



Lent

The first reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which served as a preparation for the covenant on Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in Christ.

In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. Mark makes no

reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as he will be at his last.

Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through water – the waters of baptism (second reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.

Liturgical celebrations:

Thursday – Chair of St. Peter (feast)

Early Roman Christians celebrated on this day a feast in honor of their departed loved ones, including their predecessors in the faith, Peter and Paul. In the 4th century, when the feast of these two saints was moved to June 29th, the emphasis of this day shifted to celebrating Peter and successors as bishops of Rome, and expressing gratitude for their service.

To celebrate the 'Chair' of Peter means giving it a strong spiritual significance, and recognizing therein a privileged sign of the love of God.

Papal Prayer Intention for February

Say "No" to Corruption – that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

Penitential Service

Lenten Penitential Service will take place on Friday , March 23rd at 7:00 pm

This Week

Monday, February 19

7:00pm Mass

Tuesday, February 20

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group

8:00am Mass

7:00pm Mass

6:30pm Meeting Knights of Columbus Executive

7:30pm Meeting Wisdom Bible Study group

Wednesday, February 21

8:00am Mass

12noon Meeting Westside Deanery

7:00pm Mass

7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thursday, February 22

8:00am Mass

7:00pm Mass +Albert Noronha

7:00pm Meeting Parish Pastoral Council

Friday, February 23

8:00am Mass

10:00am Meeting Moms & Tots Group

7:00pm Mass

Saturday, February 24

8:00am Mass +Laura Roder

9:30am Meeting Legion of Mary

5:00pm Mass

Sunday, February 25

9:00am Mass

11:00am Mass RCIA –Presentation of Catechumens & Candidates

2:30pm RCIA Rite of Election—Holy Rosary Cathedral

5:00pm Mass



Pope's Message

As the journeying People of God, we are here to pause at our Mother's temple. The presence of the Mother makes this temple a family home for us sons and daughters.

Together with generations and generations of Romans, we recognize in this house of our mother our own home, the

home where we can find refreshment, consolation, protection, shelter. The Christian people have understood, from the very beginning, that in difficulties and trials we need to turn to our Mother, as the most ancient Marian hymn has it: Beneath your protection, we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God; do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

We seek refuge. Our fathers in faith taught that in turbulent moments we should gather under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. At one time those who were persecuted and in need sought refuge with high-ranking noble women: when their cloak, regarded as inviolable, was held out as a sign of welcoming, protection had been granted. So it is for us with regard to Our Lady, the highest woman of the human race. Her mantle is always open to receive us and gather us. The Christian East reminds us of this, where many celebrate the Protection of the Mother of God, who in a beautiful icon is depicted with her mantle sheltering her sons and daughters and covering the whole world. Monks of old recommended, in times of trial, that we take refuge beneath the mantle of the Holy Mother of God: calling upon her as "Holy Mother of God" was already a guarantee of protection and help, this prayer over and again: "Holy Mother of God", "Holy Mother of God"... Just like this.

This wisdom, that comes to us from far off, helps us: the Mother protects the faith, safeguards relationships, saves those in storms and preserves them from evil. Where our Mother is at home, the devil does not enter in. Where our Mother is at home, the devil does not enter in. Where our Mother is present, turmoil does not prevail, fear does not conquer. Which of us does not need this, which of us is not sometimes distressed or anxious? How often our heart is a stormy sea, where the waves of our problems pile up and the winds of our troubles do not stop blowing! Mary is our secure ark in the midst of the flood. It will not be ideas or technology that will give us comfort or hope, but our Mother's face, her hands that caress our life, her mantle that gives us shelter. Let us learn how to find refuge, going each day to our Mother.

Do not despise our petitions, the hymn continues. When we petition her, Mary implores on our behalf. There is a beautiful title in Greek that says this: Grigorousa, that is, "she who intercedes swiftly". And it is this swiftly that Luke uses in the Gospel to indicate how Mary went to Elizabeth: quickly, immediately! She intercedes at once, she does not delay, we heard in the Gospel, when she brings the people's concrete need to Jesus at once: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3), they have no more! This is what she does each time, if we call on her: when there is no hope, when joy is scarce, when our strength is all used up, when life's star grows dark, our Mother intervenes. And if we call on her,

she intervenes even more. She is attentive to our weariness, sensitive to storms – the storms of life, she is close to our hearts. And she never, never despises our prayers; she does not let even one of them fall to the ground. She is our Mother, she is never ashamed of us; on the contrary, she waits for the chance to help her children.

One event can help us understand this. Next to a hospital bed, a mother was keeping watch over her son, who was in pain after an accident. The mother complained to the priest, saying: "There is one thing that the Lord did not grant us mothers". "What is that?" asked the priest. "To take away the pain of our children", answered the woman. Here we see a mother's heart: she is not embarrassed by injuries, by her children's vulnerability, but wants to take these injuries upon herself. And God's Mother – and our Mother – can take things upon herself, can console, keep watch and cure.

The hymn continues: deliver us from all dangers. The Lord himself knows that we need refuge and shelter in the midst of so many dangers. This is why at the most critical moment on the cross, he said to his beloved disciple, to every disciple: "Behold, your Mother!" (Jn 19:27). The Mother is not an "extra", something optional; she is Christ's witness. And we need her as a traveller needs refreshment, as a small child needs to be carried in one's arms. There is great danger for the faith if we live without our Mother, without her protection, allowing ourselves to be carried along by life like leaves by the wind. The Lord knows this, and recommends that we welcome his Mother. This is not a question of spiritual etiquette, but is needed for us to live. Loving her is not a poem; it is a question of being alive. For without a Mother we cannot be sons and daughters. And before all else, we are sons and daughters, beloved sons and daughters, who have God as Father and Our Lady as Mother.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that Mary is "a sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth" (Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, VIII, V). It is a sign, the sign that God has placed for us. If we do not follow it, we will lose our way. For there are signposts in the spiritual life, that are to be adhered to. They show to us "who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties" (ibid., 62), the Mother who has already reached her destination. Who better than she can accompany us on the journey? What are we waiting for? Just as the disciple beneath the cross received the Mother, "took her to his own home", says the Gospel (Jn 19:27), so we too, from this home of our Mother, invite Mary to our home, into our hearts, our lives. We cannot stand neutral or separated from our Mother; otherwise we will lose our identity as sons and daughters and our identity as a people, and we will live out a Christianity made up of ideas, of plans, without commitment, without tenderness, without a heart. But without a heart, there is no love and the faith runs the risk of becoming just a nice story from another age. Our Mother, on the other hand, safeguards and teaches her sons and daughters. She loves them and protects them, so they may love and protect the world. Let us invite our Mother into our daily lives, make her a constant presence in our homes, our certain refuge. May we give every day to her. May we invoke her in every storm. And let us not forget to turn to her to thank her.

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

Around the Parish...

Parish Lenten Retreat: Be still with Jesus

Save the date: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Join us for an afternoon to encounter Jesus through a talk, guided reflection and silent prayer time.

For more information please contact faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

Starting First Friday in March 2018 -

Extending Hours of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



St. Augustine's will now be **extending Eucharistic Adoration hours to 6:45pm** for those unable to attend during normal business hours.

What is Eucharistic Adoration? It is when Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated host), is exposed to those seeking to worship Him in thanksgiving, respectful silence and in reverence.

Way of the Cross



During Lent we will pray and meditate the Way of the Cross on every Friday after the 7:00 pm Mass.

"Wisdom is seeing with God's eyes." – Pope Francis

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. To help you learn to gather and live with greater wisdom, St. Augustine's adult faith group invites you to join us as we begin Wisdom: God's Vision for Life on Tuesdays at 7:30pm (February 6 - March 27) at the parish hall. For more information or to register, email Alyssa: alysademarco@hotmail.com. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.

School News...



Tenth Luncheon for the Seniors of St. Augustine's Parish

Venue – The School; Date/Time – Monday, March 5th at 12:00 pm Cost – No cost

As there is maximum seating, please RSVP by Feb. 27th to Geri Fujisawa at

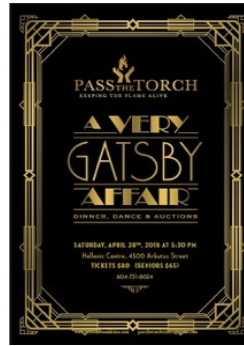
604-738-1155 or gerifuji@telus.net

Some Parking will be available at the School

Pub Night Fundraiser

St. Augustine School is excited to combine the Parish Refugee Committee Pub Night with our Parish Education Committee AGM this year on Thursday, February 22. Immediately after the PEC AGM at 7:30pm, parents and parishioners are invited to join us in the school for a community building evening surrounded by friends, food, music, and a cash bar. Drinks will be sold by donation, and all proceeds of the evening will support the refugee family sponsored by our parish. We hope you can join us."

We invite you to celebrate Saturday April 28th, 2018
A Very Gatsby Affair!



Pass the Torch is an annual gala hosted by the Parish of St. Augustine's. Enjoy a spectacular evening of live entertainment, dancing and dining. It's an incredible night, guaranteed to excite your senses! This fundraising event includes a three-course dinner, live & silent auctions with over \$50,000 worth of items and dancing to a live band and a DJ!

For more info contact:

St. Augustine's School: 604 731-8024

Info: Faithandfoundation.com

Tickets: Passthetorch.brownpapertickets.com

Email: passthetorchtickets@gmail.com

Around the Archdiocese...

Couples Connect: A Deeper Bond

Do you feel like your marriage is on cruise control? Do you wish you could increase sexual intimacy in your marriage, fight less, and feel appreciated? Do you wish your partner would open up more? Are you left wanting more in your marriage? What is it?

Through teaching moments, demonstration, and practice, this 6 week workshop provides couples with a unique opportunity to practice skills learned and receive feedback from counsellors. Couples will learn how to manage and work through conflict, increase sexual intimacy, fondness and admiration, feel more connection with their partner, and build a long-lasting relationship of love. Couples will also receive a workbook containing handouts and reference tools to take home. Register to secure your spot!

February 21, 2018 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at John Paul II Pastoral Centre - St John Paul II Way, Vancouver,

Cost: \$130 Contact: Sister John Mary Sullivan 604 683 0281

Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace - February 23, 2018

Pope Francis invites the Church to observe the Friday of the first week of Lent, Feb. 23, as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the many areas of conflict throughout the world, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Mass of Remembrance

Join us this Sunday, February 25th for our monthly Mass of Remembrance as we pray together for our loved ones that have passed away this month.

Mass will be held at BOTH 12:30 and 2:30 pm in our Evangelist Chapel.

Visit rcavv.org/events for more information.

Domestic Abuse Services - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society

22nd Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, March 7th, 2018 at 7 pm at St. Michael's Parish Center, Burnaby, BC. We are pleased to have two members of the Vancouver Police Domestic Violence Unit speaking at our meeting. Bring a friend to learn about the Society and the good work we do. Interested in joining our Board of Directors and making a difference in peoples' lives? Call Della at 604.585.6688 for more info.

Oblate Corner



A PERSONAL RULE OF LIFE? *Posted by Frank Santucci*

A Rule of Life! Eugene and his first companions had come together as a missionary community in 1816. Two years later they captured the essence of their experience of God, their community life and mission in the Constitutions and Rules. These were later revised and then approved by the Church on 17 February 1826. It is this version of the Rule that

Eugene is meditating on his retreat.

Wherefore, while pledging themselves to all the works of zeal which priestly charity can inspire—above all, to the work of the missions, which is the main end of their association—these priests, joined together in a society, resolve to follow a rule and constitutions which are unanimously proper to obtain all the benefits that they embrace for their own sanctification and for the salvation of souls..

Retreat notes, October 1831, EO XV n. 163

By following the spirit and letter of this Rule, they – and we today – obtain all the benefits of salvation for ourselves and for our mission.

Yesterday the Oblate Associates at OST in San Antonio renewed their annual commitment to do exactly what Eugene wrote about here: to follow the Associates Rule of Life as the means to attain the same ends that Eugene proposes to all who follow his way of discipleship. As a saint of the Universal Church, his spirit belongs to and can inspire all the People of God.

What is your Rule of Life, dear reader?

A Word from Fr. Andrzej...

Each Year, this Sunday of Lent leads us into the desert. Normally that would be a frightful experience, because the desert is the place of bandits and wild animals. It is the place where no law protects the unfortunate wanderer. But the desert is the proper place to begin Lent, since this is where God usually finds us: wandering, a little weary of life, a little empty of spirit, just as the desert is empty of food. The desert dryness often matches our spiritual dryness, a soul often worn down and needing refreshment.

There is a reason to go into the desert at the beginning of Lent: Jesus went there. We need never be afraid to go wherever Jesus went before us, into deserts or into death. He always calms our fears and tells us that it is all right – all right to go into Lent's desert to search our souls and to find what kind of refreshment we need in order to come to the life-giving water of the Easter Vigil. And to do that we need to go through the desert experience. Only there we can reflect on our lives, make changes that are necessary. It is there where we have to face our demons. It is there where we can begin the process of conversion and it there where we can begin to start settling the war between good and evil in our lives.

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

RECONCILIATION

Weekdays 15 minutes before weekday Mass
 Saturday 4:00pm–4:30pm

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 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Vea Coronado 604.736.4455 x 224
 vea@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

604.736.4455 x 221
 Preparation classes held first Thursday of the month

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

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Nelson Cheung 604.328.3882

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sonny Harsono em@staugustineschurch.ca

PARISH COUNCIL

Mary Ellen Turnbull parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca

CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

Samantha Strudwick 604.255-1662

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Roy Pimentel 778.330.6850

LEGION OF MARY

Sr. Lilia Yearley 604.734.0535

ADULT FAITH

Alyssa & Scott Kenyon faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

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USHERS

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

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