

Baptism of our Lord, continued from Page 1

For infants, the choice is made by their parents or legal guardians. Parents care for the well-being of the child in a holistic manner. Therefore, it is appropriate as well as important that they care for the spiritual life of the child. Baptism and faith formation are as important as physical nourishment and schooling. In this respect, the role of the parents is to arouse interest in their children for religious practices, by means of modeling and discussion about God and spiritual observances.

Ask yourself: Do I thank God for the gift of baptism which made me a child of God? Do I witness to the gift of faith that God has given me?

Father Augustine

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, Scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community. Meetings take place on Wednesdays from October through May in St. Theresa Event Center (4850 Clarewood Dr., Oakland), meeting room 1 at 9:15am with hospitality followed by the guest speaker and program until 11:15am. Women from local parishes and other denominations are welcome. The winter season, devoted to the study and sharing of Scripture, begins now. **Maryanne Stehr**, Educator at St. Elizabeth School, Oakland will be the speaker on **January 13th**. For additional information, or to attend as a guest, contact Courtenay Redis courtenaymorganredis@gmail.com

A Jubilee Year of Mercy Event

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, the moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at **Castro Valley Center for the Arts on Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.** The event is sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Church and School.

Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up.

Admission is \$15 each; \$12 for seniors and youth 17 & under; or \$40 for families of 4. **For tickets and additional information**, contact Our Lady of Grace Church Office at 510-537-0806, email newsletter@olgcv.org, or visit www.olgcv.org.

Watch the trailer & learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

Electronic Funds Transfer
IT MAKES EVERY SUNDAY COUNT!
Application Forms are in the back of the church

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

400 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, California 94609

www.staugustineoakland.com

Office phone number (510) 653-8631

Baptism of our Lord

No one is born a Christian. One becomes a Christian through baptism. At times we hear people saying, 'Oh, I am born a Christian, because my parents are Christians.' It may be nice to think that way but the reality is far from it.

To speak on a personal note, my family traces its root to Saint Thomas, the Apostle, who preached the Gospel in our part of India around 52 AD. We even revere the name of our early ancestors who received baptism more than 2000 years ago. Oral traditions about them becoming Christians is well established in our family folklore.

However, over the 2000 year history, some members of the family have become Hindus, Muslims, Christians of other denominations, etc. Remaining a Christian and a Catholic is a challenge, nay, a choice. It is not an automated process.

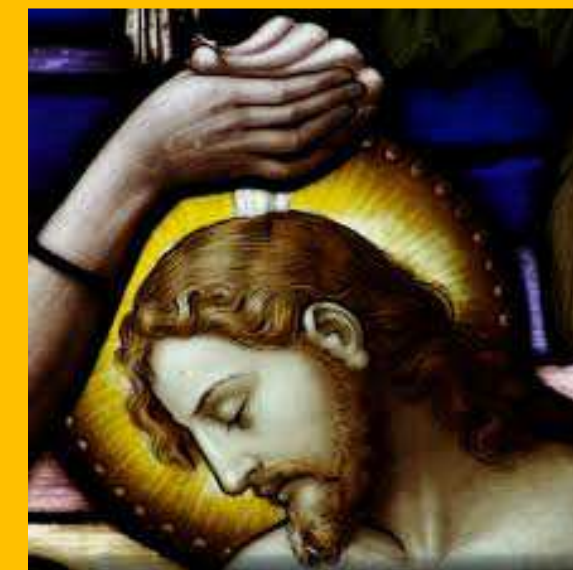
The Baptism of Jesus is an occasion for us to expose the significance of the sacrament of Baptism. In the Gospels we find Jesus receiving baptism from John. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him... And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (*Matthew 3:13, 17*)

By baptism we become adopted children of God. It is a choice that we make during our earthly journey. Just as Jesus was revealed as the beloved son, we, too, through our baptism, become beloved sons and daughters of God.

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Mission Statement

We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.



St. Augustine Parish Office

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Douglas Castro/Maintenance

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Virginia Nelson, Fr. Freddie's father, Thomas, Claudia Johnson, Theresa Allevato.

And those who have died:

Marilyn La Placa, Mary Flynn, Rose Thomas, Frankie Levine, Katie Johanni, Catherine Gerrick

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 9th, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, January 10th, 2016, 8 a.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, January 10th, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

William King (+)

Sunday January 10th, 2016, 6 p.m.

Fr. Clarence Zamora (-)**Stewardship – Weekly Offering**

January 3rd Collection: \$4,238. Includes EFT

Question of the Week

For Adults: *Do you think that God was “well pleased” by your actions in recent weeks? Why?*

For Children: *What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?*

Job opening: Director for Music Ministry

Saint Augustine Parish, Oakland, seeks a Music Minister. It is a part time paid position. Music minister is responsible for music ministry in the Church. It will include planning and development of the full liturgical cycle, coordinated scheduling, supervision of musicians and volunteers, etc. Candidate must be able to organize and implement events and have flexibility in work hours. It requires weekend work. A more detailed job description can be obtained from the parish.

This is a 15 hours per week position. Salary classification is M-3. Salary is based upon the diocesan scale and depends on qualification and experience.

Please send your cover letter, application and resume to Pastor, Saint Augustine Parish, 400 Alcatraz Ave, Oakland 94609 or email to: pastorachurch@comcast.net. All candidates need to fill out the application form completely.

Application form is found at the following website: <http://www.oakdiocese.org/offices/human-resources/employment/personnel-policies-for-responschanceries-and-parishes/AppendixD15%20Application.pdf>

Cathedral of Christ the Light Jubilee Year of Mercy Major Events:**Early 2016**

Pilgrimages to the Cathedral of Christ the Light
For parishes, groups and individuals begin

March 4-5, 2016

“24 Hours for the Lord”

The Cathedral of Christ the Light and Deaneries/Parishes

November 20, 2016: 10 a.m.

Mass - Conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy

The Cathedral of Christ the Light - Bishop Michael Barber, S.J., Celebrant

Ministry Schedule

- Wednesday, Jan 13th @ 6 PM – RCIA resumes
- Thursday, Jan 14th @ 5:30 PM – Art & Environment Change
- Sunday, Jan 17th – No Faith Formation
- Sunday, Jan 17th @ 9:15 AM – Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
- Sunday, Jan 17th – No CLW
- Sunday, Jan 17th – Small Faith Group Leader Meeting @ 1pm in the Rectory Dining Room

Weekly Worship Schedule**Saturday Vigil**

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:30 a.m.

Communion Service

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4 p.m.

From the Office of the Ministry Coordinator:

A new year brings hope and anticipation to the forefront of our lives. It is a time for resolutions, goal setting, and overall positive living. If you have been pondering what important things you could bring to your life in 2016 please consider involvement in your Parish community. There are several ministries eager to include you in their plans for the New Year.

Our Faith Formation and Children's Liturgy of the Word classes will be on break for the holiday weekend next Sunday, January 17th. Sacramental preparation will begin for any children who are currently in the 2nd and 3rd grade who have not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion will begin next Sunday at 9:15 am. This program requires the participation of a parent, as well as the child. For more information please pick up a flyer in the vestibule of the church or contact Karen at the Parish Office.

Visit our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Augustine-Catholic-Church-113260159035124/>

56 Ways to Be Merciful During the Jubilee Year of Mercy

#13 Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.

#14 Send a card, flowers, gift or note to someone on the six –month anniversary of his or her loved one's death. By then most people have stopped recognizing their grief.

Please continue to pray with me that our Parish community will grow in God's love and holiness. In Christ's love, Karen