



Preparing the way for the Lord

The first reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at that time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet assures his people that God is about to come to their aid, and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell short of the glowing picture painted here, Isaiah's words point the way to the messianic era.

This leads into the Gospel. Like a new Elijah, John appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer – Jesus, the Christ and Son of God. Both reading issue a call to repentance: "Prepare a way for the Lord."

In the second reading Peter is talking about the second coming. The reason for the Lord's delay is to give everybody an opportunity to repent.

Liturgical Celebrations:

Tuesday – Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast)

This memorial commemorates the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 at Tepeyac, on the outskirts of Mexico City. Our Lady appeared four times, twice to aboriginal convert Juan Diego, with whom she left orders to build a church and an imprint of her image on a cloak. In 1946 Pius XII named her a patron of the Americas.

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples:

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on December 12 every year, on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, who appeared to a humble native peasant, Juan Diego, in Mexico in 1531. The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council celebrates this day for prayer, solidarity and reconciliation, by issuing an annual message honouring Aboriginal people who were inspired by their Catholic faith.

Pope's Prayer Intention for December: *For persons with disabilities*

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of society's attention, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their participation.

This Week

Monday, December 11

7:00pm **Mass** + Mary Finnegan
7:45pm Meeting Catholic in Recovery

Tuesday, December 12

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual)
8:00am **Mass** + Kitty Gillespie
6:30pm Meeting Parish Religious Education (PREP)
7:00pm **Mass** + Honourable Patrick Dohm
7:45pm Meeting Adult Bible Study

Wednesday December 13

8:00am **Mass** + Connie To
7:00pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
7:00pm **No Mass** **Parish Reconciliation Service**

Thursday December 14

8:00am **Mass** Int. Frances & Claude Barron
7:00pm **No Mass** St. Augustine School Advent Song & Prayer

Friday December 15

8:00am **Mass** Int. Freddie & Declan Murray
7:00pm **Mass** + Adolf Behrend

Saturday December 16

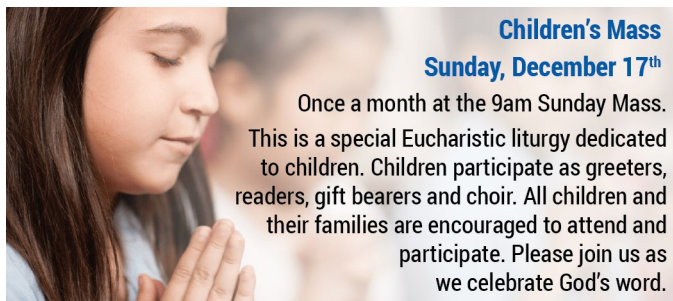
8:00am **Mass** Int. Darina Lawton
8:30am Meeting ALPHA Wrap-up
12:30pm Event Indigenous Voices
5:00pm **Mass** + Esperanza Legara

Sunday, December 17

9:00am **Mass** + Kristofer Bihis
10:00am Event Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
11:00am **Mass** For Parishioners by Missionary Oblates
5:00pm **Mass** Int. Judith Dajay

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Alexandra Bayer & Spencer Joel

OFFERTORYWe are grateful for these gifts
Sunday: \$9,597.00*Please visit www.staugustineschurch.ca if you wish to maintain your contributions via Debit or Credit Card***Children's Mass****Sunday, December 17th**

Once a month at the 9am Sunday Mass.

This is a special Eucharistic liturgy dedicated to children. Children participate as greeters, readers, gift bearers and choir. All children and their families are encouraged to attend and participate. Please join us as we celebrate God's word.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Don't forget to purchase your items for Covenant House & Sancta Maria House (new items only, please). Place all UNWRAPPED items under the tree by noon on **Sunday, December 17th**. Anyone who can help sort and package the collection and/or drive to Covenant House on December 17th (12:00 pm - 1:00 pm), please contact Eileen at dcamparmo@hotmail.com. **Thank you!**

**Feature Organization: Sancta Maria House**

Sancta Maria House is a Catholic, Christian recovery home that embraces the 12- Step Programme; they accept women from all faith backgrounds. They offer a structured, supportive, abstinence program for women in a loving family-like setting. Their mission is that women who come to the home will hear Jesus' message of love, and experience His healing powers as they journey through recovery and heal. Their goal is to provide loving support, direction and encouragement as women journey in achieving freedom from their addictions.

Visit their website at <https://sanctamariahouse.org>.**Year 2023 Parish Envelopes**

Are available for pick-up outside the Parish Hall. Please do not take a box unless your name is on it. Unmarked boxes are available for pick-up at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

A convenient option for Parish Giving is through auto-debit or credit card. Continue to support the church even when you can't attend service with one-time or recurring donations. Visit the parish office to pick-up a donation form or download the form from the parish website: staugustineschurch.ca/donate

Charitable Donations & Tax Receipts

Donations must be received by the Parish by December 31, 2023

St. Augustine's Penitential Service**Wednesday, December 13th 2023 at 7:00pm****Cor - Men's Prayer Reflection**

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, this focussed based Men's Prayer Gathering is available to all men. The St. Augustine's cohort will gather in the Parish Library at 7:30 pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month beginning Wednesday January 17th 2024.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast**December 17th 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

\$10 Adult
\$5 Child (3-12 yrs)
\$30 Family of 4(+)

All proceeds to local charities.

**St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 8319**

Annual Charity Appeal
Car & Cash Prizes
Totaling over \$100,000

TICKETS

1 for \$5, 10 for \$20 & 50 for \$50

Limited tickets, please buy and support our parish council
Purchase your tickets online Sales End December 16th

Visit: <https://kofcdraw.net/c8319>

**PROJECT
ADVANCE
2023**

**Empowering
our Parish Vision**

Support the work of our parish: Project Advance

Together we support the work of our parish and Archdiocese through Project Advance. The core Archdiocesan needs continue to be the renovation of our regional secondary schools, the founding of new parish communities, and the support of many life-giving ministries.

Our parish will also use the funding for our church windows. Please help us meet the needs of our Church and parish by donating to Project Advance. Gifts can be made online at projectadvance.ca.

Thank you so much for your support.

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.

Stewardship Reflection

December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

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Catholic In Recovery

Do you suffer in silence with an addiction, compulsion or some type of unhealthy attachment and feel you need help...

Then, please consider coming to Catholic in Recovery (CIR) meeting, a 12 Steps Program tied to the Sacraments of the Church. We meet with other Catholics whose sole purpose is to help each other find healing from any addiction, compulsion, or unhealthy attachment.

We meet every Monday evening at the Church library between 7:45pm to 9:00pm to share our experience, strength and hope with other Catholics seeking recovery.

For more information and in confidence, please feel welcome to contact Jean-Joseph at Catholic in Recovery by email at cirstaugustines@gmail.com or 604-670-4217.



Thursday, December 21st 7:45pm to 9:45pm

Taizé is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Burgundy, France. The music of the community is simple and reflective, sung repeatedly and in harmony. The community's services consist of this music, punctuated by Scripture readings and silence. You are invited to pray by singing, listening and reflecting.



Annual Fall Campaign Update

St. Augustine's annual Fall Campaign to complete our school building project has raised nearly **\$485,000** — our goal is \$500,000 for this year. Nearly 90 percent of all school families have made a commitment and the number of parishioners (without children in the school) who are donating is also growing. Thank you for this tremendous generosity.

The Campaign will end on December 31, 2023 and you can deposit your gift in the Sunday collection or go to the parish or school offices. If you are writing a cheque please make it payable to:
St. Augustine Parish — School Building Fund.

Read more about our efforts in our Fall newsletter.

For any questions, please contact the Faith and Foundation office at 604-736-4455 (Extension 231) or donate@faithandfoundation.com

Visit: staugustineschurch.ca/faithandfoundation



St. Augustine School Accepting Applications For 2024-25 School Year

St. Augustine School is accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. An Open House for interested families will be held at the school on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00pm.

For more information, visit the school website www.faihandfoundation.com or call the school office at (604) 731-8024.

Limited spots are available in Grades 1-7.

Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is excited to partner with [Family Life Canada](http://FamilyLifeCanada.com) to offer weekend getaways to married couples in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. For most couples, it's a chance to reconnect, re-establish the foundation, and rekindle romance. For others, it's a fresh start. For some, it will be the weekend that saves a marriage.

Wherever you're at in your relationship, this retreat is a weekend to remember.

The atmosphere is relaxed, warm and fun! You'll hear from real couples doing real life together... God's way. You'll be given time to process what you're learning. And together, build a joyful marriage that lasts a lifetime.

The next getaway is on the weekend of February 16-18, 2024 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC. The fee is usually \$299. Use promo code **RCAVIC** to register for \$199.

Accommodations at the Fairmont Empress Victoria for conference participants should be booked separately. Special room rate starts at \$209/night before January 26; rates may vary thereafter.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 14, 2024. For information visit: beholdvancouver.org/events

FOOD COLLECTION

December 16th & 17th 2023

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



Archbishop's Annual

MASS

FOR *Life*

"May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end."

December 16, 2023

Holy Rosary Cathedral | Mass at 12:10 pm

Celebrant: Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

604-683-0281



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Penitential Service — December 13TH 7:00PM

4TH Sunday of Advent Masses

December 23RD 5:00PM

December 24TH 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Christmas Eve — December 24TH

Carol Service 4:30PM Family Mass 5:00PM

Carol Service 8:30PM Mass 9:00PM - with Gospel Artist Marcus Mosley

Carol Service 11:30PM Mass 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses — December 25TH

9:00AM & 11:00AM

Feast of the Holy Family — December 30TH & 31ST

December 30TH 5:00PM

December 31ST 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

December 31ST 5:00PM

January 1ST 9:00AM, 11:00AM, & 5:00PM

December 26th & January 2nd - 10:00AM Mass Only

The Parish Office will be closed December 26TH & 27TH

After Mass hospitality will resume after the Christmas Break

Christmas and New Years Day which is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – both fall on Monday this year and are Holy Days of Obligation when Catholics are required to attend Mass.

December 24th being a Sunday – we are required to fulfill our Sunday Obligation before 4:00pm (or Saturday 5:00pm) in addition to attending a Christmas Mass in the evening or on December 25th.

December 31st we need to fulfill our Sunday obligation (including Saturday 5:00pm).

January 1st Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation.

In short – “one Mass cannot count for both Sunday and the Christmas or New Year’s obligation”

RCAV 2023

If you are new to our Parish Community or have an address or telephone change, please fill out the infor-	
<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. Ignacy Warias, OMI

604.736.4455 x 227

pastor@staugustineschurch.ca

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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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@saschool.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

Samantha Strudwick

em@staugustineschurch.ca

PARISH COUNCIL

Edwina Ramirez

parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE (CWL)

Neysa Finnie

staugcwlpres@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Don Hitsman

dchitsman20@gmail.com / 778-722-9563

ADULT FAITH

Linda Chehab

faithformation@staugustineschurch.ca

LECTORS

Diana Grierson

lectors@staugustineschurch.ca

USHERS

Paul Mitchell-Banks

paulmitchellbanks@gmail.com

FOOD COLLECTION

Terry Murphy

604.736.5288

LEGION OF MARY

Immaculate.conception.praesidium@gmail.com

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY

Jean-Joseph

cirstaugustines@gmail.com / 604-670-4217

YOUNG ADULTS

Kathryn Arab

ya@staugustineschurch.ca