



December 6th 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



**Preparing the way
for the Lord**

The first reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at that time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet assures his people that God is about to

come to their aid, and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell short of the glowing picture painted here, Isaiah's words point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel. Like a new Elijah, John appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer – Jesus, the Christ and Son of God. Both readings issue a call to repentance: 'Prepare a way for the Lord.'

In the second reading Peter is talking about the second coming. The reason for the Lord's delay is to give everybody an opportunity to repent.

Liturgical celebration:

Monday – St. Ambrose (memorial)

St. Ambrose was born in Germany about 340. Although he was only a catechumen, the laity elected him as bishop. He hesitated at first, but later was baptized and ordained. Ambrose became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized.

Tuesday – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)

In the 13th century, great thinkers such as St. Bernard and St. Thomas Aquinas debated whether Mary could have been born without original sin. By the 19th century, the theological debate was resolved and in 1854 Pius IX defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith.

Saturday – Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast)

This memorial commemorates the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 at Tepeyac, on the outskirts of Mexico City. Our Lady appeared four times, twice to aboriginal convert Juan Diego, with whom she left orders to build a church and an imprint of her image on a cloak. In 1946 Pius XII named her a patron of the Americas

This Week

Monday, December 7

7:00pm Mass +Dung Van Ngo

Tuesday, December 8

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual Meeting)
8:00am Mass +Mariano Rivera
7:00pm Mass +Consuelo & Vicente Geronimo
7:30pm Meeting Bible Study (Virtual Meeting)

Wednesday, December 9

8:00am Mass +Maria Velma Del Fiero Kielian
7:00pm Mass +Maria Esperanza Legara

Thursday, December 10

8:00am Mass
7:00pm Mass +Mary Finnegan

Friday, December 11

8:00am Mass +Sergio Patasin
11:00am Funeral (No public congregation)
7:00pm Mass +Gertrud Behrend

Saturday, December 12

8:00am Mass
9-11:00am Confessions (Day of Mercy)
1-3:00pm Confessions (Day of Mercy)
5:00pm Mass (Live streamed)
7:00pm **Mass** +Joe McKeown

Sunday, December 13

9:00am **Mass** (Live streamed)
11:00am **Mass**
5:00pm **Mass**

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

\$7,890.00

Please visit www.staugustineschurch.ca

If you wish to maintain your contributions

via Debit or Credit Card

REST IN PEACE

+Agnes Kayoko Fujisawa

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – 2020****Healing of the Earth**

We the Body of Christ, are called to live in solidarity with all peoples. We are called to respect, protect, defend and nurture the oneness of all of God's Creation. God made this Earth as a true gift to His children of all nations.

Indigenous people around our world have their creation stories. These stories are about relationships. They teach us about the Earth and it's awakening. God the Creator makes the Earth a good place. He sees a beautiful place with purpose. We acknowledge God as the Creator of all things!

There is also the relationship with all things of the Earth and universe. This is our common home: the moon and stars, the sun, the wind and water, and the land. As people of the Earth we share with one another, each and every day. God gathers us together in this place.

Another relationship is about healing. We are always healing. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to lead us in the way of healing and restore relationship with God, other peoples, and all creation. Jesus used mud from the Earth to heal the blind. He went into the wilderness and to the mountains to fast. He used bread and a few fish to feed thousands of people. He worked with the wind and water. Jesus was in full relationship with all things of creation. We learn from Him about the way of the healer, friend, prophet, and teacher.

Furthermore, we are in loving relationship with all the Children of God. We are all created in His image and likeness. The human community has many blessings: families and kinship; languages; ceremonies and rituals. These gifts connect us.

In an article written by Father Rigobert Minani Bihuzo, S.J., for the Synod of the Amazon, the Church is called to strengthen its teaching about the Earth as a gift from God. This gift continues to be given, and God's faithful people are called not only to be good stewards of the land, but are to also bring healing and teachings about good versus poor stewardship of our common home.

Ecological conversion, as taught by Pope Francis, requires the promotion and respect of human rights – individual and collective. People of faith are to advocate for peoples whose way of life depends on the land, and are to defend the rights of persons who are victims of exploitation. This was acknowledged in the process and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action, here in Canada.

Together we share one common home, Mother Earth, and we are all dependant on her for our existence. We continue to face very real threats to our ecology and way of life, which has never been more apparent as we live through the present Covid-19 pandemic.

We must come together as one human family. Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical Laudato Si that: "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.

" We turn to the Earth for sustenance: for shelter, food and medicines. And when we die, our bodies will return to the Earth where our ancestors reside as we await to be with God in Heaven forever.

We recognize the benevolence of the Creator, who has provided us with the gifts of Earth, water, fire and air. We are grateful for all He has provided. We express our gratitude through our lives of prayer, song, dance, story, ceremony and ritual.

Let us pray:

O God, Great Spirit and Faithful Creator, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things.

For this we thank you, we praise you and we worship you.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our teacher, prophet and brother– to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in The Sacred Teachings. Give us the honesty to recognize that the Earth provides us with life sustaining breath, nourishment and healing, and give us the strength to proclaim by our words and actions that the Earth is a blessing for all peoples. May we avoid the sins of exploitive personal power and profit. May we seek the righteous way of love, service, and healing in all things.

Father, as we walk our journey on this Earth, may your life-giving Spirit protect and guide us with your Wisdom so that we might live in right relationship and harmony with all humanity. May we pass on to future generations this Earth and all your gifts as you have provided them to us.

+Amen

**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.

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 Evening of Song and Prayer



Please join us for the St. Augustine School Advent Evening of Song and Prayer on Monday, December 14 at 7:00pm. This year, we will be live-streaming the Evening on the [Parish YouTube Channel](#). It will include a combination of live narration, scripture, and pre-recorded sessions of singing by the school children.

All are most welcome!

Fall Campaign 2020 Update

Many heart-felt thanks to our donors to this year's Fall Campaign in support of our new school. To date, we have raised more than \$500,000 from our school families and members of the parish who don't have children in the school. We are continuing to receive donations until December 31, 2020.

Until such time that we're able to resume attendance at weekend masses, you can deposit your gifts at the school or parish offices. If making a gift by cheque, please make it out to **St. Augustine Parish – School Building Fund**. Thank you for your generosity as over 385 children are now receiving a Catholic education as we continue our century-old tradition of serving the educational and spiritual needs of our community.

If you have any questions about the campaign please contact our Faith and Foundation team at 604-736-4455 (Extension 231).

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/Donation?>

[df_id=1940&1940.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&_ga=2.211581718.2097149310.1606326705-1959237507.1605723077](https://secure3.convio.net/chb/site/Donation?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



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=gYQqwn-fHC0&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.

An Untiring Builder

The Oblate Brother is pleased with any task that's needed:

If a temple is required, he is ready to build.
 His hands and his tools work together with ease
 To raise toward heaven a House for the Lord.
 A man of such talent, he can do most all things.
 Electrician, plumber, painter and carpenter...



If ever a Brother met fully all the requirements of these lines, it is surely Brother Alfred Desrochers. He was born at Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm on March 14, 1887, entered the Oblates in 1906, and during almost fifty years he rendered priceless services to the Congregation as a skilled builder. He left his mark in all the regions of Quebec, in Ontario, at James Bay and all the way to Alberta.

Saint Joseph, first overseer

It was not on the family farm that Brother Desrochers learned the craft of construction. It was rather a natural talent that he developed by consulting with other workers, and by applying himself carefully to his work. He was tall and solidly built, with an iron will, audacious and prudent at the same time, while in full command with his strong voice and decisive manner. He was chosen by his superiors to lead a team of brothers with a variety of talents. Under his direction, they accomplished important undertakings. Around forty buildings are the work of this brother: churches at Rouyn, Kapuskasing and McLennan; houses of formation at Chambly, Richelieu, Beauval, Sainte-Agathe-des Monts; retreat houses at Mont-Joli, New Richmond, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, La Pocatière, and how many others. At all these places, before starting the projected work, Brother Desrochers installed in plain sight a small statue of St. Joseph, his "overseer" as he called him. Every morning, with a short simple prayer, he asked for the protection of the carpenter of Nazareth. More than once this protection came into evidence.

Crooked pipe and straight heart

Brother Desrochers was in the habit of smoking his pipe, especially after meals. His preference was for a certain "crooked pipe" that he loaded with good and strong tobacco from Saint Jacques, his native town! When the clock announced the time to get back to work, he summoned everyone with his authoritarian voice, and woe to the latecomers! On the job, there was no question of losing time. One day, two lay employees were freely taking their time. On seeing the brother, one said to the other: "Watch out, here comes the crooked pipe!" His companion replied immediately: "Yes, I know him well: he has a crooked pipe... but his heart is straight. His voice is loud, but he's a good fellow."

His dream becomes a reality

When it seemed time to build the Notre-Dame Basilica at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, our Brother had lived a very full seventy years. In his heart of hearts he was dreaming of offering his collaboration. The Oblate authorities responded to this desire by asking him to oversee the work. This last task went on for seven years. It became a tangible expression of his fidelity as the son of the Lady for whom he always had a special devotion.

In 1957, at his jubilee of religious life, this is how he expressed himself: "On the day that I have the joy of prostrating myself on the marble tiles of this beautiful Marian temple, I will be able to say to God, like old Simeon: "Now, you can let your servant depart in peace. Then I may go to contemplate an even more beautiful temple, made by the hand of God." That day, for Brother Desrochers, came on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, September 8, 1972, a very appropriate day for an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. But the day was even more appropriate for one who had erected, in beautiful white granite, a sanctuary truly worthy of his Heavenly Mother. We can be assured that on that day his tender and gifted Mother took into her own hands the calloused hands of that "unknown apostle" to guide him up the heavenly stairs and present him to God the Father in these terms: "Please receive this good Oblate Brother with kindness: he reminds me so much of Saint Joseph!"

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

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

CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

Samantha Strudwick 604.255.1662

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sebastian Pereira 604.732.4565

ADULT FAITH

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MOM'S N TOTS

Cat Leung momstots@staugustineschurch.ca

FOOD COLLECTION

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LEGION OF MARY

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maryl.barin@gmail.com