

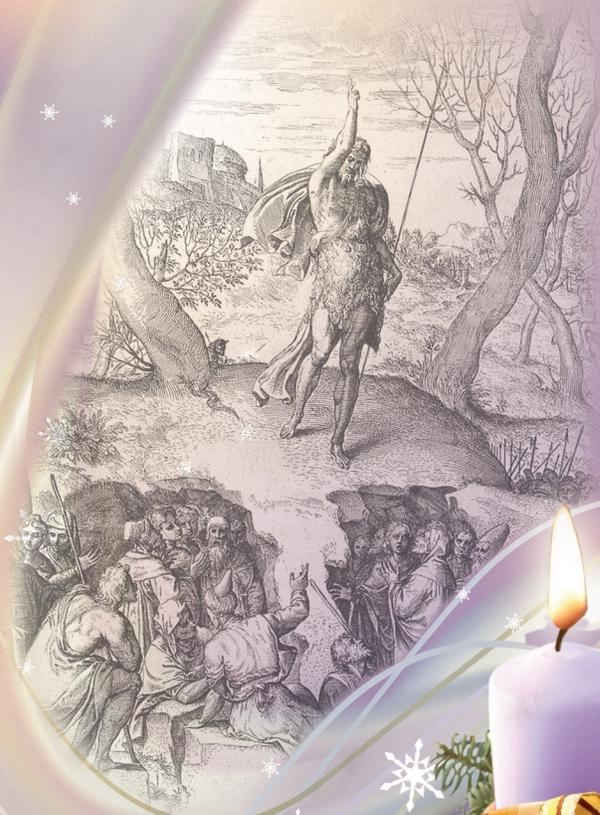
**“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”**

Mark 1:3

**“Escuchen ese grito en el desierto:
Preparen el camino del Señor,
enderezcen sus senderos.”**

Marcos 1, 3

A 2ND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
2^º DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10– Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am For the Parish
10:00am Jiggs & Joe Kobek

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00am Communion Service
8:30-3:30pm Eucharistic Adoration

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:30 pm David Waymire

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13– St. Lucy

10:00am Anita Post Arseneau

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14– St. John of the Cross

8:30-9:30am Holy Hour
5:30pm Andy Mehall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30am Mary Jane Balaguras

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Joseph S. & Joanne M. Hopp, Jeffrey M. Dick,
Austin & Geneva Anderson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17– Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am Cynthia Deitch
10:00am For the Parish

Minister Schedule for December 16 & 17

Saturday:

5:00PM Greeters: E. Waymire, M. Jagoda
Lector: R. Hueser
Ministers: P. Hueser, B/D Hollerman, D. Lank,
B. Robinson
Servers: Drew & Dawson Cain

Sunday:

7:30AM Greeters: N. Shide, M/P Nagel
Lector: Rick Mangas
Ministers: I. Mangas, B. Post, B. Worden, M. Nagel,
R. Geleott
Servers: Graham & Tate Drone

10:00AM Greeters: Youth Group
Lector: Abby Ahler
Ministers: J. Groppe, D. Wiener, E. Faker, P. Weigand,
C. Sue
Servers: Noah Bierma, Adam & Isaac Ahler

Care Ministers for Dec. 10-17

Dec. 9/10– G. Schenk; Dec. 11– ML Debb; Dec. 12– J. Egan;
Dec. 13– Fr. Don;
Dec. 14– B. Post; Dec. 15– R. Koebcke; Dec. 16/17– ML Debb

Birthdays List

Dec. 10 Jake Boose, Lindsey Crawford, Jacob Hillan
Dec. 11 Mary Chesak, Kyle Fogarty, Michelle Tiede,
Andrew Walter
Dec. 12 Zachary Hillan, Arlene Lonergan, Lana Zimmer
Dec. 13 Noah Bierma, Robert Butler
Dec. 14 Pat Geleott, Reece Klingler
Dec. 15 Staci Bakondi, Jessica Cawby, Dylan Hatch,
Pedro Hernandez Murillo Jr., Jackson Hughes,
James Koebcke
Dec. 16 Dale Hitchcock, Bessie Scheurich

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Christmas tree is almost certainly the favorite of all the home traditions of Christmas. Originating in Germany, it's origins can be traced to the middle ages, when the performance of mystery plays were one of the ways people learned about their faith. One such play was called the *Paradise Play*, telling the story of the creation and the fall. At the center of the performance was the *Paradise Tree*, covered in apples and surrounded by candles. The play, usually performed in Advent, would end with the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise and with God's consoling promise that one day he would bring humanity to a new paradise, through Christ, who would die upon the tree of the Cross. When the mystery plays were suppressed, people began to place the *Paradise Tree* in their homes, and gradually the custom of the Christmas Tree developed, with ornaments taking the place of apples. Christmas Trees preserve rich Christian symbolism: the green of hope at a time of dying, the burning light of Christ at a time of spiritual darkness, and the fruits of paradise. (Exert taken from the *Companion to the Calendar, Second Edition*)

Blessing Prayer for the Christmas Tree

Lord of the Forest, Maker of Trees,
We honor You as we dedicate this tree,
That it be a sign of Christmas in our home.
Green as life are its branches;
Soft as compassion are its needled leaves;
Strong as love is its trunk.

May all trees be for us Christmas Trees and trees of Life
As they become incarnations of God in our own garden of Eden.
As Christ died upon the Tree of the Cross
That we might be gifted with Life,
May we then remember
That the gifts soon to be placed about this tree are but reflections
of the gifts that came at the foot of the Tree of the Cross.

As sons and daughters of Adam and Eve,
Let us rejoice in this Tree of Life;
May the spirits of kindness and love rest upon it.
May the Spirit of Christmas ride in its branches,
This season and for all seasons.
Amen

Stewardship

Total for 11/28/17	\$	5402.00
Envelopes/checks & Loose Collection	\$	4835.00
Automatic (Online) Giving (weekly average)	\$	505.00
Total for 12/3/17	\$	5340.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Make a Gift That Will Make a Difference

Your gifts of cash, stock, real estate and insurance are needed to make the St. Augustine Catholic Parish Fund grow, giving our Parish a perpetual income. Contact the church office today to learn more of how a gift today can be transformed into an eternal gift that helps pass on our Catholic heritage.

THANK YOU

The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

New Liturgical Calendars

2018 calendars are available by each of the church doors. Please pick yours up today!



Calling all Angels, Lambs, Shepherds and Nativity Cast Members!!!

We are seeking children who would like to participate in this year's Christmas Vigil Children's Pageant. This will take place during the 5pm Mass on Dec. 24th. If you are interested, please call Jana Drone at 219-228-0169 or email janadrone@me.com to reserve your part. Rehearsal for the pageant will be December 20th at 6:30pm.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing Help Needed

St. Augustine Church volunteers will be ringing the bell and accepting donations in front of Walmart for the Salvation army on **Dec. 16 from 7:30-8pm**



Please contact Cheryl Hillan at 869-3384 or the church office at 866-5351 if your family would like to take a shift. **This is the only slot still available. Thank you to those that have signed up!**

SASBUCK\$ News: This holiday season use SASBUCK\$ for your holiday shopping and earn money for the school and your selected student's tuition discount while purchasing your gifts. Many local stores are available on-hand: Stracks, Walmart, Arni's, Mt. Hood, Willow Switch, Ayda's, Royal Oak and more! Planning an out of town shopping trip? Stop by and grab Kohl's, Target, or a limited supply of **Bath & Body Works** cards. Whatever your shopping preference, there are cards available. Visit shopwithscrip.com or call the church or school office to find out more!



Saint Augustine School News:



Thank you for all of your support of our **Shelter the Homeless project!** Your compassion and generosity once again went beyond all expectations!

- 61 homeless will now have warm hats
 - 57 homeless will now have gloves
 - 40 homeless will now have a warm coat
 - 27 homeless will have the shelter of a blanket
- May God Bless all of you!!!

Bulletin Submissions: If you would like to submit a picture or article for the bulletin, please contact the church office by either calling 866-5351 or emailing marie@rhsi.tv. Submissions must be received by 8:00am on Tuesday in order to be included in the following weekend's edition.

YOUTH Doings...

1. Middle School and High School Youth will meet on **December 13th**. Activities scheduled include Salvation Army Bell Ringing and taking cookies to our Parish Shut-Ins.
2. Practice for the **Christmas Eve Children's Program** will be **December 20th** at 6:30 pm in the church. All youth who plan to participate should attend the practice.

Send Christmas Cheer

As members of the Evangelization Committee, we would like to again sponsor the "Send Christmas Cheer" mission project. **On December 16th and 17th we will be at every mass and have available a total of 60 gift cards from Strack and Van Till, Family Express, and Walmart.** We will ask our parishioners to take a gift card, at no cost, and send it to someone in our community that you believe could use a little financial help to brighten their day over the holidays. We ask you not to sign your name but sign the card, "Your friends at St Augustine Catholic Church. If you would like to help fund this program, please send your donation to us at 157 W. Emmet Ave, Rensselaer or put in the collection marked "Send Christmas Cheer." Thanks always for your generosity.

Bill and Dianne Hollerman

The Giving Tree



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is located at the front of the church near the parking lot entrance. Our community greatly appreciates our assistance in providing material needs, friendship or prayers in order to help their families have a joyous holiday season. All who have the means to contribute to the needs of other families are encouraged to take an ornament from the tree. **The gifts will need to be brought back to the church and placed under the tree by**

December 17th. Gifts may be brought in sooner, but not later.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity this Christmas season. Contact the parish office 866-5351 or Sarah Mahnesmith 866-2650 if you have questions.

Confirmation Class Service Project

With the holidays quickly approaching, many of you may need an extra hand to finally put away your lawn ornaments or even set up your Christmas tree and hang those beautiful Christmas lights! The Confirmation class would offer that helping hand!

In exchange for helping, the Confirmation class members would ask for a donation toward their spring service project. They have reached out to Food Finders and plan to sponsor a mobile food truck. The sponsorship cost is \$500, so they would appreciate any work you can offer to allow them to fund their service project.

Please contact Deb or Duane Nagel, Angela Nagel or the church office if you are interested in working with the Confirmation class.

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Parish Meals!

St. Augustine Parish is once again offering meals on select Wednesday evenings, and you are welcome to join us! Come for food and fellowship prior to Wednesday evening programs. Dinner begins at 5:45 pm in the basement.

December 13th– Casseroles

All parishioners are welcome to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings. A free-will donation is appreciated. Contact Marie Oliver in the parish office if you would like to volunteer to help donate food for a meal, help serve or clean-up.

