

FATHER PAT'S SERMON NOTES

Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

August 20, 2017

When it feels like God is against you!

The Gospel today used to really bug me! Here's a mother, distraught by her daughter's tormented state, pleading to Jesus for help. Jesus promptly ignores her! The mother pleads further until the Lord finally speaks. But when he does, he infers that she is like a dog unworthy to eat the master's food! Then, the disciples roundly dismiss the woman with the "loving" suggestion, "*Lord, get rid of her; she keeps pestering us!*" The woman persists. **Finally**, Jesus speaks a word of hope and the woman's daughter is healed. Whew! Was Jesus having a bad day or what? Well, all is not as it appears.

Years ago, I received a great insight into this Gospel while reading it with a priest friend. After reading it, Fr. Jim paused and said to me somberly, "*Patrick, sometimes in life it seems like even God is against us!*" Of course, the operative word here is "seems". Maybe you have never felt this way, but chances are that that day is coming. Moses once shockingly prayed: "*If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me!*" (Numbers 11:14-15) Job too asked aloud in God's presence: "*Why did I not die from the womb?*" (Job 3:11) and the depressed Prophet Elijah once prayed: "*I have had enough, Lord, take my life...*" (1 Kings 19:4). A sun-scorched and disappointed Jonah prayed: "*It would be better for me to die than to live!*" (Jonah 4:5). Finally, Jeremiah sadly exclaimed: "*Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father on the day of my birth: 'It's a boy!'*" (Jeremiah 20:15). Even Jesus asked, "*My God, why have you abandoned me!*"

Of course, God hadn't abandoned any of them ~ *but it sure did feel like it!* The Lord wants us to be prepared for these moments by having us learn from this gloriously stubborn woman who refused to walk away from Jesus **even when it seemed** he could care less. In fact, **nobody cared more about her needs**. It may be a fact that you *feel* alone, but in fact your feelings don't always tell the truth. The truth is, God is with you ~ and it is this truth that will make you free to follow Jesus in all circumstances!

Copyright © Father Patrick A. Smith, 2017 [revised from 2011]

See Fr. Pat's Sermon Notes and listen to the podcast at <http://saintaugustine-dc.org/category/sermon-notes/>

REMEMBER ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH IN YOUR WILL & BEQUESTS
SEE WEB PAGE FOR FATHER PAT'S SERMON NOTES AND LISTEN TO
FATHER PAT'S SERMON PODCAST

YOU OF GREAT FAITH! WHAT YOU
WANT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU.



Sunday, August 20, 2017

Scripture Readings

20th Sunday In Ordinary Times

Is 56 1, 6-7

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

Mt 15:21-28

21th Sunday in Ordinary Times

Is 22:19-23

Rom 11:33-36

Mt 16:13-20



8:15 am Daily Mass Intentions

Mon	Aug	21	Marion T. Cunningham, Jr.	- Deceased
Tues	Aug	22	Rev. Charles Green	- Living
Wed	Aug	23	Sylvia Monroe	- Living
Thurs	Aug	24	Evelyn Morgan	- Living
Fri	Aug	25	Audrey Parks	-Deceased
			George Dines	-Deceased

Attendance

857



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is on vacation until September. Stay tuned for the return date.

"IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU
LIKE IN THE GOSPELS, AND
REJECT WHAT YOU DON'T
LIKE, IT IS NOT THE GOSPEL
YOU BELIEVE, BUT
YOURSELF."



-St. Augustine

Next Sunday we will
celebrate the Feast of
Saint Augustine and
Saint Monica at all
Masses



SAINT AUGUSTINE SCHOOL COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN # 20000 +
ST AUGUSTINE SCHOOL UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



**NEXT SUNDAY'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR OUR PARISH POOR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

St. Augustine School *Love to Learn; Learn to Love*

SR. GLORIA AGUMAGU, HHCJ PRINCIPAL

INFORMATION: 202-667-2608

Catholic Education Corner



Registration
Information

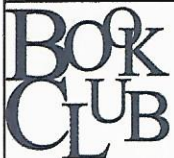
Saint Augustine School is now registering for the 2017-2018 school year for grades Pre-K3, Pre-K4 through

Eighth. For an application or more information, please contact Mr. Wilkins, Direction of Admissions at 202-667-2608 or email: admissions@saintaugustine-dc.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL/CCD NEEDS TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS

If you think you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact the Church Office at 202-265-1470.



AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA BOOK CLUB

August 23, 2017

We will be reading *Americanah* by Ngozi Chimamanda Adichie which examines a Black girl growing up in the U.S. and Nigeria. Meetings will be held in Gingras Center from 6:45-8:30pm. For more information, contact Lydia Curtis at maceda@aol.com.



SUNDAY SCHOOL/CCD SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

The 2017-18 School year begins on Sunday, September 10 after the 10am Mass. Registration will be held after all Masses beginning on August 26. Sunday School/CCD is designed for children to learn more about the Catholic faith and to receive their sacraments. All children aged 4 through high school are welcome. We offer Pre-K and Kindergarten through 8th grade. We also have a post-Confirmation program for teens. Children are prepared to receive First Communion/First Penance and Confirmation. We have a RCIA program for children over 7 years old who have not been baptized.

Please Pray for Our Sick & Homebound

Gwendolyn Adams
John Adams, Sr.
Beatrice Alexander
Francis Arnold
Ronald Ausbrooks
William Barksdale
Althea Black
Frances Brooks
Charles Brown
Norma Brown
Williams Burgan
Andrew Burton
Angela Callighan
Elizabeth Carter
Phillip Cephas
Billy Chesley
Delores Chisley
Ollie Mae Clark
Ernestine Coghill Howard
Emy-Lou Daley
Pauline Dines
Theola Douglas
Susan Epps
Barbara Ferguson
Julie Fish
Toni Fisher
Richard B. Fowler
Daniel Galloway
Inez Gaskins
Charles Gathers
Rev Bob Gilliam
Butler Grant
Rev Charles Green
Valencia Green
Robert Greenfield

Frances Gulston
Louise Harrison
Grace Hansberry
Brian Harvey
John Harris
Patricia Herndon
Emily Hill
Jeanne Hincley
Deborah Jackson
Charles Jackson
Marlene Jackson
Malcom Jamison
Eleanor Johnson
Danielle Joy
Paul Joy
Sedonia Labee
Keats Labule
Raymond Lane
Louisa Lee
Mary Leonard
Rev, Malanga
Bernadette Mahoney
Lita Majors
Catherine Mason
Florence Matthews
Floyd McCrory
James McNamara
Rick Middleton
Sylvia Monroe
Arnetia Montague
Evelyn Morgan
Alpha Nacnas
Julius Oben
Colelle Ogbe
Eileen Ogu

Harriet Parker
Marguerite Parker
Gunny David Pauley
Cecilia Penno
Audrey Plaskett
Theresa Purcell
Samiya Rajah
Ze'La Rajah
Cheryl Reynolds
Ashley Redhead, Jr.
Royal Robinson
Ruth Robinson
Lisa Rivera
Certina Simms
Allse Simmons
Mary Smith
Zedekiah Smith
Donnie Stewart
Don Strong
Mary Helen Swann
Willis Thomas
Juanita Towns
Selma Twitty
Hayden Vaughn
Lillian Vaughn
Terry Vaughn
Shirley Ward
Betty Washington
Elliot Weaver
Cynthia Wilkins
Bernice Williams
Teresa Wilkinson
Lozzie York

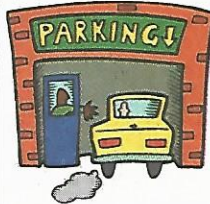


PRAY FOR OUR DEAD



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastoral Parish Council Meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in the Gingras Center. Meetings are open to all parishioners.



PARK FREE SUNDAY

FROM 9am — 4pm

REEVES CENTER

U STREET AT 14TH ST NW

Enter on U Street

*Please see an Usher after Mass for a
Reeves Center Parking Coupon*

Our Parish Bookstore and Gift Shop

Opens before and after weekend Masses. Use Visa or MasterCard (\$10 min), check (\$5min), or cash to buy: Bibles - Missals - Rosaries - Books on the Pope, Saints, Parish History, Faith, Discernment, Marriage, Children's Books, Father Pat's Homilies and Choir CDs

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, RECEIVING CONFIRMATION? SPONSORING INQUIRERS?
RCIA MEETS TUESDAYS AT 6:45— 8:45 IN THE GINGRAS CENTER—SABRINA WILLIAMS AT 202-294-6990**

▼ SEE GINGRAS CENTER BULLETIN BOARD FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH AND ADULT OPPORTUNITIES. ▼