



December 20th 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Now that David was king of a united country, with Jerusalem as the capital, he set about building a temple for the Lord. But the Lord pre-empted David's plan. Instead it is the Lord who will build a dynasty for David, a dynasty that will last forever. When Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC it seemed that the promise would not be fulfilled. Still, the hope remained that a Messiah would come from the house of David.

The expectation was fulfilled when Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Redeemer, who, through Joseph, would be of the line of David. Gabriel's words echo the words of God's promise to David.

In the second reading Paul says that the promises made in the Old Testament times have been fulfilled in the person and life of Jesus.



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is born and the government shall be on his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9,6).

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours; and may the coming year be filled with happiness. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

- Fr. Andrzej

**This Week**

**Monday, December 21**

7:00pm Mass +Sau Fong Wu

**Tuesday, December 22**

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual Meeting)  
 8:00am Mass +Eugene Uji Fujisawa  
 10:00am Bapt Fiona Kathleen Somers (Private)  
 7:00pm Mass +Anita Behrend  
 7:30pm Meeting Bible Study (Virtual Meeting)

**Wednesday, December 23**

8:00am Mass +Helen Toth  
 7:00pm Mass +Dominga Jimenez

**Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve Anticipatory**

5:00pm Mass +Eugene & Kayoko Fujisawa (Live streamed)  
 9:00pm Mass (Live streamed)

**Friday, December 25 Christmas Day**

9:00am Mass Int Betty Khan (Live streamed)  
 11:00am Mass +Gertrud Behrend (Live streamed)

**Saturday, December 26**

8:00am Mass Int Dominic & Fallan Dominic  
 5:00pm Mass +Mariano Rivera (Live streamed)  
 7:00pm Mass

**Sunday, December 27**

9:00am Mass +Blair Cafferky (Live streamed)  
 11:00am Mass +Oni Odjegba  
 5:00pm Mass

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

**OFFERTORY**  
 We are grateful for these gifts  
 \$7,325.00  
 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**  
 Nathan Pak-Yin Lee  
 Fiona Kathleen Somers

**REST IN PEACE**  
 John Michael Anderson

## GOD'S FAVOURED ONES

*Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you. Luke 1: 28*

Wouldn't it be easy if we were all visited by an angel sent by God that would share with us the plan God had for our lives?

God may not have sent an angel to most of us; however, he does have a plan and he does share it with us. And, we are more like Mary than we think, in that we too must listen and then decide if we will answer God's call. One of the first things that the angel says to Mary is "Do not be afraid." This is interesting to me; as there are really two things to be afraid of. The first is the obvious fear of being visited by an Angel; and the second thing to be afraid of was God's request.

This is where we can find our similarities with Mary, we are probably all afraid of what God is asking of us. So much so, we will even go out of our way to not listen to what God is leading us to. In today's culture, we are very used to believing that we are in control of our lives. We make plans about everything we do, which in itself isn't a problem. However, are we taking time to discern what we are being called to? I think often we are not, but the bigger question may be, do we actually go out of our way to ignore what God is trying to tell us. Is it a passive not hearing, or an active act of ignoring?

I'm not sure I believe that if we really want to hear what God is saying to us it would be that difficult. I don't think God wants it to be that hard to discern his plans. I think what likely makes it difficult is that it doesn't always go along with our own plans. And remember that Mary made her decision for the whole world, for her community. Is this what makes us hesitate? It is definitely harder to decide something when it is for the greater good, rather than what is best for our selves. Yet, this is exactly what we are called to do as Christians, as followers of Jesus.

I believe we often don't understand that by doing what is best for our community, we will make the best decision for ourselves. This is how we will be most fulfilled; by using our gifts and talents to serve our brother and sisters. I truly believe we are all God's favoured ones, maybe not in the way that Mary was, in that she could carry the Son of God, but favored in how he loves us unconditionally. And so, my hope is that we can quit ignoring what we are called to, and that we take the time to hear what is being asking of us so that we can find our vocation and say yes to God.

By Serena Shaw  
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## Did You Know...

Catholics recognize that Christmas is not only on December 25. The Church's liturgy actually emphasizes the eight days or octave of Christmas. The Church recognizes that the days of the Christmas Octave are repeating the solemnity of Christmas for eight days, concluding on a high note with another solemnity that echoes the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

### Two Principal Solemnities

There are two principal feasts in the Liturgical Year: Easter and Christmas. These are both solemnities (and holydays of obligation) and in the current Liturgical Calendar are the only feasts that have octaves attached. Solemnities are festive and exceptional days, the highest ranked feasts of the liturgical calendar.

### What Is an Octave?

An octave is the eight-day period during which Easter or Christmas is celebrated, and includes the actual feast. The eighth day is also called the octave or "octave day," and days in between are said to be "within the octave".

Octave means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity than the "days within the octave."

### Why an Octave?

It has often been said that Catholics know how to celebrate. The Church has a built-in pattern within the liturgical calendar that provides what man needs to celebrate the feasts of the year: times of preparation and penance building to major feasts that are prolonged, and multi-level feast days spread throughout the year.

The octave gives us time to impress upon our souls the mysteries, joys and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year.

## Refugee Committee Update – Thank You

This time last year we were all anxiously awaiting the imminent arrival of our refugee family and were busy finishing preparations to welcome them. We are now confident that the Gatare family is independent enough to be successful in the future.

Thank you all for the impact you have made on one family's life and prospects. Your efforts will continue to bear fruit for generations to come. Our parish, in collaboration with Christ the Redeemer Parish, worked through more than two years of preparation and a year of sponsorship. Although our financial responsibility for the family is over at the end of December, we will continue to keep in touch with them, helping them if requested and continuing the friendships made. Please keep them in your prayers.

## 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.



### A very Merry Christmas

to **Dennis Bruchet** and family. Dennis is the craftsman behind St. Augustine's (now vintage) Nativity scene erected each year at the Maple Street entrance to the Church.

*A special thank you to the St. Augustine's chapter of the Knights of Columbus who erect and maintain this Nativity scene each year.*

### St. Augustine's Church Christmas Crèche

The Church Crèche will be open for viewing on Christmas Day between 1-3pm. We encourage you to drop by for a brief visit if possible.

### Charitable Donations and Tax Receipts: Canada Revenue Agency

Donations must be received by the Parish by **December 31, 2020** in order for the donor to receive a tax receipt for 2020. This is a requirement of the Canada Revenue Agency. If you date a cheque December 31, 2020 but it is not received in the Parish Office until 2021 the amount of your donation will be reflected in your 2021 donation receipt.

### Year 2020–2021 Sunday Missals

You may purchase a Sunday Missal 2020-2021 for \$5 by visiting 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.*

### Fall Campaign 2020 Update –Thank you

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 \$640,000 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/Donation2?df\\_id=1940&1940.donation=form1&mfrc\\_pref=T&\\_ga=2.211581718.2097149310.1606326705-1959237507.1605723077](https://secure3.convio.net/chb/site/Donation2?df_id=1940&1940.donation=form1&mfrc_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/11YY69EGV1WN?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_wl\\_dp\\_ZLxCogmafHwo2](https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/11YY69EGV1WN?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_ZLxCogmafHwo2)



Due to ongoing restrictions, the in-person Giving Tree drop off is postponed. Please support Covenant house by donating online. We will re-schedule in the New Year.

\$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)

### St Patrick's Regional High School



The Celtic Raffle is an annual ALL CASH-PRIZE RAFFLE fundraising event. Tickets are only \$5 each. Purchases can be done online through the following link: <https://celticraffle2021.rafflenexus.com/>

The funds raised from the raffle will directly benefit the students; including *but not limited to* the school choir, the school play, sports and grad events.

This year we will be holding our draw at: St. Patrick's Regional Secondary School Open House Event on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

**Deadline for ticket purchases: Monday, January 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM**

For more information about this fundraiser, please view the school website: <https://stpats.bc.ca/>. For specific questions about the raffle, please direct them to: [celticraffle@stpats.bc.ca](mailto:celticraffle@stpats.bc.ca) or 604-879-7469

Thank you for supporting our Regional Secondary School.

**The prize money totals \$18,000.**

**First Prize = \$10,000**

**Second Prize = \$5,000**

**Third, Fourth and Fifth Prizes = \$1,000**

**Brother Joe's cross**

Elsewhere I evoked the memory of a few Oblate pioneers in British Columbia: Fathers Pandosy, Chirouse and Lejaq. The name of a Brother also deserves special mention. He was the first Oblate Brother born in that region. For sixty-six years he was identified with Saint Peter parish, in New Westminster, as sacristan and guardian of the schoolboys in this suburb of Vancouver. His name was François Joseph Bétancourt but everyone called him by the familiar name of Brother Joe. He was born on the small island of Sait Spring, near Vancouver, on January 9, 1875. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1902 and died at Saint Albert, in 1968, at the age of ninety three.

**A remarkable influence**

In spite of his short stature, Brother Joe gained the respect of the young by his great heart and unrestricted devotion. He trained hundreds of altar boys in piety, punctuality, and honesty. Many former students, who arrived at the top of their profession, doctors, lawyers, judges, and bishops freely admit that they are indebted to the formation received from this Brother which made it possible for them to become prominent! He always insisted on impeccable behavior and rigorous discipline, while rewarding everyone's efforts and good will. Each year, from 1904 to 1955 he organized a picnic to the beach at Kitsilano, west of Vancouver. When the day came, he crowded the children in an old Ford truck. He gave each one a whistle, a siren, or a rattle, with the recommendation that they make noise during the whole trip. People, at first surprised, stared at this happy band. Then, with a smile, said to each other: "Oh, it's Brother Joe's picnic." The number of picnickers increased every year. Finally, the Brother had to bring these excursions to an end, it was too much for his eighty years.

**His ardently loved cross.**

On the day of his religious profession, Brother Joe received from his Superior the distinctive mark of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, an ebony cross bearing a gilded copper Christ. The priest presented it for him to kiss, saying: "Receive this cross, and may it defend and protect you in life." From this time, during sixty-five years, the Brother kissed it every morning with respect, before suspending it from his neck. With the years, by rubbing against the cinch which bounded his cassock, the cross showed signs of wear. The figure of Christ had lost all its traits. But needless to say, the Brother held onto the cross as the apple of his eye. It served as a model, support and comfort in his prayers, his tasks, and his problems for the length of each day.

**A difficult trial**

However, one day Brother Joe almost lost his precious treasure forever. While he was cleaning the church, he had placed his cross on a table, in the back. Two men, more or less suspicious in appearance, showed up. They wanted to meet the pastor. The Brother pointed to the rectory across the street and went back to his work. A short time later, as he was about to leave the church, an awful surprise! The cross had disappeared. The Oblate prayed to Saint Jude for two days, to find it. Nothing happened! On the third day, one of the two men came back. He seemed miserable. Timidly, he explained: "The other day, spotting the crucifix on the table, my companion was overtaken with sudden rage. He grabbed it and went to throw it on the dump at the edge of the city. I'm devastated, and I beg you to excuse him, for, you see, I did not approve of this... You probably don't recognize me? I was formerly an altar boy in this parish!"

After saying these words, he gave the Brother a package, clumsily wrapped in newspaper. Then, without saying another word, he turned around and walked away slowly. The Brother immediately opened the package, and with deep emotion, recovered his good old Oblate cross. It had been cleaned and polished with such care that the figure of Christ shone as brightly "as a star" in his own poor hands, also worn out by work.

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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**LECTORS**

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**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  
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