



March 14th 2021
 Fourth Sunday of Lent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



Accepting or rejecting the light

The first reading shows how God remained faithful to his people in spite of their infidelities. God's promises were not nullified by the sins of his people. It was because of their sins that God allowed his people to be exiled to Babylon. But his mercy is seen on their home-coming.

This leads into the Gospel. God's love and mercy are seen in the fact that he sent his Son to save us. Jesus came into the world as a light. Sadly, some preferred darkness to the light, thus sealing their own condemnation. Judgement is not passed by God; people judge themselves by their response to the light.

The reading from Ephesians stresses the enormity of the love God has shown us in Christ. It makes it clear that we owe our salvation, not to our own efforts, but to the goodness of God.

Liturgical celebrations:

Friday – 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 banished, 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.

Pope's Prayer Intention for March



Evangelization: *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

This Week

Monday, March 15

7:00pm Mass +Bienvenido & Engracia Torres

Tuesday, March 16

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual Meeting)

8:00am Mass +Lucas Wolfe

7:00pm Mass +Dao Van Nguyen

7:30pm Meeting Bible Study Group (Virtual Meeting)

Wednesday, March 17

8:00am Mass +Germaine Lamarche

7:00pm Meeting Rite of Roman Catholic Initiation of Adults (Virtual)

7:00pm Mass +Kristofer Bihis

Thursday, March 18

8:00am Mass +Dung Van Ngo

7:00pm Mass +Milan Maglica
 (No Public Congregation)

Friday, March 19

8:00am Mass +Michael Torresan

9:15am Mass St Augustine's School (No Public Congregation)

7:00pm Mass

Saturday, March 20

8:00am Mass +Fr. Bernie Mc Cosham, OMI

5:00pm Mass +Robert Bentley

7:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 21

9:00am Mass +Lucia Senichenko

11:00am Mass

5:00pm Mass

NOTE: Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday 9am & 11am Masses are livestreamed

**OFFERTORY**

We are grateful for these gifts
\$6,939.00
Please visit www.staugustineschurch.ca
If you wish to maintain your contributions
via Debit or Credit Card

**Holy Communion at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday****Receiving Holy Communion at St. Augustine's**

Those who wish to receive Holy Communion may do so after celebrating St. Augustine's Sunday Mass on-line may do so by visiting the Church between 12 noon and 2:00pm each Sunday.

Procedure: Enter the Parish Centre through the glass door, sanitize your hands and proceed to the front of the Church to receive Holy Communion from Fr. Andrzej.

After receiving Holy Communion you may say a short prayer of thanksgiving before exiting the church through the east side door on Maple Street .

Please note:

Visiting the Church and receiving Holy Communion is not meant for prolonged personal prayer. You are welcome to do that on weekdays during office hours.

I hope all will understand the importance of complying to the Provincial Health restrictions and will co-operate.

Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI

Confession during the time of Lent

Confession times during Lent will be from
10:00am to 12noon on the following dates:

Saturday March 20th

Saturday March 27th

More dates may be added as demand requires.

Please read the weekly Bulletin for updates.

Vocation Reflection: "Compelled by God's Love"

By Richard Beaudette, OMI - Vocation Team



"The Word of God for this Fourth Sunday of Lent invites and challenges us to reflect on our own experiences of God's love for us. Each of us will have our own unique experiences but we are reminded that God's love is poured out on all people. As we experience this gift of love, we are invited to respond." Read the reflection here:

<https://omilacombe.ca/become-an-oblate/>

Thank you for praying for and encouraging vocations to the Oblate religious life!

Jarek Pachocki OMI
OMI Lacombe Canada - Vocation Director

**APOSTOLIC LETTER**

Patris Corde

Of the Holy Father

Francis

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PROCLAMATION OF ST. JOSEPH AS
PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Cont'd from last week...

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" (*Job 2:10*).

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

Jesus' appearance in our midst is a gift from the Father, which makes it possible for each of us to be reconciled to the flesh of our own history, even when we fail to understand it completely.

Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (*Mt 1:20*), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel. It does not matter if everything seems to have gone wrong or some things can no longer be fixed. God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (*1 Jn 3:20*).

Here, once again, we encounter that Christian realism which rejects nothing that exists. Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows. Thus, the Apostle Paul can say: "We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God" (*Rom 8:28*). To which Saint Augustine adds, "even that which is called evil (*etiam illud quod malum dicitur*)". In this greater perspective, faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad.

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.



Mid-Way Rally
Vancouver, BC
Zoom Webinar [Click here to REGISTER](#)

Sunday, March 14th, 2021 - 2:00 PM (PDT)

Prayer Leader: Fr. Larry Lynn, Pro-Life Chaplain (RCAV)
Also joining us is Rev. Mark McGuckin
And Special Guests

- PRAYER, MUSIC AND TESTIMONIALS -

DID YOU KNOW

- Canada is the only democratic country in the world where it is legal to abort a baby any time during the 9 months of pregnancy
- Over 100,000 unborn babies are surgically aborted in Canada every year
- A third of reported abortions are repeat abortions as it is, often used as an alternative to birth control
- 1 of 10 pregnancies ends in abortion
- Sadly, our current government is decidedly pro-choice and continues to promote both abortion and euthanasia throughout Canada

PRAY | FAST | SPEAK OUT TO END ABORTION

If you would like more information please contact us at: vancouver40days@gmail.com

Featured Speaker:



Wife, mom, TV show producer/host, artist, humanitarian & compassion advocate.

Come learn about The Justice Wall / Life Room

Faytene will inspire and encourage us to persevere in promoting and defending life from conception to natural end, especially via prayer and fasting.

Fr. Larry will interview:



Mary Wagner's long road toward achieving legal recognition of the humanity of the unborn has come to an end as the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed her leave to appeal Feb. 18.

Wagner had hoped to take a constitutional challenge of the Criminal Code to the country's top court to address what her lawyer Charles Lugosi described as a "once-in-a-century question" — whether Parliament has unlimited authority to define who is and who isn't a human being.

Did you know...

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday.

Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice."



As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or

his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

- Loyola Press

St. Augustine's Vocation Ministry



OMI
The Missionary Oblates
of Mary Immaculate

Invites you to join us on Wednesday mornings at 8:30am to pray the Rosary for Vocations. We will do this over a Zoom video call. If you would like to join us please send an email to Ben Hume at bhume03@gmail.com and he

will put you on the invite list which will contain the Zoom link to join the prayer session. If you are unsure how to access Zoom, please call Ben and he will help you through the process.

The next prayer session will happen on **March 17th at 8:30am.**



Share with your friends and family! Simply sign up for FREE by visiting formed.org and entering our Parish access code **4FX3T6**. You may then create your personal account.

Formed for Children

Learn and Pray with Brother Francis during Lent

This 4-part series will help children learn more about what Lent is all about



St. Augustine's School Pass the Torch Annual Fundraiser



PTT 2021 tickets on sale now! Event information and online ticket purchasing at Pass the Torch Virtual Gala 2021

Please email questions or concerns to passthetorchtickets@gmail.com

