



ST. AUGUSTINE

CATHOLIC PARISH

MIDLOTHIAN • IL

St. Augustine Parish Novena

Feast Day – August 28

Welcome to the St. Augustine Parish Novena, a nine-day spiritual journey of prayer, reflection, and renewal in preparation for the Feast of St. Augustine, our beloved patron. This novena invites each of us—parishioners, families, visitors, and friends—to walk more closely with Christ through the example and intercession of St. Augustine, the great Doctor of the Church.

As we pray this novena together, or individually, may we be inspired by St. Augustine's deep love for God, his passionate pursuit of wisdom, and his humble heart. May this time of prayer strengthen our parish family, renew our commitment to our faith, and prepare our hearts to celebrate his feast with joy and gratitude.

St. Augustine, pray for us!



Opening Prayer (Each Day)

O glorious St. Augustine,
Son of St. Monica,
teacher of truth,
and restless heart
turned to God—
You who searched
the world for wisdom
and found it in Christ alone,
Intercede for us today.
Help us to love God
more deeply,
to pursue truth
more faithfully,
And to seek holiness
with humble hearts.
May your example inspire
our parish and our lives.
Amen.

Day 1: Seeking Truth

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” — St. Augustine, Confessions I.1

Augustine’s journey began with an aching heart and a hunger for truth. As a young man, he sought meaning in philosophy, pleasure, and personal success—yet none of it satisfied. Only when he encountered the living God did his restlessness find peace. Today, we begin this novena by reflecting on our own search for truth. In a noisy world full of half-truths and distractions, it is easy to settle for shallow answers. But like Augustine, we are made for more. Let this day renew your desire to seek the truth that leads to Christ—the one who fully knows and loves you.

Prayer

Lord, awaken in us the longing for truth that led St. Augustine from confusion to clarity. May we resist the lies of the world and cling to You, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through St. Augustine’s intercession, help our parish grow in the desire to know and live Your truth.

Day 2: Conversion of Heart

“Late have I loved You, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new...” — Confessions X.27

St. Augustine’s conversion didn’t happen all at once. He wrestled with doubts, bad habits, and inner conflict for years. Yet God’s grace was persistent. Through the prayers of his mother, St. Monica, and the influence of St. Ambrose, Augustine’s heart was slowly softened until he could no longer deny the call of divine love.

Conversion isn’t a one-time event. It’s a continual turning toward the Lord. As we reflect today, we ask: Is there something in me that needs to turn more fully toward God?

Let this day be one of surrender. God’s mercy waits patiently—ready to transform you.

Prayer

Jesus, we thank You for the grace of conversion. Help us, like St. Augustine, to surrender our past and embrace Your mercy. May all in our parish who feel far from You find courage to return to Your embrace.

Day 3: Faith and Reason

“I believe in order to understand; and I understand the better to believe.” — Sermon 43.7

St. Augustine was one of the Church’s greatest minds. He showed us that faith and reason are not enemies—but allies. His love of philosophy and Scripture led him to profound insights about the human heart, the nature of God, and the mystery of grace.

In today’s world, where faith is often seen as irrational or outdated, we are called to be witnesses of truth through both intellect and trust in God. Our questions don’t scare Him. Our doubts don’t offend Him. Like Augustine, we’re invited to ask, seek, and study—but always with hearts open to grace.

Today, may we embrace both the mystery and the clarity of faith.

Prayer

God of wisdom, teach us to love both faith and reason. May our minds and hearts work together to build a Church that educates, evangelizes, and inspires. Through St. Augustine’s intercession, bless our teachers, catechists, and seekers.

Day 4: Spiritual Friendship

***“What does anyone desire more truly than truth and friendship?”
— Confessions IV.4***

St. Augustine’s life was deeply shaped by the friends who walked with him—both those who encouraged his former ways and those who later inspired his faith. After his conversion, he treasured spiritual friendship as a sacred gift that supported his holiness and joy.

In parish life, we are not meant to walk alone. Friendship rooted in Christ helps us grow in virtue, navigate trials, and become more fully alive.

Today, ask God to bless your friendships, and to help our parish be a place where Christ-centered community can flourish.

Prayer

Lord, bless our parish with friendships rooted in You. Teach us to walk with one another as companions on the journey of faith, supporting and strengthening each other in joy and in trial.

Day 5: Humility and Holiness

“It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.” — City of God

Pride was one of St. Augustine’s greatest struggles—and one of the hardest to surrender. Only when he encountered the humble Christ, especially in the Scriptures and the example of St. Monica, did he begin to truly let go of his ego and embrace grace.

Holiness cannot grow in proud soil. It is nourished by humility, prayer, and trust. As St. Augustine learned, humility doesn’t mean thinking less of ourselves—it means thinking of ourselves less, so that God can fill us more completely.

Today, let us ask for hearts like Christ’s—meek, humble, and free.

Prayer

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like Yours. Help us imitate St. Augustine’s humility as he moved from pride to peace. Purify our intentions and increase our hunger for holiness.

Day 6: Prayer and Interior Life

“Do not go outside yourself, return within. In the inner man dwells the truth.” — De Vera Religione 39.72

St. Augustine teaches us the value of silence, self-reflection, and deep prayer. He reminds us that God is not far off, but already present within us—waiting in the depths of our hearts.

In a noisy and hurried world, we need the courage to retreat inward, to be still before the Lord, and to nourish our souls through prayer. St. Augustine’s Confessions are a beautiful example of the fruit of such prayerful self-examination.

Today, take time to rest in God’s presence, and ask Him to renew your interior life.

Prayer

God of silence and presence, call us deeper into prayer. Through the intercession of St. Augustine, may our parish be a place of contemplation, peace, and intimacy with You—especially in the Eucharist.

Day 7: Joy of the Gospel

“The happy life is joy based on the truth.” — Confessions X.23

St. Augustine once sought happiness in pleasure, fame, and worldly success—but none of it brought true peace. Only when he surrendered to the truth of Christ did he discover real joy.

The joy of the Gospel is not just a feeling—it’s a way of life rooted in God’s love, sustained by hope, and shared with others. St. Augustine’s conversion shows us that no one is too far gone to be transformed by joy.

Let us radiate the joy of the Gospel in our homes, parish, and community.

Prayer

Lord, fill us with the joy that St. Augustine found in You. Let our lives shine with the gladness of the Gospel. May our parish be a beacon of joy to all who seek meaning, mercy, and love.

Day 8: Pastoral Leadership

“With you I am a Christian; for you I am a bishop.” — Sermon 340.1

Though he never wanted to be a bishop, St. Augustine accepted the call with humility and zeal. He gave his life to shepherding God’s people through preaching, writing, and sacrificial love.

Leadership in the Church is not about power—it’s about service. St. Augustine’s example reminds us that every leader must first be a disciple, rooted in Christ and shaped by the Gospel.

Today, we pray for our pastor, ministers, and all those called to lead—may they be servant-hearted and Spirit-led.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, raise up in our parish wise and humble leaders like St. Augustine. Bless our pastor, staff, and lay ministers with hearts of service and zeal for souls. May leadership always flow from discipleship.

Day 9: Hope for the Church

“Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love, and the future to God’s providence.” — Attributed to St. Augustine

St. Augustine lived in turbulent times—political unrest, cultural collapse, and division within the Church. Yet he remained deeply hopeful, because his trust was not in the world but in God’s eternal plan.

Today, as we conclude this novena, we entrust our Church and our parish to the Lord. We ask St. Augustine to intercede for a renewal of faith, love, and unity in the Body of Christ.

May we be people of joyful hope, rooted in Christ and bold in mission.

Prayer

Loving Father, as we prepare to celebrate St. Augustine’s feast, we entrust our parish and our Church to Your care. Fill us with hope, vision, and courage. Let us walk forward together with hearts on fire.



Closing Prayer (Each Day)

St. Augustine,
patron of seekers,
scholars,
and sinners,
Pray for us.

Intercede for our parish,
that we may love
what you loved—
Christ in His truth,
His Church,
and His mercy.

Through your example
and prayers,
may we become
saints
for our own time.
Amen.