



God's Law

The reading from the Book of Sirach and the psalm which follows it present God's law not as a legal system but as a way of wisdom.

The second part of the reading offers greater comfort to any who seek God's will. In the midst of extolling God's wisdom and power it assures us that God understands the human heart.

In the second reading St. Paul is sincere in calling Corinthians mature enough to appreciate divine wisdom. They would not be members of this community if they did not have some understanding of God's ways. Paul describes the wisdom at the heart of Christianity incomprehensible to the "rulers of this age," and something that the community grasps as a mystery.

Jesus' teaching about human relations describes the interactions that characterize the kingdom of heaven. As in the earlier part of this discourse, these are wisdom sayings. They present a design for living with specific examples that can be applied to other situations as well. What underlines the whole is a profoundly reverential approach to relationships.

Liturgical celebrations:

Saturday – Chair of St. Peter (feast)

Early Roman Christians celebrated on this day a feast in honor of their departed loved ones, including their predecessors in the faith, Peter and Paul. In the 4th century, when the feast of these two saints was moved to June 29th, the emphasis of this day shifted to celebrating Peter and successors as bishops of Rome, and expressing gratitude for their service.

To celebrate the 'Chair' of Peter means giving it a strong spiritual significance and recognizing therein a privileged sign of the love of God.

Popes Prayer Intention for February

Universal: *Listen to the Migrants' Cries*—We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

This Week

Monday, February 17 - Family Day – Office Closed

10:00am Mass +Bridget Finnie

Tuesday, February 18

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass +Sister Margaret Fujisawa, S.A.
6:00pm Event First Reconciliation—Grade II Mass
7:00pm Meeting Knights of Columbus Executive
7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, February 19

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Thursday, February 20

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
7:00pm Mass
7:45pm Event Taizé Prayer

Friday, February 21

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots Play Group
10:15am Meeting Circle of Friends/Lectio Divina
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Event Motet Concert

Saturday, February 22

8:00am Mass
11:00am Funeral Harold Christian Knutson
3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm Mass
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance

Sunday, February 23

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
9:00am Mass
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
11:00am Mass
RCIA Presentation of Candidates
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
Lector Training
+Henrik Moberg-Parker
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
12:15 Meeting
5:00pm Mass

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday Envelopes: \$8,193.00

Loose: \$648.20

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Kayley Madison Chan
Alexis Brittany Chan
Alicia Ya Shin Lee
Kaiser Yan Ting Lee

REST IN PEACE

Anne Elizabeth McEvoy

Pope's Message

The two of them alone remained: mercy with misery" (*In Joh 33, 5*). In this way Saint Augustine sums up the end of the Gospel we have just heard. Those who came to cast stones at the woman or to accuse Jesus with regard to the Law have gone away, having lost interest. Jesus, however, remains. He remains because what is

of value in his eyes has remained: that woman, that person. For him, the sinner comes before the sin. I, you, each one of us come first in the heart of God: before mistakes, rules, judgements and our failures. Let us ask for the grace of a gaze like that of Jesus, let us ask to have the Christian perspective on life. Let us look with love upon the sinner before his or her sin; upon the one going astray before his or her error; upon the person before his or her history.

"The two of them alone remained: mercy with misery". The woman caught in adultery does not represent for Jesus a paragraph of the Law, but instead a concrete situation in which he gets involved. Thus he remains there with the woman, for the most part standing in silence. Meanwhile, he twice performs a mysterious gesture: he writes with his finger on the ground (*Jn 8:6, 8*). We do not know what he wrote and perhaps that is not the most important element: the attention of the Gospel focuses on the fact that the Lord writes. We think of the episode at Sinai when God wrote the tablets of the Law *with his finger* (*cf. Ex 31:18*), just as Jesus does now. Later, God, through the prophets, promised that he would no longer write on tablets of stone, but directly on the heart (*cf. Jer 31:33*), on the tablets of the flesh of our hearts (*cf. 2 Cor 3:3*). With Jesus, the mercy of God incarnate, the time has come when God writes on the hearts of men and women, when he gives a sure hope to human misery: giving not so much external laws which often keep God and humanity at a distance, but rather the law of the Spirit which enters into the heart and sets it free. It happens this way for the woman, who encounters Jesus and resumes her life: she goes off to sin no more (*cf. Jn 8:11*). It is Jesus who, with the power of the Holy Spirit, frees us from the evil we have within us, from the sin which the Law could impede but not remove.

All the same, evil is strong, it has a seductive power: it attracts and fascinates. Our own efforts are not enough to detach ourselves from it: we need a greater love. Without God, we cannot overcome evil. Only his love raises us up from within, only his tender love poured out into our hearts makes us free. If we want to be free from evil, we have to make room for the Lord who forgives and heals. He accomplishes this above all through the sacrament we are about to celebrate. Confession is the passage from misery to mercy; it is God's writing upon the heart. There – in our hearts – we constantly read that we are precious in the eyes of God, that he is our Father and that he loves us even more than we love ourselves.

"The two of them alone remained: mercy with misery". Those two, alone. How many times do we feel alone, that we have lost our way in life. How many times do we no longer know how to begin again, overwhelmed by the effort to accept ourselves. We need to start over, but we don't know where to begin. Christians are born from the forgiveness they receive in Baptism. They are always reborn from the same place: from the surprising forgiveness of God, from his mercy which restores us. Only by being forgiven can we set out again with fresh confidence, after having experienced the joy of being loved by the Father to the full. Only through God's forgiveness do truly new things happen within us. Let us hear again words the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing" (*Is 43:19*). Forgiveness gives us a new beginning, makes us new creatures, helps us take hold of a new life. God's forgiveness is not a photocopy which is identically reproduced in every passage through the confessional. Receiving pardon for our sins through a priest is always a new, distinctive and unique experience. We pass from being alone with our miseries and accusers, like the woman in the Gospel, to being raised up and encouraged by the Lord who grants us a new start.

"The two of them alone remained: mercy with misery". What do we need to do to come to love mercy, to overcome the fear of Confession? Let us accept once more the invitation of Isaiah: "Do you not perceive it?" (*Is 43:19*). It is important to perceive God's forgiveness. It would be beautiful, after Confession, to remain like that woman, our eyes fixed on Jesus who has just set us free: no longer looking at our miseries, but rather at his mercy. To look at the Crucified One and say with amazement: "That's where my sins ended up. You took them upon yourself. You didn't point your finger at me; instead, you opened your arms and forgave me once again". It is important to be mindful of God's forgiveness, to remember his tender love, and taste again and again the peace and freedom we have experienced. For this is the heart of Confession: not the sins we declare, but the divine love we receive, of which we are ever in need. We may still have a doubt: "Confessing is useless, I am always committing the same sins". The Lord knows us, however; he knows that the interior struggle is difficult, that we are weak and inclined to fall, that we often relapse into doing what is wrong. So he proposes that we begin to relapse into goodness, into asking for mercy. He will raise us up and make us new creatures. Let us start over, then, from Confession, let us restore to this sacrament the place it deserves in life and pastoral ministry!

"The two of them alone remained: mercy with misery". Today, in Confession, we too draw life from this saving encounter: we with our miseries and sins, and the Lord who knows us, loves us and frees us from evil. Let us enter into this encounter, asking for the grace to rediscover its saving power.

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.

Nominations for Parish Pastoral Council

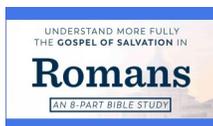
Nomination forms for upcoming Parish Pastoral Council elections will be available at the back of the Church from Saturday February 15th to Sunday evening February 23rd. The Elections will take place the weekend of February 29th and March 1st. To be eligible for election potential candidates must be registered and active parishioners of St. Augustine's Parish and agree to be nominated.

Ash Wednesday Palms



We will be collecting last year's palms until Sunday February 23rd. Palms from last year may be placed in the basket in the Church foyer. In the Catholic tradition, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are remnants of the palm leaves distributed from the prior year on Palm Sunday. Catholics keep

the palm leaves throughout the year and return them to the Church before Ash Wednesday of the next year. The leaves are then turned into ashes for use in the Ash Wednesday services. During the service, the parishioners proceed to the front of the Church and the ashes are placed on each person's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes are not to be washed off but are to remain on the forehead throughout the day of Ash Wednesday.



Bible Study begins March 10th at St. Augustines

Join St. Augustine's Adult Faith Group to study St. Paul's letter to the Romans. In this 8 session study we will learn that salvation is

not merely the removal of a guilty verdict; it is about entering into Christ's life, death, and resurrection and sharing in his divine life. In Jesus Christ all the hopes and expectations of Israel are fulfilled, leading to the universal ("catholic") family of God. We invite you to join us in the parish hall on Tuesday evenings 7:30-9 PM starting March 10. Cost of \$40 for study guide (financial assistance available). Registration is required - email biblestudies@staugustineschurch.ca

We hope you will join us!



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.

Senior's Lenten Retreat

We are offering a morning retreat for our Senior's on FRIDAY, MARCH 13 from 11:00 – 2:00 at the Parish Centre.

The focus of the Retreat will be on prayer, a video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron, group discussion and a simple soup and bun lunch.

All seniors are welcome – please register through email to

Cathie Oberndorf -coberndorf@shaw.ca or call 604 488 4151

School News...



Pass the Torch Gala Tickets on Sale!

Le Gala en Blanc, the annual Pass the Torch Gala for St. Augustine's School, will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 at the Hellenic Centre. It will be a magical evening of celebration, friendship, food and dancing with net proceeds going towards finishing our beautiful school.

Parishioners of St. Augustine's Church have been so generous, and their support and prayers have been integral in getting our school to where it is today. For this reason, we have reserved 50 tickets **exclusively** for Non-School Parishioners. These tickets may be purchased between February 15th -23rd. School families (as well as all Parishioners) will be eligible to purchase their tickets from February 24th onwards.

Parent volunteers will be available after masses on **February 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd** to assist Non-School Parishioners with the online ticketing process as needed. The ticketing website is: www.passthetorchgala.com.

We hope to see many of you on April 25th dressed in your most elegant white attire!

Around the Archdiocese...

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP in the ancient Benedictine tradition as taught by Fr. John Main & Fr. Lawrence Freeman. We meet Tuesday evenings@7:30pm. For more information or to come & see call Maryann @ 778-887-5701, or mlyshug@gmail.com.

The Book of Esther – Christian & Jewish Perspectives

Join us for a multifaceted discussion on the Book of Esther from both Christian and Jewish Perspectives. Persian Feast Buffet followed by an expert panel discussion. takes place Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m at Congregation Beth Israel in Vancouver. The event is organized by the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Jewish Congregation Beth Israel for an exploration of the Book of Esther.

2020 Homeless Count



The 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver will take place on the night of Tuesday, March 3 and throughout the day on Wednesday, March 5. Governments, funders and community agencies rely on data from homeless counts to help make informed policy and program decisions. As in previous years, the goals of the 2020 Homeless Count are to obtain a reliable estimate on the number

of people experiencing homelessness, to obtain a demographic profile of those individuals through the count survey, and to identify long-term data trends of homelessness in the region.

We need your help! We are now accepting applications to volunteer for the 2020 Homeless Count. The count is only made possible through the help of volunteers. Over 1200 volunteers participated in the last Metro Vancouver-wide count in 2017, and we need your support to make the 2020 count a success.

If you would like to volunteer in any of the communities participating in the count, please fill in this volunteer application form at

www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/initiatives/2020-homeless-count

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



Buried Alive

The Cordillera of the Andes are to Chile what the Rockies are to Canada. These two perpetually snow-covered mountain chains are spectacular to behold, but at times they can be dangerous because of the sudden and frequent avalanches. A group of Oblates experienced this in July, 1963.

A vacation trip

Taking advantage of a winter vacation, a group of students left Santiago for a snow trip to the Andes Cordillera, about 60 kilometers from the capital. After three days of inclement weather, between snow and rain, the six jolly

companions were returning by station wagon around nine o'clock in the evening. Shortly before they reached the town of Volcan, a bank of snow made the road impassable. To drive around this obstacle the driver swerved to the right and headed straight for a nearby ravine. Luckily, they came to a stop right at the edge. Apart from a few contusions, their main injury at the moment was fright. Four of them left on foot to seek help at the nearby village. The two others, Father Joseph Massé, and scholastic brother Roch Gendron, sat quietly in the station wagon, awaiting their return.

Suddenly, they heard a distant rumble, like a peal of thunder. An avalanche was forming on the mountain. It was absolutely dark, they could see nothing. The noise comes closer, louder, and becomes threatening. The wagon is shaken violently. The top and one side are crushed. In less time than it takes to write about it the two confreres are buried under tons of snow.

Between life and death

A sepulchral silence enveloped them. They were in the full grasp of anxiety. Will they emerge from this alive? The question came to their minds. Not losing a moment, they got to work. They broke a window, and with a shovel attempted to clear a vertical chimney. At the same time snow was finding its way into the station wagon, and began to fill it rapidly. They kept digging, through at least two meters. But that snow! Always more snow! They began to think that nothing could be done. Stopping momentarily, they started to face the prospect of a Christian death. They fervently recited a few prayers, recommending themselves especially to the Blessed Virgin. Would she hear them? No doubt she did, for she inspired them to return to their labors. During fifteen more minutes of feverish shoveling they were hovering between feelings of confidence and discouragement. Will they ever get out?

Free at last

Yes! The shovel finally pierced through to the surface. Fresh air rushed inside. A spontaneous shout rose from their lungs: "Saved... We are saved! Thank You God! Thank you, dear Holy Mary!" As soon as they emerged from their glacial tomb, they were stunned to discover that over three meters of snow now covered their station wagon. They had never been that close to death. We can easily imagine their exuberance at the return of their four companions. The following day, at Saint Pius X Scholasticate, in Santiago, the whole Oblate community gathered to sing a Mass of Thanksgiving.

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