

ST AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

185 N Oak Harbor Street, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 - (360) 675-2303

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 12 noon, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Parish E-mail Information@StAugustineOH.org Visit us on the web at www.StAugustineOH.org

MASS

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm	St Augustine
<i>Tagalog Music</i>	<i>2nd Saturday</i>	
Spanish 1st Saturday	7:00 pm	St Augustine
Sunday	8:00 am	St Augustine
	9:30 am	St Augustine
	11:15 am	St Mary
Latin 2nd & 4th Sunday	11:15 am	St Augustine
Mon, Thu, Fri & 1st Sat	9:00 am	St Augustine
Thursday	12:10 pm	St Mary

CONFESSION

Friday	8:30 am	St Augustine
Saturday	4:00 pm	St Augustine
3rd Sunday	12:15 pm	St Mary

PARISH MINISTERS

Pastor	Rev. Paul Pluth, JCL
Administration	Mary A. Waters
Sacramental Prep & Adult Faith Formation	Peggy Smith
Religious Education	Rowena Harless
Director of Music	Kathleen Dodge-DeHaven
Administrative Assistant	Ruth Joy Abrea

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOLY COMMUNION

Please call the Parish Office

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

29 January 2017



Mark your calendars for our
Pre-Lent Parish Mission!

**“Don’t Be Afraid! Trust the Merciful Lord, Come Home to Jesus!”
Monday – Thursday, February 20 – 23**

Presented by Father Lucien Larre, priest of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
Confessions, Rosary, Mass and a Talk each day. Come to all four evenings.
Win souls for Christ! Invite your friends and family too!

Begin now by praying for the success of our Mission.



Three original oil paintings - *Divine Mercy*, *Immaculate Heart of Mary*, and *Sacred Heart of Jesus* - have been installed in St Augustine Church. The artist is Svitozar Nenyuk, who was born in the Carpathian Mountains and studied art in Vilnius, Lithuania. In 1991 he emigrated to Lincoln, Nebraska, and in 1994 became an American citizen while living in Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Nenyuk lives today in Virginia.

Divine Mercy was hung in the church on November 30. The artist told me that, while studying in Vilnius, he walked into a church and saw an image of Jesus he never had seen before. It was the original *Divine Mercy* painting. From that moment, he looked forward to the day when he would paint his own

interpretation of *Divine Mercy*.

When *Divine Mercy* was hung, we had to move the picture of the Sacred Heart that had hung in that space (it's now in the Parish Hall). So many people missed the Sacred Heart, including me, that we brought Mr. Nenyuk's *Sacred Heart of Jesus* and *Immaculate Heart of Mary* to our church, since those two images traditionally hang side by side. That is how Mr. Nenyuk envisioned them when he painted them.

We own the original paintings of these images. To purchase your own reproductions or note cards, see his other paintings, and learn more about the artist, visit his website: svitozar-nenyuk.pixels.com.

Father Paul

NEWLY FORMED PARISH YOUTH CHOIR - Calling all youth ages 12 - 18 from St Augustine and St Mary!

Do you like to sing, or do you play an instrument? Join us for the newly organized **Parish Youth Choir**, practicing most Wednesday nights during the school year, from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at St Augustine.

Sign up at any of our rehearsals and share your excitement and gifts with your church!

RCIA - Journey of Faith is an ongoing program for those interested in becoming Catholic, for those just interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and for those who would like to receive First Communion or Confirmation.

Classes are on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm in classroom 1.**

You know who you are when you find your mission from God and you do it.

Come and join us!



LIVING THE EUCHARIST SMALL GROUPS:

We are offering once again small group enrichment opportunities for increasing our faith during Lent, using the "Living the Eucharist" program.

Participants will learn about and discuss topics related to the Sacrament of the Eucharist and prepare for the upcoming Sunday Mass by reflecting on a selection from the Sunday Mass readings. Each group will meet weekly for about 90 minutes.

Sign up in the Vestibule, beginning on January 28, or by phone or email to Peggy Smith (psmith@staugustineoh.org).

The booklets provide all the materials for the group and are \$10 each. We will meet 6 times, beginning the very first week of Lent. There are a variety of schedules so you can sign up for the time that suits you best.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☞ End of Year Tax Statements were emailed to parishioners with email and mailed to those without email on January 11, 2017.
- ☞ *The Impact of Dementia*, presentation at Oak Harbor Library on February 1, at 1:30 pm. Please call 360-675-5115 to pre-register.
- ☞ Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 5 following the 8:00 am Mass
- ☞ Blood Pressure screenings will be held in classrooms 1/2 on Sunday, February 5, following the 8:00 am Mass and during the Pancake Breakfast.
- ☞ Ladies Bunco, Friday, February 10 at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share.
- ☞ Health Ministry meeting on Monday, February 13, at 4:00 pm in classrooms 3/4.

January 28 - February 4

- Sat 4:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Youth Choir, CH
5:00 pm Vigil Mass (*Our Parishioners, INT*)
- Sun 8:00 am Mass (*Jill Reed, RIP*)
9:30 am Mass
10:30 am Santa Cruz De Mayo Mtg, CR 1
- Mon **Office Unavailable**
9:00 am Mass (*Teodora Navarro, RIP*)
9:30 am Patriotic Rosary, CH
10:00 am Bible Study, CR 2
3:00 pm Finance Council, PO
4:30 pm Agape, PH/K
6:00 pm Bible Study, CR 2
- Tue 7:00 am POETS, CH
4:30 pm Fitness Group, PH
- Wed 4:00 pm Elem RE, All
5:30 pm Special Sacrament, CR 1
5:30 pm Youth Choir, CH
6:30 pm MS/HS RE, All
- Thu 9:00 am Mass (*All Souls in Purgatory, RIP; Rubiel Cadavid, RIP*)
10:00 am St Maria's Guild, CR 1/2
10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group, CR 3/4
3:00 pm RCIA-C, PO
4:45 pm Fitness Group, PH
6:30 pm RCIA, CR 1/2
6:30 pm Spanish Choir, CR 5
- Fri 8:30 am Confessions
9:00 am Mass (*Chona Alegre, RIP*)
9:30 am 1st Friday Reception, PH/K
9:45 am Adoration, CH
- Sat 8:00 am 6th Grade Mission Trip, PH
9:00 am 1st Saturday Mass, (*All Souls in Purgatory, RIP*)
1:00 pm Organ Rehearsal, CH
3:00 pm Choir rehearsal, CH

Bags of Blessings Christmas Thank you!



Thank you to all our parishioners for your generous response to our new Bags of Blessings project. Your great response ensured that over 40 families (more than 150 individuals) enjoyed a Saar's Christmas Dinner plus a family experience of eating out and entertainment. Truly a blessing for all and a blessing on all who participated. Thank You!

Emergency Response Forms



The Emergency Response Forms will be inserted in the February 5 and February 12 bulletins for all parishioners to complete if you want the Parish Office to be aware of your emergency contacts.

The forms will be collected after all Masses February 11/12 and February 18/19, or you can drop them off at the Parish Office during business hours.

Privacy will be respected.



Prayer Garden - Honor or remember a loved one with a brick in the Prayer Garden. Donate a tree or shrub that will add beauty to the garden for years to come. Order forms for both are in the Vestibule. Want to help with planting? Please email:

prayergarden2015@gmail.com

Please Pray for Our Family & Friends

Cassie Head, Chizuko Irvine, Amy Macdonald, Morris Nelson,
Sharon Osorio, Cecil Pierce, Lee Railing, John Romanski,
Brian Sloan, Tillie Yuskus

Permission is required from the individual prior to adding their name to the prayer list. To include a loved one's name, please call the office at 360-675-2303.



Thank you for
your Stewardship of
Treasure!

Weekly Expenses: \$12,764
January 22: \$11,448

St Augustine

February 2017

February 2017							March 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 29 - Feb 4	Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
				4:00pm Elem (ALL) 5:30pm Special Sacrament (CR 1) 5:30pm Youth Choir (CH) 6:30pm MS/HS RE (ALL)	9:00am Mass (CH) 10:00am Ladies Prayer (CR 3/4) 10:00am Maria's Guild (CR 1/2) 3:00pm RCIA-C (PO) 4:45pm Fitness Group (PH) 6:30pm RCIA (CR 1/2) 6:30pm Spanish Choir (CR 5) 7:30pm Adoration (CH)	8:30am Confession (CH) 9:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am 1st Friday Reception (PH/K) 9:45am Adoration (CH)	8:00am 6th Gr Mission Trip (PH) 9:00am 1st Saturday Mass (CH) 1:00pm Organ Rehearsal (CH) 3:00pm Choir rehearsal (CH) 4:00pm Confession (CH) 5:00pm Vigil Mass (CH) 7:00pm Spanish Mass (CH) 8:00pm Spanish Potluck (PH/K)
Feb 5 - 11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	8:00am Mass (CH) 9:00am Blood Pressure Reading (CR 1/2) 9:00am Pancake Breakfast (PH/K) 9:30am Mass (CH)	9:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Patriotic Rosary (CH) 10:00am Bible Study (CR 2) 4:30pm Agape (PH/K) 5:30pm Schola/Ensemble (CH) 6:00pm Bible Study (CR2)	7:00am POETS (CH) 4:30pm Fitness Group (PH) 6:00pm Tagalog Choir (CH)	4:00pm Elem (ALL) 5:30pm Special Sacrament (CR 1) 5:30pm Youth Choir (CH) 6:30pm MS/HS RE (ALL)	9:00am Mass (CH) 10:00am Ladies Prayer (CR 3/4) 10:00am Maria's Guild (CR 1/2) 3:00pm RCIA-C (PO) 4:45pm Fitness Group (PH) 5:00pm Pastoral Council (PO) 6:30pm RCIA (CR 1/2) 6:30pm Spanish Choir (CR 5)	8:30am Confession (CH) 9:00am Mass (CH) 9:45am Adoration (CH) 5:30pm Bunco (PH/K)	10:00am Baptisms (CH) 1:00pm Organ Rehearsal (CH) 4:00pm Confession (CH) 5:00pm Vigil Mass (CH)
Feb 12 - 18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	8:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Mass (CH) 10:30am Volunteer Appreciation Reception (PH, KT) 11:15am Latin Mass (CH)	9:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Patriotic Rosary (CH) 4:00pm Health Ministry (CR 3/4) 4:30pm Agape (PH/K)	7:00am POETS (CH) 4:30pm Fitness Group (PH)	4:00pm Elem (ALL) 5:30pm Special Sacrament (CR 1) 5:30pm Youth Choir (CH) 6:30pm MS/HS RE (ALL)	9:00am Mass (CH) 10:00am Ladies Prayer (CR 3/4) 10:00am Maria's Guild (CR 1/2) 3:00pm RCIA-C (PO) 4:45pm Fitness Group (PH) 6:30pm RCIA (CR 1/2) 6:30pm Spanish Choir (CR 5) 7:30pm Adoration (CH)	8:30am Confession (CH) 9:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am St Cecilia's Guild (K/CR 1/2) 9:45am Adoration (CH)	1:00pm Organ Rehearsal (CH) 3:00pm Choir rehearsal (CH) 4:00pm Confession (CH) 5:00pm Vigil Mass (CH)
Feb 19 - 25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	8:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Mass (CH) 10:30am CDA Meeting (CR 1/2)	12:00pm Parish Mission Confession (CH) 12:30pm Agape Meeting (PH) 4:00pm Parish Mission Confession 4:30pm Agape (PH/K) 6:10pm Parish Mission Rosary (CH) 6:30pm Parish Mission Mass (CH) 7:00pm Parish Mission Talk (CH)	7:00am POETS (CH) 12:00pm Parish Mission Confession (CH) 4:00pm Parish Mission Confession 4:30pm Fitness Group (PH) 6:10pm Parish Mission Rosary (CH) 6:30pm Parish Mission Mass (CH) 7:00pm Parish Mission Talk (CH)	12:00pm Parish Mission Confession (CH) 4:00pm Elem (ALL) 4:00pm Parish Mission Confession 5:30pm Special Sacrament (CR 1) 6:10pm Parish Mission Rosary (CH) 6:30pm MS/HS RE (ALL) 6:30pm Parish Mission Mass (CH) 7:00pm Parish Mission Talk (CH)	10:00am Ladies Prayer (CR 3/4) 10:00am Maria's Guild (CR 1/2) 12:00pm Parish Mission Confession (CH) 3:00pm RCIA-C (PO) 4:00pm Parish Mission Confession 6:10pm Parish Mission Rosary (CH) 6:30pm Parish Mission Mass (CH) 6:30pm Spanish Choir (CR 5) 7:00pm Parish Mission Talk (CH)	8:30am Confession (CH) 9:00am Mass (CH) 9:45am Adoration (CH) 10:00am 10:30am Rosary Makers (CR)	1:00pm Organ Rehearsal (CH) 3:00pm Choir rehearsal (CH) 4:00pm Confession (CH) 4:00pm Youth Choir (CH) 5:00pm Vigil Mass (CH)
Feb 26 - Mar 4	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
	8:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Mass (CH) 11:15am Latin Mass (CH)	9:00am Mass (CH) 9:30am Patriotic Rosary (CH) 3:00pm Finance Council (PO) 4:30pm Agape (PH/K)	7:00am POETS (CH) 4:30pm Fitness Group (PH)				

2017 Daily Readings for February

1 – Wed – 4th wk in Ord Time

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15
Ps 10:3:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
Mk 6:1-6

2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Heb 2:12-18
Lk 2:22-40 OR 2:22-32

3 – Fri – 4th wk in Ord Time

Heb 13:1-8
Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc
Mk 6:14-29

4 – Sat – 4th wk in Ord Time

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Mk 6:30-34

5 – 5th Sunday in Ord Time

Is 58:7-10
Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor 2:1-5
Mt 5:13-16

6 – Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Gn 1:1-19
Ps 104: 1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c
Mk 6:53-56

7 – Tue – 5th wk in Ord Time

Gn 1:20—2:4a
Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Mk 7:1-13

8 – Wed – 5th wk in Ord Time

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17
Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30
Mk 7:14-23

9 – Thu – 5th wk in Ord Time

Gn 2:18-25
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Mk 7:24-30

10 – Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin

Gn 3:1-8
Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7
Mk 7:31-37

11 – Sat – 5th wk in Ord Time

Gn 3:9-24
Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13
Mk 8:1-10

12 – 6th Sunday in Ord Time

Sir 15:15-20
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Cor 2:6-10
Mt 5:17-37

13 – Mon – 6th Sunday in Ord Time

Gn 4:1-15, 25
Ps 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21
Mk 8:11-13

14 – Memorial of Saints, Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop

Gn 6:5-8; 7:5, 10
Ps 29:1a & 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10
Mk 8:14-21

15 – Wed – 6th wk in Ord Time

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22
Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19
Mk 8:22-26

16 – Thu – 6th wk in Ord Time

Gn 9:1-13
Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23

17 – Fri – 6th wk in Ord Time

Gn 11:1-9
Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Mk 8:34—9:1

18 – Sat – 6th wk in Ord Time

Heb 11:1-7
Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11
Mk 9:2-13

19 – 7th Sunday in Ord Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Cor 3:16-23
Mt 5:38-48

20 – Mon – 7th wk in Ord Time

Sir 1:1-10
Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5
Mk 9:14-29

21 – Tue – 7th wk in Ord Time

Sir 2:1-11
Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40
Mk 9:30-37

22 – Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4
Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6
Mt 16:13-19

23 – Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Sir 5:1-8
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6
Mk 9:41-50

24 – Fri – 7th wk in Ord Time

Sir 6:5-17
Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35
Mk 10:1-12

25 – Sat – 7th wk in Ord Time

Sir 17:1-15
Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18
Mk 10:13-16

26 – 8th Sunday in Ord Time

Is 49:14-15
Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor 4:1-5
Mt 6:24-34

27 – Mon – 8th wk in Ord Time

Sir 17:20-24
Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7
Mk 10:17-27

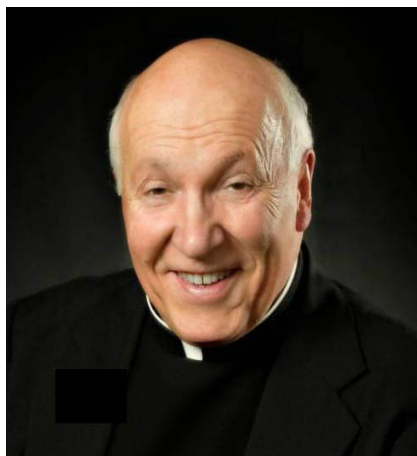
28 – Tue – 8th wk in Ord Time

Sir 35:1-12
Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 & 23
Mk 10:28-31

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the
St. Augustine Parish Mission

Monday, February 20 to Thursday, February 23, 2017

The parishioners of St. Augustine and St. Mary are very pleased to have Father Larre preaching their Parish Mission. Father will introduce the Mission with a special sermon at the Saturday and Sunday Masses on February 18 and 19. Then there will be many hours for individual Confessions from Monday to Thursday during the Mission. On the final day of the Mission, Thursday, February 23 there will be an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Make every effort to attend the Parish Mission.



Father Larre was born in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, the youngest of 13 children. At age five he was paralyzed with polio and doctors said he would never walk again. But with many prayers by family and friends, and with much determination, he walked in three years! Later he lived and worked with over 400 troubled adolescents during a 20-year period. In recognition of his work with children, Father Larre received the Golden Jubilee Medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Good Servant Award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews for improving the quality of life for people in the greatest need, the William Kurelek Award from the National Pro-Life Association for having distinguished himself in providing a better life for needy and abandoned children, and in 1983, the Order of Canada, the highest honor awarded to Canadians, in recognition of his outstanding and highly distinguished contributions to his country. However, Father Larre was the first to return his Order of Canada in July, 2008, as a protest to the selection committee because this prestigious award was given to the abortionist Dr. Morgenthaler. Then in 2012 Father Larre received the Diamond Jubilee Medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

Father Larre has his Master of Arts, Master of Education and his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology. Currently, he lives in Coquitlam, B.C. and works with the Sisters of Mary who care for their 12,000 orphans and extremely poor children in the Philippines and Korea. He also works with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres at their hospital for the very poor in Cavite, Philippines. Besides Father preaches parish missions across Canada and the U.S.A. He is recognized as one of Canada's most popular speakers.

*The Shepherd is
calling His Sheep!
Experience the Great
Mercy Of God!*

- Trust in God's Mercy. Remember there is the greatest rejoicing in Heaven when any Lost Sheep returns to our Merciful Good Shepherd.
- Remember there is no sin too great, or too shameful, or too horrible that cannot be erased by the Infinite Mercy of our Loving God.
- Be a Good, Loving Shepherd yourself and invite others to come to the Mission with you. Bring children, a friend, or a stranger. Everyone is welcome!

Mission Schedule

**Monday to Thursday
Feb. 20th to 23rd**

Confessions:

12 noon to 1 pm.

4 pm to 6:25 pm &
After Evening Talk.

Rosary.....6 pm

Mass.....6:30 pm

Mission Talk 7:10 pm

Everyone is Welcome!

Thursday, Feb.23rd

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament**

10 am to 6 pm.

**Special Prayers for
Holy Father Pope**

Francis to gain a

Plenary Indulgence.

**St. Augustine Parish
185 North Oak Harbor
Oak Harbor, WA
98277**

Pastor

Fr. Paul Pluth, J.C.L.

Office: 360-675-2303

information@

staugustineoh.org

See:www.fatherlarre.ca

Saturday and Sunday Masses, February 18th & 19th

Introductory Mission Sermon:

The Most Important Decision in Life

The most critical decision is whether to choose Christ's loving *Way of the Cross*, or the soft, popular *diabolical road* of selfishness, evil and violence. Can we trust in God's Infinite Mercy and return to the Good Shepherd?

Mon., Feb. 20th, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission Talk 7:10 pm

Clinging to Faith in a Godless Society

The greatest challenge is to live our faith, at all costs, within a materialistic, hedonistic, secular society that ignores God. We must trust God's Infinite Mercy and His Mother Mary will lead us back to the All-Loving, All-Forgiving Jesus!

Tues., Feb. 21st, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission Talk 7:10 pm

Maintaining Hope in Hopeless Situations

The most difficult task is to never lose hope, to fight off discouragement and depression even when you feel totally helpless in hopeless situations where nobody seems to care. You may feel abandoned, but remember Jesus will always be with you and you'll never walk alone!

Wed., April 22nd, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission Talk 7:10 pm

Building a Loving Home in a Selfish Society

The most difficult task is to create a Faith-filled, loving family in a confusing, selfish world that is struggling to cope with stress, drugs, violence, and pornography. It is essential to pray together as a family every day and beg our Blessed Mother to protect us from all the terrible temptations of our modern life.

Thurs., April 23rd, Mass 6:30 pm, Mission Talk 7:10 pm

Bringing Love to a Violent, Hateful Society

The most rewarding task is to become a missionary of Love and bring the Love of Christ to your family and your community. By Baptism, you are a missionary and you must bring the Merciful Christ to others. Our pagan world teaches us that happiness is found in becoming famous, rich, and enjoying all the sinful pleasures of our world. But our Merciful Lord is asking us to be humble, self-sacrificing and serve the poor. So "Take up your Cross and Follow Him". Give yourself totally to Jesus!

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2017

St. Augustine and St. Mary Catholic Community

Rev. Paul Pluth, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Gabriel Possenti

Francesco Possenti was born in Assisi, Italy, into a large family. He was often sick as a child. He lost two sisters and his mother to illness by the time he was four. At 18, he joined the Passionists and was named Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. He inspired others by his prayer and faithfulness in the little things. He suffered from tuberculosis shortly after entering, which he endured patiently and cheerfully until his death.

Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, *"and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you"* (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).



Love and live your faith

Faith in God is not a passive virtue resting in the background of our lives. Belief and love for God compels us to an active life of serving, sharing, and living our faith daily.

Embrace excellence. All that we do becomes a prayer when we give our employers, communities, neighborhoods and families our best abilities in God's name.

Celebrate the Eucharist. No Catholic life is complete without weekly Mass attendance. Do what is necessary so you can receive Communion.

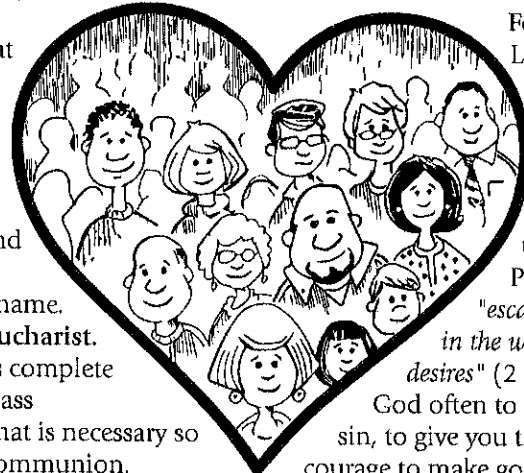
Become family. Register in your parish and look for ways to get involved in a parish ministry, such as lecturing, ushering, singing, or becoming a Eucharistic minister.

Be joyful. Scripture comforts us with the assurance that God will not rest until we find our way home to him. Reject earthly worry and live with joy. God is in control.

Forgive often. Learn to practice this critical skill – and to ask for it when needed.

Flee temptation. St. Peter tells us to *"escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires"* (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices.

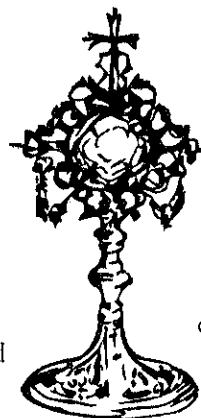
Listen to God. Be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics venerate relics?

The saints were ordinary people, like us, but they had an extraordinary love for God. Relics—their remains and personal possessions—represent those who are in glory with God. Just as we treasure things that once belonged to someone we loved



or admired—a piece of clothing or jewelry, for example—we treasure the relics of saints. Although relics themselves have no special properties, venerating them reminds us of the virtuous examples of the saints.

Know him, love him, and serve him to be happy forever

The Baltimore Catechism taught us that God made us to “know him, to love him, and to serve him in this world, and to be happy with him forever in the next.” In truth, God loves us and wants us to love him back.

Knowing him. Each of us was created with a place in our hearts just for God. Until we discover it, we may try to fill it with earthly things but nothing else fits. Remove the clutter, turn to God and the reward is peace.



Loving him. Jesus asked us to love God with all our hearts because surrendering to God is the best way to experience his infinite love. Show your love by praying daily, seeking Communion with him often, and thanking him for his goodness.

Serving him. When we make sure others have enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a place to stay, Jesus takes it personally. It’s what he asked us to do.

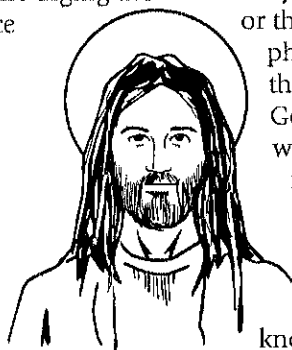
The reward for doing all this is eternal happiness.

from Scripture

Matthew 6:24-34, Our choice.

In Jesus’ day, scribes and Pharisees often lived comfortably while urging the people to heights of sacrifice and penance they didn’t observe themselves. The message was right but the messengers were flawed. Instead, Jesus took on our humanity and spoke with authority. He experienced hunger and thirst, and didn’t always have a place to sleep. So when he counseled his listeners to trust God with all their needs, he knew what he was asking.

Jesus said don’t worry. By that he meant don’t be anxious and concerned



beyond our immediate needs. Stability in this world for the rich or the poor comes not from physical provisions but from the inner peace that only God can provide. By worrying about our physical needs, we draw attention away from attaining the inner stability so necessary for peace.

From experience, Jesus knows we have a choice. We can live in the world or we can live in God’s Kingdom, but we cannot do both. Jesus wants us to invest in our future with him. God will take care of the rest.

Q & A Does being a “good Catholic” mean following all the rules exactly?

The ancient Jews had a lot of rules. Jewish Law dictated what you could eat, how to stay ritually clean, and how to spend Saturdays. Yet, when asked what the most important commandment was, Jesus’ answer brought his listeners back to the basics: “*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...you shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:37).

Jesus didn’t give rules so much as he laid down principles. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his disciples a New Commandment: “*Love one another as I love you*” (John 15:12). This New Commandment gives us the whole Law in its simplest form: Catholicism, at its heart, is about love—Christ-like love for God and others. Being a good Catholic isn’t about following all the rules perfectly for perfection’s sake, but about falling in love with God. Once that happens, following the Commandments and the Beatitudes takes care of itself. They cease to be rules and become a lifestyle.

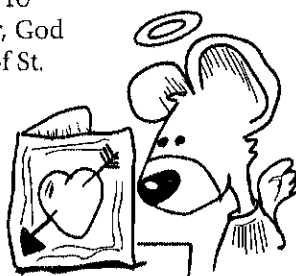
Feasts & Celebrations

Feb. 2 – St. Paul Miki and Companions (1596). St. Paul Miki, a Jesuit missionary in Japan, was arrested along with 25 other Catholics during religious persecution and forced to walk more than 300 miles to Nagasaki where they were crucified. It is said they preached the whole journey and ran to their crosses praising God.

Feb. 3 – St. Ansgar (865). Ansgar was born in Picardy, France. He was sent to the nearby Benedictine monastery after the death of his mother. After taking vows, he traveled to Denmark and

Sweden to preach the Gospel. In 831, he was appointed papal legate to the northern lands by Pope Gregory IV. He was known for his holiness and ascetic lifestyle.

Feb. 5 – St. Agatha (c.251). At an early age, Agatha dedicated herself to God and promised to preserve her chastity. She kept this vow, even under torture. To strengthen her, God sent a vision of St. Peter who healed her. She is the patroness of nurses and miners.



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