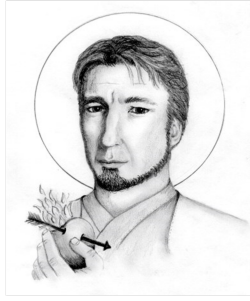


Saint Augustine & Saint Mary Catholic Churches



A Parish Family



November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent



Masses



Sat. 5:00 pm - St. Augustine
Sun. 8:00 am - St. Augustine
Sun. 9:30 am - St. Augustine
Sun. 11:15 am - St. Mary
Wed. 9:30 am - St. Augustine
Thur. 9:30 am - St. Mary
Fri. 9:30 am - St. Augustine

Pastor

Father Chris Hoiland
frchris@staugustineoh.org

Information@StAugustineOH.org

www.StAugustineOH.org

St Augustine

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

Office Hours:

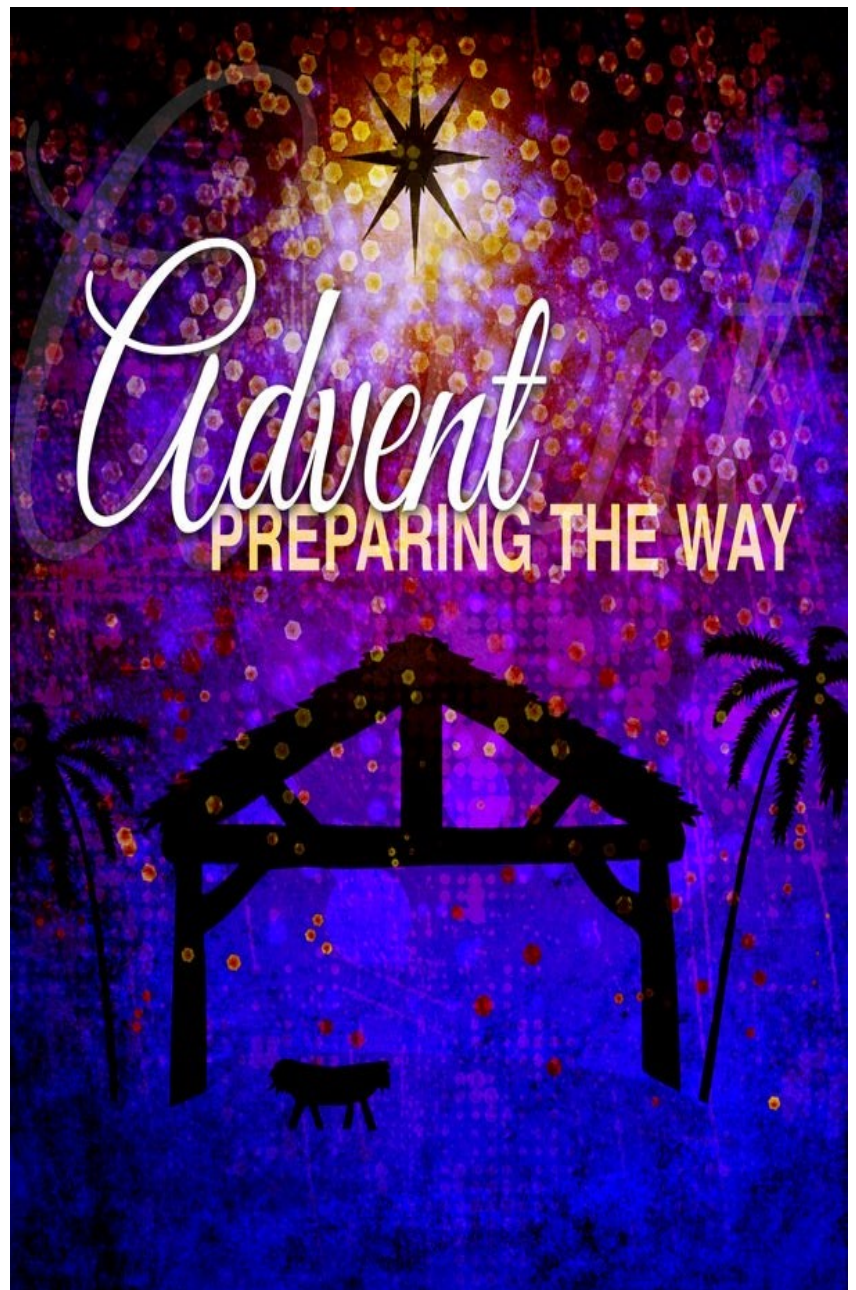
Tue-Fri, 10am-Noon and 1-4pm

St Mary

207 North Main Street
Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 675-2303

Mailing Address for both parishes:

P.O. Box 1319
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



We Encounter Jesus

St Augustine

November 26	Saturday	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Confession Mass

November 27	Sunday	8:00 am 9:30 am	Mass Mass (<i>Our Parishioners</i>)

November 28	Monday	Office Unavailable 10:00 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Bible Study: The Eucharist, CR 1&2 Agape, PH/KT Special Sacrament Class (2nd & 3rd), CR 1&2 Special Sacrament Class (4th & 5th), CR 1&2

November 29	Tuesday	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Works of Mercy Cards of Sharing, PH RCIC, CR 4

November 30	Wednesday	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Mass Divine Mercy/Adoration, CH Works of Mercy, Cards of Sharing, PH RE (K-5th). CR 1-5 Confessions, CH RE (6th-12th), CR 1-5

December 1	Thursday	5:00 pm 6:30 pm 2:00 pm	Filipino Choir Rehearsal, CH RCIA, CR 1&2 Finance Council Meeting, PO

December 2	Friday	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Mass Divine Mercy/Adoration, CH Bazaar Follow-Up Meeting, PH

December 3	Saturday	10:00 am	Joan's Lilies, PH

St Mary

November 27	Sunday	11:15 am 12:15 pm	Mass (<i>The deceased of the Hartshorn Family, RIP</i>) Farewell for Kathleen, HH

December 1	Thursday	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am 10:30 am	Mass Adoration, CH Confessions, CH Women of St. Mary Meeting, HH Bible Study, CR Finance Council Meeting, HH

December 3	Saturday	9:00 am	Christmas Bazaar, HH

Welcome!



If you are new to St Augustine and St Mary churches or returning after a long absence, please take a moment to register as a member of our parish.

Registrations can be found at each church, at the St. Augustine/St. Mary Parish Office in Oak Harbor and online at www.staugustineoh.org.

Being registered helps us to get to know you and gives you the opportunity to tell us if there are ministries where you might like to serve.

After registering you will be included in all email messages, letters, and you will receive a tax statement at the end of the year.

Please join our parish family!

We Pray for Our Family

Baby Amelia, Elnora Archer, Fr. Larry Bailey, Dahlia Blackburn, Eileen Catalano, Doris Dean, Mark Dean, Tom Dumit, Bob Ellis, Mamie Forbes, Douglas Hammer, Sheryl Henry, Marsha Kilgore, Jack Kraft, Angelina Lupino, Martha McAllister, Alexandria Molt, Rosemary Morrison, Lynn Ochoa-Brown, Richard Rezabek, John Romanski, Lou & Lulu Santos, Tanya Shafer, Dennis Sionson, Chuck Tollefson, Doug Undesser, Jeanne Valdez, David Williams, Larry Williams, Patty Williams, Diane Young

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

Advent
Love, Hope, Joy, Peace



Sacraments

Baptisms:

- ∞ Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 11:00 am at St Augustine. Required Baptism class, Saturday, January 14, 2023 from, 9:00 am - Noon.
- ∞ Please call the parish office at 360-765-2303 to register.
We are scheduling 4 baptisms every month.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):

- ∞ Classes are Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.
- ∞ Classes are for non-baptized adults or baptized adults of a different denomination to enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Also for baptized Catholics who have not received 1st Communion and/or Confirmation.
- ∞ Please call Rowena Harless at 360-675-2303 to register.

Anointings:

- ∞ Please call the parish office at 360-675-2303 during business hours to request an anointing.
- ∞ If you call the office after business hours, the recording will give you the number to call for an **emergency anointing only**.
- ∞ An individual may receive one anointing per month.

St. Mary Pastoral Council Corner

Please join us in the Hall directly after Mass this morning as we bid a fond farewell to our organist Kathleen. Take a moment to wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her years of providing us with beautiful music.



We Connect With Each Other



- ∞ **Advent Little Books** - The Little Blue Book of devotions for the Advent Season are available in the Church. We would appreciate a \$1 donation per book to cover the cost of this most requested resource for the Season.
- ∞ **St. Mary Works of Mercy Drive** - The Works of Mercy team will be collecting NEW socks, hats and gloves for those in need after Mass at St. Mary's. Please see the flyer for more details.
- ∞ **St. Mary Annual Christmas Bazaar** - Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in Harrington Hall. The Bazaar will feature handmade treasures and their popular fresh baked goods.
- ∞ **Pancake Breakfast** - Pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 4 after the 8:00 am Mass at St. Augustine.



**SAINT ANDREW
THE FIRST APOSTLE**

**FEAST DAY
NOVEMBER 30TH**

Annual Christmas Ladies of St. Augustine Luncheon

The Annual Luncheon is on Thursday, December 7 at 11:15 am at the Whidbey Golf and Country Club.

Choice of Turkey Cranberry Cobb Salad with fruit or Half Turkey Club with cup of soup or salad and dessert for \$19.

Please contact Marye Kandzor at 360-929-4893 before December 1 to reserve your place and place your order.

Our life becomes beautiful when we wait for a dear one or someone important.

May this Advent help us transform our hope into the certainty that He whom we await loves us and will never abandon us.

Pope Francis



AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Shannon Miller from LPI, our bulletin publisher will be securing new ads for our church. As a valuable member of the business community please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin possible each week.



Shannon Miller
p: (800) 950-9952 Ext. 2257
c: (253) 875-0997 e:smiller1@4Lpi.com

Stewardship

Saint Augustine

Weekly Expenses	\$13,090
November 13 Offering	\$15,084



Saint Mary

Weekly Expenses	\$ 2,962
November 13 Offering	\$ 2,402

We encourage you to use online bill-pay through your bank as there is no cost to the parish or to you.

Include your envelope number and mail your donations to: P.O. Box 1319, Oak Harbor, WA 98277.
If you need your envelope number please call the parish office 360-675-2303. Thank you!



Special Masses

St. Augustine:

Immaculate Conception, Thursday, December 8, 6:00 pm, Holy Day of Obligation

Simbang Gabi, Saturday, December 17, 5:00 pm

St. Mary:

Immaculate Conception, Thursday, December 8, 12:00 Noon, Holy Day of Obligation

Advent Schedule

Confessions

St. Augustine: Saturday, November 26, 4:00 pm
Wednesday, November 30, 6:00 pm
Saturday, December 3, 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 pm
Saturday, December 10, 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 pm
Saturday, December 17, No confessions
Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 pm
Saturday, December 24, No confessions

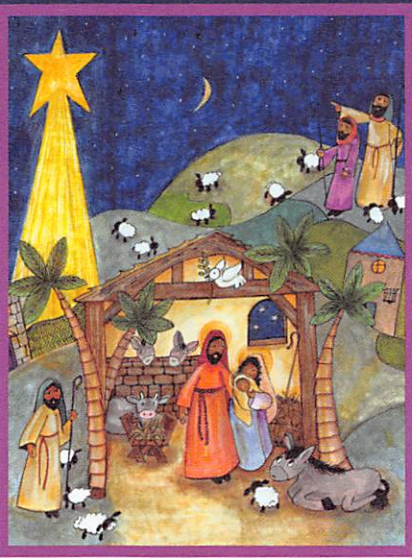
St. Mary: Thursday, December 1, 10:00 am
Thursday, December 8, 10:00 am
Thursday, December 15, 10:00 am
Thursday, December 22, 10:00 am

Sanctuary Flowers

Sanctuary Flowers will return at Christmas. We are currently accepting donations for the Christmas season and for the months of January and February of 2023. Thanks to all who have so generously contributed to the beauty of our church.



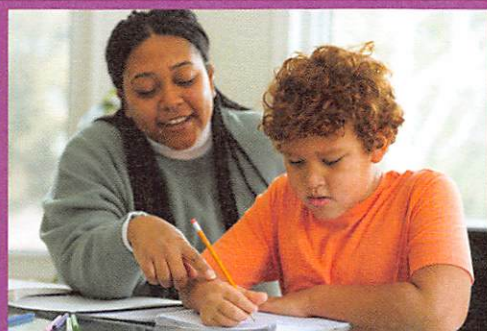
CCS/CHS 2022 APPEAL FOR THE POOR



THANK YOU
TO PARISHES AND SUPPORTERS WHO
LIGHT THE PATHWAY TO HOPE
FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEIGHBORS SERVED
BY 180 CCS/CHS PROGRAMS IN
WESTERN WASHINGTON

2022 CCS/CHS NORTHWEST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **CCS/CHS** joined with St. Pius X Parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to break ground on **Mercy House**, a new multipurpose facility in Snohomish County designed to offer housing, meals and pregnancy/parenting support to those in need.
- ★ Thanks to this year's expansion of the **CCS Skagit County Emergency Shelter Program**, forty of the most vulnerable households in Skagit County are now safely sheltered indoors. CCS case workers provide supportive services leading clients to housing stability, ultimately referring them to permanent housing, including new placements at **Martha's Place**.
- ★ **CCS** supported nearly 1,000 affected households in Whatcom and Skagit counties following devastating winter floods by providing food, shelter, and transportation to employment. In partnership with Whatcom Community Foundation, **CCS** distributed plastic totes, cleaning supplies, and gift cards to help survivors protect their valuables and restore their homes.
- ★ **CCS Farm Worker Center** helped nearly 900 farmworker families stay in their homes this year by serving as a trusted partner with Washington State's Eviction Rental program, providing rental and utility assistance to neighbors in need.
- ★ **CCS NW** is partnering with Sacred Heart Parish (La Conner) and other members of the Northern Deanery to launch the **Skagit Valley Cooperative**. The Cooperative will coordinate a regional **CCS PREPARES** program, an emergency clothing and food closet at the **CCS Farm Worker Center**, and a collection to furnish **Martha's Place** before welcoming 70 low-income households in 2023.
- ★ Across Skagit, Snohomish, Grays Harbor, Mason, and Kitsap counties, **CCS** arranged 24 vaccine events for the farmworker community resulting in individuals receiving COVID-19 vaccines.
- ★ In partnership with the Missionary Discipleship Institute, the **CCS Network Builder Program** provides 7th grade Catholic school students with faith formation through valuable encounters with **CCS NW** programs.
- ★ **UPDATE: The Roof is On!** In September, **CCS/CHS** celebrated progress on construction of 70 new low-income housing units at **Martha's Place**, in Mount Vernon. Opening in 2023, **Martha's Place** will provide 24/7 on-site case management and social services. **Martha's Place** will be the first Permanent Supportive Housing provider in Skagit County.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

OF WESTERN WASHINGTON
CCSWW.ORG



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

LIGHTING PATHWAYS TO HOPE ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON

PREPARES (PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT)

The PREPARES ministry is a parish-based partnership with CCS that offers vulnerable families a promise of support and assistance from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday. Vital needs provided include volunteer companionship, food, clothing, diapers, parenting classes, and supportive social services. In 2021, PREPARES distributed 240,000 diapers to over 2,000 children, age three and younger. Learn more at preparesforlife.org

COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

CCS/CHS is a leader in the Communities of Concern Commission, a statewide coalition of leaders from Black, Indigenous & Communities of Color in urban and rural areas that are disproportionately affected by poverty and have yet to fully benefit from the economic growth so apparent in many areas of Washington State.

IMMIGRATION

CCS/CHS Network Builder, José Ortiz, was the Keynote Speaker at the Sixth Annual Archdiocesan Immigration Summit which highlighted the mental health, advocacy, legal issues, and refugee sponsorship within immigrant communities.

SYNODAL LISTENING SESSIONS

CCS/CHS facilitated 13 listening sessions for clients, staff, and community partners as part of the Archdiocese of Seattle consultative process for Pope Francis' global synod.

LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

CCS Long Term Care compelling advocacy efforts influenced the Washington State Health Care Authority to make the "most significant anti-poverty change in Long Term Care in many years," raising the personal needs allowance for clients from 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300% of FPL.

Based on a successful pilot program at CCS Nativity House shelter where LTC provided personal care services to guests with functional disabilities, the legislature funded a statewide expansion with oversight provided by LTC.



5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER:

Serve meals, help seniors, and more at ccsww.org/volunteer

ADVOCATE:

Be a champion for those in need! Contact your local Network Builders:

Mary Wahl at

MaryWa@ccsww.org or

José Ortiz at

JoseO@ccsww.org

DONATE:

Make a gift of cash, stock, or crypto, or leave a legacy gift through your estate at ccsww.org/donate

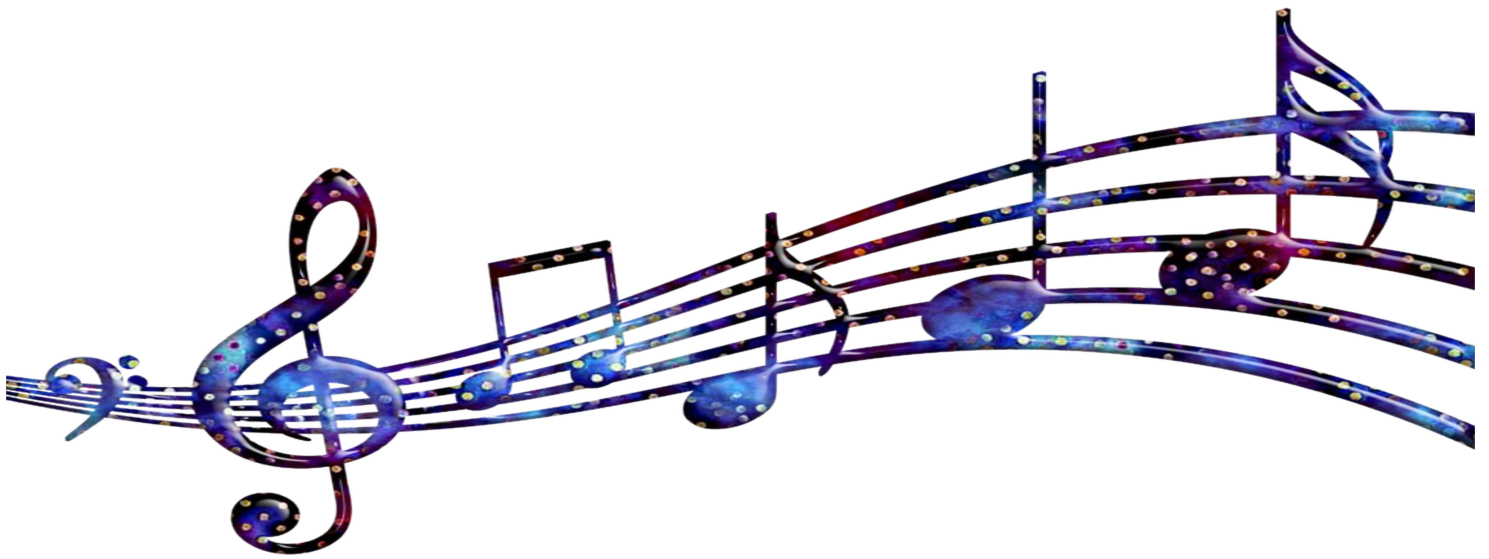
STAY INFORMED:

Sign up for a monthly CCS/CHS update at ccsww.org/join-us

SHARE ON SOCIALS:

For more frequent updates, follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram** @ccsww





Come Celebrate

Kathleen's Retirement

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:00 PM IN THE PARISH HALL

Join us to wish Kathleen farewell

And thank her for sharing her

Musical talent these past 11 years!

Cake, hot cider, and hot chocolate!

New! Angel Tree Program

Starting on Saturday, December 3rd

Choose an Angel Tree Tag from the Angel Tree in the Parish Hall. Each Angel tag lists a gift(s) you can buy for a child in our community who needs your support to have a Merry Christmas.

Please drop off your Angel Gifts/Gift Cards on or by December 11th.

Drop off options:

- * Tuesday-Friday at the parish office, during business hours 10am - Noon and 1 - 4pm
- * The December 10 & 11 weekend Masses in the Parish Hall

Important Information

1. Purchase the gift(s) provided on the angel tag.
2. Warm clothing is a priority gift item if requested.
3. Wrapped or unwrapped gifts are accepted.
4. Please make sure to include the angel tag on the outside of the gift/bag and do not include your name.

For more information or questions, please contact:

- Mary Sandstrom at 360-675-5309 or email sandstrommary@yahoo.com
 - Malia Cleary at 805-469-4875 or email kekoahoku@yahoo.com

1 – Thu – 1st wk in Advent

Is 26:1-6
Ps 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Mt 7:21, 24-27

2 – Fri – 1st wk in Advent

Is 29:17-24
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Mt 9:27-31

3 – Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

4 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Is 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Rom 15:4-9

Mt 3:1-12

5 – Mon – 2nd wk in Advent

Is 35:1-10
Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk 5:17-26

6 – Tue – 2nd wk in Advent

Is 40:1-11
Ps 96:1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13
Mt 18:12-14

7 – Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Is 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 & 10
Mt 11:28-30

8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

9 – Fri – 2nd wk in Advent

Is 48:17-18
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6
Mt 11:16-19

10 – Sat – 2nd wk in Advent

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Ps 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

3rd Sunday in Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10
Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Judith 13:18bcde, 19
Lk 1:26-38

13 – Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23
Mt 21:28-32

14 – Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk 7:18b-23

15 – Thu – 3rd wk in Advent

Is 54:1-10
Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b
Lk 7:24-30

16 – Fri – 3rd wk in Advent

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
Jn 5:33-36

17 – Sat – 3rd wk in Advent

Gn 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
Mt 1:1-17

18 – 4th Sunday in Advent

Is 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

19 – Mon – 4th wk in Advent

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25

20 – Tue – 4th wk in Advent

Is 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Lk 1:26-38

21 – Wed – 4th wk in Advent

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

22 – Thu – 4th wk in Advent

1 Sm 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Lk 1:46-56

23 – Fri – 4th wk in Advent

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14
Lk 1:57-66

24 – Sat – 4th wk in Advent

Mass in the Morning
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29
Lk 1:67-69

25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Night

Is 9:1-6
Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Ti 2:11-14

Lk 2:1-14

25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass

Is 62:1-5
Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt 1:1-25

25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn

Is 62:11-12
Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12
Ti 3:4-7

Lk 2:15-20

25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Day

Is 52:7-10
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

26 – Feast of St Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17
Mt 10:17-22

27 – Feast of St John, Apostle & evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Jn 20:1a & 2-8

28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 John 1:5—2:2
Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8
Mt 2:13-18

29 – 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11
Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6
Lk 2:22-35

30 – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or
Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

31 – 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
Jn 1:1-18

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2022

Catholic Community of St. Augustine and St. Mary

Rev. Chris Hoiland, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

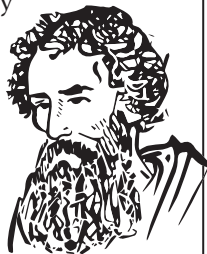
Begin in His presence

Jesus came among us to be with us. When you first wake up in the morning, but before you get out of bed, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Holiday advice

The holiday season is an exciting time but it can also be a time when money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things," (Philippians 4:8).

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



Encounter Christ this Christmas

God came to us in the most vulnerable human form possible so that He could draw us to Himself for all eternity. This Christmas, answer His call and come close to Him:

In song. Listen to and ponder the words of your favorite Christmas hymns. Imagine the reality of heavens filled with angels and faraway kings answering the call to pay Him homage.

In service. The newborn Jesus is the physical sign of God's love for us. When we give of our time and resources in His service, we become an instrument of that love. Share His love in your parish, in your neighborhood, in your community.

In mercy. Experience God's mercy in Confession and His loving presence in the Eucharist.

Then, like Him, offer mercy to anyone who may have hurt you. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

In prayer. Jesus came to live among us so He could be intimate with us. He wants to connect on a deep level - more than rushed prayers or perfunctory devotions. During Advent, find quiet time to give Him your full attention and speak to Him heart to heart.

In watchfulness. Live this Advent with a new awareness of the presence of God. Be awake to who He is and how precious you are to Him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics stand, sit, and kneel at Mass?

God gave us body and soul, so it makes sense actions that combine prayer and movement help us to most fully participate. During Mass, each posture means something. We stand to show respect when the priest (representing Christ) enters and

leaves, when the Gospel is read, and when we proclaim the Creed. We sit to focus on the homily, and kneel during the Consecration, showing adoration and humility. We genuflect to the tabernacle and altar to demonstrate ultimate respect.



Spread the “Good news of great joy”

After the shepherds visited Jesus, they told others who didn't yet know about Him. Pope St. John Paul II urged us to do the same: “If we truly encounter Christ again and again, we cannot keep him to ourselves.” As disciples, we are required to make disciples.

Practice urgency. Those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ suffer the misery of our fallen world. Worse, they cannot enter eternal life. Our Catholic Faith holds the key to



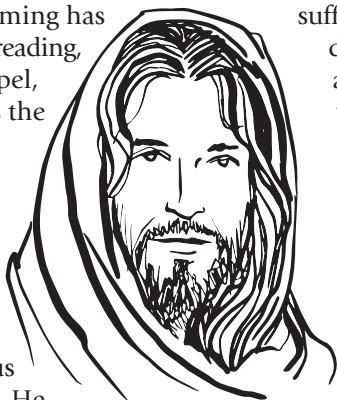
peace in this world and salvation in the next. Sharing our knowledge and love for Him is urgent. **Spend time in the Word.** The world desperately needs to know the Truth contained in the Word. Those who spend time with Scripture grow deeper in their relationship with God and can share that knowledge. **Actively listen.** It is through listening that we earn the right to be heard. Active listening helps us discern where our companion is in the faith journey. Then we learn how best to share the gospel message.

from Scripture

John 1:1-18, Who is Jesus Christ?

Our faith hinges on knowing Christ – who He is and what His coming has meant for us. This Scripture reading, the Prologue of John's Gospel, gives us the answer. Jesus is the divine Word who always existed, the Second Person of the Trinity, and the source of life. Grace and truth come to us through Christ. To know Jesus is to know God.

At the Annunciation, Jesus took on our human nature. He became like us in all things except sin. Yet even though He was God and perfect Man, He still suffered. He got tired, hungry, and thirsty. He worked,



wept, slept, and prayed. He suffered temptation in the desert, and was abandoned, rejected, and wounded by those He loved. God understands us.

Jesus Christ made a bold claim. He said that He is truly God and truly man, and that our salvation comes through Him.

Will we choose Him as our Messiah? Will we live our lives as children of God? If our answer is “yes,” then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for enlightenment and grace.

Q & A What does Our Lady of Guadalupe teach us about Christmas?

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) occurs during Advent. Almost 500 years after Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, we can still learn from her miraculous image on his tilma (cloak).



God is the source of life. Viewed upside down, the flowers on

Our Lady's dress take the shape of hearts with arteries coming out, representing life which originates from God. He sustains us with His grace, especially through the Sacraments.

God draws near. A four-petalled flower on Mary's dress symbolizes the Aztecs' highest deity, perceived as distant and unmoved by their concerns. The flower's placement over Mary's womb shows that the Almighty God draws close in love and humility, even becoming one of us.

Humility and joy. Aztec gods were painted looking up and ahead, yet Our Lady's head is bowed in humility and prayer. She is from Heaven, but is not God. She is a messenger of His love, modeling a humble, joyful response to Him and ready to bring His love to others.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She asked that a chapel be built and sent him with roses as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 16 – St. Adelaide of Burgundy (999). A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide escaped from a murderous plot for the throne. She married King Otto I, the Holy Roman Emperor. As Queen of Germany, she was

known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.

December 20 – St. Dominic of Silos (1073). St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000 AD in Navarre, Spain. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was appointed abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos.

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).

On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)