

**March 24th 2024**

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**
**Palm Sunday**


Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and

the week in which Christians celebrate the mystery of their salvation through Christ's Death and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**The History of Palm Sunday**

Beginning in the fourth century in Jerusalem, Palm Sunday was marked by a procession of the faithful carrying palm branches, representing the Jews who celebrated Christ's entrance into Jerusalem.

In the early centuries, the procession began on the Mount of the Ascension and proceeded to the Church of the Holy Cross.

As the practice spread throughout the Christian world by the ninth century, the procession would begin in each Church with the blessing of palms, proceed outside the Church, and then return to the Church for the reading of the Passion according to the Gospel of Matthew. The faithful would continue to hold the palms during the reading of the Passion. In this way, they would recall that many of the same people who greeted Christ with shouts of joy on Palm Sunday would call for His Death on Good Friday - a powerful reminder of our own weakness and the sinfulness that causes us to reject Christ.

**Palm Sunday without Palms?**

In different parts of the Christian world, particularly where palms were historically hard to obtain, branches of other bushes and trees were used, including olive, box elder, spruce, and various willows. Perhaps best known is the Slavic custom of using pussy willows, which are among the earliest of plants to bud out in the spring.

The faithful have traditionally decorated their houses with the palms from Palm Sunday, and, in many countries, a custom developed of weaving the palms into crosses that were placed on home altars or other places of prayer. Since the palms have been blessed, they should not simply be discarded; rather, the faithful return them to their local parish in the weeks before Lent, to be burned and used as the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

**This Week**
**Monday, March 25**

**7:00pm** **Mass** +Bea Colwill  
 7:45pm Meeting Catholic in Recovery

**Tuesday, March 26**

6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (virtual)  
**8:00am** **Mass** +Marion McDermott  
 10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Women's Craft Group  
**7:00pm** **Mass** +Jan & Irena Jankowski  
 7:45pm Meeting Bible Study Group

**Wednesday, March 27**

**8:00am** **Mass** +Margaret Fitzsimmons  
**5:10pm** **Chrim Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral**  
 7:00pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)  
**7:00pm** **Mass** Int Linda Chehab

**Thursday March 28**

**7:00pm** **Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
 +All Deceased Oblate Brothers & Fathers

**Friday March 29**

**12:00 noon** **Good Friday Liturgy**  
**3:00pm** **Good Friday Liturgy**

**Saturday March 30**

**2:00pm** Event Blessing of the Easter Baskets  
**8:30pm** **Easter Vigil** For Parishioners by Missionary Oblates

**Sunday March 31**

**9:00am** **Mass** +Charm-Ming Sung  
**11:00am** **Mass** +Una Carroll  
**5:00pm** **Mass** +Józef Warias

**Please note:** No Confessions on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

**Confession Times:**

Monday – Wednesday Evenings: 6:25pm – 6:50pm  
 Tuesday – Wednesday Mornings: 7:25am – 7:50am



## OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts  
Sunday: \$10,613.00

Please visit [www.staugustineschurch.ca](http://www.staugustineschurch.ca) If you wish to maintain your contributions via Debit or Credit Card



### Good Friday Collection: Needs of the Church in the Holy Land

Political and economic instability, poverty and discrimination make it difficult to live in the lands where Christ once walked.

On Good Friday, March 29, there will be a special collection to support the Church of the Holy Land. Your tax-deductible gift will enable many social, educational, and Parish renewal projects, and permit a measure of peace for Christians who depend on your support more than ever. Donations can be made in person at the Parish or online at [rcav.org/holy-land](http://rcav.org/holy-land).

### Blessing of the Easter Baskets

**Holy Saturday, March 30th, at 2:00pm**

The Easter Basket blessing is a long tradition when families bring their first meal for Easter to be blessed. We invite you and your family to bring your unique family basket(s) for a brief blessing service.



### Around the Parish...



Photos of the Parish Council and Staff have been taken by Sonya and Brian Moylan and are displayed in the Church hallway leading to the Parish Centre. We thank Sonya and Brian for sharing their time and talent.

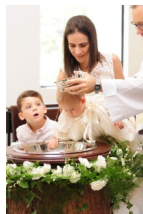
### Baptismal Preparation

Classes are held at the Parish Centre beginning at 6:30pm.

Thursday March 21st & Thursday May 2nd

You may register by calling or leaving a message at the Parish Office with your name and contact number:

604 736-4455 Ext 221.



### Save the Date – Saturday June 1, 6pm – 8:30pm.

*Join us for our next Refugee Settlement Sponsorship fundraiser in the Parish Centre*

A Middle Eastern dinner will be followed by an educational presentation by Fr. Kamora, a Chaldean priest. Fr. Kamora will speak about the Chaldean Church in Iraq, the challenges these Christians have faced through the ages, and its impact on their current state.

*Stay tuned for further details and ticket sales information*

### Refugee Settlement Sponsorship News

Our refugee sponsorship application has achieved another milestone. The application was recently approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Their next step in the approval process is to submit it to an IRCC office abroad for review. The submission has now been made.

### Esther and Zion's Family Refugee Story

Parishioners Esther and Zion arrived in Canada in May 2022 as Syrian Kurdish refugees. They joined our Parish and went through RCIA and came into the Catholic Church at Easter 2023.

Zion's mother and sister are also Syrian Kurdish refugees who remain displaced in Turkey. As part of our Parish's social justice efforts, we are sponsoring their immigration application for their resettlement in Vancouver as privately sponsored refugees from Turkey.

As refugee women, they have endured over 13 years of civil war, sectarian violence, and forced displacement, and have been separated from Esther and Zion since 2013.

By 2014, advancing, barbaric attacks by the Islamic State on their Kurdish home city of Kobani ("Siege of Kobani") forced them to flee on foot north to Turkey. Their home and most of their city was destroyed. They lost everything. In Turkey, they are registered as Syrian refugees.

Having lost their possessions and property in Syria and lacking the legal status and documentation to travel, combined with growing xenophobia against refugees, their opportunities for employment and therefore some safety and stability are very limited.

They are unable to return to their area of Syria due to continuous military assaults there, the on-going Syrian Civil War, and the practices of persecution and human rights abuses by the Syrian government and other warring groups against returning refugees.

Their resettlement and family reunification in Canada is both their hope and our Parish's goal.

### The Goal

To support and sponsor the application process.

This also includes the requirement to raise \$75,000 to sponsor both Zion's mother's and sister's resettlement in Canada.

## 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.

**Email Fraud Warning**

Our parish has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to recent **Internet email phishing scams**. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards, and other forms of financial assistance.



Never respond to emails requesting gift cards, or any other form of personal financial assistance, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious, parish staff or bishop. If you have any doubt, please contact the sender by other means to verify any requests

**Note from the Parish Pastoral Council**

Have you ever heard or seen the name of a deceased individual and wondered if you "knew that person?"

The Parish Pastoral Council wants to address this issue. We propose that with the approval from immediate family members, we will post a photo of the deceased in the bulletin, including any information about a funeral, time permitting or as scheduling permits.



We want to make sure Parishioners are aware of those who have passed on, especially with recent losses of some older Parishioners and Priests. It's important as a faith community that we are able to celebrate the lives and losses of our brothers and sisters.

Contact: Parish Pastoral Council  
[parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca](mailto:parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca)

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



Our prayer devotion to St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church will be on **Mon. April 8, 2024 at 7:30 pm**. The St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon has been Blessed by Pope Francis.

Intentions: Pro Life, Fallen Away Catholics, Matrimony, Vocations, Catholic Education & the Priesthood.

*Please join us after the 7:00pm Mass for this annual Knights of Columbus devotion.*

**Stewardship Reflection**

**"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" -Mark 15:12-13**

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

**SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024**  
**HYATT REGENCY- VANCOUVER**  
 DO YOU WANT TO HELP OTHERS HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS?  
 COME SEE FR. RICCARDO AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN A NEW AND COMPELLING WAY.  
 LEARN MORE:  
[WWW.STAUGUSTINESCHURCH.CA](http://WWW.STAUGUSTINESCHURCH.CA)

*Vancouver* **RESCUE** *Live*

WANT TO HELP OTHERS HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS?  
 EVER WONDER HOW YOU PERSONALLY FIT INTO THE "BIG STORY"?

COME HEAR THE GOSPEL IN A NEW AND COMPELLING WAY THAT WILL MAKE US THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT OUR FAITH.  
 FR. JOHN RICCARDO, HEADS THE RESCUE PROJECT AND "ACTS XXIX" AND IS A DYNAMIC PRIEST, GIFTED SPEAKER AND TEACHER.  
 JOIN THE 30 VANCOUVER PARISHES THAT HAVE SAID "YES" TO THE CALL!

ANY QUESTIONS?  
[FAITHFORMATION@STAUGUSTINESCHURCH.CA](mailto:FAITHFORMATION@STAUGUSTINESCHURCH.CA)

REGISTER HERE!  
 DISCOUNT CODE: SAINTAUGUSTINES

# Birthright

Birthright is a crisis pregnancy service that provides free and confidential services to pregnant women and their

unborn children. Whether it's providing a pregnancy test or infant clothing, or discussing a woman's situation and available community resources, we as volunteers are committed to providing love, care, and support to women during the challenges of their pregnancy.

Our Vancouver chapter has been around for over 50 years now, and has hundreds of stories of happy mothers and children as a result of its work. Have a look at our annual newsletter, which is attached to this email!

We have an urgent need for daytime office volunteers, a secretarial position, and people to support our volunteers. If you're interested in supporting our mission, I hope you'll consider volunteering with us, sharing our work with others, or making a tax-deductible donation to Birthright Vancouver. I'm also happy to answer any questions you might have about Birthright.

**Contact us:**

107 - 207 West Hastings St, Vancouver BC V6B 1H7

604-687-7223 | Text: 778-228-4771 | 24-hour helpline: 1-800-550-4900

Email: [birthrightvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:birthrightvancouver@gmail.com)

Website: [www.birthright.org/vancouver](http://www.birthright.org/vancouver)

**FOOD COLLECTION**

April 20 & 21 2024

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

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE****Holy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup>****Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 PM**

Procession of the Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and Procession to the Altar of Repose in the Parish Hall which will be open until 11:00 PM to enable the faithful to remain in prayer and meditation. Remember to bring your bells to be rung during the Gloria.  
There will be no 8:00 AM Mass and no Confession Time.

**Good Friday – March 29<sup>th</sup>****Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 12 NOON & 3:00 PM**

Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion.  
Second Collection: The Needs of the Church in the Holy Land

**Good Friday – 7:00 PM – Stations of the Cross**

Theme: Walking with Jesus  
The Parish Hall will be closed during the day and no Confession Time.

**Holy Saturday – March 30<sup>th</sup>****Blessing of the Easter Baskets – 2:00 PM**

Have your Easter food and treats blessed in the church. Traditionally the faithful brought meats, bread, eggs, vegetables, and wine as a way of consecrating the whole of the Easter season. Items to bring, however are not limited to those above, so don't forget the chocolate.

**Confession Time – 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM****Easter Vigil – 8:30 PM**

The Church and Parish Centre will be closed on Holy Saturday until 7:30 PM (excluding Confession and Blessing Service at 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM). Throughout the day the faithful are invited to continue the solemn paschal fast which they began on Good Friday. Service will begin in the Parish Courtyard. Remember to bring your bells to be rung during the Gloria.

**Easter Sunday – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 5:00 PM****Easter Monday – April 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 AM ONLY**

The Parish Office will be closed Good Friday and Easter Monday and will reopen on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Parish Information****PASTOR**

Rev. Ignacy Varias, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK**

604.736-4455 EXT.221

**CONFESSION TIMES**

Monday - Friday 6:35pm-6:50pm  
Tuesday-Saturday 7:35am-7:50am  
Saturday 4:00pm-4:30pm

**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

**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

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Angelo Empleo ya@staugustineschurch.ca

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                          |                  |