

**ST. THERESA PARISH OFFERS IGNATIAN PRAYER ADVENTURE****JANUARY 19 through MARCH 22, 2016**

Deepen your spiritual life, Grow in your relationship with God and Jesus, Learn new prayer methods, Experience new means of discernment, Share the graces of the retreat in a small group setting.

**The Retreat will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 in St. Theresa Meeting Rooms.** The cost of the Exercises is \$120 per person and includes all materials and 5 one-on-one meetings with a Spiritual Director.

**Financial support is available and cost should never be a reason to not attend.**

If you are interested in participating, please complete the Sign-up sheet found in the back of the Church or contact:

Bob Hernandez, [bhernandez@carmelpartners.com](mailto:bhernandez@carmelpartners.com) (415) 516-0440 or

Laura Bennett, [lwbennett7@msn.com](mailto:lwbennett7@msn.com) (510) 652-1835



**Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 to 4:00!**

**Holiday Pop-Up Boutique and Marketplace**

**Please join us for a fantastic holiday shopping experience that directly supports the women and children of Elizabeth House!**

**Enjoy La Farine Pastries and bottomless mimosas while you shop. There is easy, free parking and we will also offer unique Elizabeth House gift-wrapping!**

**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](http://www.staugustineoakland.com)

Office phone number (510) 653-8631

**Year of Mercy**

Pope Francis has declared 2016 as the Year of Mercy. The Year of Mercy begins on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and ends with the Feast of Christ the King, 2016. It may be good for us to have a brief reflection on mercy and what it entails.

We need to both give and receive mercy. There could be people who wonder how can I give mercy? Well, it can be done in many ways. Practicing the corporal works of mercy is a sure way to do it. The **corporal works of mercy** are: to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to shelter the homeless; to visit the sick; to ransom the captive; to bury the dead. Among these ransoming the captive may sound unfamiliar. It refers to rescuing people who are prisoners of war, people who are kidnapped for ransom, or held as political prisoners etc. Amnesty International is an organization in our times that works for such causes.

Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty and AI) is a non-governmental organization focused on human rights with over 7 million members and supporters around the world. The stated objective of the organization is "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated." Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961.

We can give mercy by doing **spiritual works of mercy**. They are: to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive offences willingly; to comfort the afflicted; to pray for the living and the dead. These are easy enough for most people to do and are a help for one's own spiritual growth.

(To be continued)

Father Augustine

**Mission Statement**

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

**St. Augustine Parish Office**

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609

Phone: (510) 653-8631 ext 110

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 Parochial Administrator, ext 100  
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Linda Prara-Jenkins, Office Manager, ext 101  
[staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com](mailto:staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com)

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

**Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:**

Mary Ellen McManus, Karen Miller, Virginia Nelson, Bob Shobar, Fr. Freddie's father, Thomas, Matilda Maes, Claudia Johnson, Theresa Allevato.

**And those who have died:**

*Marilyn La Placa, Mary Flynn, Rose Thomas, Michael McGuinness, Frankie, Katie Johanni*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

**Denise Byers Hall (+)**

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 8 a.m.

**Parishioners & Benefactors**

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

**John Allevato (+)**

Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 6 p.m.

**Kathleen Cuba (-)**

**Stewardship – Weekly Offering**

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015: \$3,641.00 (*Includes EFT*)

*SVDP Stewardship: \$107.46*

*St. Vincent dePaul: \$1,904.00*

**Marycare**

I heard about Marycare from its president, my dear friend Anne Bates, and I was immediately struck by the grass-roots nature of this organization. During the past 20 years Marycare has helped impoverished communities in Argentina, the Philippines, Haiti—communities that have been oppressed and isolated for ethnic, religious, racial or political reasons. Now Marycare is in southern Nigeria, working under the guidance of local Nigerian leaders and Fr. Emmanuel, a Nigerian priest who is pastor of 2 parishes in Hartford, Connecticut. First Marycare dug a well to bring clean water to the priest's home village of Umuoduwa, one of the five villages of Ejemekwuru, a town of 10,000 people in Imo State in rural Nigeria. This means not only that the mortality rate has declined dramatically, but also that the children previously taking hours to fetch dirty water from the river can now be in school. Marycare has also recently built a medical clinic in Umuoduwa which is already attracting patients from the other villages in Ejemekwuru, and also in the region at large—an area with no nearby medical facilities. Within the next 2 months they will be sending a large container of beds and equipment to the clinic. Donations will be used for medicines, and for paying local doctors and nurses to educate and cure people. Nurse educator Rose teaches patients as they wait to see a doctor that sickness is not caused by evil spirits, but often by poor hand-washing, and/or by not seeing a doctor when, for example, a baby begins to get chest congestion. These people are victims of the Biafra Massacre in which 1 & 1/2 million to 3 million people were starved to death for trying to become independent in 1996-70. Now they are finally through Marycare receiving help where other organizations have failed because of corruption. Marycare always collaborates with the community leaders already in place--that way there is a mutual giving and receiving among all. 95% of Marycare's donations go directly to its programs because of its completely volunteer staff in the USA. Please consider making a donation to this extremely worthy charitable foundation whose mission it is to work with the poorest of the poor. You can find out more about it on their webpage, Marycare.org, and I am also happy to talk or reply to emails from any of you. Anne Perkins ([grannyannieperkins@gmail.com](mailto:grannyannieperkins@gmail.com)) 314-853-7365)

**Ministry Schedule**

Wednesday, Dec 9th @ 6pm – RCIA

Wednesday, Dec 9th @ 6:30 pm -  
Evening Prayer

Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 am – Faith  
Formation (PreK – 4<sup>th</sup>)

Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am mass –  
Children's Liturgy of the Word

**Question of the Week****For Adults:**

In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

**For Children:**

What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

**Dates to Remember**

Tuesday, December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses, at 8:30 am & 7 pm.

Wednesday, December 9th, & 16th, Evening Prayer, at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, December 12th, Our Lady of Guadalupe play, at 5 pm.

Monday, December 21, Advent Reconciliation Service at 7 pm.

Thursday, December 24th, Children's Mass at 5 pm.

Thursday, December 24th, Midnight Mass starting at 11:30 pm with Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 25th, Christmas Mass at 10:30 am.

**There is no 8 am Mass on Christmas Day.**

Friday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary Mass at 10 am.

**From the Office of the Ministry Coordinator**

Join us in preparation for the Children/Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm. All of the children are welcome. We have parts for angels, wisemen, shepherds and their animals. They do not need to learn any lines and you are welcome to join them in the reenactment if you feel they may be a bit distracted. Dress rehearsal, for the children who may have speaking parts, will be held after the 10:30 mass on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in welcoming Jesus into our Parish, our homes and our hearts this Christmas.

In Preparation for the Christmas season I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to join in our Advent Reconciliation Service. This is a special time to join our community in prayer and to reconcile with God in your heart. The service will be Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 pm.

Is there a ministry you are interested in finding out more about? Do you think you are not qualified to do a certain job? God does not always call the qualified, but He always qualifies the called. I would love to discuss opportunities for service in our parish with you. Feel free to give me a call @ 510-653-8631, Ext 102

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

**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.**