THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF

St. Augustine

2486 West 14th Street | Cleveland, Ohio 44113 Office (216) 781-5530 Www.StAugustineCleveland.org



January 7, 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and ave come to do him homage.".

-Mt 2:2

SUNDAY WORSHIP Saturday Vigil: 4:15 pm Sunday: 8:30 am and 11 am

DAILY MASS Monday - Friday: 5:30 pm Civic Holidays: 10 am

RECONCILIATION Saturday: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm or by appointment **PARISH OFFICE**

Monday – Saturday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Sunday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

Call the parish office to prepare for sacraments such as baptisms, weddings, first communion and confirmation.

Prayers and Offertory

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email ministry@StAugustineCleveland.org to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

Dorothy Barr Ella McGowan Richard Slosar Syl Vargas Patti Cook Fr. Joe McNulty Sheila Rock. JoAnn Fisher Nora Orozco Mary Smith

Mike Furey Bridget Patton Mary Solderitsch Susan Grieken Andrea Slosar Millie Vargas

And for all those who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, living with a chronic illness, or living on the margins, we pray.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6

4:15 pm † Leo and Dorothy Bender

Sunday, January 7

8:30 am † Jim and Marge Green 11:00 am † Belinda Davenport

Monday, January 8 10:00 am Special Intention

Tuesday, January 95:30 pm† Herbert Sponholtz

Wednesday, January 10 5:30 pm † Laura DeLury

Thursday, January 115:30 pm† Tom and Jerry Kaczor

Friday, January 12 5:30 pm † Winifred Duncan

Saturday, January 13 4:15 pm † Shirley Edna Emond

Sunday, January 14

8:30 am † Henry Senyak 11:00 am † Emil Solderitsch and Lorette Treska

† Deceased

Offertory-

December 30th and 31st

Total Collection	\$ 2,579.85
Other Collections	\$49.00
Christmas	\$20.00
E-Giving	\$15.00
Regular Collection	\$2,495.85

Pope Francis' January Prayer Intention

For the Gift of Diversity in the Church



Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Second Collection Next Weekend



This annual special collection to support the Catholic University of America will be taken next weekend, January 13th and 14th. Catholic University in Washington

D.C., is the distinguished national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. The University's Schools of Religious Studies and Philosophy are recognized internationally and are where many dioceses and religious orders send students for further studies. Your generosity in this yearly special collection will be appreciated greatly.

Donate online

We are deeply grateful for your generosity in your weekly contribution to St. Augustine Parish. Your kindness and support enable us to provide for the needs of our parish and community.

Please consider our Parish's E-giving option through PayPal. It is easy and secure. Visit our parish website, www.StAugsutineCleveland.org and click donate.

Thank you for your financial support.



Welcome!

We are "A Samaritan Church with a Missionary Heart"



Welcome to St. Augustine!

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church, no matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or spirituality, or marital situation. No matter your own self-image or holiness or virtue. You are invited. accepted, and respected here at St. Augustine Parish.

Our Clergy

Administrator/Chaplain to the Blind Community Rev. William O'Donnell, C.PP.S | WilliamODonnell49@gmail.com Parochial Vicar/Chaplain to the Deaf Community Rev. Ben Jimenez, SJ | Bjimenez@StAugustineClevleland.org Permanent Deacon Chris DePenti| CdePenti@DioceseofCleveland.org

Our Staff

Pastoral Associate of Administration Bob Duda | BDuda@StAugustineCleveland.org **Finance Manager** Aldo Fierro | AFierro@StAugustineCleveland.org **Director of Music and Liturgy** Bill Shaffer | BShaffer@StAugustineCleveland.org **Director of Religious Education and Rainbow Camp** Jessica Neuhart | JNeuhart@StAugustineCleveland.orgl **Coordinator of Deaf Access** Robin McMarlin | RMcMarlin@StAugustineCleveland.org **Office Manager** Doris Everetts | DEveretts@StAugustineCleveland.org **Office Support** Kim Ambro | KAmbro@StAugustineCleveland.org Debbie Sollars

Support Ministries

Blind Ministry Ministry@StAugustineCleveland.org

Deaf Ministry Ministry@StAugustineCleveland.org

Mental Health Ministry Ministry@StAugustineCleveland.org

Outreach Ministry Outreach@StAugustineCleveland.org

Stay Connected

Email: Info@StAugustineCleveland.org Facebook: @StAugustineRomanCatholicChurchCleveland YouTube: @staugustinechurch9835

Loving God, For all who feel on the margins, But who are at the center of your heart. We ask you to open our hearts. Help us to become a church and a nation where:

> All lives have dignity, All people are love, And all are welcome! Amen

Scripture Readings for the Week

Sunday | The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6: Mt 2:1-12 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Monday | Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 In 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; PS 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday | Memorial of St. Hilary 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Love Without Measure...

On the feast of the Epiphany we recall the visit of the three wise men, sometimes called the Three Kings, to the Christ child. But if you listened very carefully to the gospel that was just proclaimed you might have discovered something rather surprising. The gospel passage (which is the only one that recounts this incident from Jesus' life.) never tells how many wise men there were. It simply says "wise men from the East arrived one day in Jerusalem." So if the Scriptures do not tell us how many wise men there were., why is it that we are all convinced that there were three? The answer to that question to that question is not to be found in the scriptures, but rather in the Christian imagination. Because as subsequent believers reflected upon this passage of from scripture believers reflected upon this passage from scripture, they tried to fill in the details not given in the text. They noticed that at the end of the gospel, the Christ child is presented with three gifts: gold frankincense, and myrrh. Consequently, Christians drew the conclusion: If there were three gifts, there were three wise men.

Now this is not the only possible conclusion. One of the wise men could have brought all three of the gifts. Or there could have been six or ten wise men with some bringing no gift at all. But the Christian imagination was consistent and clear: three gifts meant three wise men. I think that the Holy Spirit guided the conclusion. If we take it seriously, we can derive three lessons from today's gospel.

The first lesson is this: Every one of us has a gift to offer. Christians could have imagined that there were ten wise men and many of them came without bringing any gift. But they refused to accept that possibility of an empty handed wise man. This flowed from the faith conviction that God does not create gift less people. Every person that God has made is a gifted person. Every person has something to offer. So, if you are sitting here today and saying, "I can do this and that but I really have nothing worth offering to God" The story invites you to think again. If you don't know what your gift is, find it. It is there. If you exist, you are gifted. This is simply the way the God makes people. Find your gift and claim it.

The second lesson moves in the opposite direction: No one of us has all the gifts. Christians could have imagined that one wise man gave all three gifts to the Christ child. But they rejected that possibility, because Christians know that the gifts are spread throughout the community. No one has them all. Therefore, we should not waste our time longing over other people's gifts. How often we do that! I wish that I could be as intelligent as that person, or have that person's sense of humor, or that person's success, or that person's popularity?" This story tells us, "Don't be jealous of other people's gifts. Claim your won gift and be satisfied." Accept the gift that has been given to you. No one has all the gifts.

The third lesson is this: Every gift is necessary; every gift is important. The three gifts of the wise men were meant to describe the person of Christ. Gold indicated his kingship and authority as our Lord; frankincense, his divinity as our God; Myrrh, his suffering as our Savior. If any one of those gifts were missing, an incomplete picture of Christ would result. Therefore, each of those gifts had a purpose, and each of those gifts was necessary. In the same way, any gift that God has given to us is necessary. Each person's gift is something that is important. It is only when every gift is used that the fullness of God's kingdom will emerge.

Three lessons from the three gifts of the three wise men: Each person has a gift to offer. No person has all the gifts. Each gift is necessary. To these three let me offer a fourth. Once you know that your are gifted, once you know that you are gifted, once you have located your gift and seen its important, don't hide it. Do not keep it for yourself. Be like the three kings and offer your gift in God's service. Be like the three wise men and give the gift that you have received to the one who is both Messiah and Lord.

Parish Registration and Database Update

We are delighted that you are already a registered member of St. Augustine's or considering to be a registered member of our Parish.

Often people attend Mass at a parish for months or sometimes years, but never officially register. Registering at St. Augustine Church is the expression of your commitment to being part of our parish community. Being a registered parishioner also makes the process much simpler when it is time for receiving sacraments, registering for faith formation (religious education), sponsoring a sacrament recipient, and even planning funerals. A registered parishioner also receives all parish communications (emails, text messages, and postal messages).

If you have registered in the past, we ask you to kindly re-register so that our records are up-to-date.

Registration Forms can be completed online at www.staugustinecleveland.org/parish-registration or by completing the Registration Forms found on the table at each entrance and returning it to the parish office.

World/African Drumming Class

St. Augustine Church has partnered with Broadway School of Music and the Arts to offer a nine-week Inclusive Music Program for Adults with Disabilities. Classes will continues this Monday from 10 AM until 11:30 AM in Walsh Hall.

Handbell Choir



The Handbell Choir is looking for few more members! If you like to have some fun and meet some new people, this is for you!

Anyone from ages 8-80 are welcome to join. No experience necessary, and no music reading ability necessary either. The choir is open to both hearing and deaf individuals.

For comments or questions, please email Bill at BShaffer@StAugustineCleveland.org or call at (216) 781-5530

Say It In Sign

Another sign language class for beginners is being planned for the spring of 2024. If you are interested in being a part of this free opportunity, please contact Robin McMarlin at (216)781-5530 ext. 29 or at RMcMarlin@StAugustineCleveland.org

St. Augustine Signing Choir

The Choir will perform their final Christmas Concert this Sunday for the the residents and staff at Regina Health Center.

Practice for the upcoming spring performances will begin this Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM in Walsh Hall. This would be the perfect time for new members (with or without knowledge of sign language) to join.

For more information on joining the Signing Choir, please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf

Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf will host their annual Welcome 2024 Lunch on Sunday January 28th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for 2023 members and \$10 for non-members. Please RSVP before January 21st by contacting Maria Rivera either in person or at (216) 370-7141.

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors will gather in the Deaf Center this Tuesday, January 9th at 10 AM. New members are always welcome.

Cleveland Catholic Deaf Center

Please join us every Sunday after 8:30 am and 11 am masses in the Cleveland Catholic Deaf Center. Coffee, donuts and goodies are available for purchase.

Blind Community Gathering

Members of the leadership committee will gather on January $17^{\rm th}$ to plan the 2024 schedule.

A new information line for the visually impaired has been established. Members of the Blind Community are invited to stay up-to-date with Blind Community and Parish events by calling (216) 635-9215.

LINKS Community for Mental Health

LINKS is a social, recreational and educational ministry of St. Augustine's for persons with Mental Health conditions. They currently gather on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3 PM in Walsh Hall. Due to the Christmas holiday LINKS will not gather this week.

St. Augustine Seniors (50 and over)

The St. Augustine Seniors invite you to their New Year gathering this Thursday, January $11^{\rm th}$ at 12 noon in Walsh Hall.

For more information on joining the Seniors please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

Around the Parish & Events

FREE Poinsettia



Immediately following the 11 AM Mass this weekend , anyone wishing to take a poinsettia or two from the sanctuary may do so.

Epiphany 2024 Family House Blessing

Select a family member to lead the blessing of your home. Gather as a family, inside the house, around the main door.

"LET US PRAY: O Lord, Almighty God, come to bless this home. May it always be a shelter of health, chastity, victory over sin, humility, goodness, mildness, and obedience to Your commandments, with thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (You may sprinkle Holy Water in the house at this time.) May this Epiphany Blessing remain for all time on this dwelling and upon all who live and visit here. We ask this through Christ Our Lord! AMEN!

Then, over the door, use your blessed chalk to inscribe these numbers and letters. (Various family members may each add a letter or a number.)

20 + K + M + B + 24

The letters stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men: Kasper, Melchior, and Balthasar. The numbers are of this New Year 2024.

May each St. Augustine parishioner BE a blessing to others and may each visitor BRING a blessing to your home! happen."

(Blessed chalk can be found on the table at each entrance)

Parenting Tune-Up

This year Epiphany is on January 7, when Christians celebrate the three wise men's (magi) search for God. Legend has it that they followed a star. Look up at the sky with your child tonight. Hopefully you will see stars. Teach them how a special star guided the travelers to the Manger. Tell them to listen to the guidance of the "Star of David" who is Jesus himself

St. Augustine Community Cupboard

and Closet provides non-perishable food items, personal hygiene, cleaning, pet food, and clothing items to those in need. The Cupboard and Closet is open **open** on **Saturdays** from **11 AM - 3 PM.**

We are currently in need of winter coats, boots and clothing for men, women, and children.

Volunteers are greatly needed while we are open and during our closed hours to help sort and stock and help shoppers on Saturdays.

For more information or to volunteer please contact the Parish Office at (216) 781-5530 or email, outreach@staugustinecleveland.org

We have also created an Amazon Wish List which can be found on our parish website.

Community Closet and Cupboard Highlights by the Numbers

Served 826 in the month of October, 858 in the month of November, and 1040 in the month of December.
In the month of October we helped 162 new families, 168 during the month of November and in December 210 new customers came to us in need.

♦ It takes at least 12-14 volunteers just to open the doors.





In a small Southern town near Clemson University, there was a Nativity Scene that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a Quik Stop on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, You darn Yankees never do read the Bible! I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here", "The three wise men came from afar"

Relationship Tune-Up



Do not turn your loved one off by letting lists rule your life! It's the season of New Year's Resolutions. This can be good, but it can also turn your focus away from your beloved to self-improvement. Today, make ONE specific Resolution to deepen your love.

Faith and Reflections



Our Parish School of Religion for children in Pre-K thru 8th will resume this Sunday, January 7th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

If you are new to St. Augustine or the area and would like more information on our program, please contact Jessica at (216) 781-5530 or JNeuhart@StAugustineCleveland.org



Is God calling you to invite someone you know who is searching for a deeper faith in God to explore becoming Catholic?

The Church prepares

adults for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist through a process called Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA is designed to form the mind and heart in Christian discipleship through study of the basics of the Catholic faith, prayer and fellowship. If any of these are true for you or someone you know, then you are invited to contact the parish office to learn more and to register to join our RCIA group.



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Cursillistas gather for Ultreya on Saturday, January 13th at 10 AM.Cursillistas are invited to

gather, pray, and share personal stories about living a life in God's Grace on the second Saturday of every month.

Like the Magi, Let's Offer Gifts to Jesus!

The wise men presented Baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These may be thought of as prophesying Jesus' future. Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex. 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. These gifts were not only expensive but portable. Perhaps Joseph sold the gifts to finance the Holy Family's trip to Egypt. The gifts might have been God's way of providing for the journey that lay ahead.

Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany. (a) The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God's Son became one of us to redeem us and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion. (b) A second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnerability and openness to others. The good news, however, is that, in offering friendship to others, we will receive back many blessings. (c) A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This gift repairs damaged relationships. It requires honesty, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience. (d) The fourth gift of this season is the gift of peace: seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the Sacramental life and daily meditation on the Word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give Him from the heart our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions, and time. As we give our insignificant, little gifts to God, the good news is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer what we have, from the heart, in response to what that Child has given to us - Himself.

"The Light She lit in my Life is Still Burning!"

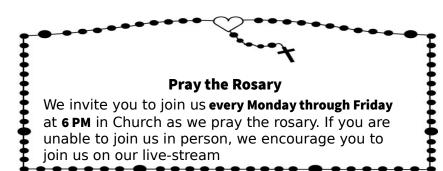
Mother Teresa once visited a poor man in Melbourne, Australia. He was living in a basement room which was in a terrible state of neglect. There was no light in the room. He did not seem to have a friend in the world. She started to clean and tidy the room. At first he protested, "Leave it alone. It is alright as it is." But she went ahead anyway. As she cleaned, she chatted with him. Under a pile of rubbish she found an oil lamp covered with dust. She cleaned it and discovered that it was beautiful. And she said to him, "You have got a beautiful lamp here. How come you never light it?" "Why should I light it?" "No one ever comes to see me." "Will you promise to light it if one of my sisters comes to see you?" "Yes," he replied. "If I hear a human voice, I will light the lamp."

Two of Mother Teresa's sisters began to visit him regularly. Things gradually improved for him. Every time the sisters came to visit him, he had the lamp lit. Then one day he said to them: "Sisters, I will be able to manage myself from now on. Do me a favour. Tell the first sister who came to see me that the light she lit in my life is still burning." The light that God lit to announce the coming of His son is still burning. The Magi followed the path of the great light and reached the cradle of Jesus. For the last twenty centuries many have followed the footprints of the Magi. Today, Jesus stands before us declaring, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Reflection and Parish Calendar

A Fourth Wise Man?

There's a story called "The Other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke. It's about a fourth person who is supposed to accompany the other three wise men on their journey to search for the newborn King. The name of the person is Artaban. As Artaban prepares for the journey, he takes with him a bag of precious stones to give to the baby King. On this way to join the other three wise men, Artaban stops to help a poor person. The delay is just enough to make him miss his rendezyous with the others. Artaban never does catch up with them. He constantly runs into people who need help. And he always stops to help them. Eventually, Artaban gives away all his precious stones. As the story ends, Artaban is old and poor. He has never realized his dream to meet the King of Kings. But the story doesn't end here. One day Artaban is in Jerusalem. Authorities are about to execute a criminal. When Artaban sees the criminal, his heart skips a beat. Something tells him this is the King of Kings for whom he has been searching all his life. Artaban is heartbroken when he sees he can do nothing to help the King. Then something remarkable happens. Artaban hears the King's voice say to him: "Don't be broken-hearted, Artaban. You've been helping me all your life. When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was a stranger, you took me in"



This week at St. Augustine

Monday, January 8, 2024

12 Noon: Counters Luncheon
5:30 pm: Mass (Church)
6:00 pm: Rosary (Church)
6:00 pm: Lincoln Heights Block Club Meeting (Walsh)
7:00 pm: Liturgy Commission Meeting
7:30 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:30 am: AA Meeting (Walsh)5:30 pm: Mass (Church)6:00 pm: Rosary (Church)7:30 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)6:00 pm: Rosary (Church)6:00 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)6:30 pm: Signing Hands (Walsh Hall)

Thursday, January 11, 2024

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)6:00 pm Rosary (Church)6:30 pm: Signing Choir Practice (Walsh Hall)7:00 pm: Boy Scouts (School Building)7:30 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Friday, January 12, 2024

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)6:00 pm: Rosary (Church)7:30 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Saturday, January 13, 2024 11:00 am – 3:00 pm: Community Cupboard and Closet 4:15 pm: Mass (Church)

Sunday, January 14, 2024 8:30 am: Mass (Church) 9:30 am – 10:30 am: Parish School of Religion 11:00 am: Mass (Church) with Baptism

January 6 th and 7 th			
	Saturday: 4:15 PM	Sunday: 8:30 AM	Sunday: 11 AM
Priest Deacon	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ Deacon Chris DePenti (H)
Lectors	Michelle Rivera	Matthew Cook	Tom Smith Aaron Calton
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Helen Bencic Dave Dylyn	Maria Boyer Rob Owens	Rosanne Barnhart Tom Calton
	January	13 th and 14 th	
	Saturday: 4:15 PM	Sunday: 8:30 AM	Sunday: 11 AM
Priest Deacon	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S (H) Deacon Chris DePenti
Lectors	Dave Dylyn	Fran DiDonato	Kate Slosar Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Bob Duda Theresa Fallon Bonnie Robertson	Pat Abraham Debbie Sollars	Molly Cassidy Jeannie Rawlings