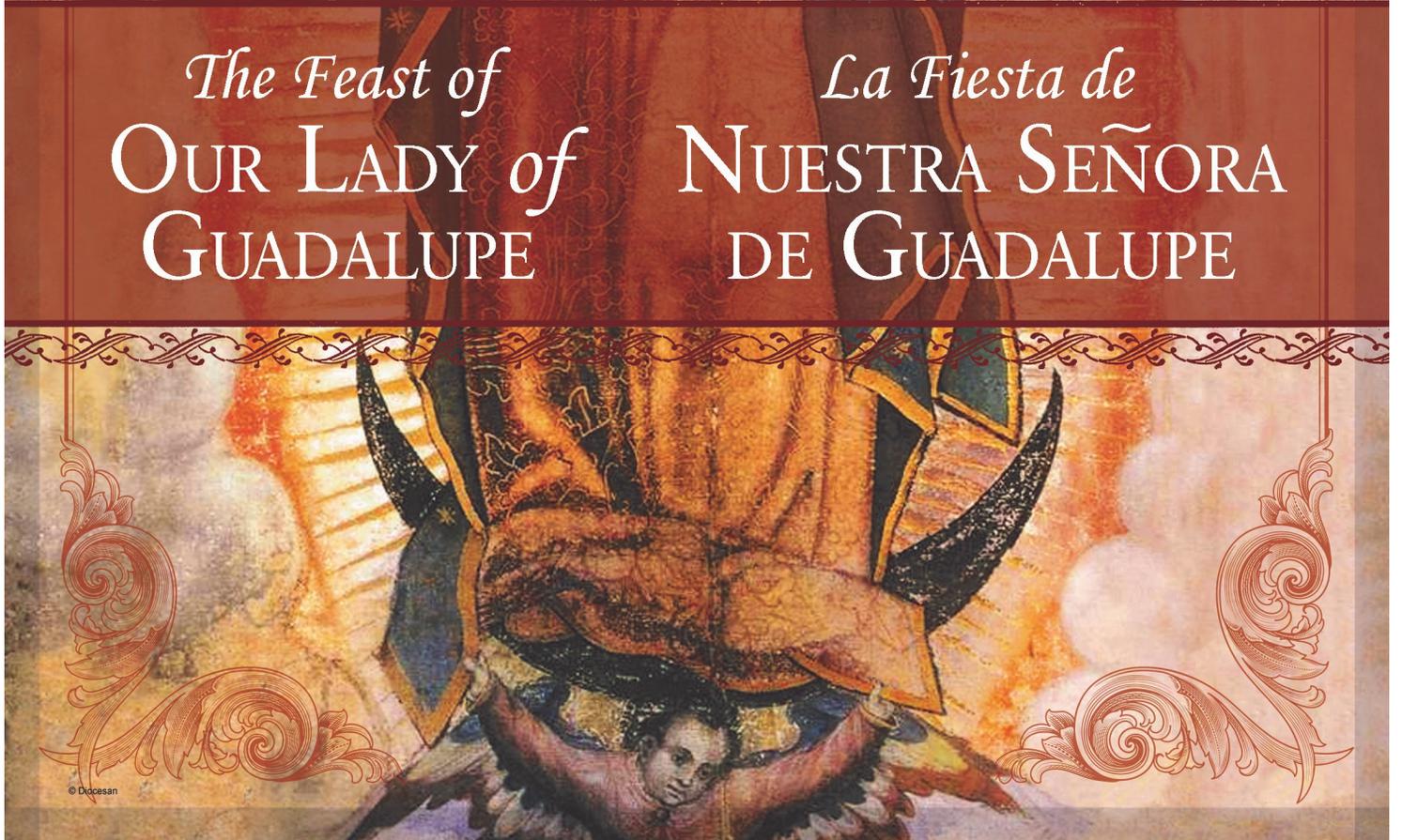




The Feast of
OUR LADY of
GUADALUPE

La Fiesta de
NUESTRA SEÑORA
DE GUADALUPE





SUNDAY, DEC. 8– Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am Marie A. Summers
10:00am For the Parish

MONDAY, DEC. 9

8:00am Communion Service
8:30-2:30pm Eucharistic Adoration

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

5:30pm Gerry Walter

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11– St. Damasus I

10:00am Emilia Villareal (Mass at the Care Center)

THURSDAY, DEC. 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Guabalupe Saucedo
8:30-9:30am Holy Hour

FRIDAY, DEC. 13– St. Lucy

8:30am Dr. John Egan

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Living/deceased of the Albin Shank Family

SUNDAY, DEC. 15– Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am For the Parish
10:00am Jerry & Rita Nagel

Advent Penance Service

December 11th we will hold our Advent Penance service at St. Augustine at 7pm. Our 2nd grade students will participate in their First Reconciliation that evening. As we prepare for the Messiah this advent season, we acknowledge our sins and incompleteness and ask for forgiveness. Join your Parish family as we make ourselves ready for the Lord's coming.

Minister Schedule for Dec. 14 & 15

Saturday:

5:00PM Greeters: B/D Hollerman
Lector: D. Hollerman
Ministers: E. Stath, B. Hollerman, D. Lank, J/J Mercer
Servers: Corbin & Courtney Mathew

Sunday:

7:30AM Greeters: N. Shide, R. Woolley
Lector: M. Park
Ministers: I. Mangas, C. Scheurich, S. Mahnesmith, T. Korniak, S. Miller
Servers: Jacob & Zach Hillan
10:00AM Greeters: Confirmation Students
Lector: Abby Ahler
Ministers: J/W Messman, M/ ML Debb, M. Hanna
Servers: Adam Messman, Caleb Oliver, Emily Myers

Care Ministers for Dec. 8-15

Dec. 7/8– G. Schenk; Dec. 9– B. Post;
Dec. 10– None; Dec. 11– Fr. Don; Dec. 12– R. Koebke;
Dec. 13– None; Dec. 14/15– A. Nagel

Birthday List

December 8 Michael Effinger, Cheryl Hillan
December 9 Chris Castle
December 10 Jacob Hillan
December 11 Mary Chesak, Andy Walter, Zach Hillan
December 12 Lana Zimmer
December 13 Noah Bierma
December 14 Pat Geleott, Reece Klingler



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

A Word of Comfort

I am always fascinated by the description given of John the Baptist. What it must have been like to encounter this wild-looking, desert Rambler! He was dressed like a hermit who had exhausted the use of his beast of burden, with a leather belt holding up his camel hair raiment. He appeared as a vagrant—dirty, unkempt, one to be avoided—yet he was compelling too. His speech must have been both soothing and alarming. The news of his preaching drew people from the cities and into the countryside. John did not wander the countryside; he camped at the Jordan River where pilgrims met him.

No doubt the people were bogged down by their emotional, political, and spiritual hardships. The people of Israel were under foreign rulers for so much of their history. It was only for a short time they were a liberated nation, and by the time John the Baptist comes to the fore, they have been beaten down by time, but cruel economic systems, by war and famine. Many Jews dispersed from their homeland in search of more prosperous and comfortable living. In some lands they made their way and in others they continued to struggle. Thus, a comforting and compelling word from one appointed by God would have been welcome to their ears and their hearts.

What hope are we in need of these days? What word can we say to those who are without hope to give them comfort? What can we do? Maybe contribute to the Giving Tree. Maybe donate to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Birthright is accepting monetary and other donations. Write a card to an ill parishioner or family member. These are just ideas. What are your ideas? How do you demonstrate that you are hopeful this season? When we act on hope, we find peace enters.

Let me offer two more thoughts. This Wednesday is our parish penance service. It is an opportunity to let go of sins that are keeping you bound. It is also first reconciliation for about thirteen children. They'll appreciate your support. Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Spend some time in prayer with the Blessed Mother. May she be our guide through this sacred season.

~Tony Butler, Director of Religious Education

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!



The decorating committee will be putting up Christmas decorations on Sunday December 22 right after the 10am mass. We always welcome anyone that would like to help with this task. If you have any questions please call Maureen Deno at 219-863-2572.

Mass Intentions

One of the traditions of the Catholic Church is to pray for the deceased. If you are interested in scheduling a Mass intention for the upcoming months, please contact the office at 219-866-5351. There are many dates in January still available.

Stewardship

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Totals for 11/24/19 | \$ 6625.50 |
| Envelopes/checks & Loose Collection | \$ 6703.00 |
| Automatic (Online) Giving (weekly average) | \$ 907.50 |
| Totals for 12/1/19 | \$ 7610.50 |

We need \$ 7,010.00 to meet our weekly budget goals.

You have a wonderful Catholic heritage. Pass it on!

Just as we insure financial health for our families, we must plan for the health of our faith families. Your planned gift to the St. Augustine Catholic Parish Fund will provide financial support forever. You have a wonderful Catholic heritage. Pass it on!

Dear Parishioners, Family, and Friends,

When I began working in the church office in 2011, I never would have guessed how my life would be shaped and changed for the better. I have been proud to be your church secretary and bookkeeper for almost 9 years. To serve our parish and the Catholic church is a blessing. Working at St. Augustine has enriched my personal, professional and spiritual life.

As time marches forward, change is inevitable. Caye Jordan at Jackson Funeral Chapel is retiring at the end of January and I have been extended the opportunity to fill her position. Although I am saddened to leave the job that I have loved and that has become a part of my identity, I am excited for the new challenge and the benefits that it will bring to my family.

I plan to remain an active member of our parish and hope to help make the transition to my replacement run smoothly in January. With that being said, please review the job description below and prayerfully consider if you or someone you know might be a candidate for this position.

Thank you all for being part of this chapter of my life. I am grateful for all of our parishioners, my co-workers in ministry and at the school, and especially for Father Don. Working at St. Augustine has been a joyful part of my life!

Marie Oliver, Church Secretary and Bookkeeper

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper Needed

Parish Secretary:

Responsibilities- Typical Secretarial Duties as well as the following:

- Create and transmit the church bulletin weekly
- Record Weekly Contributions
- Maintain Parishioner Database
- Maintain Sacramental Records
- Schedule Church Facilities, Sacramental Dates, Mass Intentions
- Process Church Mailings
- Prepare Church Ministry Schedule

The parish secretary is the first point of contact for the church office. This individual should possess an ability to communicate clearly in written and verbal formats. Organizational and multi-tasking skills are highly desirable. Computer skills are necessary.

Programs used include: Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Outlook.

Parish Bookkeeper:

Responsibilities:

- Enter Church Expenses and prepare checks for signature of pastor
- Oversee parish Collection Counters, maintain records
- Enter Church Income
- Prepare parish bi-weekly payroll & maintain employee records
- Reconcile monthly bank statements
- Prepare annual report for the Diocese
- Prepare reports required for State of Indiana Gaming License
- Prepare Reports for pastor and finance committee

The parish bookkeeper must understand the need for confidentiality and prudence. A familiarity with QuickBooks and Excel are desired.



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

Saturday 12/14 10am-7pm; Friday 12/20 5-7pm
Shifts will be 1/2 hour. Please contact Cheryl Hillan at 869-3384 or the church office at 866-5351 if your family would like to take a shift. Shifts will go fast so please call early to get a convenient time.

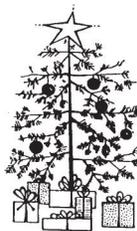
Send Christmas Cheer

As members of the Evangelization Committee, Bill and I would like to once again sponsor the Send Christmas Cheer Project. We will be purchasing 60 \$25.00 gift cards to have available 20 gift cards at each mass on the week end of December 14th. We will ask our fellow parishioners to take these gift cards home and put them in a

Christmas card to send them to a person in the community who might be able to use a little assistance this time of year or might just need someone to say, "we're thinking about you." Please don't sign your own name but sign the card "Your friends at St Augustine Catholic Church". In the past we have encouraged teens to take a gift card to send to someone in their school who might need to know someone is thinking about them.

We all need to keep in mind the holidays are not always a joyful time for everyone so let's spread a little cheer in our community. We would be very pleased if any of our fellow parishioners would like to financially assist us in this project. If you would like please put your donation in the collection basket marked, "Spread Christmas Cheer" or send a check to us at 157 W. Emmet Ave, Rensselaer, In. Special thanks to Linda and Tom Meyer who helped get our project started this year.

Thank you very much
Dianne and Bill 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 15th. 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.

Calling All Angels, Shepherds, Sheep and More!



We love to celebrate the youth of our parish by spotlighting them during a special Nativity program on Christmas Eve. Please join us! Pre-schoolers - 5th graders are encouraged to sign up and participate in the Nativity Play during the Christmas Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

The practice for the play will be Thursday, December 19th at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Please plan to attend the practice to help insure everything runs smoothly on Christmas Eve.

Please pick up a form by the McKinley street entrance and return it to the school or parish office by Monday, December 16th. You may also call/text Melissa Rodibaugh at (765) 412-2282 or send an e-mail to melissa.rodibaugh@gmail.com to register for the play. A headcount is vital to ensure the main roles are filled & that we have enough costumes.

Thank you in advance for participation of your little ones and for making the rehearsal/practice a priority. It will help things go as smoothly as possible!!



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Implications of Evangelization

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States speaks to the implications of evangelization, that it has both an inward and outward direction. Inwardly evangelization calls for our ongoing conversion both individually and as Church. The call of evangelization echoed Uniting in Heart: 2030 Pastoral Plan, particularly for our individual conversion so that the growth of faith and holiness in our diocese will spring forth from our personal conversion.



Drive-Thru Live Nativity
Sorrowful Mother Church Youth Group presents a Drive-Thru Live Nativity!
When: Sunday, December 15th from 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church
165 S. Grace St
Wheatfield, IN



Join them for Family Fun in the Parish Hall!
Get a 4x6 Picture with Santa! Meet Santa's Elf and Live Reindeer!
Bring a \$5 Donation and/or Items to Donate to the Food Pantry.

Penance Services throughout the Fowler Deanery
Tuesday, Dec 10- 7:00PM EST Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fowler
Wednesday, December 11- 7:00PM CST St. Augusta, Lake Village
Wednesday, Dec 11- 7:00PM CST St. Augustine, Rensselaer
Thursday, December 12- 7:00PM EST St. Mary, Dunnington
Friday, December 13- 7:00PM EST St. Patrick, Oxford
Monday, December 16- 7:00PM CST Sorrowful Mother, Wheatfield
Wed, Dec 18- 7:00PM EST Sacred Heart of Jesus, Remington
Wednesday, December 18- 7:00PM CST St. Cecilia, DeMotte
Thursday, December 19- 7:00PM EST St. Charles, Otterbein

Charitable Giving Information

When you were young, did you put aside funds in tax-free plan such as a 401K or IRA that you now have to withdraw due to the government's mandatory distribution requirements? If you are over 70 1/2 years old and have contributed to tax deferred plans, you are subject to these mandatory distributions and the money you withdraw is counted as taxable income. If you are subject to mandatory distributions, you may find that qualified charitable distributions are a way to keep more of your money.

Suppose you must take a mandatory distribution of \$10,000. The \$10,000 counts as taxable income. If your tax bracket is 10%, you have \$9000 after you pay the government. If you then donate \$5000 to charity, you are left with \$4000. However, if you have your IRA give the \$5000 to charity as a qualified charitable distribution and take the other \$5000 as a mandatory distribution, you pay taxes only on the \$5000. You are left with \$4500, a savings of \$500.

The distributions can only come from an IRA. If you have some other sort of retirement asset that requires a mandatory distribution, you must first convert the funds to an IRA. If your age and financial assets are such that you might benefit from using a qualified charitable distribution, talk to a financial advisor or your financial institution to learn more.



BEST *Advent* EVER
**AMAZING
POSSIBILITIES**

God Sees Them All.
It's Time You See Them Too!

Join Matthew Kelly, and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST ADVENT EVER—a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic Holidays!

» Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com «



Youth/Religious Education Calendar:

- December 1: **NO** Elementary Education Classes
- December 4: MS & Confirmation Class 7-8pm
- Peer Ministers Meet at 6:00pm
- December 8: Elementary Education Classes 8:45-9:45am

Announcements:

1. **College Care Packages** will be assembled in January and delivered for Valentine's Day this year.
2. All middle school and high school youth are invited to join us for fellowship prior to the **Parish Penance Service on Wednesday, December 11th**. Dinner (pizza, salad, dessert, and drinks) will be provided beginning at 6:00 pm. Bring a Christmas gift to donate to the boys and girls at Gibault School in Terre Haute. This is a service project sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Suggested items are included in the bulletin. The evening will conclude with the Parish Penance Service. Invite your family to attend too! The service should conclude, and all youth picked up by 8:15 pm.
3. All middle school and high school youth are invited to join us on December 15th for **Youth Sunday**. Donuts and drinks will be provided beginning at 9:15 am in the church basement. Reserved seating will be provided for all youth at 10 am Mass. The Confirmation Class will fill the roles of greeters, gift collectors, and gift bearers.
4. All middle school and high school youth are invited to help with the **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** on Wednesday, December 18th. Come dressed for the weather. Bring bells to ring and other festive items. Report to the St. Augustine adult supervising your shift.

| |
|--------------------------|
| 6th grade 5:00-5:30 pm |
| 7th grade 5:30-6:00 pm |
| 8th grade 6:00-6:30 pm |
| High School 6:30-7:00 pm |

Parish Library News!



Are you interested in learning about your faith? Perhaps you'd like to read interesting literature by popular authors, such as Matthew Kelly. Please feel free to borrow a book from the large cabinet in the church basement (next to the television).

Simply sign the book out using the notebook located next to the cabinet. There are a few audio books available for check-out also.

St. Augustine Greeters Ministry

Thank you to all those that volunteer to greet parishioners and visitors prior to the weekend/holy day Masses. A special thank you is extended to **Nellie Shide** for volunteering to be a greeter before EVERY 7:30am Mass. Also, a big thank you to the **St. A Youth** group for volunteering for a 10:00am Mass every month. If you have a warm, welcoming smile and would like to volunteer to be part of this ministry, please contact Carol Hay at 219-866-8831 or contact Marie in the church office at marieoliver@parish.dol-in.org.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING STUDENTS FUND THEIR EDUCATION AT ST. A SCHOOL & RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT?

St. Augustine School has partnered with the Institute for Quality Education for scholarship funding. This scholarship granting organization (SGO) will award needs-based financial assistance to St. Augustine School students if the family meets the income guidelines. The money in our account with the Institute for Quality Education comes from donations.

Donors who give to this SGO are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made toward these scholarships in addition to a federal deduction.

Donations may be mailed with a form available at the school or submitted online: www.i4qed.org. For more info please contact St. Augustine School at 866-5480 or mckim@s-saugustine.org.



Knights of Columbus Friday Fish Fry!

The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's are back! **Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy the "People's Choice For Best Fish Fry in Jasper County" for the second year in a row!**

Serving takes place on Dec. 6 & 13 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Featuring Pollack, Tilapia (baked and Fried), Shrimp & Chicken Strips, All you can eat salad bar. Take-outs are available by calling 866-9938.

The K of C will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for the boys and girls at Gibault School in Terre Haute. This will be done at the fish fries in December. We are asking that items such as markers, colored pencils, crayons, coloring books, game books and sketch pads be donated. Also, toys such as Rubik's cubes, Silly Putty, playing cards, hand held games and mini board games. In addition, hygiene supplies such as shampoo, deodorant and Chapstick are needed. All donations will be delivered to Gibault before Christmas. Thank you for your past and current support for Gibault School, the #1 charity supported by the Indiana Knights of Columbus.

Used IPADS for Sale

St. Augustine School has used IPADS for sale. The cost is \$3 each. They do have limited capabilities. No apps can be downloaded, but pictures can be taken and they have internet capability. Contact St. A school for more information at 866-5351.

Join our Parish Family!

Are you a registered parishioner?



Do not take for granted that you are registered in the Parish just because you attend Mass or your relatives are members. It could be quite embarrassing to us, you and your family when someone wants to make wedding plans, have a baby baptized, attend Faith Formation, or if you are asked to be a Sponsor for Baptism or confirmation requiring a note of Catholicity from us. If we have no record of membership, we cannot provide these services for you. Contact us today! Call 219-866-5351 or email us at marieoliver@parish.dol-in.org.

Won't you join us for an hour of prayer?



Every Thursday, following morning Mass, parishioners join together in prayer. Won't you take an hour of your week to pray for peace in our world. Through God all things are possible. We look forward to seeing you!

50/50 Membership

Fifty/Fifty is an ongoing school fundraiser and we are looking for new members. The cost for one year is \$60 or \$30 for six months. Every month the drawing is held on the third Friday. Contact the School to Join Today!!!

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.

Apples for Students

Our school is participating in the Strack and VanTil Apples for the Students Program. This enables our school to earn Apple Computers and iPads, sporting goods, audio visual equipment, science supplies, hundreds of other items to choose from, and they're all FREE.....

To earn these FREE awards we simply have to collect as many Strack & VanTil register receipts as possible from September 1st, 2019 through March 2nd, 2020. Ask your friends and relatives to shop at Strack & VanTil and save every receipt. Send the receipts to St. A school or drop them in the box near the McKinley street entrance. Thank you in advance for your participation!