

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

- Today, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, **National Migration Week** begins. Pray* for the protection of refugee families fleeing persecution that they may find refuge and comfort.
- Adopt the Epiphany tradition of asking God's blessing on your home for the coming year.
- Meditate on the Gifts of the Three Kings — In Matthew's Gospel reading today (**MT 2:1-12**), the birth of Jesus is heralded by the arrival of mysterious visitors from the east. Traditionally identified as three kings, because they spoke directly to king Herod, or as astrologers because they followed a star, or as wise men because they knew of Christ's birth through some hidden wisdom, the fact is we know virtually nothing about them; not even their number, although that's traditionally been fixed at three, because they brought three gifts: Gold — a symbol of wealth and power identifies the recipient as a king. Frankincense — the crystallized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer. Myrrh — another resinous tree sap was used in healing liniments, and as an embalming ointment. Myrrh is an odd gift for a child, unless you know that this special child will, through his death and resurrection, redeem the world. At the beginning of Jesus' life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.

*LOVING FATHER, we pray that you provide your divine protection to all migrants, particularly those who are driven from their homes due to war or violence, who are uprooted due to environmental degradation and climate change, or whose material poverty pushes them to find opportunities elsewhere. Show us how we might reach out to these vulnerable populations and help them to begin a new life in a new home. Open our hearts, so that we may provide hospitality for all who come in search of refuge. Give us the courage to welcome every stranger, as Christ in our midst. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website.

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

Saint

400

www.staugustineoakland.com

Happy New Year

As we begin the New Year 2016, I reflect on the past year. How did we do? Did I do well? How about one? Do I need to make changes? How can I make 2016 even a better one? How can I help those around me? Did I spiritually grow? What are some of the questions worth asking?

Saint Augustine parish experienced a lot of change in 2015. A new pastor, new staff members, and new members joined the parish, lots of improvements were made around the Church and certainly through the changes. We are committed to making the changes through organizing a **Day of Mercy** for our community to grow in mercy and compassion. All our ministries continue to grow and we welcome, which is the hallmark of the Church, to radiate joy and welcome to all.

The Director of our Music Ministry, Fr. Paul, resigned, effective January 31, 2016. He held two jobs; at University of San Francisco and at Saint Augustine. Since he felt that he could not manage, he decided to focus on his primary job at Paul for his service to the church and to continue his work at USF.

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, Katie Johanni, Catherine Gerrick

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 2nd, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Chuck Brady (+)

Sunday, January 3rd, 2016, 8 a.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, January 3rd, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday January 3rd, 2016, 6 p.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

Christmas Collection: \$ 19,516. Does not include EFT

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, January 5, Year of Mercy Prayer Service, 7 pm

Question of the Week**For Adults:**

When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

For Children:

When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of to you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, Jan 5th @ 7pm:

Service Wednesday, Jan 6
resumes Sunday, Jan 10th

Resumes Sunday, Jan 10th
of the Word Resumes

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: pastorchurch@comcast.net. All candidates need to fill out the

From the Office of the Min

Welcome to the New Year
First Sunday of Advent. E
Extraordinary Jubilee Year
what God's Mercy means
through our parish and our
our New Year the best way