



March 15th 2020
 Third Sunday of Lent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

We are loved in our sins



In the first reading we see that people are loved in spite of ingratitude. God doesn't write his people off, but shows his love for them by providing water for them in the desert. In the second reading St. Paul says: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

In the Gospel we read about the encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. Jesus began talking to this woman from a position of weakness. He began with a request for a drink of water. In this way he disposed her to receive the gift he wanted to give her. He treated her with a great respect. No one ever paid such close attention to her before and before she realized it she shared with Jesus the whole story of her sad and confused life. She was a deeply wounded woman, wounded by a series of broken relationships, something that is becoming quite common today.

Christ meets us where we are. He says to us what he said to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Liturgical celebrations:

Thursday – St. Joseph (solemnity)

Joseph according to the Gospel accounts, was a carpenter and a descendant of King David. Art and popular imagination have portrayed him as old man, but this is likely false.

Embarrassed by Mary's pregnancy, Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary as his wife. Thoughts of rejecting her for infidelity vanished, he was faithful to his responsibility as her husband and foster father to Jesus.

Joseph was declared a patron of the universal Church in 1870, and is principal patron of Canada.

Penitential Service



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

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 16

7:00pm Mass +Josephine Vetro

Tuesday, March 17

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group
 8:00am Mass +James Curran
 7:00pm Mass +Natalie Anderson
 7:00pm Meeting Knights of Columbus Executive
 7:30pm Meeting Bible Study Group

Wednesday, March 18

8:00am Mass +Dinky Salazar
 7:00pm Meeting +Ranga Jayamanna
 7:30pm Mass Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Thursday, March 19

8:00am Mass +John & Tora Anderson
 7:00pm Mass +Fr. Joseph Sluga, OMI
 7:45pm Event Taizé Prayer

Friday, March 20

8:00am Mass Int Bridget Sullivan
 7:00pm Mass +Monique Napier
 7:30pm Event Stations of the Cross—led by the Vocations Ministry

Saturday, March 21

8:00am Mass Int Monika Poiron
 9:00am Event Joe Gunn - A Voice For Justice **CANCELLED**
 3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
 5:00pm **Mass** +Anne McEvoy

Sunday, March 22

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
 9:00am **Mass**
 11:00am **Mass** Second Scrutiny—RCIA
 5:00pm **Mass**

**OFFERTORY**

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday Envelopes: \$8,990.00

Loose: \$550.85



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.

Archbishop's Directive RE: Covid-19 Virus**Sunday Obligation**

Out of consideration for the well-being of others in the community, the elderly, anyone with an underlying health condition and those who feel even remotely unwell are excused from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. If you have access to television or the internet, those who remain at home may watch Mass.

Reception of Holy Communion

As a result of direct consultation with the Public Health Officer, the faithful are **strongly** recommended to receive Holy Communion only in the hand.

Those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue should come forward **after** all other communicants have received.

Sign of Peace

As is permitted by the Roman Missal the Sign of Peace will be omitted from the liturgical rite.

"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.

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.

UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY
THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION IN

Romans

AN 8-PART BIBLE STUDY

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. Cost of \$40 for study guide (financial assistance available).

Registration is required - email biblestudies@staugustineschurch.ca

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 3: March 15



The Mura: beset by buffaloes, plagued by potash

For several years now, the Mura people of Brazil's Amazonas state have sought to assert their claim to their ancestral lands. To their frustration however, it has been much easier for cattle herders and a potash mine to occupy and control those lands than it has been for them to have their rights respected. Development and Peace's partner, the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), helps them advocate for, defend and publicize their cause more effectively.

"On behalf of the Mura in my region, I want to thank Canadians. We are very happy to have your support. It helps us in our struggle to have our rights and our land respected." — Jeremias Oliveira, representative of the Mura community, Brazil

Watch the Mura's testimony at devp.org/campaign/mura and plan to come to the Solidarity Lunch on Sunday, March 29th at noon in the Parish Centre. Tickets available after Masses in the Arcade.

RCIA AND THE SCRUTINIES

Every year on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent the Church solemnly celebrates the scrutinies with the elect (catechumens) who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The gospel readings are all from the gospel of John. For the first Scrutiny, the gospel reading is the Samaritan woman at the well, the second scrutiny's gospel is the man born blind and the third scrutiny's gospel is the raising of Lazarus. Here at St. Augustine's these scrutinies are celebrated at the 11:00AM Mass. The purpose of these rites is 'self-searching and repentance'; they are intended 'to uncover', and then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.

In the foyer of the Church is our RCIA board with pictures of our elect and candidates. Please view it and pray for these individuals as they prepare for the Easter Vigil.

Around the Archdiocese...

PUT THE POWER OF FAITH INTO ACTION

For the month of March, we are inviting our all faith-based organizations to put **compassion into action** and be a part of *Canada's Lifeline*. We're inviting you to partner with us, so we can all support the community we live in.



Half of Canadians will either need blood or know someone who does.

Too busy in March? The need for blood is constant, please book for the following months.

"Whenever I receive blood I can't help but look up at the bag and think about the donors who made it possible. They saved my life!"

Donating blood is the most direct way you can help a hospital patient in need. Your support is appreciated. Thanks for spreading the word!

CWL sponsored YOUTH EXPLOITATION PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Thursday, MAR. 26 @ 7:30PM. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church - basement (2465 Crown Street)
Children of the Street will highlight stories and trends in (online) youth exploitation, clarify legal issues and identify avenues of support for families. All are welcome, especially parents and caregivers.

Oblate Corner



If you are over the age of fifty, you may remember a famous Oblate preacher, a great servant of Mary, who was fluent in French, but spoke with a slight foreign accent. Around 1945 he preached a "Month of Mary" that was very much appreciated in the parishes of Saint-Sauveur in Quebec, Saint-Pierre in Montreal as well as in the Cathedral of Saint-Jean. During a Novena in honor of the Assumption, at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, he enthralled thousands of pilgrims with his unctuous phrases and his Marian anecdotes. You may have recognized Father Rodolphe Smit, OMI?

Marian preacher

He was born in Holland, on October 2, 1892. He pursued his classical studies in Switzerland, and entered the Belgian Oblate Novitiate in 1911. After his perpetual vows, in 1915, he studied Theology in Rome. Ordained a priest in 1917, he was sent to Western Canada the following year. There, he began as professor at the Edmonton scholasticate, and later spent fifteen years ministering in the parishes of Saint-Albert and Saint-Joachim in Edmonton. In 1934 he became a member of the Franco-American Province of New England, in the United States, where he was a full time preacher of parish, priestly, and religious retreats. He traveled from East to West across the United States and Canada preaching week after week, and month after month, in French as well as in English, in German, as well as in Italian. Wherever he went, his enthusiasm was equal to the vividness of his preaching. He insisted mostly on devotion to the Blessed Virgin, in whom he had unwavering confidence. His long experience with the faithful and his countless travels provided him with a thousand reasons for displaying this trust in the One who is never invoked in vain.

A deadly accident

I still remember the beautiful Marian retreat that Father Smit preached to the Oblates, at Ville La Salle in 1944. At that time he shared with us an example of Mary's evident protection, when he himself had been the astonished witness. One day, when he was traveling west by train in Montana, a wheel broke down on the coach. The train had to be delayed for a few hours of repair. They were at an isolated station, where the train rarely stopped, except on signal. Father Smit then took advantage of these moments of respite to go out and stretch his legs on the platform. All of a sudden, a car appeared. A man opened the door and cried out to the surprised clergyman: "Are you a Catholic priest? Then come with me. There was a terrible accident near here". They hurried towards a nearby field where a few men were busy righting up a farm tractor that had just crushed a man under its weight.

A providential coincidence

Evidently, the poor victim was approaching death, but he could still speak. "Are you a priest?" he breathed painfully. "Do you speak German? Please, hear my confession for the love of God". Father Smit helped the dying man come to sorrow for his sins, and gave him absolution. To give him more confidence, the priest began to reflect: "Isn't this an extraordinary coincidence, my friend! How the train was immobilized at this remote place where, if I understood correctly, there is no priest within 50 miles. How come I was able to leave the train just at the right moment? How come I speak German?" Then, the man had just enough strength to respond in a thin voice that was barely perceptible: "Since I left my native Bavaria to come to this country, America, I prayed to Mary every night. I begged her to provide that at the moment of my death I could have at my side a priest who speaks my language." He then started, in German, the beautiful prayer: "Remember, O sweet Virgin Mary, that never was it heard..." But he was unable to finish. The Mother of Mercy was already leading his soul to the Father.

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