



July 12th 2020
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

The Sower



On the face of it, it might seem from today's Gospel that Jesus taught in parables in order to prevent his hearers from understanding. But such a purpose is completely alien to the character of Jesus. Jesus used parables as an effective way of teaching. Those who were open to him received more. Those who had closed their minds against him received less. The fault lay not with Jesus but with the receiver.

The early Church adapted the parables to the new situation in which they found themselves. The shorter form is most likely the original form of the parable. The explanation reflects the missionary experience of the early church. It accounts for the relative failure of the message of Jesus. The shallow mind, the hard heart, worldly preoccupations, persecution – these are precisely the obstacles that have frustrated the growth of faith.

As the first reading suggests, the rain always produces positive results; eventually somewhere the earth responds and becomes fruitful. So God persists with his word until he gets a response.

Liturgical celebrations:

Wednesday - St. Bonaventure (memorial)

Bonaventure had a great influence on the Franciscan Order. He has been called its second founder. Bonaventure joined the Friars Minor at age 20 and was sent to the University of Paris, where he studied and then taught philosophy and theology. Thomas Aquinas was his friend and colleague.

The pope, preparing an ecumenical council at Lyons designed to reunite the Greek and Latin rites, called on Thomas and Bonaventure to assist him. Thomas Aquinas died on the way to the Council and at the end of it, Bonaventure, who had been the predominant figure at the assembly, also died.

In 1588 He was declared a Doctor of the Church.

This Week

Monday, July 13

7:00pm Mass +Art Blott
(No Public Congregation)

Tuesday, July 14

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual Meeting)
8:00am Mass
3:00pm Wedding
7:00pm Mass (No Public Congregation)
7:30pm Meeting Adult Faith Study (Virtual meeting)

Wednesday, July 15

8:00am Mass +Jim Holleran
7:00pm Mass +Art Blott
(No Public Congregation)

Thursday, July 16

8:00am Mass
7:00pm Mass (No Public Congregation)

Friday, July 17

8:00am Mass
7:00pm Mass (No Public Congregation)

Saturday, July 18

8:00am Mass Int Sharon & Dan Dobbin
(No Public Congregation)

2:00pm Wedding

5:00pm Mass

7:00pm Mass

Sunday, July 19

9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass
5:00pm Mass +Carolina Comides



Pope's Prayer Intention for July

Universal: Our Families - We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

\$6,260.00

Please visit www.staugustineschurch.ca

If you wish to maintain your contributions
via Debit or Credit Card

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Nina Marie Jane Diaz & Reby Michael Banez
Jessica Kimiko Naka & Jeffrey Brian Clements

Pope's Message

"The Lord loves His people"(cf. *Ps 149:4*) we sang, was the refrain of the Responsorial Psalm. And was also a truth that the people of Israel would repeat; they liked to repeat: "The Lord loves his people". And in difficult moments, always "The Lord loves"; one must wait for how this love will manifest itself. When, out of this love, the Lord would send a prophet, a man of God, the people's reaction was: "The Lord has visited his people" (*see Ex 4:31*) because He loves them, He has visited them. And the multitude who followed Jesus, seeing the things that Jesus did, said the same: "The Lord has visited His people"(see *Lk 7:16*).

And here today we can say: 100 years ago the Lord visited His people. He sent a man; he prepared him to be a bishop and lead the Church. Remembering Saint John Paul II, we spick this up again: "The Lord loves His people"; "the Lord has visited His people"; He sent a pastor.

And what are the "traits", let us say, of a good pastor that we can find in Saint John Paul II? So many! But we shall only speak of three. Given that persons say Jesuits always say things in threes, we shall say three: prayer, closeness to the people, and love of justice. Saint John Paul II was a man of God because he prayed, and he prayed a lot. But how did a man who had so much to do, so much work to lead the Church..., have so much time to pray? He was well aware that a bishop's first task is to pray. And Vatican II did not say this; Saint Peter said it. When they made the deacons they said: "And to us bishops, prayer and the proclamation of the Word"(cf. *Acts 6:4*). A bishop's first task is to pray, and he knew this, he did this. A model bishop who prays, the first task. And he taught us that when a bishop examines his conscience in the evening he must ask himself: how many hours did I pray today? A man of prayer.

The second trait: a man of closeness. He was not a man detached from people, but instead he went to find people; and he travelled the entire world, finding his people, seeking his people, drawing near. And closeness is one of the features of God with His people. Let us recall that the Lord said to the people of Israel: "For what people has its gods so near as I am to you?"(see *Deut 4:7*). A closeness of God with His people which then becomes even closer in Jesus, is strengthened in Jesus. A pastor is close to the people. If, on the contrary, he is not so, he is not a pastor, he is a hierarch, he is an administrator, perhaps a good one, but he is not a pastor. Closeness to the people. And Saint John Paul II gave us the example of this closeness. Close to those who were more important and less important, close to those who were near and far, always close. He made himself close.

The third trait, love of justice. But complete justice! A man who wanted justice, social justice, the justice for all people, the justice that drives away wars. But total justice! For this reason Saint John Paul II was a man of mercy, because justice and mercy go together; they cannot be distinguished [separated], they go together: justice is justice, mercy is mercy, but one is not found without the other. And speaking of the man of justice and mercy, let us consider how much Saint John Paul II did so that people could understand God's mercy. Let us think about how he promoted devotion to Saint Faustina [Kowalska], whose liturgical memory beginning today will be extended to the entire Church. He had heard that God's justice had this face of mercy, this attitude of mercy. And this is a gift that he left us: mercyjustice and justice-mercy.

Let us pray to him today, that he give to all of us, especially to the Church's pastors, but to everyone, the grace of prayer, the grace of closeness and the grace of justice mercy, mercy-justice.

Did You Know...**St. Paul**

St. Paul (d. A.D. 67/8) was born in the city of Tarsus in Cilicia, a provincial capital under Hellenistic influence. Tarsus was a noteworthy locale; a place of culture and learning. As a Tarsusian, the Apostle could claim citizenship from Tarsus and from Rome. This dual citizenship was a useful tool, later employed by St. Paul when he defended himself before the authorities as a Christian "troublemaker." It is not surprising that the Apostle's upbringing fostered both learning and piety.

St. Paul was known by two names: his Jewish name "Saul" which can be translated "asked of Yahweh," and the Roman name "Paulus," rendered simply as "Paul." Holding two names was a common practice among the Diaspora; those Jews who lived outside Palestine.

The Apostle was a descendent from the tribe of Benjamin, one of the famous "Twelve Tribes of Israel." This particular tribe brought forth King Saul; the first king of that chosen nation.

Having lived a strict life as a Pharisee, St. Paul stated that he had kept "the Law" to a great degree of perfection and enthusiasm. This Pharisaical life was nurtured by his teacher, Rabbi Gamaliel, considered the greatest master of his day. This teacher may have been the same Gamaliel who stood before the Sanhedrin and asked for tolerance on behalf of the Christians.

During St. Paul's life, the Apostle practiced the skill of tentmaking, a trade he utilized in his missionary efforts as a means of financial support. Fittingly, St. Paul placed a strong emphasis on honest manual labor.

St. Paul's conversion to Christianity is one of the most decisive landmarks in history. Acts 9:1-9 records this monumental event during the Apostle's travel to Damascus; a story recounted on two other occasions. St. Paul heard the actual voice of the Lord Jesus Christ; an encounter with a lasting influence. The Savior's words concerning His relationship to the Church, recorded in Acts 9:4 ("why do you persecute Me?"), is a theme St. Paul would expound in the future: the doctrine of the "Mystical Body of Christ."

St. Paul's influence on Christianity is immeasurable. His tireless work as a missionary to spread the Gospel, and his writing of a sizeable portion of the New Testament, will be examined in the future. No doubt, the faithful can appreciate the greatness of this inspired Apostle, God's chosen vessel in the nascent years of the Catholic Church.

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.



Join St. Augustine's Adult Faith Group to learn more about the mystery of the Eucharist and grow in fellowship with one another. We will be watching and discussing the video series called

PRESENCE by the Augustine Institute. In this 6-session study we will explore the Truth and Beauty of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.

We invite you to join us virtually (via ZOOM*) on Tuesday evenings 7:30 PM starting August 18th. There is no cost, but registration is required email biblestudies@staugustineschurch.ca for more info or to register.

*No prior zoom experience needed.

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. Sign up by visiting formed.org and entering our Parish access code **4FX3T6**. You may then create your personal account.

Into the Breach

Don't miss this ground breaking series from the Knights of Columbus that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world.

GIVEN Forum Talks

Watch Sr. Miriam James, SOLT discuss the Church's vision of female dignity. She reminds us that every woman is a beloved daughter of God.

If you are a parent with children at home, there are many original resources available.

Other New Releases on FORMED

The Poco à Poco Podcast— Join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal for their weekly podcast. Find rest, encouragement and renewal throughout your week with the Friars.

OSV Innovation Talks - Watch this new series from inspirational and innovative Catholic leaders on ministry and evangelization. New episodes air weekly.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

This time of lock down and uncertainty may well be a stimulus to seek God in a new way or share with him what thoughts and feelings are around. Frances Cheung is a parishioner of St. Augustine's

Church and has been trained in the tradition of Ignatian spirituality. She would like to offer the opportunity to have a spiritual conversation. If you are interested, please email Frances at francescheung@hotmail.com. Conversations can take place via Skype or Teams; whichever works best for you.

As of June 6th 2020 there is an additional

Saturday evening Anticipated Mass at 7:00pm.

Beginning Tuesday June 9th, there are four week day Masses:

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday mornings at 8:00am.

All sign up and regulation procedures will be observed as per the Saturday/Sunday weekend Masses.

Notice

St. Augustine's **11:00am Sunday Mass is livestreamed** each Sunday.

If privacy is a concern for you or your family, please arrange to attend an alternative weekend Mass.

Volunteers Urgently Needed



If you sign up to attend a weekend or weekday Mass, please consider adding your name to our list of Church volunteers.

The number of Masses we celebrate is incumbent upon the number of volunteers we can recruit to assist in Registration and Sanitization before and after each Mass.

Many of our current volunteers will not be available during July and August.

To Volunteer to assist at a Mass please see the website or contact

Ferial Khan: 604 736-4455 Ext 224

Weekly Sunday Donations

Weekly offering envelopes may be dropped off at the Parish Office during regular office hours. If you wish, you can make your Sunday and Special donations using Mastercard, Visa or Preauthorized Debit. Please complete the authorization form which can be picked up at the Parish Office or complete online at www.staugustineschurch.ca

The amount you authorize will be processed on the 20th of each month.

Thank you for your generous financial support.

Prayer for Vocations

The Vocations Ministry of St. Augustine's parish invites you to join them on Wednesday after 8:00AM Mass to pray for our Priests and those in Consecrated life. We pray particularly for Vocations to the Oblate community. These leaders of our Church need our prayers and support. We sincerely hope you can join us.

Contact: Ben Hume email: bhume03@gmail.com
<<mailto:bhume03@gmail.com>> "

Please note...

Throughout the past few weeks, St. Augustine's Church has remained open during regular office hours for private prayer and meditation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available for those who request it. Please call the Parish Front Office to make an appointment should you wish to meet with Fr. Andrzej regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



