

WELCOME TO St. Augustine Catholic Church

MONROE & EAST CLINTON STREETS, NAPOLEON, OHIO 43545

PASTOR: Fr. Doug Garand

DEACON: Jon Gottron

PARISH MANAGER: Laurie Brubaker • SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Ginny Minnick

Join us for worship

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - school year
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - summer

Spanish Mass - 2nd Sunday each month, 1:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / FORMATION

*Educating all our children for lifelong, faithful,
participating membership in St. Augustine Parish*

- **ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL** (Pre K-8)
Ginny Minnick, principal, 419-592-3641
- **PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM** (1-8)
Sunday morning, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. during school year
Catholic Education for Parish children attending public school
- **LIFETEEN** (High School Youth)
Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m. during school year
- **PRE-SCHOOL** during Sunday 10:30 Mass



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM To schedule instructions for the Sacrament of Baptism: contact the church at 419-592-7656 before your child is born. Classes are held once every two months.

RECONCILIATION Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK The Parish Office should be notified whenever any parishioner is suffering from severe or prolonged illness. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered by request.

MARRIAGE "As soon as a couple makes a decision to marry and at least six months before the anticipated wedding date they are to make contact with the priest/deacons in order to begin the various steps of the Marriage Preparation Program" (Diocese of Toledo Directive). Official dates for wedding celebrations at St. Augustine Parish must be approved by the Pastor or Parish Deacons.

ADULT INITIATION / FULL COMMUNION - RCIA Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the Catholic Church is invited to be a part of this formation process. Call the Parish Office for details.

HOLY ORDERS / VOCATIONS Contact the Parish Office.



REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday * 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Weekends

Parish Office: 210 E. Clinton St. 419-592-7656
Parish Email: saintaugustineoffice@gmail.com
Parish Fax: 419-592-6316
Parish Website: www.staugie.net
Deacon Jon Gottron 419-966-2106
Choir Director - Alain Miller 419-966-7019
School: 722 Monroe St. 419-592-3641
School Email: ginny.minnick@augustinenapoleon.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society 419-592-0438

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please arrange to register at the Parish Office

PRAYER CHAIN ~ Contact Janet Creager at 419-592-5799

Dear Parishioners:

If we are going to be successful in preparing for Christmas this Advent, then we need to bring our "A" game and be prepared to "stay awake." As a penitential season, **Advent offers us the chance to recreate ourselves and become new people.** Our flaws can overwhelm us, hence we have four weeks!

The Gospel admonishes us to be prepared for the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory. The question of the Second Coming is something we must remember, but put on the back burner. It has been advised that we should: **"live as if Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back at any moment."**

Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman wrote: "They watch for Christ who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if they found that he was coming at once... This then is **to watch: to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again; to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first.**"

Next weekend is Christmas House plan to come and enjoy the shopping, food, and the baked goods! Thanks to all who work so hard to make Christmas House a success.

Peace,

Fr. Doug

Ministries for the Liturgies

Saturday, December 7, 2019 4:30 p.m.

Lector: Becky Hilvers
Servers: Samuel McDougall, **Volunteer**
Extraordinary Larry Irving, Maureen Lammy,
Min. of Com.: Jo Schwaiger, Shari Smith, **Volunteer**
Ushers: John Eckenrode, Larry Hilvers

Sunday, December 1, 2019 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Dan Koch
Servers: Nick Nahrwold, Alyssa Sifuentes
Extraordinary Deacon Jon Gottron, Gwen Howe-
Min. of Com.: Gebers, Holly Sifuentes, Judy Wiles,
Volunteer

Ushers: John and Jan Stover

Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:30 a.m.

Lector: Joel Miller
Servers: Isaac Herman, Ty Siclair, Josie Smith
Extraordinary Deacon Jon Gottron, Vicky Delventhal,
Min. of Com.: Mary Hoops, Sandra Martinez, Brenda
Piasecki, Lori Siclair, Cathy Smith
Ushers: Kevin Glanz, Chad Roth

Eucharistic Ministers: Week of December 1, 2019

Nursing Home: Shari Smith

Homebound: Marian Parsons

Children's Liturgy: December 8, 2019 - Paige Lucas

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 30, 2019

4:30 p.m. - For the Parish

Sunday, December 1, 2019

8:00 a.m. - Cochran/Wendt Families

10:30 a.m. - George Gubernath

Monday, December 2, 2019

8:45 a.m. - Communion Service

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

8:45 a.m. - Communion Service

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

6:00 p.m. - Josephine Wiles

Thursday, December 5, 2019

8:45 a.m. - Galen and Tom Fronce

Friday, December 6, 2019

8:45 a.m. - Wayne White

Saturday, December 7, 2019

4:30 p.m. - Ken Kryling

Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:00 a.m. - Michael Cochran

10:30 a.m. - For the Parish

1:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass

**Tellers: December 10, 2019 - Illa Fry, Lindy Fisher,
Jan Stover, Dorothy Walker**

Save the Date

December

6th, 7th & 8th - Christmas House

March

14th - St. Patrick's Auction

PLEASE NOTE: CONTINUE TO USE OUR 210 E. CLINTON STREET ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE MAILED TO THE PARISH OFFICE. WE WILL NOT BE RECEIVING MAIL AT THE VOCKE BUILDING AT 733 N. PERRY STREET.

OUR GIVING TREE IS UP! Choose a tag today and take advantage of Black Friday sales. Each child is assigned two tags: one for clothing and another for a toy or other item of interest. The items listed on the tag are suggestions, not a shopping list. To ensure gift continuity in the family, gift value suggestion is approximately \$30. Please place your wrapped gift (with tag attached) under the tree by **Sunday, December 15**. Gifts that are not returned by that date will be purchased by St. Vincent de Paul the following day. **Please do not miss the deadline!** If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Majewski at 419-966-2654.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - Please place your pledge contribution in a separate white envelope marked Capital Campaign and do not use the Sunday offering envelope. Envelopes are available in the back of church for your convenience.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - Your Capital Campaign payments can be set up electronically by going to our Parish website at www.staugie.net. Once there, choose Online Giving on the left side menu. Click the black box "Click here to get started". If you do not already have an account, click on "Create a New Account". Should you have any questions about setting up your payments, please contact the Parish Office at 419-592-7656.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE . . . BEFORE YOU'RE MARRIED - Jason Evert best-selling author who has brought the message of chastity to more than one million people will be speaking at St. Thomas More University Parish (Multi-Purpose Room), 1001 E. Wooster St., Bowling Green. The date is Thur., Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. For more info, contact Alicia Schmiesing, CMinister@sttoms.com or www.sttoms.com.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Time is here! Please come and volunteer your time and enjoy our festival!!!

SUN: After 10:30 Mass - Attic tours to bring boxes down from Father's attic.

MON: Set up trees and start decorating. Lunch is provided - 9:00 - 4:00.

TUES: Finish decorating. Bring donated craft items to Parish Hall.

THUR: Bring in donated baked goods to Parish Hall. **FROST COOKIES** 1:00 - 6:00.

FRI: Doors open at 9:30. Come and shop and enjoy a meal with us. Santa arrives at 5:00.

SAT: Shop from 9:30 - 8:00. Enjoy lunch or baked steak dinner! Buy a baked good!

SUN: Brunch served after Masses. Shop from 9:00 - 2:00

Please help return things to Father's attic at 2:30. Thank you all - Jan Stover 419-591-6753

Carolyn Heinrichs 419-966-6780

Brandi Freestone was the winner of the last Early Bird Drawing.

NOTICE FROM HENRY COUNTY BANK - They are requesting that pink, purple, or red ink should not be used in writing out your checks. Those colors scan blank in their system and it could possibly result in the check getting returned and we would be charged fees.


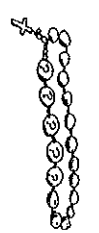



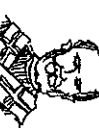







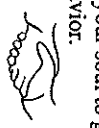



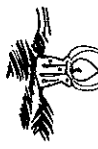

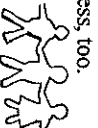
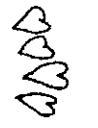




HANDEL'S MESSIAH returns to Rosary Cathedral on Sun., Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. The Toledo Symphony Orchestra will perform with various vocalists and choirs in this holiday tradition.. Last year's performance was sold out, so contact the TSO box office at 419-246-8000 or visit www.toledosymphony.org to reserve your tickets.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING - Sing Christmas carols at Rosary Cathedral accompanied by choir, strings, organ and brass on Sun., Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.

HENRY COUNTY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT - "A Family Christmas Portrait, Music & Memories of the Season" - event to take place at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on Sun., Dec. 1 at 7:00 p.m. Concert will be streamed live at www.youtube.com/stpaulnapoleon. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Henry County Chorale and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Use your abilities and talents to serve God

2019 ADVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 DECEMBER Buy or make an Advent wreath. Bless it and light the first violet candle each night this week.</p> 	<p>2 Advent is about waiting for the Savior to come. Offer a prayer anytime you have to wait during Advent.</p> 	<p>3 Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can help.</p> 	<p>4 Set up your Nativity scene. Picture yourself in the scene and think about how you would act if you were there.</p> 	<p>5 Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Resolve to conquer it during Advent.</p> 	<p>6 Show love on St. Nicholas Day by making at least one generous act today.</p> 	<p>7 Put up a Christmas tree. Put just a few ornaments on each day and finish up on Christmas Eve.</p> 
<p>8 Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet. Read Matthew 3:1-12.</p> 	<p>9 To honor Mary's Immaculate Conception, go to Mass and pray a Rosary.</p> 	<p>10 Perform some act of service for your parish. Ask at the rectory for suggestions.</p> 	<p>11 Ask Jesus to heal whatever keeps you from feeling God's bountiful love.</p> 	<p>12 To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary."</p> 	<p>13 Today, pray for someone you don't like.</p> 	<p>14 Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.</p> 
<p>15 Today is Gaudete Sunday. Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Read Matthew 11:2-11.</p> 	<p>16 Set a timer or other reminder to help you pray every morning and every evening this month. Continue after Advent.</p> 	<p>17 Make a conscious effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.</p> 	<p>18 Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it each night until Christmas.</p> 	<p>19 Go to a private room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.</p> 	<p>20 Make time today to feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or one who is hungry for kindness, too.</p> 	<p>21 Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p> 
<p>22 Light all four candles in the Advent Wreath tonight and all week. Read Matthew 1:18-24.</p> 	<p>23 Pray for the men and women in the armed services who won't be able to spend Christmas with their families.</p> 	<p>24 Pick one way you can simplify your lifestyle to make more room for God.</p> 	<p>25 Rejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.</p> 	<p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judaea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i></p>		

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION - Join us for this celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The day includes a Mass, reenactment, lunch and a performance by El Corazon de Mexico Ballet. This event will take place at St. Paul Catholic Church, 91 E. Main St., Norwalk. At 9 a.m. Torch leaves St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 25 W. Perry, Willard. At 11:30 meet at Huron County Court House, 2 E. Main St., Norwalk. At 11:45 there is the Matachines Procession and Rosary. At 12 noon procession arrives at St. Paul's Catholic Church. At 12:30 there is a reenactment. At 1 p.m. there will be Mass by Rev. Msgr. Kenneth Morman. At 3 p.m. there is lunch and performance by the ballet group in the parish center.

TURTLE FEST SALE - We have a few more sweatshirts and t-shirts left over from our 20th Turtle Fest available in the Parish office. Sizes are as follows: Sweatshirts: 2 Green (XL),-\$5.00; T-shirts: 1 Green (M), 1 Blue (M), 1 Blue (Child L) -\$3.00.

COME AND BE RETREAT FOR WOMEN - The Sisters of Notre Dame invite women ages 20 - 45 to step away for prayer and reflection at a free retreat. Our Come & Be weekend is a chance to learn about the life, spirituality and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, while taking time for personal prayer and rest. The retreat is being held in Char-don, Ohio from Dec. 6 - 8, 2019. For more information, contact Sister Jenny Zimmerman, SND at [voca-tions@snd1.org](mailto:vocations@snd1.org).

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY THE TOLEDO SYM-PHONY ORCHESTRA - to take place on Wed., Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 16976 County Road Q1, Napoleon. Prices are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for Students. For questions or to reserve tickets, call 419-758-3522. The church office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK- *Happiness and the Journey to Excellence* - Tim Ryan of the Spitzer Center for Visionary Leadership in Ann Arbor, Mich. will be the guest speaker on Thurs., Dec. 5. at St. John XXII Parish, 24250 N. Dixie Hwy, Perrysburg. Register at journey-to-excellence.eventbrite.com or call Melissa at 419-214-4898. Breakfast at 7 and program at 7:30. Mass at 8:30.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS - Contact the church office about the date you will leave and the date you will return. We need to know if you want mail sent to a new address.

NORTHWEST OHIO SCHOLARSHIP FUND - The 2019-2020 school year will be the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund's 21st year of awarding need-based scholarships. Since 1999, NOSF has awarded 14,700 scholarships worth over \$12.6 million for students to attend Catholic schools in the Catholic Diocese of Toledo as well as other private schools. NOSF is a privately funded scholarship program. Your gift to NOSF will assist a family by providing a Catholic education for their children. It is an investment that will last a lifetime. To learn more about the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund or to make a gift, go to <http://nosf.org/donate-now> or call the NOSF office at 419-720-7048.

PRESENCE FOR CHRISTMAS - This year give and receive an AMAZING, FREE GIFT that will make the coming Advent the BEST EVER! Plan on joining us now for **Presence for Christmas** a 7 week ADVENTure into the heart of Christ's Mass involving inspiring witness, word, worship, and confession. Presence for Christmas evenings will take place on three Wednesdays before Christmas (12/4, 12/11, 12/18), beginning at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc. We're also inviting you to commit as a family or group to 7 weeks of talking and praying in your home using the free, downloadable Live IT Gathering Guide. Register free now and find out more: PresenceFor-Christmas.com. Presence for Christmas is sponsored by Mass Impact. Contact Alive@MassImpact.us or 814-449-8808.

NIGHT ON THE POLAR EXPRESS - a benefit for the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) and Hope Learning Academy Foundation on Sun., Dec. 8. Get on board in the Grand Lobby of the Downtown Toledo Train Station, 300 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Tickets are \$100/person and include grazing and beverages as well as a chance to win some gift baskets. Visit www.ontrackforeducation.org to purchase tickets or for more info or call NOSF office at 419-720-7048. The evening includes a chance to enjoy food from local restaurants, delight in experiences with Imagination Station, Toledo Opera, Toledo Ballet and the Toledo Symphony's Youth Ensemble. NOSF awards need-based scholarship assistance for K-8 students to use for private schools or for homeschool expenses. HOPE Learning Academy helps provide an excellent education for children with special needs.

GOING ON VACATION - Please use Online Giving to catch up on offertory contributions. Go to www.staugie.net and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:00 AM Mass 10:30 AM Mass NO PRP</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>8:45 AM Communion Service 5:30 PM Parents Club</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>8:45 Communion Service 6:30 PM RCIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>6:00 PM Mass 6:30-7:30 PM Confessions 6:45 PM Choir 7:30 PM Cemetery Mtg. - Vocke Bldg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>8:45 AM Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>8:45 AM School Mass 1st Friday Adoration 5:30 PM Benediction Christmas House 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>3:30 PM Confessions 4:30 PM Mass Christmas House 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p>8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM PRP 10:30 AM Mass 1:00 PM Spanish Mass Christmas House 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM 5:30 PM Life Teen</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>8:45 AM Communion Service 7:00 PM STVdP Mtg. 829 N. Perry St.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>8:45 AM Mass Noon to 1:00 PM Confessions Christmas Program 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM 6:30 PM RCIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>5 - 5:45 Confessions 6:00 PM Mass 6:45 PM 1st Reconciliation Parents Mtg. in Parish Hall 6:45 PM Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>8:45 AM School Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>8:45 AM School Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>3:30 PM Confessions 4:30 PM Mass STVdP Collection</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p>8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM PRP 10:30 AM Mass Lifeteen Christmas Party STVdP Collection Deadline for Giving Tree Gifts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>8:45 AM Communion Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>8:45 AM Mass 6:30 PM RCIA 6:30 PM Finance Council</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>5-5:45 Confessions 6:00 PM Mass 6:45 PM Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>8:45 AM Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>8:45 AM School Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>3:30 PM Confessions 4:30 PM Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p>8:00 AM Mass NO PRP 10:30 AM Mass 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM- Confessions 12:30 PM Decorate Church</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>8:45 AM Communion Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>No School</p>	<p><i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30 PM Mass - Children's Choir <i>Prelude 10:30 PM</i> 11:00 PM Mass No RCIA No School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p>9:30 AM Mass Christmas Day NO 6:00 PM Mass No School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>NO 8:45 AM Mass NO Communion Service No School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p>8:45 AM Mass No School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>3:30 PM Confessions 4:30 PM Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>
<p>8:00 AM Mass NO PRP 10:30 AM Mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>8:45 AM Communion Service No School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>6:30 PM Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p>JAN 1 9:30 AM Mass Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation No School</p>			

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2019

St. Augustine Catholic Church
Rev. J. Douglas Garand, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Maria di Rosa

Born "Paula" in Brescia, Italy, Maria di Rosa

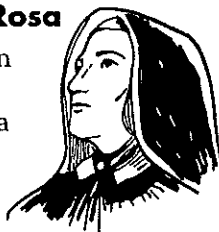
was the daughter of a mill owner and a countess.

Coming from a wealthy family didn't spare her from difficulty. She lost her mother when young. At seventeen years old, she left school to work with her father at the mill. During the cholera epidemic of 1836, she cared for the sick. In 1840, she founded the Handmaids of Charity to care for the wounded during the wars.

Agent of change

True conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and faith are gifts from God – gifts that are not ours to give. Yet, believers are called to join with the Holy Spirit to bring others to God. When we have a strong and personal relationship with Jesus, we can be his agents of change.

"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
(Isaiah 40:5).



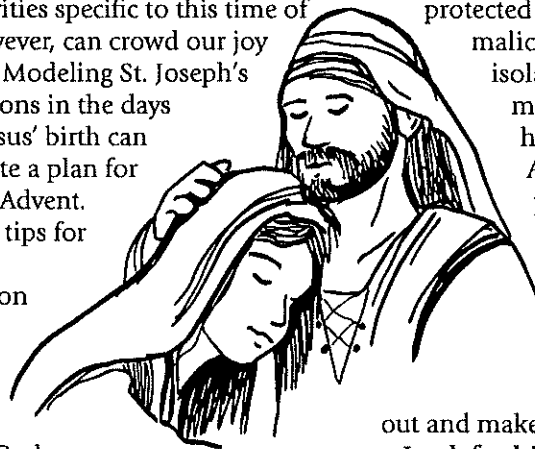
The joyful expectation of Advent

Jesus' birth at Christmas is real and amazing evidence of God's love. The priorities specific to this time of year, however, can crowd our joy and awe. Modeling St. Joseph's preparations in the days before Jesus' birth can help create a plan for our own Advent. Try these tips for joyful expectation of our Savior's birth.

Create silence. God found the quiet he needed in St. Joseph's life to speak and be heard over the noise of the carpenter's shop, the needs of neighbors, the demands of tax collectors. In the silence St. Joseph created just for him, God was able to work miracles.

Keep out the devil. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he protected her from the evil of malicious gossip and isolation. He helped her to make a God-centered home filled with Love. Although the devil is powerful, he cannot go where he is not permitted. When we stay close to the Sacraments and live a God-centered life, we, too, keep the devil out and make room for Love.

Look for him. Can you imagine the joy with which St. Joseph expected Jesus' coming? We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem with joy. We can joyfully welcome him into our lives now. And, with joy we can look forward to Christ's coming in glory on the Last Day.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christmas after December 26?

The Catholic Christmas is not just one day but an entire liturgical season. It begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12th this year). During the celebration of Christmas,

we rejoice in the realization of God's plan for our salvation. God became man to save us. Thus, the Church makes sure we have enough time — almost a month — to fully celebrate such a joyful, hope-filled, destiny-altering event.



Open your heart to the Christmas promise

This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas Child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek



the Lord will offer praise" (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

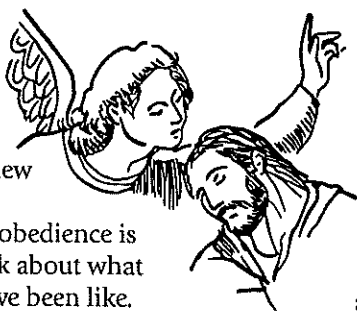
"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Trust God like St. Joseph did

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph's unquestioning obedience is remarkable when we think about what the birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Whether on foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey.



Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for some years without family or friends. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

Being perfect didn't shield the Holy Family from experiencing pain and difficulty much like we do. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

Q & A Why does the Church year begin in Advent?

The Church has a liturgical year with its own seasons that help us to mark events that are important to Catholics.

However, the Church year doesn't start on January 1, or even on December 25 — when we celebrate Christ's birthday. Instead, it begins on the first Sunday of Advent, the season before Christmas.



Advent is the perfect season for new beginnings. It's a season of preparation: the King of Kings is coming! There are three "arrivals" of Christ to prepare for and celebrate: as an infant at Bethlehem, at Mass in the Eucharist, and as the King of Glory at the end of time.

In order to properly greet such a Guest, the Church sets aside this time for us to purify our hearts and souls. Whether that means being with God in prayer, attending Confession, volunteering in the community or cleaning house, Advent is the time for it. The Church wants us to begin the year well by preparing to welcome the King who comes to "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Feasts & Celebrations

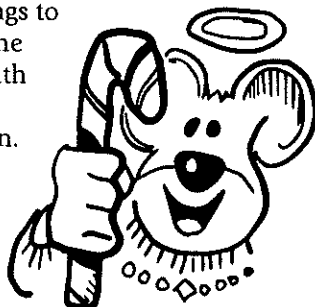
Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent. During this season, we anticipate Christ's coming. Catholics around the world light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 9 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (1854). This feast day commemorates that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. Attending Mass is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 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 to the bishop with roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his cloak, it retained the image of Our Lady which can still be seen today.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and worked strenuously through his writings and teachings to safeguard the Catholic faith after the Reformation. His work, *The Catechism*, is still used today.



Our Mission

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun., Dec. 1** No PRP
- Mon., Dec. 2** Parents Club 5:30 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 3** RCIA 6:30 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 4** **Confessions 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
Choir 6:45 p.m.
Cemetery Meeting 7:30 p.m. (Vocke Building)
- Fri., Dec. 6** First Friday Adoration 9:15 a.m.
Benediction 5:30 p.m.
Christmas House 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 7** **Christmas House 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
Confessions 3:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 8** PRP 9:00 a.m.
Christmas House 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Life Teen 5:30 p.m.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
PARISH OFFERTORY**

Sunday Collection	\$	4,792.04
On-Line Giving	\$	883.83
Christmas	\$	20.00
Dropped Off/Mailed In	\$	295.00
School	\$	550.00
Sunday collection year-to-date	\$	177,714.60

To use the convenient online giving option, please visit:
www.staugie.net and select online giving from the side menu.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

- Genaro Gonzales (73) - 12/2/02
- Paul Torres (70) - 12/2/02
- Joseph P. Garcia (20) - 12/4/07
- Gertrude M. Wendt (101) - 12/4/10
- Marguerite Theobold - 12/5/08
- Constance E. "Connie" Fruth (50) - 12/8/99
- David W. Walther (48) - 12/8/05
- Lois Schueler (81) - 12/8/09

Remember those who have gone before us, please pray for them. Due to space we are listing only the past 25 years. If you would like a parishioner listed who passed away longer than 25 years ago, please contact the office.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION will take place each First Friday of the month after 8:45 a.m. Mass until 5:30 p.m. We will have a sign-up sheet in the back of the church and would appreciate folks filling the day so that our Lord is not exposed on the altar without anyone present. If you are not able to come for your hour of adoration, please call Jane Recker at 419-508-0711. The day will end with Benediction at 5:30 p.m.

ADVENT WREATHS - Christmas House Advent Wreaths can be purchased after masses this weekend. They will sell for \$28.

FROM THE SCHOOL

Our third grade students participated in a writing contest sponsored by Napoleon Alive. I am happy to announce St. Augustine's Henry County Snow Princess is Emily Flowers and Snow Prince is Alejandro Aranjol! They are invited to participate in the Henry County Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7th starting at the fairgrounds and ending downtown, in front of the courthouse. They will be treated to hot chocolate and cookies then watch the official lighting of the downtown Christmas.

Academic Fair began on November 13th in grades 5th-8th. Each grade is given a general topic (religion, fine art, history, or religion). Mrs. Deniston met with each group and handed out a letter to parents explaining the process and due dates. The students will be graded on the creation of a Presentation Board, Oral Presentation, Project or Demonstration of Experiment related to the research topic and a PowerPoint. The first few weeks have been spent finding a topic they are interested in and finding enough material, sources, and information to make a project. This activity culminates in the judging in April.

Blessings to your family,
Ginny Minnick, Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 12/2 - Jessica Fahy, Sonya Helmke
- 12/3 - Joseph Hunyor Nilda Sifuentes, Hector Sifuentez
- 12/4 - Christian Kahle, Richard Keller, Julian Whitehead
- 12/5 - Cole Barry
- 12/6 - Christy Burgei, Edward Hoeffel
- 12/7 - Lauren Bates, Robert Lautar
- 12/8 - Joe Aschemeier, Lori Sicclair

ST. AUGUSTINE ATHLETIC CLUB RECYCLING - The St. Augustine Athletic Club is happy to announce that we have partnered with Zack's Recycling at 708 Fillmore in Napoleon for our recycling fund-raising efforts. Please consider donating your cans and metal goods on behalf of the St. Augustine Athletic Club to Zack's and they will forward the proceeds to the Parish athletic fund. This will help fund all of our Catholic Youth Organization athletic programs and help to pay our fees. Please be generous by donating your aluminum and tin cans to the cause. Thank you!

HELP WANTED - St. Augustine Jewelry Ladies are looking for a couple of volunteers to help clean jewelry on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Elaine Lauf. If you can help, please contact Elaine at 419-592-8686.