

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

*A Samaritan Church with a Missionary Heart*

2486 West 14th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
(216) 781-5530  
(216) 781-1124 Fax

**Website:** [www.StAugustineCleveland.Org](http://www.StAugustineCleveland.Org)

## Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 9 AM to 4 PM  
Saturday: 9 AM to 4 PM  
Sunday: 9 AM to 2 PM

## Community Cupboard and Closet:

Wednesdays: 5 PM to 7 PM  
Saturdays: 11 AM to 2 PM

## Mass Schedule:

Monday thru Friday: 5:30 PM  
(Civic holidays at 10 AM)

Saturday: 4:15 PM\*  
Sunday: 8:30 AM\* and 11 AM\*

\*Interpreted for the Deaf

**Confession:** Saturdays 3:30 PM – 4 PM or by appointment

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 4, 2022**



## Staff and Ministry Directory

For all Parish emails, add @StAugustineCleveland.org

Administrator/Chaplain to the Blind: Rev. William O'Donnell, C.P.P.S, *email:* WODonnell

Parochial Vicar/Chaplain to the Deaf: Rev. Ben Jimenez, SJ, *email:* BJimenez

Permanent Deacon: Chris DePenti, *email:* CDePenti@DioceseofCleveland.org

Parish Life Administrator: Bob Duda, *email:* BDuda

Finance Manager: Aldo Fierro, *email:* AFierro

Office Manager: Doris Everetts, *email:* DEveretts

Office Support: Kimberly Ambro, *email:* KAmbro

Director of Rainbow Camp and Volunteers: Jessica Neuhart, *email:* JNeuhart

Religious Education: Kathleen Ulintz, *email:* PSR

Deaf Access Co-Ordinator: Robin McMarlin, *email:* RMcMarlin

Deaf Ministry: *email:* DeafMinistry

Blind Ministry: *email:* BlindMinistry

Mental Health Ministry: *email:* MentalHealth

Outreach Ministry: *email:* Outreach

Augustine Rainbow Camp: *email:* ARC

Signing Choir: *email:* SigningChoir

General Information: *email:* Info

**Parish Registration** – Welcome new members! Please register by calling the parish office. Parishioners who are moving are asked to contact the office to update their information

**Baptism** – Baptisms may be scheduled at any time. Please call the parish office to make baptismal arrangements.

**Funerals** – Please call the parish office to schedule funerals prior to publishing any information.

**Matrimony** – Call the parish office to meet with a priest. Diocesan regulations require a minimum of 6 months preparation time.

**Care of the Sick** – Notify the parish office of those who are hospitalized or homebound. Arrangements can be made for pastoral visits, the Sacrament of the Anointing or the Sick. We can also bring Holy Communion to the homebound.



## Second Sunday of Advent

“Welcome one another,” Saint Paul commands us, “as Christ welcomed you.” Indeed, the Lord welcomes us here each Sunday as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. But let us not forget the first part, that we are also called to welcome one another. Moreover, as Paul welcomed Gentiles, and the wolf became a guest of the lamb, we are called to welcome those who are not like us: those coming from other cultures, speaking other languages, or expressing other viewpoints. Let us welcome all to this celebration.



### Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4:15 PM Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ	† Mary Ashdown
Sunday, Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> - 8:30 AM Fr. Joe McNulty.	† Jim and Marge Green
Sunday, Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> - 11 AM Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S	† Walter Duda
Monday, December 5 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	† Robin Zarembski
Tuesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM <i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	† William Farrell
Wednesday, December 7 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	† Valery Jean Dressler <i>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>
Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 AM	† Stella Januszczak Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <b>(Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	† Katherine Bryk Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <b>(Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
Friday, December 9 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	† Benefactors of St. Augustine
Saturday, December 10 <sup>th</sup> - 4:15 PM Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S	† Lorette Treska
Sunday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> - 8:30 AM Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ	† Michael Slaby
Sunday, Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> - 11 AM Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ	† Bob Fleck

### The Pope's Intention for December: For Volunteer not-for-profit organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



This weekend we welcome in Baptism Noelia Rivera. May the Light of Christ, given in Baptism, shine on Noelia forever. Amen!

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11- 12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3bc-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

### Welcome!

No matter what your present status 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 of holiness or virtue. You are invited, accepted, and respected here at St. Augustine Parish.

*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 loved  
And all are welcome.*

*Amen*



## Love Without Measure

“It is not over until the fat lady sings.” As unlikely as it might seem, this saying directly relates to the season of Advent, and to a spiritual attitude in which we should try to live each day of our lives. This saying is often attributed incorrectly to Yogi Berra, the manager of the New York Yankees. He probably receives credit because another of his sayings is close to it: “It’s not over until it’s over.”

Both of these sayings point to a truth: you are not going to know who wins the ballgame until the last out is made.

The saying about the fat lady does not originate in baseball. The full saying reveals its origin: “the opera is not over until the fat lady sings.” It reflects the common practice in classical opera that no matter what kind of twists or turns there are in the plot, the last scene is reserved to the soprano – usually a hefty woman of some presence who closes the opera with a dramatic opera. Therefore, what the saying tells us is that no matter how the story seems to be going, wait! There is still time. The opera is not over until the fat lady sings.

Now what does this have to do with Advent? Actually, quite a bit. Advent is about waiting. This is what the readings today tell us. We are waiting for the kingdom of God – a kingdom which Isaiah in today’s first reading as a kingdom on God’s holy mountain – a kingdom that is announced by a messiah which John the Baptist in the desert and the wilderness.

Advent is about waiting and so is life. Jesus has revealed to us a God who saves us, a God who will not abandon us, a God who has promised us life. But the promises of God are not accomplished in a day. Thus the stance for every believer each day of life, is to wait; to wait for God to act, to wait for God to fulfill God’s promises.

This is why it is such a mistake, such a tragedy when we conclude that things are finished, when we decide that we have come to the end of the line, when we decide that there is nothing more to wait for. Because if we conclude that things are ended before God has finished, then we rob ourselves of hope, and we rob ourselves of life.

Now when can we choose such false conclusions? It usually happens in the midst of heartache or disappointment. When we learn that a son or daughter is struggling with drug addiction, when a young couple is told they cannot conceive a child, when we find out we have to face divorce or the rejection of someone we love, when we have to mourn someone that we have lost in death, when someone is wrestling with issues of sexual orientation that we cannot understand or at this time accept, when a friend is the victim of abuse or violence, when the diagnosis comes back as cancer – in these moments of crisis, we are tempted to call the game, to throw in the towel, to conclude that things are over.

But the Christian is called not to give up but to wait. Because only God can say when the story is finished.

The attitude of waiting is really the fundamental stance of the believer. It applies not only to the crises in our lives, but also in everyday disappointments. When someone forgets our birthday, when our back begins to ache, when our children cannot come home for Christmas, it is easy to conclude that we should just write it off as a loss and give in to sadness. But the gospel then instead calls us to wait, to see what God will do next. Because as long as there is another scene, anything can happen. As long as God still has room to act, there is hope.

So the next time you have to face a major crisis, or a small disappointment, don’t throw in the towel. Don’t give up. Wait! Watch what will happen next. We believe that God is still at work, so give God time to act. Don’t presume that because we have screwed up our lives are a waste or a failure. When I hear confessions I often tell the penitent that the reconciliation possible is often with what we have done good, our personal holiness always found in the messiness of life. When we lose sight of this we lose perspective. God has promised us a happy ending. It is not over until the fat lady sings and God is the only one to tell her to take the stage. Until the final curtain falls, any good thing can still happen. Thanks be to God.

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### Feast of the Immaculate Conception



This Thursday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This dogma proclaims that our Blessed Mother was conceived without original sin. It refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother Anne. The relevance of this feast for us is to see in Mary an example of what God can do in a person and what we can do, if we put ourselves in God’s hands and at God’s service as Mary did. It is the patronal feast of the USA and a Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule will be: **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM and Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and 5:30 PM.** All the Masses will be interpreted for the Deaf.

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### Christmas Flowers



If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one by donating toward the Christmas flowers used to decorate the church, please clearly mark “Christmas Flowers” on an envelope. The envelope can then be put in the collection basket or dropped off at the office. If you would like your loved one’s name recognized in the bulletin (between Christmas & New Year) please clearly make “In memory of (loved one’s name) on the envelope. These need to be submitted by December 19, 2022.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

This annual collection was established by the US Bishops in 1988 to help address the profound shortage in retirement savings by US Religious communities of women and men. The collection will be taken at next weekend's Masses (December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>). Your generosity helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities religious communities need to care for their elderly members. Please use the special envelope in today's bulletin.

## Job Opening

We are accepting applications for a full time Director of Liturgy and Music as defined by the Second Vatican Council. The appropriate candidate will be a trained in Catholic Liturgy and Sacraments, a competent church organist, develops and directs the Church Choir and helps support through music the growth of church ministries to be welcoming and inclusive, a central dimension of our parish mission. Interested applicants should contact Bob Duda at BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org or (216) 781-5530 ext. 31.

## Pray the Rosary



We invite you to join us **every weeknight** (Monday thru Friday) at **6 PM** in Church as we pray the rosary. If you are unable to join us in person, we encourage you to join us on livestream

## St. Augustine Signing Choir Christmas Concerts



Members of the Signing Choir have been working hard over the last several months in preparation for their annual Christmas Concerts.

For many years the Choir would travel to various nursing homes throughout the area during the Christmas season. Due to Covid, many of the nursing homes are limiting outside activities in order to keep their residents safe. This year, the Choir has decided to perform at various churches in the community. If you are unable to make their **performance at St. Augustine on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 2 PM** in the church, please consider supporting their ministry by attending one of the following performances.

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
St. Wendelin Catholic Church  
2281 Columbus Road, Cleveland

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
St. Brendan Catholic Church  
4242 Brendan Lane, North Olmsted

## St. Augustine Seniors

50 and over

St. Augustine Seniors will gather on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon in Walsh Hall. New members are always welcome

## St. Augustine Buckey Deaf Seniors

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors will gather in the Deaf Center on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM for their regular meeting. New members are always welcome.

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who took the time to sign Christmas cards for the veterans and our active military. Approximately 2000 cards were sent or delivered to veterans homes, hospital, and active military.

I really appreciate all who made the holidays more pleasant for our "Heroes."

Gratefully,  
Helen Bencic



## Parish School of Religion

St. Augustine's Parish School of Religion is currently registering students for faith formation and sacramental preparation.

**Classes continue this MONDAY from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.**

Students from pre-school through eighth grade are welcome.

Visit St. Augustine Parish website at [www.StAugustineCleveland.org](http://www.StAugustineCleveland.org), email us at [PSR@staugustinecleveland.org](mailto:PSR@staugustinecleveland.org), or call the parish office at (216) 781-5530 for more information.

## The artist's reconciliation

Leonardo da Vinci painted the fresco (wall painting), "The Last Supper," in Santa Maria delle Grazie church in Milan in three years (1495-1498). A very interesting story is associated with this painting. At the time that Leonardo da Vinci painted "The Last Supper," he had an enemy who was a fellow-painter. Da Vinci had had a bitter argument with this man and despised him. When Da Vinci painted the face of Judas Iscariot at the table with Jesus, he used the face of his enemy so that it would be present for ages as the man who betrayed Jesus. While painting this picture, he took delight in knowing that others would actually notice the face of his enemy on Judas. As he worked on the faces of the other disciples, he often tried to paint the face of Jesus but couldn't make any progress. Da Vinci felt frustrated and confused.

*In time, he realized what was wrong. His hatred for the other painter was holding him back from finishing the face of Jesus. Only after making peace with his fellow-painter and repainting the face of Judas was he able to paint the face of Jesus and complete his masterpiece. Be reconciled with your fellow human beings, says today's Gospel.*



Cursillistas will gather for Ultreya on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** in Walsh Hall. 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.

## Organ Restoration Update

Restoration on our organ continues to progress nicely and is still on schedule for a January 2023 completion. New photos and videos have been posted to the website. You can view the progress at, <https://www.staugustinecleveland.org/organ-restoration>.

With the anticipated completion rapidly approaching, we have posted an organist job on various diocesan sites. For more information, please see the Job Opening announcement in this week's bulletin.

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## Stewardship of Treasure

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. The collection for the weekend of November 27, 2022 was \$2,275.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Inspiration for the Week

The God in whom we believe is "the God of endurance and encouragement." Have you ever thought about God in those terms? Our sight can become limited by the concerns of the world and our individual lives. We can look to the past and see what is happening in the present, but the future is primarily left to our imaginations. God has a clear vision for the future. It is one where the "wolf shall be a guest of the lame and the leopard shall lie down with the kid." It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one. We can see the complete picture of life in God. We see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become. Preparing the way for the Lord means moving beyond the limitations of ideology, time, space, preference, and self-focused concern so that we can see as God sees. God will give us what we need to endure whatever comes, and the encouragement we need to get where we can be.

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## Sunday Thought

On this Second Sunday of Advent, Saint John the Baptist reminds us that if we hope to receive the Lord Jesus into our lives, change will be necessary. Our conversion must always be tempered with Hope...the hope that we can be different. Hope is certainly one of the greatest themes of Advent and should be one of the greatest themes of our lives. We must cherish the hope for the future when the Kingdom of God will be fully established on the earth. We must also long for the hope of our near future when with the assistance of God's grace, we will gradually be transformed more and more into His likeness. One hope lives within the other hope like a circle within a circle. Ultimately, one day these two hopes will be joined into one final and eternal peace.



We live stream the Saturday 4:15 PM Mass, the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, and the weekday Rosary on the parish website, Facebook Page, and YouTube Channel. A live audio feed will be available for the Saturday 4:15 PM Mass the 11 AM Sunday

Mass, and the praying of the Rosary. To access the audio feed, please call (216) 270-6331 prior to mass and enter code 2020 when prompted.

## Little Amal

"... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3: 1-12



She has been pelted with stones in Greece, blessed by the pope at the Vatican, and danced with children from Paris to New York. The center of such attention: a 12-foot-tall puppet. The puppet's name is Little Amal. Amal depicts a 10-year-old Syrian refugee. She's the creation of the renowned Handspring Puppet Company.

Handspring created Amal to highlight the plight of millions of displaced people, especially children, who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence and persecution. Operated by four puppeteers, Little Amal began her walk across Europe in the summer of 2021, shortly after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan that spurred a migration crisis in Europe. Since then, Amal has traveled to Turkey, Greece, Rome and France, as well as meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Poland. This September, Amal spent 19 days touring New York, before going on to Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Amal has been seen by more than one million people in 85 cities in 12 countries and has covered almost 6,000 miles. Wherever Amal appears, thousands of people, especially children, come to walk and dance and have their pictures taken with her. Amal has also raised thousands of dollars for food, shelter, medical services and educational opportunities for refugee children. A few places would not let Amal in their community, protesting the presence of a "Muslim doll from Syria" (Amal's religion has never been specified). At a few of her appearances, people pelted Little Amal with eggs and fruit — and even stones. But for the most part, Amal is welcomed with song and gifts for the most vulnerable among us. Her presence is an invitation to embrace the meaning her name — "Amal" is Arabic for hope. [The New York Times, September 15 and 24, 2022; CNN, September 28, 2022.]

*"Amal" and her creators are "John the Baptizers" in these days of war and violence against innocent children; Amal reminds us of our responsibility to the displaced and marginalized. In our Advent care of others, we "proclaim" (the Greek word for "prophet") the presence of God in our midst in our simple and ordinary acts of compassion, mercy and justice. This Advent calls us all to be to be signs of hope, revealing God's presence in the darkest times, enabling miracles of resurrection to take place here and now.*

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## Congratulations!

Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf recently held their officer elections and we are thankful to the following individuals who stepped forward to be an officer.

Jeannie Rawlings: President  
Karen Halupnik: Vice-President  
Maria Rivera: Treasurer  
Kate Slosar: Secretary

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## Say It in Sign

The sign language class for beginners will meet this Wednesday at 4:30 PM in the Deaf Center.



The **St. Augustine Community Cupboard** is open on **Saturdays** from **11 AM - 2 PM** and **Wednesdays** from **5 PM - 7 PM**.

As we continue to serve the needs of our neighbors, we are seeking volunteers to assist in restocking shelves and assisting shoppers on the days we are open. In addition, we are in need of the following items:

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Toilet Paper      | Canned Meat               |
| Paper Towels      | Ketchup                   |
| Laundry Detergent | Mustard                   |
| Dish Soap         | Mayo                      |
| Coffee            | Dog Food                  |
| Tea               | Deodorant (Men and Women) |
| Sugar             | Hand Soap (Pump Bottles)  |
| Creamer           | Body Wash (Men and Women) |
| Flour             | Shampoo                   |
| Kleenex           | Boxed Potatoes            |

We have also created an **Amazon Wish List** which can be found on our parish website, [www.StAugustineCleveland.org](http://www.StAugustineCleveland.org).

For more information, please contact the parish office by calling (216) 781-5530.

### Family Perspective

Like John the Baptist, every parent “prepares the way of the Lord” in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask; “Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?”

### Out of the Office

This past week Doris began a three-month medical leave. Please keep her in your prayers during this time. Should you need something that she usually handles, please contact the parish office and they can direct your inquiry to the proper person.

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
3 PM Sensory Friendly Mass	10 AM
5 PM*	
9 PM*	

\*Livestreamed

All Masses will be interpreted for the Deaf Community.

### Help Wanted

Free training. Convenient hours. No pay- but the benefits are out of this world. One of the reasons we come to Mass is to be united with Christ, and the best way to be one with Him is through Holy Communion. Which we cannot receive without Eucharistic Ministers. In other words.....we need you!! If you are feeling called to join this vital ministry, please contact Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 or at [BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org](mailto:BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org)

**Thank You!**  
**#WeGiveCatholic**

Thank you to all who supported our #WeGiveCatholic cause this past Tuesday. Your care and concern for those in need and on the margins raised funds for our Community Cupboard and Closet.



### Time for RCIA Invitations

Each year we have a number of individuals receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. That is made possible because of our parishioners who invited them or suggested their names. We are hoping for your help again as we form the next class of 2023. So, if you know someone who ... has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic, or was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, please let us know. We come together in a small group to learn more about our faith through study, reflection, sharing, discussions and prayer. For more information or to give a name, please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

### 2023 Mass Book

The 2023 Mass Book is now available for parishioners requesting Mass intention for the year 2023. Mass requests can be made by contacting the parish office or by mail. Please include your name, address and phone number on your request so that we can contact you if any adjustments need to be made.

### On the Lighter Side

“Hi Marge, how was your experience with the aerobic class for seniors?” Marge replied: “I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for over an hour, but by the time I got my new tights on, the class was over.” 😊

### Community Closet



Our Community Closet allows individuals to come and “shop” for clothing, bedding, and footwear items.

The Community Closet is open on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 PM and on Saturdays from 11 AM to 2 PM.

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

### More Help Wanted

Did you know that the Mass is actually a double communion with Christ? Through the Eucharist, of course, and through the Word. And you can help!!

By proclaiming the scripture readings at Mass, our Lectors make it possible for us all to have a personal encounter with God.

Sound interesting to you? If you are feeling called to join this vital ministry, please contact Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 or at [BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org](mailto:BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org).

### Catholic Blind Community

Members of the Cleveland Catholic Blind Community will gather on Sunday, January 8, 2023. For more information, please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

## Theology on the Rocks West For Adults 40 and Over

The next Theology on the Rocks West will be on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at LaCentre (25777 Detroit Road, Westlake)

Fr. Joe Koopman, Professor of Moral Theology at St. Mary's Seminary will discuss the Social, Ethical and Moral issues of Bioethics.

Cost is \$15 per person which includes light appetizers and refreshments. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Pay online or at the door. Register in advance at: [theologyontherockswest.com](http://theologyontherockswest.com)

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### St. Ambrose

Feast Day: December 7<sup>th</sup>



Saint Ambrose was born to an aristocratic Roman Christian family in 339 in what is now Trier, Germany. One popular legend tells of a swarm of bees alighting on the infant Ambrose's face and leaving behind a drop of honey which his father took as a sign that Ambrose would be an eloquent speaker with a "honeyed tongue."

Ambrose was educated in law and rhetoric in Rome. Like his father, he went into public service and was

made governor of Liguria and Emilia about 373. In the second year of his governorship, he went to moderate the election of the bishop of Milan because the heretical Arians were challenging the succession. Unbaptized and untrained in theology, Ambrose was called by popular acclamation to be the bishop. Though he attempted to flee, he was found and within a week he was baptized, ordained, and consecrated bishop on December 7, 374.

As bishop, Ambrose studied scripture and the writings of Church fathers, he gave his property and wealth to the poor, and became an impactful orator, hymn writer, and renowned teacher. He highly praised consecrated virginity, likely influenced by his sister who took the veil. A contemporary with St. Martin of Tours, he also defended the faith against the Arian heresy (which questioned Christ's divinity), and against the state. Ambrose required Emperor Theodosius do public penance after the massacre of Thessalonica. His classic education contributed to his writings and sermons which attracted and converted St. Augustine of Hippo who St. Ambrose baptized.

Saint Ambrose is one of four original doctors of the Church. He died in 397 in Milan, Italy. He remains can be seen today at the Basilica di Saint' Ambrogio, where he lays with Saint Gervasus and Saint Protasus.

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### Parish Breakfast

With the expected completion of the church renovation, we will resume our complimentary Parish Breakfast on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 1 PM.

## Christmas Sensory Friendly Mass

Next Sunday (November 20<sup>th</sup>) we will celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King- the last Sunday of our current Church Year. The following Sunday (November 27<sup>th</sup>) we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Before you know it, we will be celebrating Christ's birth.

This year, we will have a sensory friendly Mass on Christmas Eve at 3 PM. A sensory friendly Mass helps individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or even persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia feel they a part of the body of Christ by meeting their needs. A sensory friend Mass is usually shorter, doesn't have music, and calmer lighting.

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### Prophets on Martha's Vineyard

A small Episcopal Church on Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts found itself suddenly thrust into the national spotlight. You may remember the story: On September 14, without warning, the administration of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis sent 48 Venezuelan migrants on the summer resort town of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. With no warning that the migrants were coming, church and community leaders banded together to do something "miraculous." For two days the parishioners of St. Andrew's provided shelter for the migrants, which included several children, in their parish house. Other churches sent food and clothing; volunteers provided legal counsel and medical and dental services. Spanish-speaking students from the local high school served as interpreters for the migrants and played ball with the kids in the church parking lot. The people of Martha's Vineyard provided for the migrants' basic needs until they could move to a Cape Cod military facility where accommodations, legal services and health care were set up for them.

While a number of wealthy and powerful families own summer homes on Martha's Vineyard, for many year-round residents, life on the island is a struggle. Affordable housing is hard to come by; for folks who work seasonal jobs, making ends meet is a challenge. One reason St. Andrew's could respond to the migrants so quickly is because the parish operates a homeless shelter during the winter months. The migrants sent to Martha's Vineyard are among a wave of immigrants from Central and South America that has stressed America's already overloaded asylum system. They come to America to escape the dangerous social and economic instability in their countries.

*The good people of St. Andrew's saw these migrants as human beings, traumatized and hurting sisters and brothers in the Christ who forms them as a Church. And, to God's glory, they responded accordingly. The good people of Martha's Vineyard take their Baptisms seriously; the "tree" that is their parish, rooted in Gospel charity and compassion, produced "good fruit" worthy of God, the Planter. Their rallying to the plight of the migrants was a "prophetic" response, making crooked roads straight and rocky paths level by their compassionate generosity and humble giving. We have many opportunities in our own everyday lives to be prophets of God's love, to be John the Baptist and Isaiah in our homes and businesses and schools, proclaiming in our own time and place that the peace and justice of God have dawned*



### The Hound of Heaven

One of the greatest Christian poems of all time was written by Francis Thompson, a British poet from the late 19th -early 20th century. He had a difficult life: his career in medicine was a failure; his rift with his father forced him into homelessness for years; his addiction to opium was a life-long plague. Both his circumstances and

his sins made his life miserable. Yet, his greatest work, an autobiographical poem called, "The Hound of Heaven," tells about a God who refuses to abandon even the most determined sinner. In it, the protagonist is madly searching for happiness in all the wrong places. During the search, he is being relentlessly pursued by a hunting dog, a hound. The hound is a symbol of God, who loves us too much ever to give up on us. God is like a well-trained hunting dog, a hound that is on our trail, and nothing we can do will ever shake him off! The poem begins with a description of the poet's flight from God and his vain search for happiness in other things: "I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; / I fled Him, down the arches of the years; / I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways / Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears / I hid from Him, and under running laughter." But at the end, when he has nowhere else to run to, the hound catches up to him and says, "Rise, clasp My hand, and come! ...Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest, I am He Whom thou seekest! Thou drivest love from thee, who drivest Me."

*Nothing we do can lessen God's love for us: He is faithful, and His hand is always outstretched to save us from ourselves. Advent is the time of preparation to return to the "Hound of Heaven" by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives.*

### Week's Events of the Parish

- Monday: Parish School of Religion: 5:30 PM (School Building)  
Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)  
Rosary: 6 PM (Church)  
AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Tuesday: AA Meeting: 9:30 AM (Walsh Hall)  
Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)  
Rosary: 6 PM (Church)  
AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Wednesday: Community Cupboard: 5 PM-7PM  
Community Closet: 5 PM-7 PM  
LINKS: 3 PM (Walsh Hall)  
Sign Class for Beginners: 4:30 PM (Deaf Center)  
Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)  
Rosary: 6 PM (Church)  
AA Meeting: 6 PM (Mylott Hall)  
Signing Choir Performance: 6:30 PM (St. Wendelin)  
Signing Hands: 6:30 PM (Deaf Center)
- Thursday: Mass: 10 AM (Church) *Holy Day of Obligation*  
Mass: 5:30 PM (Church) *Holy Day of Obligation*  
Rosary: 6 PM (Church)  
Boy Scouts: 6:30 PM (Second Floor)  
AA Meeting: 7 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Friday: LINKS: 3 PM (Walsh Hall)  
Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)  
AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Saturday: Community Cupboard: 11 AM – 2 PM  
Community Closet: 11 AM – 2 PM  
RCIA for the Deaf: 11 AM (Parish Offices)  
Signing Choir Concert: 2 PM (Church)  
Mass: 4:15 PM (Church)
- Sunday: Mass: 8:30 AM and 11 AM (Church)

<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></b>			
	<b>Saturday 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>
<b>Priest Deacon</b>	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Joe McNulty Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S Deacon Chris DePenti (H)
<b>Lectors</b>	Michelle Rivera	Debbie Sollars	Jean Mendis John Kowalchik
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Dave Dylyn Helen Bencic	Eddie Reyes Pat Abraham Bob Duda	Jeannie Rawlings Molly Cassidy
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup></b>			
	<b>Saturday 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>
<b>Priest Deacon</b>	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S (H) Deacon Chris DePenti	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)
<b>Lectors</b>	Migdalia Santiago-White	Peggy Gerovac	Tom Smith Priscilla Treska
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Theresa Ortiz Michelle Rivera	Leo Smith Maria Rivera Debbie Sollars	Kate Slosar Nora Kowalchik Rosanne Barnhart