

# Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time •

October 8th, 2023

## Parish News

### Choir Retreat.

We had a retreat for the choir members on Saturday, September 23 in our Church. It was a wonderful opportunity for the members of the choir to come together and pray, sing and learn more about music, especially Church music. Church music comes ultimately out of love. It is the utter depth of love that produces the singing. "Cantare amantis est", says St Augustine, singing is a lover's thing. Our love for God is expressed in a special way through our singing. Again, Saint Augustine says, 'bis orat qui bene cantat', that is, "the person who sings well prays twice".

It is said 'Musica ancilla liturgiae' – music is the handmaiden of the liturgy or servant of the liturgy. Our music is in service of worship and prayer.

I want to thank Lizzette Miller for leading the retreat and for her prayerful and scholarly talks.

### Ministry Retreat (open to all Parishioners.)

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, we have a ministry retreat. It is open to all parishioners who wish to participate. The retreat will be followed by lunch for all. I invite all parishioners to make use of this opportunity for prayer and fellowship. If you are joining the retreat, kindly do sign up for it.

### Month of Rosary

October is the month of Rosary. In our Church we have an ongoing Rosary via zoom organized by April McNeely. It is at 7:00 PM. If you wish to be part of this prayer campaign, kindly contact the parish office or April McNeely.

### Blessing of the Animals

This Sunday, at 10 am Mass, there will be a blessing of the animals. All furry, feathered or finned friends are welcome.

### Leadership Change in the Parish

I have been assigned to Saint Charles Borromeo Church in Livermore, effective December 1, 2023 by our bishop, Michael C. Barber SJ. Our Church, Saint Augustine, will be under the care of Reverend John C. Prochaska. He has been appointed the Parish Administrator of Saint Augustine. Currently, he is the pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Berkeley. It is our joy to welcome Father John to Saint Augustine. Many of you had an opportunity to meet him last weekend after the Holy Masses. All these changes take effect on December 1, 2023.

I thank God and Our Blessed Mother Mary for the many years of Ministry at Saint Augustine. I thank all the parishioners for your kindness, prayers and help. It has been a privilege to serve you all! We will have a thanksgiving Holy Mass on November 26th. In the coming weeks we will have more opportunities to thank one another.

Father Augustine Joseph.

**400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609 • [www.staugustineoakland.com](http://www.staugustineoakland.com)**

#### Weekend Mass schedule

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

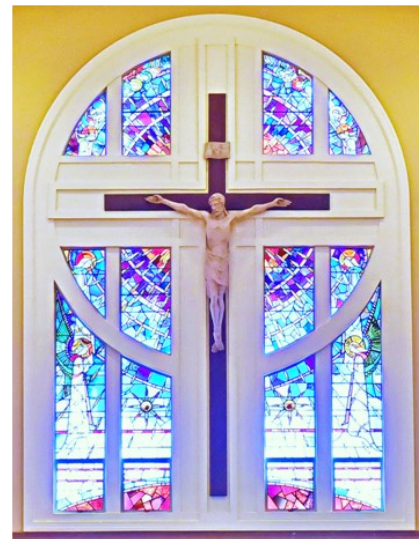
#### • Weekday Eucharist •

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."*



## St. Augustine Catholic Church

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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  
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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](http://Vatican.va)

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:** [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)

**Bishop Barron:** [wordonfire.org](http://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.

October 1, 2023 plate Collection—\$2,348. Thank you for your generosity.

### Question of the Week

**For Adults:** How have you used your talents and abilities well for the Reign of God?

**For Children:** What can you do in your week to help the love of God grow in the world?

### Welcome to RCIA

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) catechesis has just begun. If you are seeking initiation into the Catholic Church, or if you are just curious about the basic tenets of Catholic Christian doctrines and practices you can join RCIA Inquiry sessions after Sunday 10 AM Holy Mass in the Rectory (no strings attached). If you have questions about the RCIA process, you can email the RCIA team or leave a voicemail message at rciastaugustineinfo@gmail.com or 510.653.8631.

### The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



the stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone ...  
Matthew 21:42

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

LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
DUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY

### 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, Danica Truchlikova, Laura Patterson, Antonio Custodio, Eric Wikander Anne Perkins, and Kaitlyn Riddle

**And those who have died:**  
Rhea Bennet, Megan Franzen, Tony Custodio, Fr. Bob Mendonca, and 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 Mass  
**Rhea Bennet (+)**

10 am Sunday Holy Mass  
**Parishioners & Benefactors**

## Blessing of Animals

This time of year, people in various places may notice something odd. A procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets. This custom is conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for Saint Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat!

That there are today over 62 million cats in the U.S. attests to the continuing affection we have for our furry, feathered or finned friends. We've even had a cat called Socks in the White House. Other popular presidential pets range from Abraham Lincoln's Fido to Lyndon Johnson's beagles, named Him and Her.

For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.

At Franciscan churches, a friar with brown robe and white cord often welcomes each animal with a special prayer. The Blessing of Pets usually goes like this:

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."

As the prayer is offered, the pet is gently sprinkled with holy water. Believe it or not, most pets receive this sacramental spritz with dignity, though I must admit I have seen some cats flatten their ears a bit as the drops of water lightly pelt them.

But the owner is happy, and who knows what spiritual benefits may result?

Usually, the Blessing of Pets is held outdoors. But I remember it rained one year, and all were invited inside St. Stephen's Church in Manhattan. It was quite a sight to see pairs of creatures—one human, one animal—sitting in the pews. The pastor joined right in with his beagle. Noah's Ark was never like this!

Some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. People are more important, they say. Care for poor people instead of poodles. And, certainly, our needy fellow humans should not be neglected.

However, I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

May 10, 2020  
Kevin E. Mackin, OFM  
Franciscan Spirit Blog