

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For Adults: How do you know when you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?

For Children: What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

## Parish News

**Welcome**

If you recently moved into the neighborhood and have been attending our parish, we would love to invite you to pick up a registration form located on the table in the back of the church next to the hospitality table. You may drop it off in the collection basket at your convenience.

**Music Class**

Our Music Director, April McNeely is offering music classes on how to read music. They are held on Wednesday nights from 6 pm to 7 pm in the church.

**Prayer Tree**

Please join members of the Prayer Tree to pray "Rosary for Peace" on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month. Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 AM, on following days in 2017: December 3rd.

**Taize Prayer Service**

Quiet times of centering prayer, a brief reflection, shared petitions, framed with simple music. All are welcome!" The service will begin on Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m. and will last approximately 25 minutes. No prior experience or training is necessary in order to participate; all that is needed is a desire to meet with a small group to spend time in prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Schaeffer at [lilac52@gmail.com](mailto:lilac52@gmail.com) or 415-935-1729

**Christmas Week Mass Schedule****Weekend Masses:**

Saturday, December 23rd: 5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24th: 10:30 am Mass. There will be no 8 am or 6 pm Mass.

**Christmas Masses:**

Sunday, December 24th: 5 pm Children's Mass

Sunday, December 24th: 11:30 Lessons and Carols, followed by Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25th: 10:30 am Mass.

**Joy of the Gospel (Our Social Justice corner)**

Look here for exciting opportunities to get involved in serving others in our community. "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis #49.

As a Parish community we are now serving "Fellowship" coffee. This coffee is a Free Trade, Organic blend coffee that is made available to us through a partnership of Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade ministry. We hope you will take the time to appreciate the coffee and know that the purchase of the coffee helps insure fair and safe conditions for those who grow, harvest and roast it. If you would like more information about this change, please ask @ the Hospitality table.

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Augustine is once again offering us all the opportunity to participate in the annual Giving Tree. You simply pick an ornament off the tree, sign your name and contact information onto the sheet provided, go shopping and return the gift to the church by December 10th. Let us remember that we are called to be Christ to others, and in this simple giving we will make a big difference in another person's life.

# Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• First Sunday of Advent •

December 3rd, 2017

## A Season of Waiting and Preparation



Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation

for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming".

Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. "Since the time of Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153), Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time." The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert to His Second Coming.

Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year and commences on four Sundays before Christmas.



Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, lighting a Christingle (Christ light), as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations, a custom that is sometimes done liturgically, through a hanging of the greens ceremony.

The equivalent of Advent in Eastern Christianity is called the Nativity Fast, but it differs in length and observances, and does not begin the liturgical church year as it does in the West. The Eastern Nativity Fast does not use the equivalent *parousia* in its preparatory services.

**Fr. Augustine**

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609 • [www.staugustineoakland.com](http://www.staugustineoakland.com)

• Weekend Mass schedule •

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist: 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 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.

Also upon request

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



## St. Augustine Catholic Church

400 Alcatraz Ave  
Oakland, CA 94609

(510) 653-8631 ext.110

www.staugustineoakland.com

saintaugustinechurch@comcast.net

Emergencies: (510) 653-8631 ext 111

### Parish staff

#### Parochial Administrator

Fr. Augustine Joseph

(510) 653-8631 ext 100

pastorachurch@comcast.net

#### Music Director

April McNeely

(510) 504-4784

april.mcneely@gmail.com

#### Ministry Coordinator

Karen Glen

(510) 653-8631 ext 102

kglen.staugustineMC@gmail.com

#### Office Manager

Linda Prara-Jenkins

(510) 653-8631 ext 101

staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

**NEW MINISTRY** - Newman Hall will be introducing plans for the development of a Grief Ministry. Grieving over loss of a loved one is familiar to most of us. Loss can also lead to devastating grief because of such conditions as broken relationships, employment problems, personal unfulfilled expectations, academic problems, etc. Grieving is a process. The intention of the Grief Ministry is to help people work through their grief in a safe environment. There will be an Information Night early in January. It will be an orientation meeting to establish criteria for developing the plans for a Grief Ministry. The meeting date will be posted as soon as it is scheduled. If you would like to discern a call to this ministry as well as receive more information, contact Mary Lanigan (mdlانigan@gmail.com)

Understanding is the Path to Christian Unity Tuesday, November 28, 7:30 – 9:00 pm Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

Within the week of Christ the King and the conclusion of Ordinary Time we look forward to the promise of Christ "that all may be one" (John 17:21). This fall is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with its current meaning and challenges for the Catholic Church as well as the Protestant Churches. All are invited to a Catholic-Lutheran dialogue at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, on November 28. The evening will include opportunity for discussion. We welcome our neighbors from Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Our Speakers will be Rev. Diane Bowers, Ph.D., a theologian, Luther scholar and pastor in the Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA. Diane was ordained in 2002, and earned her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology with a dissertation on Martin Luther's theology of the mystical union with Christ, experienced through faith and Father George E. Griener, SJ, has taught historical and systematic theology at the Jesuit School of Theology and the Graduate Theological Union since 1989. He completed his doctorate at the University of Tübingen, Germany, with a dissertation on 19th century philosophy of religion.

### Boutique Pictures courtesy of Courtenay Redis



### From the desk of the Ministry Coordinator

Pope Benedict on the Benevolent Plan of God (Part 1 of 3) Dear Brothers and Sisters, At the beginning of his letter to the Christians of Ephesus (cf. 1, 3-14), the apostle Paul raises a prayer of blessing God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - a prayer that we have just heard - that introduces us to live the season of Advent, in the context of the faith. The theme of this hymn of praise is God's plan for man, defined in terms full of joy, wonder and gratitude, as a "benevolent plan" (see 9), mercy and love. Why does the Apostle raise this blessing God, from the depths of his heart? Because he looks at his work in the history of salvation, culminating in the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus, and he contemplates how Heavenly Father has chosen us even before the creation of the world, to be his sons in his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ (cf. Rom 8:14 s.; Gal 4:4 f.). Therefore we exist from eternity in God, in a major project that God has kept within himself and decided to implement and to reveal in "the fullness of time" (cf. Eph 1:10). St. Paul helps us to understand, then, how all creation and, in particular, man and woman are not the result of chance, but a loving plan to respond to the eternal reason of God with the creative and redemptive power of his Word which creates the world. This first statement reminds us that our vocation is not simply to exist in the world, being inserted in history, or even just being a creature of God, it is something greater: it is being chosen by God, even before the creation of the world, in the Son, Jesus Christ. In Him we exist, so to speak, already. God contemplates us in Christ, as adopted children.

**STARTING THIS WEEK: SET SOME TIME ASIDE FOR YOURSELF. ENJOY THE ADVENT SEASON AND PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS, BY JOINING IN EVENING PRAYER. EVENING PRAYER IS A TIME OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND MUSIC. EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING ADVENT @ 6 PM..**

**Plan Now:** The Children's Mass for Christmas will be on Sunday, December 24th @ 5pm. There will be rehearsal for this Mass on Sunday, December 17th after the 10:30 am Mass. All children in the Parish are invited to participate in this special celebration. Sign up forms are available in the vestibule of the church. Please contact Karen if you have questions or need more information.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Advent Reconciliation will be held on Monday, December 18th @ 7pm. Prepare your hearts and souls for a blessed and peace filled Christmas.



### Ministry schedule

Advent Evening Prayer ~ Wednesday, Dec 6th @ 6 pm

RCIA ~ Wednesday, Dec 6th @ 6:30 pm in the Chapel

Feast of the Immaculate Conception ~ Friday, Dec 8th @ 7 pm Fr. Eddie Gonzalez presiding

All Family Faith Formation ~ Sunday, Dec 10th @ 9:10 am

CLW ~ Sunday, Dec 10th @ 10:30 am Mass

### Weekly Offering

November 26th, Collection: \$3,204. Includes EFT

Thanksgiving Collection: \$408

Piano Repair Fund: \$10,133.00

### In Our Prayers

**Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:** Ivan Lieberburg, Gloria Bautista, Gary Richardi, Mary Arnold, Anita Eble, Fr. Brian Joyce, Shirley Mitchell, Loraine Moran, Gohar Khalaji

**And those who have died:** Christal Moore, Ed Pavao, Fr. Tony Herrera, Douglas Jones, Aaron Permillion, Massomeh Afif.

### Mass intentions

Saturday, December 2nd 2017, 5 pm

### Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, December 3rd, 2017, 8 am

Sunday, December 3rd, 10:30 am  
**Robert Klemm (+)**

Sunday, December 3rd, 6 pm