



JOYFUL  
& *Triumphant*



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17– Third Sunday of Advent**

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

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

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

5:30 pm Tom Effinger

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

8:00 am Michael Davis

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21– St Peter Canisius**

8:30-9:30am Holy Hour  
8:00am Bill Snyder

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

8:30am Dr. O'Brien

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

4:00pm Confession  
5:00pm Joseph & Ruth Ann Shank

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24– Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30am For the Parish  
10:00am Mr. & Mrs. CH Craig  
5:00pm Anna Healey  
9:00pm Crockett Snyder & Kim Doolin-Balch

**Minister Schedule for December 23 & 24**

Saturday:

5:00PM Greeters: B/D Hollerman  
Lector: Duane Nagel  
Ministers: D. Nagel, J/J Mercer, M/ML Debb  
Servers: Maddie Pinkerman & Sully Deiotte

Sunday:

7:30AM Greeters: N Shide, P/D Schulenburg  
Lector: Marty Park  
Ministers: R. Geleott, S. Miller, B. Warren, B. Post,  
R. Woolley  
Servers: Please Volunteer

10:00AM Greeters: E. Faker  
Lector: Dirk Wiener  
Ministers: ML Potts, R. White, E. Faker, C. Scheurich,  
S. Mahnesmith  
Servers: McKenna & Zane Nelson, Tony Jarquin

**Care Ministers for Dec. 10-17**

Dec. 16/17– ML Debb; Dec. 18– C. Hanna; Dec. 19– G. Schenk;  
Dec. 20– S. Myers;  
Dec. 21– D. Hollerman; Dec. 22– None; Dec. 23/24– B. Post

**Birthday List**

Dec. 17 Dene Mattocks, Leslie Mora, Carlos Oroteza, Joe Wood  
Dec. 18 Parker Balvich, Gracelynn Meding, Beverly Shuster,  
Annalise Yeager  
Dec. 19 Tyler Nethercutt, Marie Oliver, Elizabeth Pickett,  
Francisco Romo Jr., Leah Trammel, Sophie Ulana  
Dec. 20 Steven Hatch, Michael Manis, Stephen Walter  
Dec. 21 Joseph Deno, Isaac Hillan, Michael Kanne, Rosie Nagel,  
Carol Zacek  
Dec. 22 Margaret Steinke, Susan Whitaker  
Dec. 23 Kennedy Kosta, Caroline Lucero, Tully Lynch-Pastoor,  
Doris Myers, Mary Pitstick

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

“Rejoice in Lord always; again I say, rejoice.” On this 3rd Sunday of Advent we celebrate what is also called, Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete comes from Latin meaning, “to rejoice.” Scripture, society, and the cosmos remind us that the darkness keeps growing. We are being enveloped in darkness; what can possibly bring us joy? War rages in Yemen and Syria and the Congo, radicalism and fundamentalism fuel terrorist attacks, refugees and immigrants are denied full human dignity, and misused masculinity threatens families and institutions. Racial injustice, global warming, and our criminal justice systems sustain systemic impoverishment. Yet we are called, in the midst of this crushing darkness, to be people of joy who hope for the light. Joy is not something fleeting. Joy comes from the promise we are part of both a present reality and the emerging kingdom of God. Advent reminds us that our joy and our hope is not of this world. We rejoice not because all is well; we rejoice because we know, in Jesus, all can and will be well. “Indeed, the Lord is near.”

~ Tony Butler, Director of Religious Education

**Gallagher Charitable Society Update**

Last Saturday, December 9, the St. Augustine family held the first coat drive here at St. Augustine. I have been overwhelmed at the support given by our school, our parish, our town and those remaining at St. Joseph’s College.

We provided breakfast to over 150 people and distributed winter coats, long sleeve t-shirts, hats, gloves and blankets to residents of Rensselaer. Santa visited with toys and Christmas cheer. The event was a success in the first year here.

We would like to thank everyone who donated but especially the following: Jordan’s Floral, Franciscan, Rensselaer Rotary, The Jasper Foundation, DeMotte State Bank, Pat and Chris Scheurich Family, Bill and Diane Hollerman, the Deno Family, The Hillan Family, John & Rose Marie Groppe, Dr. and Mrs. John Shank, Ed and Anne Dumas, the Iroquois Valley Harmonizers, and Tom and Mary Lou Potts. Also, a big thank you to all who gave at second collection and if a family gave unknown to me, thank you!

If there is a need that anyone in our parish knows of, please contact me at 219.218.5382. We will meet the need. We look forward to greater success next year helping those in need here in Rensselaer.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
The Drones

**Stewardship**

<b>Total for 12/3/17</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5340.00</b>
Envelopes/checks & Loose Collection	\$	5026.53
Automatic (Online) Giving (weekly average)	\$	505.00
<b>Total for 12/10/17</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5531.53</b>

**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.



**In Memoriam**  
 May the angels welcome you to paradise.  
 May the Martyrs greet you on your way.  
 May you see the face of the Lord this day.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please pray for **Anita Arseneau**, who passed away on November 21st at the age of 81.

Please pray for **Ron Woolley**, who passed away on December 5th at the age of 79.



**Baptism at Saint Augustine**  
 Please welcome **Emma Zager**, the child of Jacob & Sarah (Saylor) Zager, into the Catholic faith. The baptism was held here at St. Augustine on Dec. 10th.

**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

**Faith in Action Photo Contest**

Sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana Post your photos of faith in action on Facebook as the Diocese of Lafayette or Twitter with the handle DOLComm, or both! Photos can be taken from a religious event, a family ritual, parish activity, discipleship, or an act of faith witnessed. Multiple submissions are welcome. Contest runs through Dec. 18. The Grand Prize winner will receive a deluxe gift basket of goodies. The first-place and second-place winners will win a smaller basket of surprises. **The parish with the highest participation rate will have its photo taken and published on the Diocesan site and in an issue of The Catholic Moment.** Contact Jessica Hollinger, Director of the Office of Communications, for more info [jhollinger@dol-in.org](mailto:jhollinger@dol-in.org)

**DONATE TO A SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR ST. A SCHOOL & RECEIVE A 50% TAX CREDIT BACKGROUND**

Indiana's Tax Credit Scholarship program was created in 2009 as a way to give Hoosier families who meet certain income guidelines an opportunity to send their child to a participating private school like St. Augustine. Through the generosity of parishioners like yourself, donations will serve to make a St. A education possible for a greater number of students striving for academic excellence.

**ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL'S PARTNER**

St. Augustine School has partnered with the Institute for Quality Education, which is a registered and approved scholarship granting organization (SGO). Students in grades K-5 from St. Augustine families, who meet certain income guidelines, are eligible to receive an SGO scholarship. **Donors who give to this scholarship granting organization are eligible for a 50% credit against their state tax liability** for contributions made toward these scholarships, as well as any eligible federal tax deductions.

Corporate or individual taxpayers may also participate.

**HOW**

You can call the school office at 866-5480 if you have questions, or simply need further details. You may also contact W. Bruce Schooler at [schooler@s-augustine.org](mailto:schooler@s-augustine.org).

**Youth Doings...**

1. 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.
2. Religious education and youth group will begin again on January 10th.



**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](mailto:janadrone@me.com) to reserve your part. Rehearsal for the pageant will be December 20th at 6:30pm.



**The Giving Tree**

**TODAY is the deadline** for returning gifts to the Giving Tree. Gifts must be returned by the end of 10:00 AM mass with the ornament attached. This will ensure that each individual will receive his/her gift before Christmas. If you have lost your ornament, have forgotten your gift, or are unable to fulfill the need, contact Sarah Mahnesmith at (219) 866-2650 and let her know so she will be able to take care of the gift. Thank you all for your help, and we wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas!

**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 class.

**New Liturgical Calendars**

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



**A Card to Show We Care!**

Did you know that St. Augustine has an ongoing card ministry? Periodically, greeting cards are sent out to those in our community/parish who might need a little cheer or support. If you know of someone who would benefit from a personal note from our parish family, please contact Phyllis Mingear at 863-3669.

**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](http://shopwithscrip.com) or call the church or school office to find out more!

