

January 1st 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



Mary

The Gospel today presents Mary to us as a model of new life in Christ all of us wish for ourselves in the new year. We read that when the shepherds came to adore the infant Lord, "Mary kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

Do we ever spend time reflecting on the ways God has touched our lives in the past year, this past Christmas? Some of us are very good at remembering all the negatives in our life, the ways people have harmed us. Do we ever try to recall the moments of grace when God touched our lives?

Mary took the time to reflect on these things and lift them all to the Father in prayer. The holiness of Mary was certainly God's gift to her but she also cooperated with that grace.

St. Paul says in today's second reading that we have received the spirit of adoption, a special relationship with God through Christ because of our baptism. Do we try to activate and energize that relationship?

As we begin the new year, let's try not to just make wishes for the new year but resolutions, concrete resolutions to tend to our responsibilities and strengthen our relationships with family, friends, God and Church that we have been given. Today we ask God's blessing and Mary's intercession to guide us in this new year so that in all that happens in the next months it will be for us a year of grace.



May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.

(Numbers 6.24-26)

This Week

Monday, January 3

10:00am Mass Int John & Marie Howell

Tuesday, January 4

8:00am Mass Int Ewa Fronc
6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual)
12:00pm Meeting Busy Hands Women's Group
7:00pm Mass +John Anderson

Wednesday, January 5

8:00am Mass Int Liliana Ivazeta
7:00pm Mass
7:00pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, January 6

8:00am Mass +Veneranda Miranda
9:15am Mass Epiphany—St. Augustine's School
7:00pm Mass +Celina & Dominic D'Souza

Friday, January 7

8:00am Mass Int Ted Fronc
7:00pm Mass Int Lillian Lane

Saturday, January 8

8:00am Mass Int Fern Fearn
10:00am Bapt
5:00pm Mass (50% capacity)

Sunday January 9

9:00am Mass +Teresa Davis (50% capacity)
11:00am Mass +Elena Perri (50% capacity)
5:00pm Mass (50% capacity)



The Epiphany of the Lord



For Matthew, the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection. God revealed himself to the Jews through the scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Hence, Matthew shows the Magi (who were Gentiles) receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox: the Jews who have the scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come, and with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore him.

There is nothing to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was only the means by which the great mystery was revealed – the revelation of Christ as the Savior of the Gentiles too.

The Second Reading expresses the theological meaning of today's feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who shared their gifts of time and talent decorating the church and preparing the liturgies so that we could have wonderful Christmas celebrations. The whole Christmas season at St. Augustine's was very beautiful and heartwarming.

I also would like to express a deep gratitude for all the Christmas cards and gifts we had received during this special time of the year. Thank you very much.

Have a very Happy New Year! God bless!

Fr. Andrew

In the stories of Jesus' birth, two special groups of people came to visit the newborn baby: the shepherds and the magi. The church has no special feast to commemorate the visit of the shepherds but we have this special feast of Epiphany to celebrate the visit of the magi. Why is that? It is because the visit of the magi is an eye-opener. The shepherds learnt of the birth of Jesus through a direct revelation from angels appearing in the midnight sky. The magi on the other hand learnt of the birth of Jesus by observing a star. The star did not say anything to them. They had to interpret this natural sign of the star to know what it meant and where it led.

Everyone needs a star to follow, just as ships in the sea need a lighthouse beacon to guide them safely to port. Daily life is full of little epiphanies for those who have eyes to see and minds to reflect. They slip in through the cracks in our busy armour – a moment of peace, or of beauty, or of goodness.

On this day, feast of Epiphany, there was a mysterious parting of the veil which enabled the Magi to catch a glimpse of the radiance of the Child of Bethlehem. Some people looked at the Christ-child and saw just another child. Others, such as Herod, saw the child as a threat. But the magi recognised the Christ-child as their saviour. All those people had the same eyes, yet they didn't see the same things with those eyes.

Yet for them too the veil closed again, the star disappeared, and they had to return home. What difference did the experience make to them? I think that it made the world of difference. They now had a new vision and a new hope. And on those cloudy days they could draw courage and hope from the epiphany that had been granted to them.

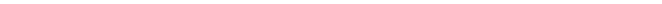
In our lives today we are called to follow the star as well – the same star the magi had followed. That light leads us to Christ who in turn

offers us his help to bear good fruits in our lives. It doesn't matter where the star is leading us – over the hill, on left or right side of the hill. We are called to persevere and to bring the good fruits of our lives



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.



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

Andrew Roznicki 604 733-5529

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

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	