

March 8th 2020  
Second Sunday of Lent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

### The Transfiguration



Like the story of Jesus' baptism, the transfiguration is an epiphany story. Both stories are manifestations of Jesus as he is, or as he will be. In both there is a voice, and the voice says the same words. A mountain is a place of divine manifestation. The cloud is a sign of the presence of God. Moses and Elijah stand for the Law and the Prophets.

It is no longer possible to say what happened on the mountain. Was it a vision? Was it a profound religious

experience? There has been a tendency to see the Transfiguration simply as a stage in the education of the apostles. But its first and chief significance was for Jesus himself. It was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken.

But of course it also benefited the apostles. And it's this that Matthew emphasises. In the transfigured Jesus they got a glimpse of the glory of the risen Lord. Even so, they would not understand until Jesus had risen from the dead.

In the first reading we see the obedience of Abraham, obedience which blessings to many. It also points to the obedience of Jesus and to the blessings that would flow to the world as a result.



### Penitential Service

The Lenten Penitential Service at St. Augustine's Church will be held on Friday April 3rd at 7:00pm.

### Anniversary of the election of Pope Francis

On 13 March 2020, his Holiness Pope Francis will mark the 7th anniversary of his election by the papal conclave as Bishop of Rome and leader of the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis is the 266th Pope and replaced Pope Benedict XVI who had been pope since 2005 but had unexpectedly resigned on 28 February 2013.

### 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 9

7:00pm Mass +Carol Sweeney

### Tuesday, March 10

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group  
8:00am Mass Private Intentions  
10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Women's Craft Group  
7:00pm Mass +Siobhan Davids  
7:30pm Meeting Bible Study Group

### Wednesday, March 11

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

### Thursday, March 12

8:00am Mass Private Intentions  
7:00pm Mass +Dayna Bisanz

### Friday, March 13

8:00am Mass Private Intentions  
9:00am Event Senior's Lenten Retreat  
9:15am Mass St. Augustine's School-Spring Break begins  
7:00pm Mass  
7:30pm Event Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 14

8:00am Mass Private Intentions  
3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium  
**5:00pm Mass** +Anne McEvoy  
Food collection

### Sunday, March 15

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary  
**9:00am Mass**  
Food collection  
10:00am Meeting Catholic Women's League  
**11:00am Mass** First Scrutiny—RCIA  
Food collection  
**5:00pm Mass** +Toshio Sato  
Food collection



### OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday Envelopes: \$8,990.00

Loose: \$550.85



### Pope's Message



Three different groups were on board the ship that brought Saint Paul to Rome as a prisoner. The most powerful group was made up of soldiers under a centurion. Then there were the sailors, upon whom naturally everyone on board depended during the long voyage. Finally, there were the weakest and most vulnerable: the prisoners

When the ship ran aground off the coast of Malta, after having been at the mercy of a storm for several days, the soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to ensure that no one would escape, but they were stopped by the centurion who wanted to save Paul. Although he was among the most vulnerable, Paul offered something important to his traveling companions. While everyone was losing all hope of survival, the Apostle brought an unexpected message of hope. An angel had reassured him, saying to him: "Do not be afraid, Paul; God has granted safety to all those who sail with you" (*Acts 27:24*). Paul's trust proved to be well founded, and in the end all the travellers were saved. Once they landed at Malta, they experienced the hospitality, kindness and humanity of the island's inhabitants.

Dear brothers and sisters: this account from the Acts of the Apostles also speaks to our ecumenical journey towards that unity which God ardently desires. In the first place, it tells us that those who are weak and vulnerable, those who have little to offer materially but find their wealth in God, can present valuable messages for the good of all. Let us think of Christian communities: even the smallest and least significant in the eyes of the world, if they experience the Holy Spirit, if they are animated by love for God and neighbour, have a message to offer to the whole Christian family. Let us think of marginalized and persecuted Christian communities. As in the account of Paul's shipwreck, it is often the weakest who bring the most important message of salvation. This was what pleased God: to save us not with the power of this world, but with the weakness of the cross (*cf. 1 Cor 1:20-25*). As disciples of Jesus, we must be careful not to be attracted by worldly logic, but rather to listen to the small and the weak, because God loves to send his messages through those who most resemble his Son made man.

The account in Acts reminds us of a second aspect: God's priority is *the salvation of all*. As the angel said to Paul: "God has granted safety to all those who sail with you". Paul insists on this point. We too need to repeat it: it is our duty to put into effect the paramount desire of God who, as Paul himself writes, "desires everyone to be saved" (*1 Tim 2:4*). This is an invitation not to devote ourselves exclusively to our own communities, but to open ourselves to the good of all, to the universal gaze of God who took

flesh in order to embrace the whole human race and who died and rose for the salvation of all. If we, with his grace, can assimilate his way of seeing things, we can overcome our divisions. In Paul's shipwreck, each person

contributed to the salvation of all: the centurion made important decisions, the sailors put to use their knowledge and abilities, the Apostle encouraged those without hope. Among Christians as well, each community has a gift to offer to the others. The more we look beyond partisan interests and overcome the legacies of the past in the desire to move forward towards a common landing place, the more readily we will recognize, welcome and share these gifts.

We thus arrive at a third aspect that was at the centre of this Week of Prayer: *hospitality*. In the last chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Luke says, with regard to the inhabitants of Malta, "The natives showed us unusual kindness" (*v. 2*). The fire kindled on the shore to warm the shipwrecked travellers is a fine symbol of the human warmth that unexpectedly surrounded them. Even the governor of the island showed himself welcoming and hospitable to Paul, who repaid him by healing his father and later many other sick people (*cf. vv. 7-9*). Finally, when the Apostle and those with him departed for Italy, the Maltese generously resupplied them with provisions (*v. 10*).

From this Week of Prayer we want to learn to be more hospitable, in the first place among ourselves as Christians and among our brothers and sisters of different confessions. Hospitality belongs to the tradition of Christian communities and families. Our elders taught us this by their example: there was always something extra on the table of a Christian home for a passing friend or a person in need who knocked on the door. In monasteries a guest is treated with great respect, as if he or she were Christ. Let us not lose, indeed let us revive, these customs that have the flavour of the Gospel!

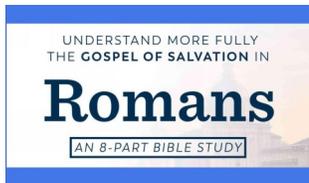
### St. Augustine's RCIA Rite of Election and Enrolment of Names - celebrated at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Sunday March 1st



### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:coberndorf@shaw.ca) or call 604 488 4151

### The Blessing of Easter Baskets: A Cherished Catholic Tradition



In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom.

The roots of this tradition date back to the 12th century early history.

The food included within any basket can be easily personalized to meet family needs and desires. However, the three-part blessing specifically addresses special prayers for the meats, eggs, cakes and breads.

Since Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians fast during Lent, none of the blessed food is eaten until after Mass on Easter Sunday. This then becomes the traditional Easter breakfast. Generally, each member of the family eats a sample of everything that is in the basket.

There will be a blessing of festive, Easter food at St. Augustine's Church on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

## FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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



### Share Lent—2020

#### Week 2: March 8 – International Women's Day



#### Yesica: a voice that reverberates from the Amazon to the Synod

Yesica Patiachi Tayori of the Peru's Harakbut Indigenous community was invited to the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region in October 2019. She said, *"We, the Indigenous peoples, have been, are and will always be the guardians of the forest. But caring for our common home is everyone's responsibility, not just that of Indigenous peoples."* Development and Peace's partner, the Amazonian Centre for

Anthropology and Practical Application (CAAAP), helps the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon ensure that their rights and territories are respected.

Watch Yesica's testimony at [devp.org/campaign/yesica](http://devp.org/campaign/yesica) and plan to come to the Solidarity Lunch on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Parish Centre. Tickets available after Masses in the Arcade.

### 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...

20TH ANNIVERSARY PASS THE TORCH EVENT



Saturday  
April 25, 2020  
5:30pm

# Le Gala en Blanc

FUNDRAISING DINNER





### 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The ticketing website is: [www.passthatorchgala.com](http://www.passthatorchgala.com).

## Oblate Corner



The mission of the Oblates has always been to come to the defense of society's poorest. Thus, in the last century we have seen Father Albert Lacombe take up the cause of the Amerindians of Western Canada against the white men who were invading their hunting grounds. Today, in South Africa, Oblate Bishop Denis Hurley remains on the side of the Blacks against the flagrant injustices of apartheid. In Ceylon, another Oblate, Father Victor Deslandes, once appeared in court to defend the rights of the Jaffna fishermen.

**A Friend of the fishermen**

Father Deslandes was born in France, in 1872. After his ordination to the priesthood as an Oblate, he was sent to Ceylon in 1903. This ardent missionary immediately revealed a talent for organization, which he willingly placed at the service of the pariahs in his mission at Iranaitivu. He always kept abreast of the most advanced fishing methods. This enabled him to improve the material conditions of his

fishermen considerably.

At that time there existed at Jaffna a society for the protection of animals, the S.P.A., which had many fanatical members, as can be found today in similar societies, who tended to be more concerned with the defense of animals than with the needs of humans! For their part, the fishermen did what they could to protect from the sun's heat the sea turtles which they captured. The sale of a single one of these large animals could provide enough to nourish an entire family for one month.

**A ridiculous trial**

Now, one morning the president and secretary of the above-mentioned society decided that it was time for action. They had seen, with their own eyes, the cruelty of the fishermen. Imagine! Sea turtles on their back, with belly up, beating their fins to show their pain. A sea turtle was taken and brought before the tribunal. Father Deslandes, as member of the fishermen's committee, was summoned to court. Upon entering the courtroom, he noticed a sea turtle on a table, resting on its back. The two gentlemen followed each other to the bar. The first one said: "This is evidence of the fishermen's cruelty." The second one continued: "See how much this unfortunate turtle is suffering." Then the judge addressed the Oblate: "Father, tell us, why do your sailors keep their sea turtles on their back?" The missionary replied: "It's very simple. Set them upright and they will die in the next hour. Lie them on their backs, and they could live for two or even three weeks." "Explain this to us" continued the judge

**An appropriate defense**

The priest then approached the table, and taking the turtle in his hands, began to give the judge and the witnesses a brief lesson in zoology. "I must remind you, gentlemen, that there exist notable differences between the sea turtle and the land turtle. The land turtle has legs and can hide its head within its shell. What you see here is a sea turtle. Look carefully. Instead of legs it has four fins, two larger ones in front and two smaller ones in back to serve as rudders. Moreover, it cannot retract its head within its house! Turn it on its belly, like this, it will attempt to drag itself along, and become exhausted. The joints of its fins become dislocated, and it falls on its lower chin. If it remains on its belly, it will soon become unable to breathe and it will expire. This would result in a considerable loss for the fishermen. What's to be done? Will these gentlemen from the S.P.A. cover the damages? No doubt our sea turtle would prefer resting on its back, like this..."

Once set on its back, the creature began by heaving a heavy sigh. It was now breathing with full lungs and happy. In gratitude it lets out... an aroma of precious perfume! The magistrate covered his nose with a flowery scented handkerchief. Some spectators did as much. The two robed prosecutors headed for the door, with no intention of returning. The sea turtle had won its case. The fishermen of Jaffna could now live in peace and sell their turtles without interference, even if the animals were kept on their backside.

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

**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