

Continued from page 1

The Church is a gathering of people who love Jesus and love one another. The Holy Mass is called *agape*, or a feast of love. If our gathering does not help us to grow in love, it is a waste of time. Our Sunday gathering is not a time for judgment, or critiquing or a time for catching up on the latest gossip or rumor.

Take the time to answer for yourself the question: what is Church for me?

Father Augustine

A Perspective of Justice - At work in the World

Our land is indeed desolate: poisons float around in the air, toxins flow in our streams and lakes, and chemicals pollute the soil. The land is forsaken because of "the tensions and the tragedies of sin," and forsaken, too, are many of the people who live on the land. Or to put it in terms of today's Gospel, the wine has run out and the party seems to be over.

It does not have to be that way, however. The people can "be called 'My Delight,' and your land 'Espoused'." There is still choice wine left to be experienced: the party does not have to end. We can "sing to the Lord a new song."

Two things will have to happen for things to change. The first is the action of the Lord. Jesus' hour has come. We must turn to him, as Mary did, and have confidence in his power to effect change. The other thing that must take place is the application of our gifts to the solution of the problems afflicting our land and the people living on it. "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

We must all use our unique gifts and unite them to the action of Jesus at work in the world. This is "the way to peace in the world" that we pray for at the beginning of Mass. If we follow this way, "no more shall men call you 'forsaken,' or your land 'desolate'."

The option for the poor embedded in the Gospel and the Church's teaching makes us aware that the poor suffer most directly from environmental decline and have the least access to relief from their suffering. Indigenous peoples die with their forests and grasslands. ... Nature will truly enjoy its second spring only when humanity has compassion for its own weakest members.

U.S. Bishops, [Renewing the Earth](#), 1991: III, F

Gerald Darring

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

Church Today

What is the Church? Many people would, perhaps, point to a building that is designated for community worship as the Church. It is not the building, but the gathering of people that constitute the Church. Saint Paul tells us that the Church is the body of Christ.

"Now you are the body of Christ and, individually, members of it."²⁸ And God has appointed in the Church: first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers; then, deeds of power, then, gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, and various kinds of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way".

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

In Corinthians chapter 13 Paul points out the still more excellent way: love. And the greatest of these is love. Loves surpasses all else because "love never fails" 1 Cor.13:8.

Saint Therese of Lisieux commenting on this passage, says, "I understood that love comprised all vocations, that love was everything that it embraced all times and places...in a word, that it was eternal. Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my love...my vocation, at last I have found it...MY VOCATION IS TO LOVE."

Continued on page 4



St. Augustine Parish Office

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609

Phone: (510) 653-8631 ext 110

www.staugustineoakland.com

saintaugustinechurch@comcast.net

Emergency Cell number (510) 653-8631 ext 111

Fr. Augustine Joseph
Parochial Administrator, ext 100
pastorachurch@comcast.net

Paul McWilliams, Director, Music ext 104
pmcwilliams@usfca.edu

Karen Glen, Ministry Coordinator, ext 102
kglen.staugustineMC@gmail.com

Linda Prara-Jenkins, Office Manager, ext 101
staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

Mission Statement

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

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Bob Shobar, Gloria Bautista, 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 16th, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Leslie Arnold (+)

Sunday, January 17th, 2016, 8 a.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, January 17th, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

Suzy Arnhart (-)

Sunday January 17th, 2016, 2016, 6 p.m.

Fr. James Sloan (-)

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

January 10th Collection: \$3,483. Includes EFT

St. Vincent dePaul stewardship: \$131.53

Question of the Week**For Adults:**

When have you stepped in, as Mary did at Cana, to try and make a difficult situation easier for someone?

For Children:

What can you do this week to help make someone's job a little easier?

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, February 2nd, Year of Mercy Service, Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, February 10th, Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th, 24th, 2nd, 9th, 16th, Evening Prayer

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 19th @ 6pm: RCIA

Sunday, Jan 24th @ 9:15 am – Faith Formation

Sunday, Jan 24th @ 9:15 – Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

Sunday, Jan 24th – CLW

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:

Even though we have just begun the New Year, Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is just a few weeks away. Traditionally Lent is always a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy the Pope has invited us to join with him in many different ways to bring the church to the streets. *"I want to see the church get closer to the people. I want to get rid of clericalism, the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves, in our parishes, schools or structures. Because these need to get out!"* -Pope Francis.

As a parish community we are planning many opportunities to be involved in prayer during the Lenten Season. It is through prayer and quiet time spent with God that we are nourished to go forward and share His love and mercy. We invite you to plan now for your Lenten journey.

56 Ways to Be Merciful During the Jubilee Year of Mercy

15 Offer to babysit for a busy mom to go out and have a couple of hours to herself.

16 Make a meal (or buy a gift certificate) for a mom who's just given birth or adopted a child, or for someone who's just gone through a loss.

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

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