

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time •

August 27th, 2023

Happy Feast

In the annals of Christian history, the lives of Saint Augustine and his mother, Saint Monica, stand as a profound testament to the power of faith, love, and redemption. Their story is one of transformation and spiritual journey, highlighting the enduring bond between a mother and son that ultimately led to their sainthood.



Saint Augustine, born in 354 AD in Tagaste, North Africa (modern-day Algeria), began his life with a restless search for meaning. He was known for his intellectual pursuits and philosophical explorations. However, Augustine's spiritual journey took a remarkable turn when he encountered the teachings of Christianity. Through the influence of his devoted mother, Monica, Augustine gradually embraced the faith, although not without wrestling with doubts and inner struggles. His quest for truth led him to study various religious traditions and philosophies, culminating in his profound conversion to Christianity.

Monica, a steadfast Christian, played a pivotal role in Augustine's transformation. She fervently prayed for his conversion and patiently supported him through his tumultuous journey. Her unyielding faith and maternal love ultimately paved the way for Augustine's spiritual awakening. Her prayers and tears were answered when Augustine finally embraced Christianity, later becoming one of the most influential theologians and philosophers of his time.

Augustine's writings, including his monumental work "Confessions," provide a window into his internal struggles, doubts, and eventual spiritual enlightenment. In his reflections, Augustine acknowledges the pivotal role Monica played in his spiritual development, recognizing her unwavering love and devotion. The bond between mother and son transcended earthly concerns and found its culmination in their shared commitment to God's grace.

The story of Saint Augustine and Saint Monica resonates across centuries as a testament to the transformative power of faith. Their lives illustrate that the journey of faith is often marked by trials, questions, and doubts, yet it is ultimately a path towards redemption and spiritual fulfillment. Augustine's conversion and subsequent contributions to Christian theology have left an indelible mark on the Church and continue to influence Christian thought to this day.

Continued on page 2

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609 • www.staugustineoakland.com

Weekend Mass schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Mass: Sunday, 10:00 am & 6:00pm

• Weekday Eucharist •

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
Communion Service: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

• Sacrament of Reconciliation •

Saturday at 4 p.m.
Also upon Request

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

In a world where relationships often face challenges and differences, the story of Saint Augustine and Saint Monica offers a beacon of hope. Their journey serves as a reminder that love, patience, and unwavering faith can lead to reconciliation and transformation, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

In conclusion, the lives of Saint Augustine and Saint Monica are a powerful narrative of faith, love, and redemption. Their story serves as an enduring inspiration, inviting individuals to reflect on their own spiritual journeys and relationships. Through their shared experience, they remind us that even in the face of doubt and difficulty, faith and love can lead to profound personal and spiritual growth.

Father Augustine Joseph

Our Circle of Support: The Saints

By: R. Jared Staudt

As I was praying about my patron saints recently, the following image came to my mind, about the order of our prayer and the help that God has given us to reach Him: all the saints are centered on God and they seek to pull us into that center through their prayers and support.

The heart of our prayer centers on God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the source and goal of all things. He has adopted us as His own sons and calls us to enter into the rest of His bosom. The Son is the Word who makes the Father known, who has become man to bring about our adoption as sons, so that we can share in His own sonship. He is the bridge that brings us to the Father. The Holy Spirit is the breath that speaks the Son into our hearts and the life of God that draws us out of the death of our sins and into the new life of grace. He propels us through the bridge of the Son and makes us one with God.

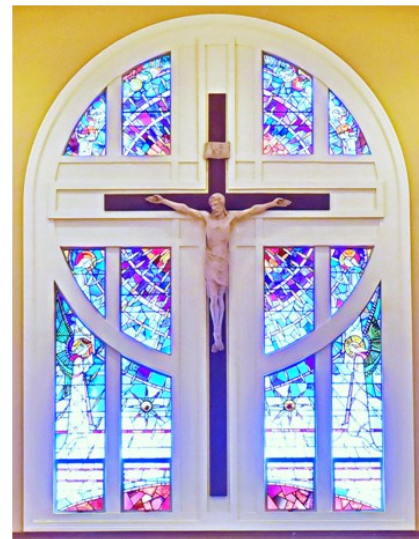
God the Holy Trinity draws all things to Himself. He is the life and unity of all things and uses our relationship with others to bring us into relationship with Him. Our faith is not private or isolated, but unites us with the Body of Christ, which is one across the Communion of Saints on earth, in purgatory, and in Heaven. God leads us into His life through the mediation of others, who share their faith us, teach us, and guide us to Heaven as mediators of God's truth and grace. This includes the hierarchy of the Church, our family and friends, and our fellow members of the Church in Heaven.

Continuing my picture of the saints in prayer, from the center in God, the source and goal of our prayer, I saw Our Lady and St. Joseph, the human and heavenly mother and father given to the Church as her patrons. Mary is the mother of all Christians as she is the Mother of God Incarnate. All who share in the sonship of Christ through adoption, becoming members of His Body, are given Mary as their own mother as well. The child Jesus was entrusted to St. Joseph, who guided and protected Him with his quiet virtue and justice. He has been placed over the household of God in the Holy Family and over the household of the Church.

In addition to these universal patrons, we should have our own particular patrons. A patron in the classical world was a wealthy benefactor who protected and supported their client and worked for his advancement. Likewise, we are adopted by heavenly patrons who represent us in Heaven, interceding for us and obtaining graces for us, as we strive to join them in Heaven. We choose a patron for Confirmation (and our parents choose one for us in our baptismal name), but may be led to additional patrons through our work or by being inspired by the writings and example of a particular saint. These main patrons stand centrally before the Holy Trinity, flanking Mary and Joseph, and drawing us into the life of God. We should turn to their help on a daily basis and continue to learn more about them and to imitate their virtues.

Finally, there is a broad circle of prayer surrounding us through any additional patrons and the help of our departed family members. These additional patrons can include the saints whose feasts fall on important days of life—birthday, anniversaries of baptism and marriage—patrons of our profession and parish, saints related to our state in life, and other saints who have impacted us. We may not pray to these saints as our main patrons, but they circle us with their prayers. Along with our guardian angels, we count on their assistance and they become part of the support we need to reach Heaven.

Everything should focus on God: all help and support flows out from His life, which we share through grace. He chooses, however, to share His blessings with us through the help of others. This is true of the help of others on earth and it's also true of our heavenly patrons. They surround us with their love and help and we should be ever mindful and grateful of their presence, turning to them frequently.



St. Augustine Catholic Church

400 Alcatraz Ave
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 653-8631 ext 110
Fax: (510) 653-4256
www.staugustineoakland.com
saintaugustinechurch@comcast.net
Emergencies: (510) 653-8631 ext 111

Parish staff

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Augustine Joseph
(510) 653-8631 ext 100
vrevaj20@gmail.com

Music Director

April McNeely
(510) 504-4784
april.mcneely@gmail.com

Faith Formation Coordinator

Kate Dole
katefaithformationstaaugus-
tine@gmail.com
(510) 653-8631 ext 102

Office Manager

Linda Prara-Jenkins
(510) 653-8631 ext 101
staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

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.

Important Websites and TV Channels

EWTN—Masses televised daily.

AT&T UVerse—Channel 562—No HD.

Comcast: 33 (SD), 291 (SD), 1668 (HD)

Vatican website: Vatican.va

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: usccb.org

Bishop Barron: wordonfire.org

Donations

For anyone who would like to donate to our parish via PayPal, please go to the website and click the Donate link.

If you would like to mail a check, you may send it to 400 Alcatraz Ave. Oakland, CA 94609 —

If you would like to drop it off at the rectory, you may put it in the slot by the rectory front door. It is located on the bottom left side wall. Please do not leave an envelope in the mailbox.

August 20th plate Collection—\$1,092. Thank you for your generosity.

Question of the Week

For Adults: If you were asked, how would you explain Jesus to a person who had not heard of him?

For Children: Who do you tell people Jesus is?

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
 P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
 E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
 O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
 P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
 L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
 E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
 U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
 M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
 T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
 B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
 X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
 I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
 J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
 G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

Eucharistic Congress Schedule

September 14th, Thursday 2023

•Parish Adoration: 6:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

September 16th, Saturday 2023

•Opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Cathedral of Christ the Light: 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

•Solemn Holy Mass (Presider, Bishop Michael C. Barber SJ): 1:00 PM.

•Eucharistic Procession: 2:30 PM.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

8:30 am Holy Mass
Monday through Friday

4 pm Reconciliation
Saturdays

5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Saturdays

10:00 am Sunday Holy Mass

6:00 pm Sunday Holy Mass

7:00 pm Weekday Rosary on
Zoom

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Sam Wolfe, Barbara Frumenti, Peter Frumenti, Danica Truchlikova, Laura Patterson, Daniel Coats, Bob Shobar, Karen Meadows and Antonio Custodio.

And those who have died:

Megan Franzen, Anthony Fasanella, Richard Conness, Tony Custodio, all the victims of the Coronavirus, and all the souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them.

Mass Intentions

5 pm Saturday Holy Mass
Parishioners & Benefactors

10 am Sunday Mass
Robert Jenks (-) and family