

Continued from page 1

After receiving a brief bit of advice and absolution the penitent then fulfills the penance suggested by the priest. There should always be a plan or a pathway to change things that needs to be changed in one's life and to seriously implement it. It is only then that the fruit of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is sustained!

To Celebrate the Year of Mercy our parish is holding a Day of Mercy once a month, running from January 2016 to November 2016. It will be on first Tuesday of every Month at 7:00 PM in our Church. The service will be for about an hour. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience mercy through communal prayer, singing, adoration of the Holy Eucharist and listening to God's Word. There will also be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time. All are welcome.

Jesus is the human and merciful face of the Father. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."(Luke 23:34) In him "mercy, forgiveness and justice have met."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Father Augustine

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>

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

Give and receive mercy

We can give mercy through corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy. It is equally important to receive mercy. In the rich depository of the Church's wisdom we have the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. [In our parish the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 PM.]

The Sacrament of Reconciliation requires a sense of sorrow for our sins. It is not in any way meant to foster feelings of guilt in the individual; rather it is an opportunity for growth - spiritual growth.

The second step is to confess our sins. We tell the wrongs we have done to a priest. Of course, it is God who forgives sins through the instrumentality of the ordained minister. Often we hear people saying, "Why do I need to tell my sins to a priest (a human person, who is a sinner as well?)" Can I not confess directly to God? The answer is obvious. Yes, we can.

However, as human beings we need a human way of receiving forgiveness. (This is the meaning of incarnation or Christmas. Jesus becomes one of us so that we can become gods.) Ordinarily, a sick person would consult a doctor, although one could treat oneself or go directly to God asking for healing. It is much the same that a spiritually sick person consults an ordained minister empowered and prepared to treat the condition. Although there is a certain amount of shame in confessing one's sins, the forgiveness received out-weighs any such feelings. Moreover, all people are sinners! As the old dictum says, "no man/woman is perfect."

Continued on page 4

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

www.staugustineoakland.com

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Fr. Augustine Joseph
Parochial Administrator, ext 100
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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

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Mary Ellen McManus, 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, December 19th, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, December 20th, 2015 8 a.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors

Sunday, December 20th, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Marilynn LaPlaca (+)

Sunday December 20th, 2015, 6 p.m.

Parishioners & Benefactors**Stewardship – Weekly Offering**

December 6th, 2015: \$3,984 (*Includes EFT*)

SVDP Stewardship: \$175.39

Religious Retirement: \$ 276

The Diocese of Oakland, in partnership with Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Alameda District Attorney's Office, will partner to open a Safe House for minors (11-17) who have been sexually trafficked. The Bay Area is a nationwide hub for Human Trafficking, and these children are the most victimized and vulnerable. Together, we can bring healing, hope and dignity to their lives. In conjunction with the opening of the Safe House, Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Office of Life and Justice will coordinate a campaign to build awareness and mobilize action in all 84 parishes. If you would like to assist with this work please contact Steve Mullin at smullun@cceb.org or Cristina Hernández at chernandez@oakdiocese.org.

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact:

Eric L. Steckel – Communications Manager

(510) 768-3147

esteckel@cceb.org

or

Steve Mullin – Parish Outreach Manager

(510) 768-3165

smullin@cceb.org

Christ the Light Jubilee Year of Mercy Major Events

December 22, 2015: 7-8:30 p.m.

Jubilee of Mercy Enrichment Series

St. Callistus Parish, El Sobrante. Future locations TBD

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

Monday, Dec 21st @ 7pm – Advent

Reconciliation Service

Thursday, Dec 24th @ 5pm –

Children/Family Christmas Vigil Mass

Thursday, Dec 24th @ 11:30pm –

Lessons and Carols & Midnight Mass

Friday, Dec 25th @ 10:30 am –

Christmas Day Mass

Sundav. Dec 27th – Faith Formation

Question of the Week**For Adults:**

When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

For Children:

When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

Dates to Remember

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

This time of the year is filled with such anticipation and joy, but it can often be a time of extreme stress and anxiety. I hope you each have the opportunity to spend some time with your families in peace and quiet. An evening of baking or playing a game, even just watching a Christmas movie together can be a source of comfort and joy to children and adults. These are the things that memories are made of.

Tomorrow we will join together in reconciliation. Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be at 7pm. This is a wonderful time to spend in preparation for Christmas. If you have been away from this sacrament for a while, I hope you consider joining us. Materials will be available to help with the process and reflection. Please pray for the young children who will be receiving this sacrament for the first time.

56 Ways to Be Merciful During the Jubilee Year of Mercy

#3. Call someone who you know is lonely, even if you understand *why* they're lonely. Especially if you do.

#4 Write a letter of forgiveness to someone. If you cannot send it, sprinkle it with holy water, ask Christ Jesus to have mercy on you both and then burn or bury it.

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.