

December 3 2023  
 First Sunday of Advent

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



### Advent

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the story of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microscopic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He is the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

As for today's readings – the first is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save his people. It recalls God's past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people.

The second reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord's coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord.  
 These words are addressed to us now.

### Pope's Prayer Intention for December

**For persons with disabilities**— We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

### Stewardship Reflection

*"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."* - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

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## This Week

### Monday, December 4

- 6:00pm Meeting Ushers of St. Augustine's Church
- 6:30pm Meeting Catholic Women's League Executive
- 7:00pm **Mass** Int Tammy Tchir
- 7:45pm Meeting Catholic in Recovery

### Tuesday, December 5

- 6:00am Meeting Men's Prayer Group (Virtual)
- 8:00am **Mass** Int Amando Robillo, Jr.
- 6:30pm Meeting Parish Religious Education (PREP)
- 7:00pm **Mass** +Teresita M. Reyes
- 7:45pm Meeting Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday December 6

- 8:00am **Mass** +Deceased Family Members
- 7:00pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- 7:00pm Meeting Faith Study
- 7:00pm **Mass** Int Dick & Evelyn Vollet

### Thursday December 7

- 8:00am **Mass** +Maria Chodkowska
- 6:45pm Meeting ALPHA
- 7:00pm **Mass** +Ted Laureles

### Friday December 8

- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 8:00am **Mass** +Mariano Rivera
- 7:00pm **Mass** + Dung Van Ngo

### Saturday December 9

- 8:00am **Mass** Int Jasper & Charissa Leonardo
- 8:30am Meeting ALPHA Team
- 9:00am Meeting Missionary Oblate Associates
- 1:00pm Wedding
- 5:00pm **Mass**

### Sunday December 10

- 9:00am **Mass** For Parishioners by Missionary Oblates
- 10:00am Event CWL Advent Social
- 11:00am **Mass** Int Fr. Ignacy Warias, OMI
- 5:00pm **Mass** +Sophia Law



### OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts  
Sunday: \$10,931.00

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



**St. Augustine's CWL Christmas Fair**

Thank you for making the first post-pandemic Christmas Fair hosted by the Catholic Women's League at great success. More than \$5,000 was raised to support very worthy charities. To the setup/tear down crews, donors, bakers, ticket and goods sellers, kitchen and serving crew, advertising/communications support from the school, the parish office, and the CWL members themselves and, of course, all the parishioners who attended, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you. See you in 2024!



## St. Augustine's Penitential Service

**Wednesday December 13th 2023  
at 7:00pm**

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Ushers and Greeters Ministry at St. Augustine's Parish is facilitating a meeting of new and current Ushers to engage with Fr. Ignacy and discuss how we can best serve the Church and its congregation.

We encourage interested parishioners aged 18 and older to meet with us in the Church for one hour at **6:00pm on Monday December 4th.**

### St. Augustine's Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC is currently composed of Fr. Ignacy (Pastor), two Parish Staff, and nine Parishioners. The PPC meets monthly in person to share updates, review and decide on proposals, and plan events pertaining to the Parish Community. In recent months, the PPC has elected a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Secretary; and supported programs including:

- the book sale for the Refugee Settlement Program;
- a fraud protection workshop for seniors; and
- the Catholics in Recovery Program.

Members also participated in Intentional Accompaniment training, the Upper Room Conference, and St. Mark's College breakfast fundraiser. If you are interested in more details regarding our meetings, the minutes can be found in the Parish Library. For any further queries, please reach out to Edwina Ramirez, Chair, at [parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca](mailto:parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca).

### 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.

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Friday December 8th 2023**

Please join us for the Mass at 8:00am or 7:00pm in Celebration of Our Blessed Mother.

## 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.

**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 7:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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](mailto:cirstaugustines@gmail.com) or 604-670-4217.



**Together, let's support the communities of Guapinol and San Pedro in Honduras!**

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is responding to the call from our partner ERIC – Radio Progreso to raise awareness of the tragic plight of the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. We stand with them as they defend their right to water for survival and struggle to obtain:

- Justice
- Reparations and protection
- The cancellation of irregularly granted mining permits
- The restoration of their national park

**"It is urgent to cancel all mining in this area of our park. All the damage caused to our rivers and mountains must be repaired."**

– Daniel Márquez, Guapinol defender and former political prisoner

Let's ask the Honduran government to better protect environmental and human rights defenders and to act for justice. Stand in solidarity. Sign the letter to the Honduran ambassador at [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act).



**Bread of Life: The Eucharist in Galilee**  
We're pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new video series!

Christ's teaching on the Eucharist was not reserved solely for the Last Supper. Rather, this profound mystery is the crescendo of Jesus' entire ministry: all his work in Galilee prepared for and pointed to the Eucharist. Join Dr. Tim Gray for this exciting five-part series about Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist.

St. Augustine's Parish has a subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic website. The Parish code is 4FX3T6

## FOOD COLLECTION

December 16 & 17 2023

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

**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 16<sup>th</sup>

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

**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

**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.

Please, visit the school website [www.faithandfoundation.com](http://www.faithandfoundation.com) for more information or call the school office at (604) 731-8024. Limited spots are also available in Grades 1-7.

**Annual Fall Campaign Update**

St. Augustine's annual Fall Campaign to complete our school building project has raised more than 468,000 – our goal is \$500,000 for this year. Over 85 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 at the Faith and Foundation table at the entrance of the church 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**. You can read more about our efforts in our Fall newsletter. For any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact the Faith and Foundation office at 604-736-4455 (Extension 231) or email us at [donate@faithandfoundation.com](mailto:donate@faithandfoundation.com).



We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our upcoming **Catholic Educators Conference** as a valued vendor partner that will be held on **Thursday, February 15, 2024**, at the prestigious **Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, BC**. Our event promises to be a fantastic platform for showcasing and promoting your products and services to a diverse and engaged audience.

For more information on how to become a vendor and sponsor of the event, please visit the following link: <https://cisva.regfox.com/cec2024>

Catholic Educators Conference  
[cecregistration@cisva.bc.ca](mailto:cecregistration@cisva.bc.ca)

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Penitential Service — December 13<sup>TH</sup> 7:00PM**

**4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent Masses**

December 23<sup>RD</sup> 5:00PM

December 24<sup>TH</sup> 9:00AM & 11:00AM

**Christmas Eve — December 24<sup>TH</sup>**

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 25<sup>TH</sup>**

9:00AM & 11:00AM

**Feast of the Holy Family — December 30<sup>TH</sup> & 31<sup>ST</sup>**

December 30<sup>TH</sup> 5:00PM

December 31<sup>ST</sup> 9:00AM & 11:00AM

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

December 31<sup>ST</sup> 5:00PM

January 1<sup>ST</sup> 9:00AM, 11:00AM, & 5:00PM

December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10:00AM Mass Only

The Parish Office will be closed December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

After Mass hospitality will resume after the Christmas Break

**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 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

**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

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Kathryn Arab

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	