



November 29th 2020  
First Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



**Advent**

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the story of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microscopic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He is the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today's readings – the first is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God's past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The second reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord's coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. These words are addressed to us now.

**Liturgical celebration:**

**Monday – St. Andrew the Apostle (feast)**

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter.

According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

The Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God

**Thursday – St. Francis Xavier (memorial)**

Francis was born in 1506 in Navarre, Spain. He met St. Ignatius of Loyola at the University of Paris, and was one of the first members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spent many years working as a missionary with the people of Goa, Southeast Asia, and Japan. He had excellent organizational skills: the communities he established continued to flourish long after his departure. He died in 1552. He is a patron saint of all foreign missions

**This Week**

**Monday, November 30**

7:00pm Mass +All Souls in Purgatory

**Tuesday, December 1**

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual Meeting)  
8:00am Mass +Alfredo Porco  
7:00pm Mass +Santiago Aboc  
7:30pm Meeting Bible Study (Virtual Meeting)

**Wednesday, December 2**

8:00am Mass Int Psenak family  
7:00pm Mass +Pietro & Mirietta Fusco

**Thursday, December 3**

8:00am Mass +Oronzo Pavone  
7:00pm Mass +Brenda J. Usi

**Friday, December 4** First Friday Adoration

8:00am Mass Int Maria Azur  
7:00pm Mass

**Saturday, December 5**

8:00am Mass Int Paul Behrend  
1:00pm Baptism  
**5:00pm** Mass (Live streamed)  
**7:00pm** **Mass** +Ted Pearson

**Sunday, December 6**

**9:00am** **Mass** +Dao Van Nguyen (Live streamed)  
**11:00am** **Mass** +Joesumar Licopit Icaay  
**5:00pm** **Mass**

**NOTE: Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday 9:00am Masses are livestreamed**

**OFFERTORY**

We are grateful for these gifts

\$5,465.00

Please visit [www.staugustineschurch.ca](http://www.staugustineschurch.ca)

If you wish to maintain your contributions

via Debit or Credit Card

**WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY**

Damian & Theo Dunn

Abby Sidney Smith

Olivia Pereira Strudwick

**Advent Traditions**

Advent celebration and traditions can vary from place to place, influenced by culture. However, some traditions have come to be common throughout the Catholic Church.

The Advent wreath is likely the most popular tradition, and wreaths are typically present in both the parish church and in the home. It is a more recent tradition, with the modern Advent wreath emerging in Germany and spreading throughout Europe and beyond in the 1930's. It is often circular, representing God's eternity, and it includes 4 candles - one for each Sunday of Advent. Many families have a wreath in the home, and will light the candles each Sunday and say Advent prayers together.



The Jesse Tree is also a popular Advent tradition. A Jesse Tree, named for the father of David, is a tree that is decorated gradually throughout Advent with symbols or pictures of biblical persons associated with the gradual coming of the Messiah, Christ. This includes, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph and Mary. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; it is a perfect way to teach and remind children about the preparatory nature of Advent.

**The Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (*cf. John 3:19-21*). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

**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.



Advent is the season four weeks before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. It begins on Sunday nearest to 30th November. Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming".

The season also celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth, as well as the coming of Christ as the infant Saviour whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. And because the season emphasizes Christ's comings and not just his birth, it's more than just a time to get ready for Christmas. Advent reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will return to judge the earth, but when.

The season of Advent came into being toward the middle of the sixth century. At first, the Advent Season was determined as the six Sundays leading up to Christmas. This was then reduced to four Sundays by Pope St. Gregory the Great (591-604).

Before the seventh century, Christmas was a secondary feast, especially in Rome, but as it came to take on more and more importance, so the season of Advent evolved in a similar manner. Advent became more solemn and its orientation changed. From just being a time to prepare for Christmas, it became a time to look to the glorious return of the Lord and now the Sunday's of Advent reflect this double perspective of waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus (First and Second Sundays) and the immediate preparation for the feast of Christmas (Third and Fourth Sundays).

The Roman Catholic Church summarises Advent by saying, "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for, by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His Second Coming."

### Confessions during Advent at St. Augustine's Parish

#### Day of Mercy – Saturday, December 12

From 9:00 am till 11:00 am and from 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm

#### Saturday, December 19

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Other days by appointment. Call the Parish Office

### Year 2020–2021 Sunday Missals

You may purchase a Sunday Missal 2020-2021 for \$5 by visiting the Parish Office during regular Office hours.

### Sunday Offering Envelopes

To pick up your Envelopes please visit the Parish Office during regular office hours.

### Liturgy of the Word for Children



Liturgy of the Word for Children is available at each 9am Sunday Mass. The format will be a 10 to 15 minute Zoom meeting during Mass for children of all ages.

Please pre-register to attend on the Parish website.

### Advent Giving Tree for Covenant House - St. Augustine's Parish



**Advent Giving Tree** - this year our Giving Tree collection will look a little different! Due to the suspension of Masses until December 7th we will be encouraging people to donate to Covenant House in the following ways:

Make an online donation to Covenant House using the link below:

[https://secure3.convio.net/chb/site/Donation2?df\\_id=1940&1940.donation=form1&mfc\\_pref=T&\\_ga=2.211581718.2097149310.1606326705-1959237507.1605723077](https://secure3.convio.net/chb/site/Donation2?df_id=1940&1940.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&_ga=2.211581718.2097149310.1606326705-1959237507.1605723077)

Before December 31st all money donated will be tripled!! Thanks to generous donations by Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively and three anonymous donors the Matching Campaign triple amount is up to \$375,000.

Covenant House's Amazon Wish List and buy any of the items Covenant House has identified as needing:

[https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/11YYY69EGV1WN?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_wl\\_dp\\_ZLxCogmafHwo2](https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/11YYY69EGV1WN?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_ZLxCogmafHwo2)

Drop off – if permitted by PHO orders – to be determined by December 7 - to our St. Augustine's Drive-By Collection for Covenant House on Sunday December 13th between noon and 2 pm. Drive through the round-about to bring any of the following **new items** and enjoy a "Thank You" treat!

\$5 or \$10 gift cards to Tom Hortons, McDonalds, or Starbucks

Men's underwear (boxer briefs - sizes M, L & XL)

hand warmers

small umbrellas

journals/notebooks

earbuds

hoodies/sweatpants

To find out about the work Covenant House does with youth

please check out these videos:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYOqwn-fHC0&ab\\_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYOqwn-fHC0&ab_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15CEI2wcEeg&t=6s&ab\\_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15CEI2wcEeg&t=6s&ab_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver)

### Pope's Prayer Intention for December

**Evangelization:** *For a life of prayer -*

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**Advent – An Invitation to Wait on God**

On this First Sunday of Advent, the readings set for us a journey of faith, trust and hope. This season gives us a constant invitation-to be awake, to wait, and to prepare ourselves, and to be alert as we are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel reading ends with Christ Jesus telling us to “Stay awake.”

The word “wait” comes from the Hebrew ‘qavah’ which means enduring patiently in the confident hope that God will act decisively for the salvation of his people... Those who wait in true faith are renewed with strength so that they can continue to serve the Lord while looking for his saving work.”

Waiting for the LORD does not mean sitting back helplessly. St. Paul tells us “so in every way you have been enriched [in Christ] so you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 1:7). In other words, the Spirit of God is with you. God’s grace provides us the strength and energy to walk in confident expectation that God is with us.

Two things come to my mind as we prepare and wait for His coming during this pandemic:

First, the renewal of hearts and minds: ‘Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?’ (Isaiah 63:17). Today, Prophet Isaiah is reminding us through this prayer of penitence to amend our ways, renew our hearts and find favor in the presence of Creator. Mother Church incessantly encourages the faithful to renew and cultivate this ardent desire for his second coming: ‘When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming...’ (CCC 524).

Second, some may feel that this novel virus has sucked our energy out, drained our confidence, and pushed us into deep dark despair. Know that advent invites us to renew our strength by remembering the marvelous deeds that God has done for all of us. “O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand” (Isaiah 64: 8).

With this in mind, let us look at our own life as we enter into this Advent Season. What is it that we hope for? What is it that we wait for?

May this season bring newness in our lives. May it bring strength and hope. May the prayer of Matthew Kelly resound in our hearts throughout this season: “God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent Season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you.”

*By Arokia Vijay Deivanayagam, OMI  
Vocation Team – Central  
vijayreia@gmail.com*

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**

By Appointment Only      **604 736-4455 Ext. 221**

**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

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