

The Bishop has asked us to help him respond to questions sent to him by Pope Francis and the Synod Fathers in preparation for the Synod on Marriage and the Family that will take place this October. He especially asks that all levels of the Church's life respond to these questions. Therefore he has put a questionnaire online in both English and Spanish that he asks all of you to fill out online in the next two weeks. This is an important contribution we can make to the prayerful reflection of the whole Church on this important part of life.

The questionnaire can be found at: www.oakdiocese.org/survey

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, February 18th: Ash Wednesday, Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 7 PM

Wednesday, February 25, March 4, March 22, March 18, March 25, Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 29th: Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30th, Reconciliation Service, 7 PM

Thursday, April 2nd: Holy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM

Good Friday, April 3rd: Stations of the Cross and Seven Last Words at 12 Noon. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7 PM

Saturday, April 4th: Easter Vigil at 8 PM

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Masses at 8 AM and 10:30 AM

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For Adults

Would you have the courage to tell others to do as you do in order to be a Christian? Why or why not.

For Children

What can you do this week to be an example to others?

Art and Environment Update:

The change from Ordinary Time to Lent will be Monday, February 16th, at 6 p.m. There will be refreshments served.

Welcome to the Marian Shrines Pilgrimage

The Marian Shrines Pilgrimage information meeting is set for March 22, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at St. Raymond's Church, Dublin. We are inviting all parishioners who are interested in attending the pilgrimage or have any questions to attend this meeting.

Daily Mass Location Change

We are in the process of moving the location of our daily Mass to the Reconciliation room. The room is move conducive to daily Mass and it will continue to serve as our Reconciliation room on Saturday. If you have any suggestions, you may contact Fr. Augustine.

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

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Office phone number (510) 653-8631

Lent For Our Times

Is the season of Lent relevant for 21st century? We are so automated, so busy; why do we need Lenten observances? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the three themes of Lent, are actually a welcome change to our routine life.

Prayer helps us to commune with the Almighty. We all experience limitations in our lives – sickness, pain, grief, suffering. Prayer moves us beyond our limitations and touches the unlimited. Find strength and courage, joy and happiness and experience “nirvana” (liberation). Well, prayer is worth the time, and worth the effort, so why not try to pray more during this season of Lent!

Almsgiving or charity is a hall mark of our Christian faith. Every Christian by his/her baptism has a duty to be charitable. It is part of a realization of who we are. We have all received much or rather all that we have is a gift. We are merely stewards of God's gift. Am I a good steward administering the gifts properly? Do I share my gifts and talents? Lent is time to make changes that are a need for me. God loves a cheerful giver!

Fasting may not be pleasant to some people. It primarily means giving up some food as a sacrifice. There are people who give up certain food on doctors orders. During Lent I fast because I want to do it. It is almost like the man who gave up his lifejacket on a sinking ship because there were not enough lifejackets for all! Moreover, fasting is not just about food alone. If you are able to kick some bad habits (alcoholism, smoking, internet pornography, using curse words, impatience, etc.) that too is a form of fasting. May be fasting is good for our body and our soul.

Do you love Lent? I suppose many people will be reluctant to say yes. May be we should ask this question again and we may be surprised by our own answers!

Apps for Lent

Nearly everyone uses smartphones. Our smartphones can be an obstacle to prayer and spiritual life. However, during this Lent, our phones can help us to pray as well. They can inspire us to prayer, penance and almsgiving. Given below are some of the Catholic apps for Lent.

Laudate (Free): It is one of the most downloaded free Catholic apps. It has everything that a Catholic could want: Mass, prayers, Bible, Vatican II documents, Catechism, rosary, lives of saints, etc. You can also bookmark your favorite prayers here.

Catholic TV (Free): Helps us to stay on top of Catholic news.

RC Buddy (Free): It contains prayers, readings of the day, Rosary and liturgy of the hours.

Xt3 Lent Calendar (\$1.99): It contains much of what you need to make the most of every day in Lent. It contains daily readings, ideas for penance, inspirational quotes and important feast days.

Stations of the Cross walk with me (\$1.99): It is sold by Daughters of Saint Paul. It is ideal for helping you fit the Stations of the Cross into your daily life.

Catholic meditations for Lent (\$2.99): It contains 63 meditations for Lent. It has a free trial version.

Rev. Augustine



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Douglas Castro/Maintenance

Mission Statement

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

Kindly keep the following parishioner in your prayers as she have been placed in **Hospice care**: Marilyn La Placa.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Mary Hazen, Harold Swamy, Patty Wiesner, Mary Flynn, Tom Hayes, Rose Domaguang, Madeleine Shannon, Matilda Maes, Mary Pavao, Claudia Johnson, Carmon Woodyard, Juanita Estralles.

And those who have died:

Hortense Atkins, Evelyn Vega, George Shaw, Cora Jose, Kay Irwin, Timothy Michael Solovieff, Juanita Morris.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 14th, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Roy Johns (+)

Sunday, February 15th, 2015 8 a.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, February 15th, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Patricia Stockman (+)

Sunday, February 15th, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

February 8th, 2015:\$4,310 (includes EFT)

St. Vincent de Paul Stewardship \$72.77

Eucharistic Minister Training will be held after the 10:30 AM Mass on February 22. If you have any questions, please see Kathy Wang.

We will continue our Bible Study this Sunday, February 15th, 2015, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Rectory dining room. All are welcome. Please bring your Holy Bible, a pen and note pad.

In the Powerful Name of Jesus,

Fr. Freddie Thomas

Please join members of the Prayer Tree to pray "**Rosary for Peace**" on the 1st Sundays of the month.

Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 a.m. on following days in 2015: March 1st, April 12th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th.

End of year tax statements are now available for registered parishioners. Please call Linda in the Rectory office at (510) 653-8631 if you would like a copy mailed to you.

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.

First Sunday Potluck

Join us in the rectory dining room on Sunday night, February 1st, for a potluck dinner following the 6 pm Mass to welcome new folks to the parish. Dishes can be brought to the rectory in the 15 minutes before Mass starts. Bring a friend!

Please come and join us every Tuesday morning at St. Augustine's, combining elements of Taizé music, contemplative prayer, and liturgy of the hours. The service will begin 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 or 415-935-1729



Lent 2015 Message Series

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH • OAKLAND, CA

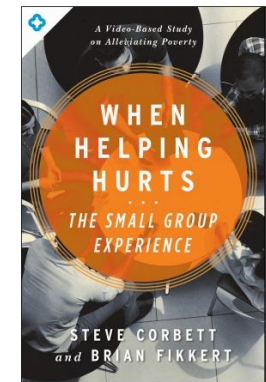
Poverty is a touchy subject. It is politicized, used as a guilt-trip, trivialized, and easily misunderstood. And, paradoxically, some ways that we may try to help the materially poor can cause harm to them... and ourselves.

Our Lenten series offers a different framework for thinking about poverty and its alleviation. Poverty isn't just a lack of material things – it's rooted in broken relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. Learn more about the series at <http://Gospel.link>.

Small Faith-Sharing Groups

We will gather into small groups this Lent to reflect on *When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. The process is excellent and includes a booklet and short videos.

To sign up, fill out a form in the church or contact Jen at jen.owens9@gmail.com or 510-653-8631 x103.



Meg Bowerman on *Helping without Hurting*

Save the date: Tuesday, March 24 • 7:00-8:30pm

Meg Bowerman is a member of St. Columba Church in Oakland and a former board member for JustFaith, a national program that transforms people and expands their commitment to social ministry. Through these life-changing opportunities, members of a church or parish can study, explore and experience Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable in a lively, challenging, multifaceted process in the context of a small faith community. Meg will lead us in reflecting on this series together as a parish community. For more information, please contact Jenny at jennysacc@gmail.com.