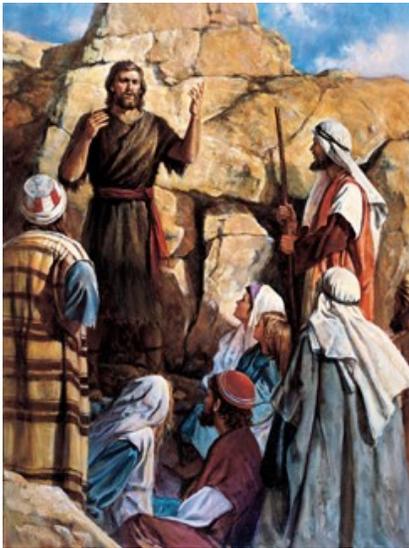




Preparing the way for the Lord



The prophet Baruch delivers a comforting message to Sion. In the First Reading we hear that Sion's sorrows are ended and her children will be restored to her from exile. God will level a highway to facilitate their return, and bring about a great restoration. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the picture painted here, it did point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel where Luke introduces us to the Messiah and his herald, John the Baptist. To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets the event within the framework of world history. In the manner of an Old

Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Savior by calling them to repentance.

The Second Reading deals with the final coming of Christ. In his love for his fellow Christians, Paul urges them to prepare for the Second Coming by pure and blameless lives.

Liturgical Celebrations:

Tuesday – 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.

Wednesday – 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.

Parish Penitential Service

Monday December 13th at 7:00pm

This Week

Monday, December 6

7:00pm Mass +Celina & Dominic D'Souza

Tuesday, December 7

8:00am Mass Int Fr. Ken Bernard
6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual)
6:30pm Meeting Parish Religious Education (PREP)
7:00pm Meeting Adult Faith Study
7:00pm Mass +Angel Mayo

Wednesday, December 8

8:00am Mass +Mariana Rivera
7:00pm Mass +Mark MacKay

Thursday, December 9

8:00am Mass +Eugene Fujisawa
7:00pm Mass St Augustine's School Advent Concert

Friday, December 10

8:00am Mass +Karlo Marko Bagon
7:00pm Mass +Gertrud Behrend

Saturday, December 11

8:00am Mass Int Zelie & Vincent Tan
5:00pm Mass +Mary Finnegan

Sunday December 12

9:00am Mass +Chun Ho Lee
11:00am Mass
5:00pm Mass Int Charles Stanley

Pope's Prayer Intention for December

Evangelization: *Catechists*— Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**OFFERTORY**

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday: \$9,486.00

Please visit www.staugustineschurch.ca

If you wish to maintain your contributions

via Debit or Credit Card

**“St. Augustine’s Cares!”**

Many B.C communities and Catholic Parishes have been hard hit by recent extreme weather and flooding. Community organizations and relief groups are working hard to help people in and around affected areas but we can also help!

Please consider making a donation to the Canadian Red Cross B.C and Yukon Division to help the affected communities of Princeton, Merritt, Chilliwack and Abbotsford. All donations are tax deductible and can be made online at donate.redcross.ca.

Migrant workers have also been hard hit by the devastation, particularly in the Fraser Valley. The Archdiocese has set up a “Fraser Valley Relief Fund” to help assist workers who have lost possessions and wages. Your tax deductible donation can be made through rcav.org/floodfund.

We are also collecting new items, such as socks, toques, scarves, gloves, toothbrushes, deodorant and other toiletries in our donation bin inside St. Augustine’s Church for migrant workers through St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Abbotsford. These items are needed by Tuesday, December 7th!

***Please help our brothers and sisters in need as
we enter the season of Advent!***

RCIA—Rite of Welcoming**Second Sunday of Advent****Rite of Welcoming**

The Rite of Welcoming encompasses Candidates who have completed the period of inquiry and are preparing for full initiation into the Catholic faith.

Candidates

Herbert Wong

Daniela Perez Montelongo

Trevor Shum

Jeremy Jand

Project Advance 2021—Our Way Forward

Please donate on-line at: projectadvance.ca

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

Advent Giving Tree - this year our Giving Tree collection will not be collecting items as Covenant House has asked for cash donations towards its triple matching programme. St. Augustine’s Social Justice Committee encourages 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

Go to 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

To find out about the work Covenant House does with youth please check out these videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY0qwn-fHC0&ab_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15CEl2wcEg&t=6s#s&ab_channel=CovenantHouseVancouver

Stewardship Reflection

December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.

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**FOOD COLLECTION
FOR THE POOR**

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.” Matthew 25:35

**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.

St. Augustine's Catholic Community is seeking a Communications Coordinator

The Communications Coordinator will be responsible for creating, together with the Pastoral Team, a comprehensive communications strategy for the Parish. The successful candidate will be responsible for facilitating all Parish wide communications, working with Staff, Parish Pastoral Council, Committees, and Parishioner groups. The Communications Coordinator will promote programs and events to the Parish and the wider community through various communications channels. The Communication Coordinator will maintain, expand, and promote the Parish in its shared mission to welcome and invite all to participate and celebrate in Word and Sacrament, fostering evangelization and social justice.

Qualifications:

The Communications Coordinator is a visible representative of St. Augustine's Parish and the Diocesan Church; therefore it is required that the incumbent be a practising Catholic, registered in a Catholic Parish.

Excellent communication skills and initiative

Proficient in PC and Mac applications

Knowledge of Tilma

Specific tasks and duties:

Develop and manage a comprehensive Parish communications plan

Prepare the weekly Parish Bulletin

Maintain and create content for the parish website and other media platforms

Design and maintain PowerPoint announcements

Prepare the bi-monthly "The St. Augustine's Parishioner" newsletter

Promote Parish events using a variety of communication methods

Manage the Parish's email list and publish the electronic newsletter

Prepare and oversee Communication Budget

This is a part-time position with the possibility of expansion to full-time.

Position reports to the Pastor. Salary commensurate with experience.

Benefits according to the CISVA benefit plan.

Submit your questions or a resume to astendzina@rcav.org

Deadline for acceptance is December 17th 2021

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

2021 Fall Campaign Update

As we enter the last month of our Fall Campaign, the generosity of parishioners and school families has now surpassed \$450,000. More than 90 percent of school families have donated to the campaign. All of these funds will be directed to the final phase of our school building project. Our goal is to reach \$500,000 by the end of December, 2021 and with everyone's help, we will get there.

Donations may be deposited in the Sunday collection or you can stop by the parish and school offices to drop off your contributions. If you're writing a cheque to the campaign, please make it out to:

St. Augustine Parish School Building Fund.

If you have any questions about the Fall Campaign or the school project, please call the Faith and Foundation Office at 604-736-4455 (Ext 231).

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Catholic education.

Around the Archdiocese...

Mass for the Closing of the Year of St. Joseph



On December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Archbishop Michael will celebrate a special Mass to close the Year of St. Joseph. Please join us as we thank St. Joseph for the many blessings he has shared with us this year and continue to pray for his intercession. In preparation for this Mass, all are invited to participate in a Novena and Act of Consecration to St. Joseph which began on November 30th. This is an opportunity for all of us to journey with St. Joseph as we begin the Season of Advent. No

registration is required for the Mass. Wednesday, December 8 at 5:10 p.m.

Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Advent 2021 Retreat for Ministry to Divorced and Separated

Join the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Ministry to Divorced and Separated for their first in-person event, an Advent retreat with Father Mark McGuckin – "Prepare the Way of the Lord." "Advent is a time for arising. It is such a joyous season, such a loving season! Let us enter into its joy." (Servant of God, Catherine de Hueck Doherty). Saturday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

A Season of Hope & Healing Mini-Retreat

Gardens of Gethsemani is hosting A Season of Hope & Healing Mini-Retreat: A faith-filled journey through Loss During Christmas. This event is for adults experiencing grief for any reason: be it the loss of a loved one, a strained relationship, the loss of a job and for individuals struggling with sadness during this time. What can you expect? Practical tools for navigating the holidays, an honouring grief circle, testimonies of hope and healing, craft/ornament decorating, refreshments and fellowship, and comforting music and time of prayer.

Saturday, December 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Christmas Blues – Healthy Relationship Series



Why do some people find the Christmas season difficult in spite of wanting to feel otherwise? Past Christmas experiences, loneliness and recent losses among other things contribute to the "Blues." We will explore some symptoms of this condition and what can be done to manage or even transform them!

Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events

Archbishop's Mass for Life

Join us as we celebrate life on Tuesday, Dec. 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m. "May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end." Tuesday, December 28 at 12:10 p.m.

Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Prepare the way for the Lord



In today's Gospel, we note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Why does Luke go to such a great length to provide us with these historical data? Scholars identify two motives: by planting the history of salvation firmly in the history of the word, Luke establishes the authenticity of his account. What he writes is not a work of imagination. That Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose in history. Secondly, Luke strongly believed that the message of salvation that Jesus brought was not limited to a particular group or people. *All flesh will see the salvation of God,*" Luke stresses the universal aspect of God's salvation.

Today we find John the Baptist traveling in the region of Jordan, exhorting, and inviting every Jews to prepare themselves morally and spiritually to receive the Messiah. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. Advent is a season given to us for repentance, renewal, reformation, and reconciliation with Creator. We are called to experience 'metanoia'- an inner conversion, a turning from evil and turning to good. St Pope Paul VI states, *"We must aim above all at an inner renewal, a liberation from the mere following of conventions, a departure in our way of thinking. More than anything else, we must lament our shortcomings before God and the community of our brothers and sisters. We must renew the self-understanding each must have of himself or herself as a child of God, as a Christian, as a member of the Church."*

Prophet Baruch, St. Paul and John the Baptist are all pointers to God's salvation. Am I a pointer, too? Do my words, deeds, point out to God who comes in our everyday lives? We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Advent is a time of hope, and of openness to change - a change not only in our outfits or approach but a true renewal of hearts and minds. In the words of Cardinal Newman: "To be human is to change. To be perfect is to have changed often." The Advent season reminds us that we must be always ready to receive the Lord when he comes. We must prepare a straight path for the Lord, removing all obstacles which stand in the Lord's way preventing him from coming. Let the season of Advent be a time when we look forward with great expectation to the coming of the Lord, trusting that He will do great wonders in our life. Let us prepare ourselves morally and spiritually to receive him.

Behold your God, he is coming.

By Vijay Deivanayagam, OMI
Vocation Team - Central
(431) 373-6342

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

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

604.736-4455 Ext. 221

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

Clara Lum faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

LECTORS

Diana Grierson lectors@staugustineschurch.ca

USHERS

Bill Borgen 604.224.2632

FOOD COLLECTION

Terry Murphy 604.736.5288

LEGION OF MARY

Immaculate.conception.praesidium@gmail.com