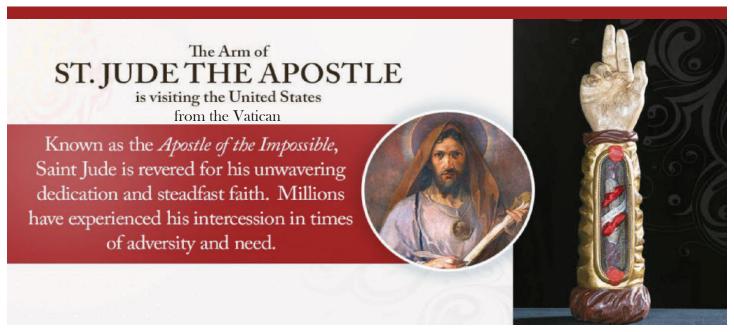
Saint Augustine of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church 45 Henderson Road, Kendall Park, New Jersey, 08824 "Churchweek"

December 10th, 2023



You are cordially invited to take part in the veneration of the Arm Of St. Jude The Apostle On Friday, December 15, from 1PM to 7PM.

A Mass in Honor of St. Jude will be celebrated at 7PM.

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE "PEACE" CANDLE IS LIT



Saint Augustine of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church

Christmas 2023 Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23rd-Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent 5 PM Mass

Sunday, December 24th- Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM ONLY PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO 8AM, 12NOON OR 5 PM MASSES

> Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve 4 PM - Children's Mass 6 PM - 10 PM

9:30PM - Special Music Prior to 10PM Mass including Reflections on the Saints Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day

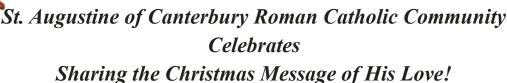
10 AM - 12 NOON ONLY F THERE IS NO 9 AM OR 5 P.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO 9 AM OR 5 PM MASS OR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN THE EVENING

Tuesday, December 26th - Feast of St. Stephen
PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 9AM MORNING MASS

Monday, January 1st - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary HOLY DAY/NOT A DAY OF OBLIGATION

Sunday, December 31 - 5 PM Mass Monday, January 1 - 9:00 AM





The Giving Tree will be in our Gathering Area during this weekend of December 9 & 10

All Gifts are to be returned <u>unwrapped</u> to the Gathering Area no later than today, Sunday, December 10

Donations of wrapping paper, scotch tape and tissue will be gladly accepted!

Special "Foil Star Stickers on the Ornaments" designate higher priced items over \$25.

Please place the Christmas Ornament on your gift to make certain

it is delivered to the proper recipient.

Unfortunately, gifts returned after December 10 cannot be sent.

Please make sure you return the gift on time!

Thank you!

You will be helping the clients of our own Outreach Ministry, Society of St. Vincent DePaul in New Brunswick, South Brunswick Social Services, Center 4 Great Expectations, Life Choices, Immaculate Conception School, Catholic Charities in the Bronx, NY, Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women, PACT Program of East Brunswick







RECONCILIATION ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE ANNOUNCED

Prepare the Way of the Lord and give yourself a Christmas Gift by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Mark your calendars!

We are pleased to announce on Thursday, December 14th, from 7PM to 8PM, we will be blessed with *17* priests throughout the school to hear confessions.

The following two pages provide a guide of the priests and their stations in the school.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be held in the Church.

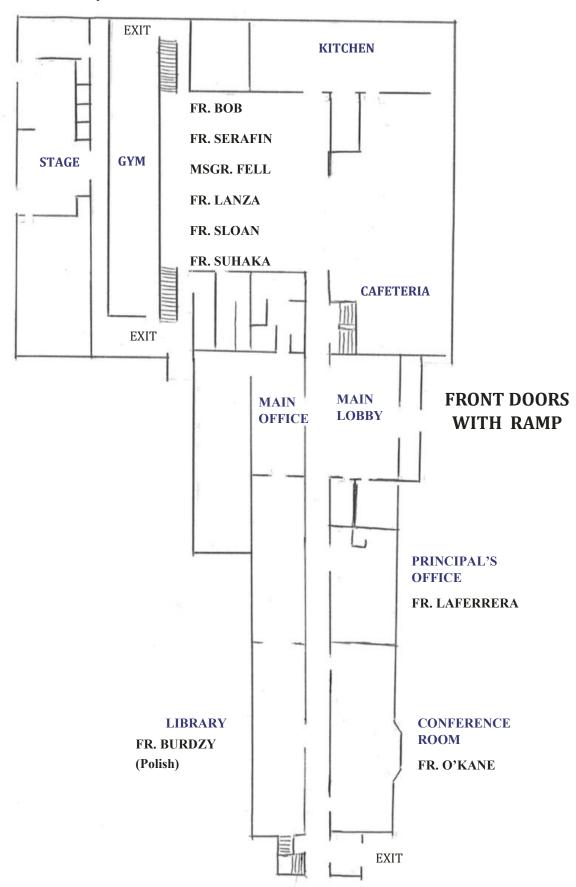


Confession Calendar...

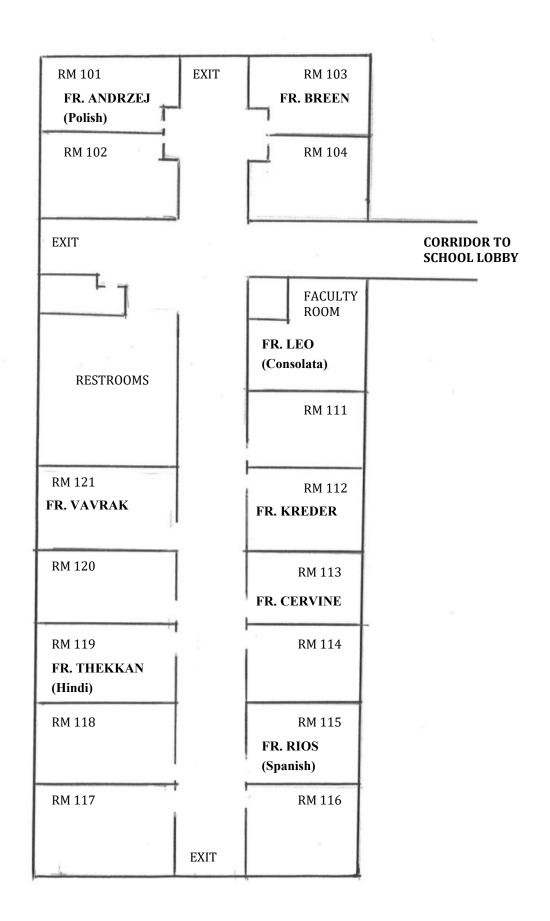
Confessions will be heard on December 14th.

Confessions also will NOT be heard on December 16th or 23rd after the Advent Penance Service.

2023 Parish Advent Confessions Priest's Location Guide Thursday, December 14th, 2023, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM



ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL, FIRST FLOOR



An Examination of Conscience to help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Why should we confess? Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in His love and mercy to offer sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God. At the same time, sinners reconcile with the Church, because it is also wounded by our sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after our sin.

We use an examination of conscience to help call to mind our sins and failings during a period of quiet reflection before approaching the priest in Confession. It's important for an examination of conscience to be thorough. This will help you learn about things that you may not be aware of. It's also a chance to develop your conscience.

To make an examination of conscience:

- set aside some quiet time for reflection
- start by praying to the Holy Spirit, asking for help in make a good examination to prepare for Confession
- read through the terms on this list and honestly reflect on your behavior for each item
- this examination of conscience is based on the Ten Commandments

First Commandment

I am the Lord your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.

Have I doubted in matters of faith? Murmured against God because of adversity? Despaired of His mercy? Have I believed in or consulted with fortune-tellers? Neglected my morning or evening prayers? Omitted my religious obligations because of human respect? Presumed upon God's mercy in committing sin? Loved someone or something more than God (money, power, sex, ambition, etc.)? Been involved in the occult? Formally left the Catholic Church? Hidden a serious sin or told a lie in confession?

Second Commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I used the name of God or the saints with irreverence? Have I sworn (which means calling upon God to witness the truth of what I say) without a good reason, or falsely? Have I cursed (the calling down of some evil on a person, place, or thing)? Blasphemed (using insulting language to express contempt for God), the saints, or holy things?

Third Commandment

Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.

Did I miss Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation? Have I done unnecessary servile work or been responsible for others doing it on these days? Set time

aside each day for personal prayer to God? Habitually come late to and/or leave early from Mass without a good reason? Not attending to taking my children to Mass? Did I fast and abstain on the prescribed days?

Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

Have I been obedient to my parents and lawful superiors? Have I shown disrespect toward them? Have I deceived them? Have I been a good citizen by voting? Have I shown respect toward aged parents or in their time of need? Provided for the religious education and formation of my children for as long as they are under my care? Ensured that my children still under my care regularly frequent the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion? Been to my children a good example of how to live the Catholic Faith?

Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill.

Have I been the occasion of another's sin through my bad example in word or deed? Have I been guilty of fighting, anger, hatred, revenge, or drunkenness? Did I refuse to speak to others? To forgive them? Did I use provoking language? Been involved in an abortion, directly or indirectly (through advice, etc.)? Seriously considered or attempted suicide? Unjustly inflicted bodily harm on another person? Verbally or emotionally abused another person? Been prejudiced, or unjustly discriminated against others because of their race, color, nationality, sex, or religion? Did I take illicit drugs?

Sixth and Ninth Commandments

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Did I take pleasure in impure thoughts or desires? Say impure things? Listen to impure conversations? Did I touch others or let other touch me in an impure manner? Commit an impure act alone or with others? Purchased, viewed, or made use of pornography? Committed adultery? Committed incest? Committed fornication (sexual relations with someone of the opposite sex when neither of us is married) Engaged in homosexual activity? Made uninvited or unwelcome sexual advances toward another?

Seventh and Tenth Commandments

You shall not steal.

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Have I stolen anything? If so, of what value, and did I return the stolen goods? Have I been unjust in buying or selling? Have I damaged the property of others? Accepted or kept stolen goods? Paid my just debts as soon as possible? Has my daily work merited its paycheck? Have I desired to steal anything or to damage my neighbor's property? Practiced works of mercy? Squandered money in compulsive gambling? Make a

false claim to an insurance company?

Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Did I tell lies? Have I been guilty of rash judgment (believing something harmful to another's character without sufficient reason?) detraction (without a good reason, making known the hidden faults of another)? Betrayed another's confidence through speech? Slander or calumny (by lying, injuring the good name of another)? Perjured myself under oath? Gossiped?

PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

Have I followed them?

You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

You shall confess your sins at least once a year.

You shall humbly receive Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season.

You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence.

You shall contribute to the support of the Church.

You shall observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.



RITE OF CONFESSION

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Upon kneeling or taking your seat in the room with the priest, bless yourself with the sign of the cross (+) and say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bless me Father for I have sinned.

At this point, the priest will encourage the penitent to have confidence in God with these or other words:

May the Lord be in your heart and help you to confess your sins with true sorrow.

If the penitent is unknown to the priest, it is proper to indicate to the priest your state of life, i.e. single, married, divorced, etc., the time of your last confession, difficulties in leading the Christian life, and anything else which may help the priest to exercise his ministry.

The penitent will accuse him or herself of his or her sins and ask for forgiveness.

After you completed your Confession, the priest will counsel or provide opportune advice, impart a **Penance** and may ask you to pray the **Act of Contrition**, either before him or privately afterwards in the Church.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishment, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who art all good, and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

Amen.

The priest will then impart **Absolution**:

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The penitent answers:

Amen.

The priest dismisses the penitent with a final blessing. The penitent makes the sign of the cross and leaves the Confessional. He or she is expected to fulfill the penance imposed.

(After your Confession, enjoy the peacefulness of the Church!)

The Lord has freed you from sin.

May He bring you safely to His kingdom in heaven.

Glory to Him Forever!

Epiphany Celebration

Come Join Us for a

~ Parish Little Christmas Pizza & Pasta Family Night ~

Saturday, January 6, 2024

After the 5:00pm Mass
Pizza, Pasta, Salad, Dessert
Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee, Hot Chocolate



** Open Seating **
Sign up needed, Please RSVP by December 27, 2023, using the form below.

We are asking anyone who signs up to attend to bring a non perishable food item for the St. A's food bank per attendee. Let's help fill the food bank for the winter months!



Please make sure items are not expired

Hosted by the Parish Family Ministry Wear your ugly Christmas Sweater!



Family Name:		
Phone#:		
How Many Attending?	# Adults:	# Children:

United In Prayer... The Church of Myanmar. Fr. Bruno Demore, a dear friend of both Fr. Tom Lanza and Fr. Bob, is currently stationed in Myanmar.







တက်သလစ်သာသနာကျောင်းတိုက်၊ နောင်ယား (စ)၊ လျိုင်ကော်မြို့ဝ၉ဝ၁၁၊ ကယားပြည်နယ်။ Diocesan Center, Catholic Church, Naung Yah B, Loikaw 09011, Kayah State, Myanmar.

Office: +95-083-2221817, Cell: +95 95 153712, Fax: +95-083-2221285 email: ng.celso@gmail.com

The Current Situation of Kayah State (Diocese of Loikaw – November 27, 2023)

The diocese of Loikaw is in Kayah State (known as Karenni State), which is the smallest in Myanmar. The total population is around 300,000. Kayah State covers an area of 4,500 square miles, and it is mostly hilly and mountainous.

Due to intensifying armed conflicts in November, more than 80% of the urban and rural people in Kayah State, have been internally displaced. On November 11, about 800 town-inhabitants began to flow into Christ the King's Compound. Thus, the number of both old and new displaced persons exceeded 1,300.

The Burmese junta has used heavy weapons, fighter jets, armored vehicles, ballistic missile systems and mobile defense systems. As a result, People both urban and rural are fleeing their residences and go into different directions. Some have fled to the northern part of the State, some to Ye Phyu, Hsi-hseng and other places in Shan State. Among refugees, there were old and sick people, the paralyzed, women, some young people who remained at the Pastoral Center of Loikaw until yesterday and there were altogether 82 people (inclusive of 10 priests, 16 Religious and some employees).

The Burmese military attempted for 3 times to take over the compound of Christ the King's Cathedral in Loikaw diocese and yet the Bishop and the resident priests made effort to convince the military Generals of the importance of the religious sites and requested them to spare the place. However, on the night of November 26, the military intentionally shot the Pastoral Center with 120mm artillery pieces for many times and the roof of the chapel of the Pastoral Center was hit and the ceiling was destroyed by the artillery shells. So, for the sake of safety the Bishop and the priests decided to leave the Pastoral Center today. Just before their departure, 50 soldiers came and occupied to make use of it as a shield.

Please continue to temember us in your prayer,

H. E. Msgr. Celso Ba Shwe



December 10th, 2023 **Second Sunday of Advent**

SATURDAY, December 9

5:00 PM Anne & MaryAnn Ungano req.: The Ungano Family

SUNDAY, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

James M. Kelly, Jr. req.: Jim & Alice 8:00 AM Kelly

Thomas Cooper req.: Jim & Tammy 10:00 AM Cooper

Joseph DeLuca req: The Family 12 Noon Astrea Corcelles req.: Bernardo & 5:00 PM Astrid Roig

MONDAY, December 11

9:00 AM Frank Corio req: Barbara Corio

Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, December 12

Intentions of the Gopal Family req.: 9:00 AM By The Family

WEDNESDAY, December 13

Joseph Kwiatkowski reg: Diane 9:00 AM Kwiatkowski

THURSDAY, December 14—St. Francis Xavier (relic of St. Franics Xavier may be venerated after Mass)

9:00 AM David Monaghan req: Bob & Pat Mate

FRIDAY, December 15

9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Augustine's

In Honor of St. Jude 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, December 16

Jack Banfield req: His Family 9:00 AM

Adele Guercio req: The Vozzo Family 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Frank J. Ragany, Sr. req: Elsie Ragany & Family

Concetta DiPane req: The DiPane 10:00 AM Family

Peter R. Gillett req: His Wife & 12 Noon

Andrew Dohanyos req: Eleanor & 5:00 PM

Robert Reiss

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 11—December 17

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 Sunday: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24;

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



SPIRITUAL REMEMBRANCE FOR WEEK OF December 10th, 2023



TABERNACLE CANDLES

Peter Campisano Donated by Joan Campisano



Welcome to Our "Little Ones" who were Baptized into Christ on

December 3rd, 2023

Coco-Lucia Benitez

God Bless all our new Parishioners!



As these couples prepare to meet Christ in the Sacrament of Matrimony, let us pray that their love will grow in Him.

Banns of Marriage

1st Time Anne Marie Rolwood and Ryan Fisher 2nd Time Gabriella Mastandino and Daniel Iverson



REST IN PEACE

for Please remember the following the parishioners who have died in Deceased your prayers, and for the families

who mourn their loss.

Joseph D'Angiolillo

Husband of Anne 182 S Moetz Dr. Milltown, NJ 08850-1321

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 11th

2:00 PM Babysitting 101 w/ CPR & First Aid.

5:00 PM Children's Christmas Eve Practice—Lectors

5:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve Practice—Dramatists

7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

8:00 PM A.A. Meeting

Tuesday, December 12th

2:00 PM Senior Club Christmas Party

4:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13th

6:00 PM Religious Education Classes

6:30 PM Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:15 PM B.O.T.W.

7:40 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14th

School Dismissal—Noon

11:15 AM Chime Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Advent Penance Service

7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 PM Columbiettes' General Meeting

Friday, December 15th

1:00 PM Veneration of the Relic of St. Jude

7:00 PM Mass In Honor of St. Jude

Saturday, December 16th

8:00 AM Basketball

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE



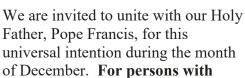
This week the Fatima statue will be in the home of The Canvin Family. Please return the statue of Our Lady to the Church, by Saturday, December 16, 2023. Thank you for taking Our Lady on a journey through our parish.

Christmas PARTY

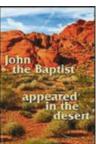
Reminder:

St. Augustine's Senior Club Christmas Party December 12th — 2PM in McGivney Hall

INTENTIONS OF OUR HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER



disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



MEDITATION FOR December 10, 2023

Prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Today's readings speak to us of preparing for the coming of the Lord through repentance. Repentance requires us to be honest about the times we have fallen short

in loving God and our neighbor as the Lord commands. Knowing that we are sinners is a necessary step in recognizing our need for the forgiveness God has graciously offered us through his Son, whose coming into the world we prepare to celebrate.

Isaiah offers words of comfort and hope that the time of exile is coming to an end and the Lord is preparing to reveal his glory to all people. Peter exhorts his community to live in holiness and devotion in anticipation of the day of the Lord. Mark begins his Gospel describing the ministry of John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and that one greater than he would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.



"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. Stewardship We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship

lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

December 3:

\$22,024.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

From the Pastor's Desk

Theft of Collection from 12Noon Mass on December 3...

On Sunday, December 3, 2023 between the 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Masses, St. Augustine of Canterbury was robbed.

During said time, unknown person(s) removed the collection basket from its displayed position on the table on the east side of the church and brought it to the men's restroom.

Here the perpetrator, behind a locked door, went through the basket and every envelope inside. They removed all the cash from the envelopes containing such and left the envelopes with checks behind.

The basket was found in the men's restroom on Monday morning after a thorough search was done.

At this time, it is estimated between \$200 to \$500 in cash was removed from said envelopes. The investigation is ongoing and the camera footage is being reviewed.



Changes to the Mass Schedule for Dec. 21-23

Several schedule conflicts have arisen. Please be aware there will be no 9AM Mass on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December

21, 22, and 23. The 5PM Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 23.



A Note About Collections for the 4th Sunday of Advent (12/24) and Christmas... Since Christmas falls on a

Monday this year, the 4th Sunday of Advent has been shortened. Please use your 4th Sunday of Advent (12/24) and your Christmas offertory envelopes together in the collection baskets. We will take care to separate them.

Thank you for continued support of your parish!

RCIA

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? ... OR

... perhaps you are a baptized Catholic, but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Eucharist). The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA) is just for you! Gather with others who desire to know the Lord Jesus Christ in the truth of the Catholic Faith, as we undergo catechesis, reflect on the scriptures, and contemplate our call to faith in Christ in preparation for Baptism and/or reception and completion of the Sacraments of Initiation. Meetings are held on Sundays at 8:15 am in Father McGivney Hall (followed by 10AM Mass). If you are interested in getting connected, please call the Parish Center at 732-297-3000.

Deacon Denis



... now meeting on Wednesdays in the School Cafeteria from 7:15-8:15 PM

The readings we hear at Mass each week are not just stories of long ago. The Word of God is alive and speaks to us today, giving wisdom and guidance for our daily lives and relationships. Come and spend an hour with the Scriptures and let God speak to you in a personal way. We meet each week, but their is no binding commitment. You come when you are able. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary. We will provide materials for you. Those who attend consider it the highlight of their week!



As Catholics, we are called to bring Christ to others. Do you know of a family member who is homebound? Is there a fellow

parishioner you know is unable to attend Mass, but wishes to receive the Holy Eucharist? Are you or a family member in the hospital? *Let us know!* Would you like to volunteer to visit with homebound members of our parish? *Let us know!* Call the Parish Center at (732) 297-3000. For the homebound, please provide the name, address, and phone number of the person. Sr. Ruthann will reach out to you to schedule a time to visit. If you would like to be one of our visitors, provide us your name and phone number for more information.



Why we sing what we sing

The Second Sunday of Advent has us hear about John the Baptist. John is the reason why this is a penitential season. For in our Gospel today we hear "John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Mark 1: 4). That is why we are singing "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry". The second stanza of the hymn tells us "Then cleansed be every soul from sin." That is why we wear purple – the penitential color and chant the Lord have mercy during this season.

Only on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception do we sing a Gloria during Advent. Otherwise the Gloria is omitted on Sundays because of the penitential nature of the season. Then when the Gloria (the hymn of the angels about Christ's birth) returns; we are filled with great joy at the feast of Christmas.

Just to be looking ahead. Christmas Eve Mass the Mass at Night (traditionally called Midnight Mass) will be at 10:00 p.m. with the Parish Choir, Handbell Choir, and Orchestra celebrating the birth of Christ into the world. So mark your calendars now December 24, 2023 10:00PM.

Retirement Fund for Religious



Remember our second collection *this weekend*, *December 10*, will be the opportunity for you to donate and support the care of our Retired Religious in the second envelope. Please be as generous as you are able.

Your support will be appreciated!



Sunday, December 17, 2023 After 8am & 10am Masses

Serving the best Home Style Breakfast with restaurant style service.

Adults: \$6

Seniors & Children (10 yrs old & under): \$5

Menu:

Bacon,
Sausage,
Eggs,
Pancakes,
Hash Browns,
Buffet of:
Bagels,
Muffins,
Juice,
Coffee,
Tea

Parishioners' interested in joining the Breakfast Ministry to contact Tom & dtommy2008@aol.com

Brought to you by St. A's Student Volunteers, The Parish Breakfast Ministry, & in loving memory of Joseph DeLuca



UPDATE:

Henderson Rd. Closure for Oakeys Brook Bridge Replacement

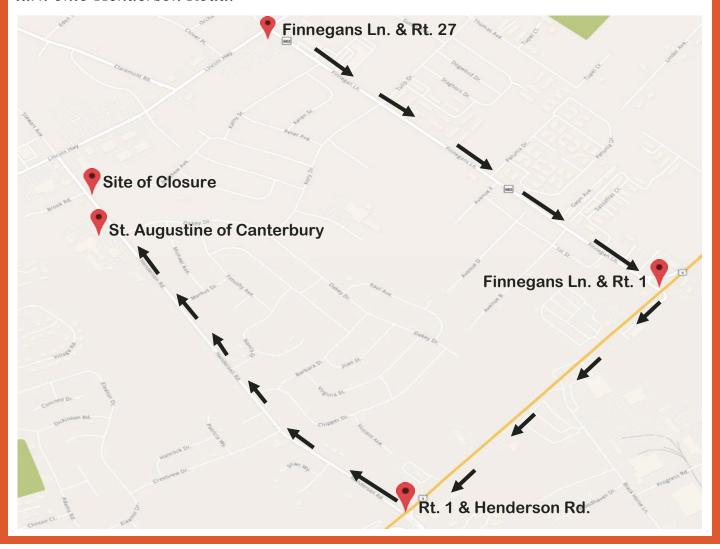
Clarification to Nixle Announcement:

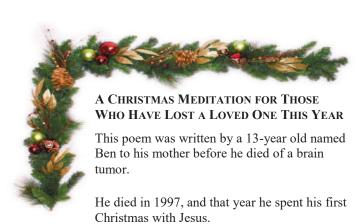
On Friday, Nov. 24, a Nixle announcement was released by South Brunswick Police that left questions about access to the Saint Augustine of Canterbury Church and School.

Local access from Route 1 to Oakey Drive will continue and allow access to our facilities. The closure of Henderson Road will only be from Oakey Drive to Route 27.

As we have noted previously, the detour for people using Rte. 27 to arrive at Saint Augustine's would be to use Finnegans Ln. to Rte. 1 South, to Henderson Rd. to Saint Augustine's.

With this closure, we have ended the use of South Brunswick Police for our Sunday Morning Masses to direct traffic. *Egress from all parking lots will only be via right turn onto Henderson Road*.





My First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny light, like Heavens, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear, For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear. But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas Choir up here. I have no words to tell you, the joy the voices bring, For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far away, We really aren't apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, You know I hold you dear, And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above. I sent you each a memory of my undying love. After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told. Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each



BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE IN A PRIVATE HOME

INTRODUCTORY RITES

All make the sign of the cross as the Leader of Prayer says:

Blessed be the name of the Lord

All reply:

Now and forever.

The Leader of Prayer greets those present:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

All reply:

Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader or another person present reads the following text from sacred Scripture:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus:

But when the kindness and generous love of God our Savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

After a moment of quiet reflection, the Leader of Prayer says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures, We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All reply: Amen.

BLESSING OF A MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE IN A PRIVATE HOME

INTRODUCTORY RITES

All make the sign of the cross as the Leader of Prayer says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:

Who made heaven and earth.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader or another person present reads the following text from sacred Scripture:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over there flock.

After a moment of quiet reflection, the Leader of Prayer says:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for

ever and ever.

All reply:

Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS WAFER



Christmas Wafers will be available after each Mass this weekend of December 9 & 10, and 16 & 17 in the Gathering Area. First come, first served. A \$2.00 donation is requested.

The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread." Breaking bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One

of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer.

With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head of the family breaks the Wafer and distributes it, a piece to each person at the table. While doing so, each member of the family is kissed and wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is the unity of the family—the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist amongst the members of the family. The father of the family is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church. The family joins him in this eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing by men to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



Next weekend, December 16 & 17, we will have our Christmas Flower Collection. Please place your offering in with the

regular collection. Those who contribute in the Christmas Flower collection will be acknowledged in a bulletin in January. Please place the name of deceased family and friends on the back of the envelope, which will be placed by the Nativity, along with your special intentions which will be remembered in all our Christmas Masses.



Helping Those In Need...

Thanks to your generous donations in support of the Outreach Ministry, we have been able to purchase more than \$1800.00 in jackets, socks, boots, and sleeping

bags for the homeless in New Brunswick. Another \$500 will be spent in December to purchase additional winter items thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. We were also able to help a homeless family of six who had recently secured affordable housing, buy household essentials with gift cards provided by the Columbiettes.

Thank you for sharing the blessings of St. Augustine's with our neighbors in need!



THANKSGIVING FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to all the parishioners and St.

Augustine's students and their families that donated turkeys and all the fixings!

In November, we delivered food to 22 different families consisting of 41 adults and 33 children and a total of 158 bags of food were distributed. There were also an additional 8 bags of complete Thanksgiving dinners donated by the VFW Post 9111 as they do each year.

So far this year we have made 118 food deliveries consisting of 953 bags of food for 178 adults and 129 children. A special thank you to all of our drivers who help make this possible.





ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER?

If you recently moved into the area and have not yet registered in the parish, we encourage you to become a registered member.

Please ask an usher for a registration packet after Mass or stop by or call the Parish Office to obtain one. Once registered, you will receive quarterly mailing of parish offertory envelopes. The use of an Offertory envelope helps us to track Mass attendance which affects your status as an active or inactive parishioner.

Mass attendance, *not the content of the offertory envelope*, is reviewed twice a year and a letter is sent to those who have not used their envelopes in that specified time period.

Once an individual reaches the age of 18 (even if still living in the Family home), they are considered to be an adult and need to register in the parish as an individual.

Graces Received from Daniel Mark Anderl



By his picture in the Chapel of the Saints are prayer intention forms that you can complete and place in the wooden Prayer Request Box. Father Bob will bring and place them by his grave at Resurrection Cemetery Piscataway Holy Spirit Mausoleum Saint John Paul II chapel.

Father Bob has received messages of gratitude of

graces received through Daniel's intercession before God.



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