Saint John Bosco (memorial)

St. John Bosco popularly known as Don Bosco was an Italian priest, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System.

Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized by Pope Pius XI

This Week

Monday, January 27

- 6:30pm Meeting Catholic Women's League Executive
- 7:00pm Mass Int Will & Simone Staton

Tuesday, January 28

- 8:00am Mass Int Xiomary Garzon Gomez family
- 10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Craft Group
- 7:00pm Mass Int Sue Macdonald
- 7:30pm Meeting Bible Study Group

Wednesday, January 29

- 8:00am Mass +Carmen Tinio
- 11:00am Funeral +David Kevin Meyler
- 7:00pm Mass +Joaquin Tinio
- 7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Thursday, January 30

- 8:00am Mass
- 7:00pm Meeting Parish Pastoral Council
- 7:00pm Mass +Carmen Stagnaro-Diliberto

Friday, January 31

- 8:00am Mass +Rosina Bastone
- 6:00pm Event St Augustine's School Grade VII Pot Luck
- 7:00pm Mass +Hedy Chan

Saturday, February 1

- 8:00am Mass Pro-life Annual Mass
- 9:00am Event Pro-life Mass reception
- 3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
- 5:00pm Mass Int Christina Duncan
- Food collection

Sunday, February 2

- 8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
- 9:00am Mass +Christine Guerrero
- Food collection
- 10:00am Event Ministry Fair
- 11:00am Mass
- Food collection
- Event Ministry Fair
- 5:00pm Mass +Rosemary McAuhey
- Food collection
- Event Ministry Fair

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday Envelopes: \$9,001.00

Loose: \$971.90

REST IN PEACE

Bridget (Brid) Teresa O'Loughlin

David Kevin Meyler

Pope's Message...



Today's Liturgy shows Jesus who goes out to meet his people. It is the feast day of encounter: the newness of the Child encounters the tradition of the temple; the promise finds fulfillment; young Mary and Joseph encounter the elderly Simeon and Anna. Everything, therefore, meets as Jesus arrives.

What does this mean for us? Above all, that we too are called to welcome Jesus who comes to meet us. To encounter him: the God of life is to be encountered every day of our lives; not now and then, but every day. To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice. And we do not meet the Lord virtually, but directly, we encounter him in our lives, in the concreteness of life. Otherwise, Jesus becomes only a nice memory of the past. When we welcome him as the Lord of life, however, as the centre and the beating heart of everything, then he is alive and lives anew in us. And what happened in the temple also happens to us: around him everything meets, and life becomes harmonious. With Jesus we find again the courage to carry on and the strength to remain firm. The encounter with the Lord is the source. It is important then to return to the source: to retrace in our mind the decisive moments of encounter with him, to renew our first love, perhaps writing down our love story with the Lord. This would be good for our consecrated life, so that it does not become a time that passes by, but rather a time of encounter.

If we call to mind our original meeting with the Lord, we become aware that it did not arise as something private between us and God. No, it blossomed in the context of a believing people, alongside many brothers and sisters, at precise times and places. The Gospel tells us this, showing how the encounter takes place within the people of God, in its concrete history, in its living traditions: in the temple, according to the law, in the context of prophecy, in young and old together (cf. Lk 2:25-28, 34). It is like this too in the consecrated life: it blossoms and flourishes in the Church; if it is isolated, it withers. It matures when the young and elderly walk together, when the young rediscover their roots and the elderly welcome those fruits. When we walk alone, however, when we remain fixated on the past or jump ahead in trying to survive, then the consecrated life stagnates. Today, on the feast day of encounter, we ask for the grace to rediscover the living Lord amid a believing people, and to allow the charism we have received to encounter today's graces.

The Gospel also tells us that God's encounter with his people has both a starting point and a destination point. It begins with the call in the temple and arrives at the vision in the temple. It is a call that is twofold. There is a first call "according to the law" (v. 22).

It is the call of Joseph and Mary, who go to the temple to fulfil what the law prescribes. The text emphasizes this almost as a refrain, even four times (cf. vv. 22, 23, 24, 27). This is not something forced: Jesus' parents are not constrained to go or merely to perform an external duty. They go in response to God's call. Then there is a second call, according to the Spirit. It is the call of Simeon and Anna. This too is stressed with insistence: three times, in the case of Simeon, it refers to the Holy Spirit (cf. vv. 25, 26, 27) and it concludes with Anna the prophetess, who was inspired to give thanks to God (cf. v. 38). Two young people run to the temple, called by the law; two elderly people moved by the Spirit. What does this twofold call, by the law and by the Spirit, mean for our spiritual life and our consecrated life? It means that we are all called to a twofold obedience: to the law – in the sense of what gives order to our lives – and to the Spirit, who does new things in our lives. And so the encounter with the Lord is born: the Spirit reveals the Lord, but to welcome him we need to persevere every day. Even the greatest charisms, if lacking an ordered life, cannot bear fruit. On the other hand, even the best rules are not sufficient without the freshness of the Spirit: the law and the Spirit go together.

To better understand this call, seen today in the temple in the first days of Jesus' life, we should move to the first days of his public ministry, at Cana, where he transforms water into wine. There too there is a call to obedience, with Mary, who says: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5). Do whatever. And Jesus asks for something particular; he does not suddenly do something new, does not produce the missing wine out of nothing – he could have done so – but he asks for something concrete and demanding. He asks them to fill six great stone water jars for the ritual purification, which recalls the law. That means pouring around six hundred litres of water from the well: time and effort, which seemed pointless, because what was missing was not water but wine! And yet, precisely from those jars filled "up to the brim" (v. 7), Jesus draws forth new wine. And so it is for us: God calls us to encounter him through faithfulness to concrete things – God is always encountered in concrete things: daily prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, real charity, the daily word of God, closeness, especially to those most in need spiritually or physically. Concrete things, such as obedience to one's superior and to the rule in the consecrated life. If we put this law into practice with love – with love! – then the Spirit will come and bring God's surprise, just as in the temple and at Cana. Thus the water of daily life is transformed into the wine of newness, and our life, which seems to be more bound, in reality becomes more free. This reminds me now of a humble sister who really had the charism of being close to priests and seminarians. The other day the cause for her beatification was introduced here in the Diocese [of Rome]. She was a simple sister, not well known, but she had the virtue of obedience, of faithfulness and of not being afraid of new things. We ask the Lord, through the intercession of Sister Bernardetta, to give all of us the grace to walk on this path.

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.

Urgent! Questionnaire on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

Archbishop Miller urges Catholics to share views in euthanasia survey

The public consultation was launched by the government Jan. 13 and is primarily being conducted through an **online public survey at justice.gc.ca/eng/cons/ad-am**. Canadians can give their views on the laws applying to state-sanctioned suicide by the **end of day Jan. 27**. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2018 called for a national consultation on assisted suicide and urged the government to keep euthanasia out of any provision of palliative care.

The Superior Court of Québec ruled that it was unconstitutional to limit access to MAID to people nearing end of life. The Court's ruling will come into effect on March 11th, 2020.

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

Did you know?

Marriage is a vocation; it is the vocation to which the vast majority of people are called. It has two clear purposes or, as the Catechism says, a "twofold end...: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life" (n. 2363). It is a call both to faithful love and to fruitful love.

1. The **first** purpose is that spouses grow together in goodness, and in that openness to goodness which prepares them for heaven. This means specifically that they are meant to grow in loving God (the first commandment) by means of growing in love for each other throughout their lifetime.

2. The **second** purpose is that they carry on God's loving work of creation. In other words that, as co-creators with God, they bring children into the world and rear them in the setting of family love, so as to prepare them for a life that can lead to Heaven.

These essentially linked purposes are clearly indicated in the scriptural accounts of the creation of the sexes and of the institution of marriage.

Cormac Burke FAITH Magazine July – August 2011

Contact: Ben Hume bhume03@gmail.com

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.

Ministry Fair – Feb. 2nd

Interested in Volunteering at

St. Augustine's?

You are invited to stop by the Parish Hall following all Sunday Masses on February 2nd for our Ministry Fair. This is a chance to learn about the many Ministries that make up our faith community here at St. Augustine's. You will be able to speak directly with Ministry leaders and members who will be pleased to answer your questions.

Come and explore the myriad opportunities to serve and enjoy fellowship with other Parishioners.

**FOOD COLLECTION
FOR THE POOR**

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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



Pro-Life Mass & 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, Feb. 1, 8 a.m.** at **St. Augustine's Church**. For upcoming dates, visit

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

School News...

The School is Hosting their "Nineteenth Luncheon for all the Seniors of St. Augustine's Parish"

Venue – The School; **Date/Time** – Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 at **12:00 pm** **Cost** – No cost

As there is maximum seating, please RSVP – Feb. 3 to Geri Fujisawa at 604–738–1155 or gerifujii@telus.net

For those seniors that the transportation is too challenging, a request can be made for assistance with transportation when you RSVP. Some Parking will be available at the School.

Around the Archdiocese...

Who Am I Workshop

This two-weekend workshop will help you discover the richness within yourself, improve your relationships, increase your productivity and help you find greater solidarity in decision-making. Join us on Feb. 1-2 & Feb. 8-9 at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. Contact RCAF: 604 683-4288

Breathe: A Catholic Marriage Conference

Whether you're newly married or have been married for a few decades, this weekend will be a time to breathe life into various aspects of your marriage. You will also be given practical tools designed to help you build unity, rediscover joy, and experience peace in your marriage by stepping away from the busyness of life in order to recharge, refresh, and journey deeper into the sacrament. You'll hear life-giving messages and engaging stories that will inspire and spark something. Join us at Harrison Hot Springs Resort on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020. Early bird tickets are available until Tuesday, Dec. 31. Register online at catholicmarriageandfamily.com

Feast of St. Bakhita: Prayer & Awareness Against Human Trafficking

Saturday, Feb. 8 has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace as the annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. Pope Francis has called human trafficking a crime against humanity and has urged everyone to unite efforts to eliminate the crime and to free the victims. He states that human trafficking is getting more aggressive, threatening not only individuals but the foundational values of our society.

Volunteer Opportunities, Archdiocese of Vancouver

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is accepting applications for volunteer opportunities in the following areas: Administrative Support, Program Support, and Events Support. To apply, please complete our Volunteer Information Form at rcav.org/employment

Bringing Scripture to Life in Today's World

Fr. Jim Nesbit returns on March 20th to St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Centre at 3150 Ash Street Vancouver, presenting The First Book of Kings. Advance registration required. See the poster on the Bulletin board or this link for more information:

<http://biblestudies4.wixsite.com/biblecentre/registration>

Oblate Corner

Conversion in Mexico

In 1821 Mexico shook off the yoke of Spain and reclaimed its independence, setting itself up as a republic. But for about forty years it was troubled with rivalries that frequently degenerated into all sorts of crimes. The Oblates, in Brownsville Texas since 1849, were on the left bank of the Rio Grande River, but it was very difficult for them to set a foot in Mexico. In 1859 the Oblates Pierre Parisot and Rigomer Olivier were able to give a first mission in Cruillas, thus slightly arousing the poor inhabitants of an area where ignorance was the condition of the majority. One year later, at the request of the Bishop of Monterrey, Fathers Olivier and Sivy settled in Victoria, capital of the Province of Tamaulipas, 500 kilometers south of Brownsville. In 1863 the Oblates took charge of a Marian sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of Refuge. However in 1866 a new wave of persecutions forced them to return to Texas. It was only in 1902 that the Oblates could return to Puebla where they looked after the local college and served two parishes near Mexico City. Once again, for a third time, religious persecution forced them to leave. Finally in 1942 a permanent residence could be established. As of 1998 we find a vice-province in Mexico, counting about 40 Oblates.

The Miraculous Medal



In 1866, during the persecution, a Spanish lad who had been fighting with the Texan army became a prisoner and was incarcerated at Matamoros, Mexico. Since the young man was condemned to death, and he stubbornly refused the intervention of the regular military chaplain, an appeal was made to the Oblates to try to persuade him. Father Joseph-Marie Clos engaged him in conversation. All arguments seemed futile, so the priest ended up saying: "My friend, I intend to stay as your companion all night. Now that everyone else has abandoned you, it may be comforting to note that at least the minister of Jesus Christ still loves you!" Little by little the Oblate brought up the subject of Confession. It was to no avail. He wouldn't hear a thing about religion. Before leaving for his supper the priest asked him if he would accept a small medal of the Blessed

Virgin. He immediately answered: "With that, no problem". And he even put it around his neck by himself.

While the priest was away, the thoughts that had been shared by the Oblate, and even more the strong influence of the Miraculous Medal, had their effect on this poor young man. He lost some of his pride. This allowed the priest to approach him with more warmth. Finally, the prisoner could hold back no longer. He fell on his knees and acknowledged all the faults that had been troubling his conscience for many years. At about one in the morning he received Holy Communion in the best of dispositions. Three hours later, he was led to his death penalty. "As we were proceeding" remembered the priest, "I asked him if he loved the Blessed Virgin". "How could I not love her?" he responded, "She is my only hope." These words, uttered with Faith in such circumstances were, beyond any doubt, sincere. His last words began with the gentle name of Mary: "Holy Mary, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

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

PASTORAL CARE OF 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