



March 1st 2020
First Sunday of Lent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

Paradise lost and found again



In the First Reading we have the story of the tempting of Adam and Eve, and the Gospel the story of the tempting of Jesus. They are two very sophisticated stories, and are not meant to be taken literally. Jesus is the new Adam, who by his obedience restores for us the gifts lost by the

disobedience of the first Adam. He is also the new Israel. Like the first Israel he too was tested in the desert. But whereas the first Israel was found wanting, Jesus remained faithful to God.

Lent



"Lent" is an Old English word that means "length," referencing the lengthening of daylight hours for the coming spring. The name is of stark contrast to the Latin name for Lent, "Quadragesima," which means "fortieth."

Lent is traditionally described as lasting 40 fasting days and commemorates the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert prior to beginning his public ministry. While in the desert, Jesus endured temptation by Satan. The story is told in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The number "40" occurs many times in the Bible, including the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God, the 40 days and nights of rain in the great flood survived by Noah, the 40 years of wandering by the Hebrew people in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land, and many more.

Lent is viewed as a time of introspection and prayer to bring oneself nearer to God.

Popes Prayer Intention for March

Evangelization: Catholics in China—We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

This Week

Monday, March 2

6:30pm Meeting Catholic Women's League Executive
7:00pm Mass Int Gerald MacLellan & Gina Lush

Tuesday, March 3

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
8:00am Mass +Mario Vit
7:00pm Mass +Sivi Elena Robredo de Velasco

Wednesday, March 4

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
7:00pm Meeting +Henrik Moberg-Parker
7:00pm Meeting Parish Pastoral Council
7:30pm Mass Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Thursday, March 5

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
6:45pm Meeting Baptismal Preparation Course
7:00pm Mass

Friday, March 6

8:00am Mass Private Intentions
10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots Play Group
10:15am Meeting Circle of Friends/Lectio Divina Prayer Group
7:00pm Mass +Maria Esperanza Legara
7:30pm Event Stations of the Cross

First Friday Adoration

Saturday, March 7

8:00am Mass +S.H. Ong
3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm Mass +Murray Stanley

Sunday, March 8

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
9:00am Mass +Maria Perotta
11:00am Mass
5:00pm Mass



Pope's Message



We begin the Lenten Season by receiving ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return (cf. Gen 3:19). The dust sprinkled on our heads brings us back to earth; it reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are weak, frail and mortal. Centuries and millennia pass and we come and go; before the immensity of

galaxies and space, we are nothing. We are dust in the universe. Yet we are *dust loved by God*. It pleased the Lord to gather that dust in his hands and to breathe into it the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7). We are thus a dust that is precious, destined for eternal life. We are the dust of the earth, upon which God has poured out his heaven, the dust that contains his dreams. We are God's hope, his treasure and his glory.

Ashes are thus a reminder of the direction of our existence: a passage *from dust to life*. We are dust, earth, clay, but if we allow ourselves to be shaped by the hands of God, we become something wondrous. More often than not, though, especially at times of difficulty and loneliness, we only see our dust! But the Lord encourages us: in his eyes, our littleness is of infinite value. So let us take heart: we were born to be loved; we were born to be children of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, may we keep this in mind as we begin this Lenten season. For Lent is not a time for useless sermons, but for recognizing that our lowly ashes are loved by God. It is a time of grace, a time for letting God gaze upon us with love and in this way *change our lives*. We were put in this world to go from ashes to life. So let us not turn our hopes and God's dream for us into powder and ashes. Let us not grow resigned. You may ask: "How can I trust? The world is falling to pieces, fear is growing, there is so much malice all around us, society is becoming less and less Christian..." Don't you believe that God can transform our dust into glory?

The ashes we receive on our foreheads should affect the thoughts passing through our minds. They remind us that, as God's children, we cannot spend our lives chasing after dust. From there a question can pass into our hearts: "What am I living for?" If it is for the fleeting realities of this world, I am going back to ashes and dust, rejecting what God has done in my life. If I live only to earn money, to have a good time, to gain a bit of prestige or a promotion in my work, I am living for dust. If I am unhappy with life because I think I do not get enough respect or receive what I think is my due, then I am simply staring at dust.

That is not why we have been put in this world. We are worth so much more. We live for so much more, for we are meant to make God's dream a reality and to love. Ashes are sprinkled on our heads so that the fire of love can be kindled in our hearts. We are citizens of heaven, and our love for God and neighbour is our passport to heaven. Our earthly possessions will prove useless, dust that scatters, but the love we share – in our families, at work, in the Church and in the world – will save us, for it will endure forever.

The ashes we receive remind us of a second and opposite passage: *from life to dust*. All around us, we see the dust of death. Lives reduced to ashes. Rubble, destruction, war. The lives of unwelcomed innocents, the lives of the excluded poor, the lives of the abandoned elderly. We continue to destroy ourselves, to return to ashes and dust. And how much dust there is in our relationships! Look at our homes and families: our quarrels, our inability to resolve conflicts, our unwillingness to apologize, to forgive, to start over, while at the same time insisting on our own freedom and our rights! All this dust that besmirches our love and mars our life. Even in the Church, the house of God, we have let so much dust collect, the dust of worldliness.

Let us look inside, into our hearts: how many times do we extinguish the fire of God with the ashes of hypocrisy! *Hypocrisy* is the filth that Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that we have to remove. Indeed, the Lord tells us not only to carry out works of charity, to pray and to fast, but also to do these without pretense, duplicity and hypocrisy (cf. Mt 6:2.5.16). Yet how often do we do things only to be recognized, to look good, to satisfy our ego! How often do we profess to be Christians, yet in our hearts readily yield to passions that enslave us! How often do we preach one thing and practice another! How many times do we make ourselves look good on the outside while nursing grudges within! How much duplicity do we have in our hearts... All this is dust that besmirches, ashes that extinguish the fire of love.

We need to be cleansed of all the dust that has sullied our hearts. How? The urgent summons of Saint Paul in today's second reading can help us. Paul says: "Be reconciled to God!" He does not simply ask; he begs: "We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20). We would have said: "Reconcile yourselves with God!" But no, Paul uses passive form: *Be reconciled!* Holiness is not achieved by our efforts, for it is grace! By ourselves, we cannot remove the dust that sullies our hearts. Only Jesus, who knows and loves our heart, can heal it. Lent is a time of healing.

Let us allow ourselves to be loved, so that we can give love in return. Let us allow ourselves to stand up and walk towards Easter. Then we will experience the joy of discovering how God raises us up from our ashes.

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.

Refugee Update—Gatare family

Our refugee family is grateful for your continued support and prayers, and for the safety and comfort of their new home in North Surrey. In the last two months they have accomplished a lot: a budget has been created; Permanent Residency cards obtained, bus passes purchased and well used, resumés updated, BC medical applied for, skills training underway, interviews attended and some work experience gained.

The youngest Gatare is enrolled in a local Catholic high school; outings to both parishes and visits to some touristy places. There have been trips to the hospital (yes a broken bone already), the dentist (and more treatment needed) and also a walk-in clinic. The parents will need English language assessment soon but lessons may not start for quite some time, as there is a long wait-list.

The family does not need any more clothing or furniture. If there is a need in the future it will be for something specific and we'll let you know.

There have also been some setbacks: skills or course work not as easily transferable as the family had hoped, travelling distance to possible work has been very long and language/cultural hurdles are still very real. But there is optimism for sure.

How can you help? Please contact Marian Mc Dermott at mmcd5448@yahoo.ca if you can help in any of the following areas.

Employment: if anyone knows of employers who would be willing to train/hire some young, hard working people who just need to get a foot in the door (ideally in the Surrey area), please call or email us.

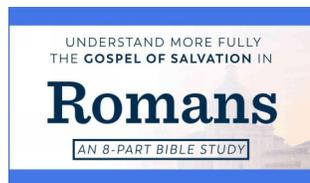
Dentist or Doctors: in Surrey willing to take on refugees - please let us know

ESL lessons: we need this soon and in Surrey.

Event Tickets: If anyone has access to soccer, hockey games or even performances or experiences I'm sure some members of the family would appreciate a night out.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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 eight sessions. 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!

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



This Share Lent, let's stand in solidarity with the defenders of the Earth



This year, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is encouraging us to support all those in the Amazon and the Global South who are caring for God's creation. How can we help?

Read Development and Peace's Share Lent literature and **watch** the videos to learn about and hear from the guardians of the Earth.

Donate online at devp.org/give or give during the Solidarity Sunday collection on March 29th, the 5th Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 149 projects in 36 countries around the world!

For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact Eileen at socialjustice@staugustineschurch.ca.

Oblate Event at St. Augustine's



On Saturday, March 21, from 9 am -12 noon, St. Augustine's Parish will host a morning of discussion and dialogue with Joe Gunn, Director of the **Centre Oblat – A Voice for Justice**, located in St. Paul University in Ottawa. Under discussion will be such topics as to why the Oblates want their new Centre to focus on poverty in Canada, ecological justice, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and just practices in Canadian extractive industries overseas.

The call to do justice is described by Joe Gunn as his life's "vocation." He has led social justice ministries for a Catholic Archdiocese in western Canada, religious congregations of both men and women, the ecumenical charity Citizens for Public Justice, as well as served for 11 years as Director of the Office of Social Affairs for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. For seven years, Joe lived and worked in Central America with refugees and in development projects. Joe is currently director of the **Centre Oblat – A Voice for Justice**, located at St. Paul University in Ottawa.



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.

Parent volunteers will be available after masses on **February 23rd** to assist Non-School Parishioners with the online ticketing process as needed. The ticketing website is: www.passthethorchgala.com.

Oblate Corner



Father Charles and "Le Droit"

On March 27, 1913, a new French language newspaper appeared in Ottawa: *Le Droit*. The four thin and badly printed pages provoked the laughter of some and excitement for others. At this moment the Franco-Ontarians were facing a crucial danger for their language. The notorious Statute XVII, passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1912, contained nothing else but the death knell of the French language for some 200,000 pioneers of that province. We can judge from these articles: 1. French cannot be taught in the classroom; 2. Teachers are forbidden to communicate with their students in that language; 3. All the inspectors are accountable to English speaking inspectors. This unusual law dealt with punishment, fines and prison for transgressors.

Awakening of the French-Canadian pride

Banding together as the "Association d'Education d'Ontario", right-minded professionals, well-informed officials like Samuel Genest, Napoleon Belcourt, Aurelien Belanger, and with them most of the pastors in the Province, the Oblates, the Dominicans, along with hundreds of other "patriotes", were all stimulated and inspired by Father Charles Charlebois, OMI, the soul of this movement. They decided to start a newspaper so as to safeguard their language. Father Arthur Joyal, OMI provided the name: *Le Droit*. A motto was chosen: *L'avenir est à ceux qui luttent* (The future belongs to the fighters). Day after day well documented articles appeared, responding to Prime Minister Ferguson, for whom bilingualism would constitute "a national outrage that could unsettle the foundations of the Dominion. One flag, one language."

A providential intervention

Until the perverted statute was suppressed, on September 22, 1927, the intervention of Divine Providence had often been needed to refill the coffers of this poor daily paper. The early workers recall with emotion what they have named "the miracle of Le Droit". On a very troubled day, when the process-server, watch in hand, was preparing to announce that the newspaper would be taken over and closed at precisely five o'clock unless he received the \$5000 that was owed, someone told Father that an unknown old man desired to speak to him. Visibly upset, Father Charles responded rather coldly: "All right, let him in, but he'd better be brief." Unfortunately men of that age are never brief. The man entered, slowly removed his mittens, and arrived at his topic by a thousand detours:

"You see, Father, we had the intention of building ourselves a porch. We live in the village, and for old folks like ourselves, sitting in rocking chairs on the porch and watching the cars to by is a pleasant distraction is it not?"

"Well, my dear man, build your porch, I have no objection. Is that what you wanted to tell me?"

"Yes, and no" responded the good man. "That isn't the end of my story. Last week I went on a closed retreat. I heard Father Rodrigue Villeneuve's beautiful conference on Catholic activities. So I spoke of this with my good woman and we changed our mind. Father helped us to understand that we Catholics should invest our money in good works. When I spoke to him about my concern, he gave me your address."

Father Charles responded: "We accept investments"

"As far as I'm concerned, so long as you pay me the interest until I die, I'd just as soon give you the capital."

"And how much do you have?"

"\$3,000. If you would like to, we can get this over with right now. I have all the money with me; here, count it."

"Wait," said Father Charles, full of emotion. "Let me get on my knees to receive this money. It falls directly from heaven."

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.	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner <input type="checkbox"/> Need Envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 221 604.736.4455 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