

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF

St. Augustine

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



December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent



*"One mightier than I
is coming after me."*

-Mk 1:7a

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil: 4:15 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am
All Masses are Interpreted for the Deaf

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday: 5:30 pm
Civic Holidays: 10:00 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.

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.P.P.S | WilliamODonnell49@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar/Chaplain to the Deaf Community

Rev. Ben Jimenez, SJ | Bjimenez@StAugustineCleveland.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.org

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

Sunday | 2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8);
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Monday | St. Damasus I, Pope

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14;
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday | Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt
13:18abcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday | St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday | St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt
11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday | 3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is
61:10b); 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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
Irene Kingery
Sheila Rock.

Patti Cook
Ella McGowan
Mary Smith

JoAnn Fisher
Fr. Joe McNulty
Mary Solderitsch

Mike Furey
Nora Orozco

Susan Grieken
Bridget Patton

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, December 9

4:15 pm † Tom Ody

Sunday, December 10

8:30 am † Lorette Treska

11:00 am † Claire Cocklin

Monday, December 11

5:30 pm † Catherine Roberts

Tuesday, December 12

5:30 pm † LuLu Gonzalez

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 pm † Anthony and Louise Bartone

Thursday, December 14

5:30 pm † Florence Seifert

Friday, December 15

5:30 pm † Wilfredo Colon

Saturday, December 16

4:15 pm † Jack McMarlin

Sunday, December 17

8:30 am † Members of our Parish Family

11:00 am † William Farrell

† Deceased



Retirement Fund for Religious

This special annual collection is being taken up this weekend.

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need or with health issues. For most of their lives, the elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions. Many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Monetary donations will also assist with medications, nursing care, and so much more.

Please give as you are able to those who have given a lifetime."

Offertory—December 3rd

Regular Collection	\$2,667.55
E-Giving	220.00
Total Collection	\$2,887.55

Counter Team D is scheduled for Monday

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.StAugustineCleveland.org and click donate.

Thank you for your financial support.



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 aria. 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 saw 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.



Fr. Bill

Around the Parish & Events

Parish Breakfast

Whether you are a long-time parishioner, a new member of our parish family, or just visiting, you are invited to a complimentary parish breakfast next Sunday (December 17th) from 9 AM until 1 PM in Walsh Hall (basement of school building).

We hope that you will be able to join us for food and fellowship.

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. Participants will not gather this Monday, December 11th. Classes will resume on Monday, December 18, 2023 from 10 AM until 11:30 AM in Walsh Hall.

For more information please contact Emily at (216) 641-0640 or by email, emily@broadwayschool.org or Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 or BDuda@StAugustineCleveland.org.

Handbell Choir



The Handbell Choir is looking for a 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



**In anticipation of the birth of Christ,
we are seeking some angels**

**that are willing to help us decorate the Church on
Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 PM.**

**Any help that you can give would be greatly
appreciated.**

Say It In Sign

The sign language classes for beginners will resume this Thursday at 2:30 PM. For more information, please contact Robin McMarlin at (216) 781-5530 ext. 29 or at RMcMarlin@StAugustineCleveland.org

St. Augustine Signing Choir

The St. Augustine Signing Choir has been busy preparing for their performances during the Christmas season. This year they will be spreading the Christmas cheer throughout the greater Cleveland area.

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

Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf

Members of Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf will gather for an Advent reflection this Sunday, on December 17th.

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors will gather in the Deaf Center this Tuesday, December 12th at 10 AM. New members are always welcome.

Blind Community Gathering

Our next gathering will be held this Thursday, December 14th at 12 Noon in Walsh Hall.

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.

St. Augustine Seniors (50 and over)

You are invited to our Christmas gathering this Thursday, December 14th at 12 noon in Walsh Hall.

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


Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee's next meeting this Monday, December 11th at 7 PM in Walsh Hall.

For more information on the Committee please contact Bill Shaffer at (216) 781-5530, ext 18 or by email at BShaffer@staugustinecleveland.org.

Around the Parish & Events

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 write "In memory of with you loved one's name and place in the envelope. These need to be submitted by December 22, 2023.

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.**



Christmas Mass Schedule



This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the same day as Christmas Eve, with Christmas on Monday.

Please note our Mass schedule for

the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, December 23rd

4:15 PM and

and

Sunday, December 24th at 10 AM

(we will not have an 8:30 AM or 11 AM Mass)

Christmas Eve Mass:

4 PM

9 PM

Christmas Day Mass:

10 AM

All Masses will be interpreted for the Deaf

Community Closet and Cupboard Highlights by the Numbers

♦ *Served 1,212 families in the month of September, 826 in the month of October and **858 in the month of November.***

♦ *In the month of September we helped 231 new families, during the month of October 162 **and in November 168 new customers came to us in need.***

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



On the Lighter Side



Son: Dad, I turn 16 in a few months and would really like a car for my birthday.

Father: Well son, I'll make a deal with you. If you do three things for me, I'll get you the car. First, you need to improve your grades. Second, I want you to see you in church every Sunday. And finally, I want you to cut your long hair.

A FEW MONTHS PASS

Son: Dad, next week is my birthday and I've done everything you asked. Can I get a car?

Father: I did notice you got straight A's on your report card and I've seen you at church every Sunday. But you didn't cut you hair. I told you to cut your hair.

Son: I wanted to talk to you about that. In church I learned that Moses, John the Baptist, and Jesus all had long hair.

Father: Yes they did. And they walked everywhere they went."

Parenting Tune-Up



What does it mean to conceive a child? Whether you are the mother or father, it means your life is forever changed. It is the start of enduring love and sacrifice for another being put in your care. Pause today and ponder your creative role

Relationship Tune-Up



Are you ready? It's a common question as Christmas approaches, but these are sobering times with natural disasters multiplying and the threat of nuclear war present. Being ready depends on how you live today. Make today a day worthy of your life. Talk this over with your beloved.



Our Parish School of Religion for children in Pre-K thru 8th grade continues this Sunday 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.



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.

Pray the Rosary

We invite you to join us **every Monday through 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 our live-stream.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap invites All Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to join Sister John Paul, OP, from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. How can we continue to hope during difficult times? How can the season of Advent help us grow in hope? Join us as we dive into this and more on Tuesday, December 19th at 7pm at Forest City Brewery. Registration is available at dioceseofcleveland.org/totcle or you may pay at the door (\$5). For questions, please contact totclewest@gmail.com

Young prophets

On a downtown sidewalk in Dover, N.H., Megan Merrigan and Eleanor Gorman set up their display of alcoholic beverage cans. One beer can has a fish-covered design suggests the 2003 animated feature film Finding Nemo. Another can, with its sugar-high red and blue hues, looks like it contains a frozen "Slushie" drink rather than hard cider. Other cans advertise fruity flavors in the hard seltzers that have recently boomed in popularity. Megan and Eleanor, both 12, explain to passers-by their concern that this colorful packaging makes alcohol attractive to unknowing kids. About 40 other middle and high school students join them on the sidewalk in an event organized by "Dover Youth 2 Youth," an after-school drug prevention program with ties to the city's police department. They wave signs, chant about "Big Alcohol," and even hold a press conference in which kids field questions. The Dover group is concerned that kids are more likely to try alcohol products that are marketed as "sugary and fun." The kids themselves are the ones scanning store shelves and identifying which drinks jump out to them, explains Vicki Harris, the "Youth 2 Youth" coalition coordinator. The students plan to share their concerns with the New Hampshire Liquor State Commission. They will ask the commission to keep at least one product, Hard Mountain Dew, away from store shelves in New Hampshire because it's too similar to what they view as a soft drink for teens. Makers of these drinks insist their labeling meets government standards and are clearly marketed to adults 21 and old. "Our intention is to have fun labels that adults can relate to and not market to underage persons," one craft brewer says. However, Megan, Eleanor, and friends say that's the problem: the "fun labels" are attracting kids. So they will continue to raise concerns about the marketing of these drinks to their peers. It's an issue we may well be hearing more about in coming months. [The Boston Globe, July 14, 2023.]

Prophets in the spirit of John the Baptizer exist along our own Jordan Rivers. Megan and Eleanor and their friends are true "prophets" in their calling beverage makers accountable for the effects their advertising and packaging has on kids. To be a prophet of God's justice begins with embracing God's vision of what the world can and should become and then giving oneself totally and unreservedly to realizing that vision. In Baptism, each one of us has been called by God to the work of the "prophet," using whatever talents and skills we possess to transform the wastelands around us into harvests of justice and forgiveness, to create highways for God to enter and re-create our world in his compassion and peace.

Reflections & Calendar

This week at St. Augustine

250 Years of waiting for the New Class!!!

At the 250th anniversary of the founding of Harvard University, the students marched in a torchlight procession. The most memorable group was the Freshman Class, one month old, which emerged with a gigantic banner reading, "The University Has Been Waiting 250 Years for Us."

The New Testament presents Jesus Christ and exclaims that all the ages have been waiting for His arrival, that all history has been preparing for His coming. We are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas. Christmas is the time for reflection and personal renewal in preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives. Through the section of his letter which we read today, St. Peter reminds us, on the one hand, of God's great desire to come into our lives and, on the other, of our need to be prepared for that event when it happens. We want God's help and comfort, but we are not always prepared to change our ways to enhance genuine conversion. For God to come to us, we also need to go to Him. We need to let every day become Christmas and the "Day of the Lord" for each one of us.



Knights of Columbus #4217 Meet and Greet with Santa

The Knights of Columbus invite children (infant to 12 years of age) to a Meet and Greet with Santa this Sunday, December 10th at approximately 12:15 pm at St. John Cantius Church Hall, 906 College Ave. (Downstairs in the School Building). There will be snacks, drinks and a special surprise from Santa.

Monday, December 11, 2023

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)
6:00 pm: Rosary (Church)
6:00 pm Lincoln Heights Block Club (Walsh Hall)
7:00 pm: Liturgy Committee (Walsh Hall)
7:30 pm: AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

3:00 pm: LINKS (Walsh)
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, December 14, 2023

2:30 pm: Sign Class (Conference Room)
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, December 15, 2023

3:00 pm: LINKS (Walsh Hall)
5:30 pm: Mass (Church)
6:00 pm Rosary (Church)
7:30 pm AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Saturday, December 16, 2023

11:00 am – 3:00 pm: Community Cupboard and Closet
4:15 pm Mass (Church)

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:30 am: Mass (Church)
9:00 am to 1 pm: Parish Breakfast (Walsh Hall)
11:00 am Mass (Church)

December 9th and 10th

	Saturday: 4:15 PM	Sunday: 8:30 AM	Sunday: 11 AM
Priest Deacon	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S (H) Deacon Chris DePenti	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)
Lectors	Ann Ertle	Robin McMarlin	Kate Slosar Aaron Calton
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Theresa Fallon Patti Gabb Lin Janson	Marissa Davilla Joe Lewandowski	Dawn Dingledein Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA Karen Halupnik

December 16th and 17th

	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.P.P.S (H) Deacon Chris DePenti
Lectors	Rick Toth	Fran DiDonato	Karen Halupnik Christina Howard
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Theresa Ortiz Michelle Rivera Calvin White	Pat Abraham Dave Murray Debbie Sollars	Nora Kowalchik Jean Mendis