

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time •

February 4th, 2024

Dear Friends of St. Augustine Parish.

Bishop Michael Barber has published a number of instructions regarding liturgy and sacraments. We are to implement these by Ash Wednesday, February 14. Over the next few weeks I will communicate those instructions to you. The first is the one that will affect the most people. Bishop Barber is asking that **all people, who are able, to kneel following the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**. Here is most of what he wrote:

The General Instruction for the Roman Missal for the United States, No. 43 states that“The faithful kneel (if able) after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) unless the Diocesan Bishop determines otherwise.”

I understand it had been the policy in our diocese set by a previous bishop to remain standing following the Lamb of God. However, I see no valid reason for us to diverge from the common practice of the Church in the United States.

Therefore, I ask that in our diocese we join the rest of the faithful in our country in kneeling after the Lamb of God in order prepare ourselves reverently for reception of Holy Communion.

Following reception of Holy Communion, each person may stand, sit or kneel as they choose, until the priests asks everyone to stand for the Prayer after Communion.

Speaking of **Ash Wednesday**, it is just around the corner - February 14. The schedule for Masses is below. Obviously, this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. Since Ash Wednesday is only one of two days in the whole year (Good Friday is the other) that Catholics are asked to fast, I encourage you to celebrate Valentine's Day a day or two early if you are accustomed to celebrating it.

Finally, **National Marriage Week** is February 7-14. Please keep all those in marriages, and those preparing for marriage, in your prayers.

In the peace of Christ,
Fr. John Prochaska

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Masses at 8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

There will be a 6:30 a.m. simple service at St. Joseph the Worker for anyone who needs something early.

MARDI GRAS POTLUCK PARTY

Save the date! On Saturday, February 10, the three parishes that make up our cluster - St. Ambrose, St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Augustine - will hold a **Mardi Gras Potluck Party** to bring our communities together. It will be from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at St. Augustine Church, 400 Alcatraz Ave., Oakland. Flyers with more information are available in the church.

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

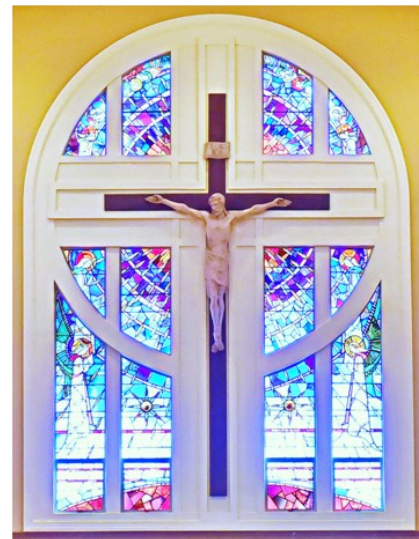
• Weekday Eucharist •

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.”



St. Augustine Catholic Church

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Parish staff

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PARISH NEWS

National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.

To help combat this tragedy, here are some of the signs to look for:

Signs of being controlled

No identification documents

Unable to leave job or residence

Not in control of their own finances

Is under 18 and provides commercial sex acts

At any age unwillingly provides commercial sex acts

Is afraid of law enforcement or receiving help

In a relationship with someone who is dominating

Never is alone and/or always has someone translating or answering questions on their behalf

Signs of trauma

Inconsistent details when telling their story

Seems anxious, fearful or paranoid; avoids eye contact

Tearfulness or signs of depression

Unexplained bruises or cuts or other signs of physical abuse

Is evasive or unable to answer questions about where they live

For more information, go to <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en> If you or someone you know needs help call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text the hotline's BeFree textline: Text "BeFree" (233733).

BIBLE STUDY (at St. Joseph the Worker)

Jesuit seminarian, Victor Ndogo, will hold a Bible Study for all interested. It will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in the chapel, Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., starting February 3.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE SYNOD OF THE CHURCH

Two people who were present at the Synod in Rome in October will be sharing their experiences here in the Diocese of Oakland. The first is **Fr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.**, who is the new dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. He will be present on Thursday, February 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Maria in Orinda, an event co-sponsored by the Diocese of Oakland and the Jesuit School of Theology. This event offers the faithful of Oakland Diocese an opportunity to experience the spirit of the Synod, deepen the insights from the Synod, and discern good practices that represent visible and concrete signs of synodality in the local Church. For more information and registration go to: [Bringing the Synod Home \(ecatholic.com\)](http://Bringing the Synod Home (ecatholic.com))

Question of the Week

For Adults: When have you felt the sadness of Job? When have you felt the joy of those who witnessed the healing works of Jesus?

For Children: What could you do this week to comfort someone who is sad?

Show Others You Care

The whole town gathered at the door to watch. So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases. Mark 1:33-34a (NIV)



Based on Mark 1:29-39

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

FEVER	SIMON	HAND	DOOR	ANDREW
SUNSET	VILLAGES	PREACH	BED	DEMONS
JOHN	SYNAGOGUE	PEOPLE	JESUS	HELPED
HEALED	TOWN	EVENING	JAMES	SICK

YOUNG ADULTS!

There will Young Adult Gathering with Jason Evert on Saturday, February 3, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Go to [1-1.png \(1545x2000\) \(ecatholic.com\)](https://www.ecatholic.com) for information and to register.

Also, the Grapevine is a newsletter for Young Adults in the Bay Area: [ISSUE #74: Ski Trip, Karaoke Night, & more \(mailchi.mp\)](https://www.mailchi.com)

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 11:00 AM
 Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the Light

Do you know of a neighbor, friend, or loved one who could use prayers for healing and hope? All who are sick or ill, as well as family members, caregivers and healthcare providers, are invited to observe this day together. The Mass will include:

- Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
- Blessing of caregivers and healthcare providers
- Distribution of holy water from Lourdes, France

WEEKLY CALENDAR

8:30 am Holy Mass
 Thursdays

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

January 28th Collection:
 \$1,812. Thank you for your
 generosity.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:
 Sam Wolfe, Laura Patterson,
 Laura Ferreira, Anabelle Espe
 Pat Redis and Kate Dole

And those who have died:
 Fr. Alex Snyder, Craig Zimmerman,
 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
Parishioners & Benefactors

ENTHRALLED BY JESUS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. (Mark 1:32–34)

Jesus was in the home of Simon Peter whose mother-in-law He had just cured. “The whole town gathered at the door” when evening came. This was Jesus’ first time being in Capernaum after beginning His public ministry, and already people were flocking to Him in droves. The next morning, Jesus got up before dawn and went away alone to pray. Soon, some of the disciples found Him and told Him that, once again, the whole town was looking for Him.

The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was an amazement fueled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realized that Jesus was the One of Whom the prophets of old had spoken. He was the Messiah, and the people gave Him their full attention.

This is a good image for us to ponder. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord, to be with Him, to listen to Him and to receive His grace and mercy? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting? One of the unfortunate effects of modern technology is that we easily become fascinated by and intrigued with many superficial things. Perhaps it’s the latest short video on a mobile app, or the latest episode of a favorite television series, or a new post by a friend on social media. There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us and even amaze us. Is Jesus one of those things in your life?

In our modern world of constant stimulation and entertainment, we need to understand the difference between being amazed at the latest pop trend and being amazed by the grace and divine actions of our Lord. When we come face-to-face with the power of God in our lives, we will be amazed in a way that fulfills and satisfies us on the deepest level. It will be a spiritual amazement, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And the satisfaction we receive from this form of amazement is transforming, deep and sustaining. But when we turn to lesser and more sensory “amazements” common within our world today, we will find that they last only for a moment, and we are quickly left dry and wanting for more.

Reflect, today, upon the people in today’s Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out. Consider their excitement, their hope and their genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And where you see that excitement present, rejoice and give glory to God.

Most glorious Lord, Your love and mercy are truly amazing. Please help me to continually see this in my life and to continually become enthralled by Your presence in my life. May I run to You always, giving You my full attention and love. Jesus, I trust in You.

<https://mycatholic.life/books/catholic-daily-reflections-series-two/ordinary-time-weeks-1-17-series-two/fifth-week-in-ordinary-time/#Sun-B>