St. Augustine

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



DECEMBER 31, 2023
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. -Lk 2:40

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.

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!

Scripture Readings for the Week

Amen

Sunday | The Holy Family

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 | Solemnity of Mary

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday | Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday | The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Friday | St. John Neumann

1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday

1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

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

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.

Susan Grieken Dorothy Barr Patti Cook IoAnn Fisher Mike Furev Ella McGowan Nora Orozco Bridget Patton Andrea Slosar Fr. Joe McNulty Richard Slosar Sheila Rock. Mary Smith Mary Solderitsch Millie Vargas Syl 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, December 30

4:15 pm † Manuel Santiago, Sr.

Sunday, December 31

8:30 am † Angela Faith 11:00 am † Marge Stark

Monday, January 1

† Donnell Treska Williams 10:00 am

Tuesday, January 2

† Pat Field 5:30 pm

Wednesday, January 3

5:30 pm † Terry Klima

Thursday, January 4

5:30 pm † Wayne Zart

Friday, January 5

5:30 pm † Jeanne Dunnell

Saturday, January 6

4:15 pm † Leo and Dorothy Bender

Sunday, January 7

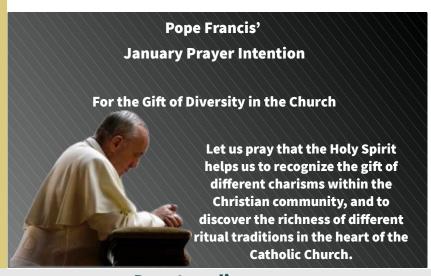
8:30 am † Jim and Marge Green † Belinda Davenport 11:00 am

† Deceased

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord



Belinda Davenport Member of RCIA and Member of our Deaf Community



Offertory— December 24th and 25th

Regular Collection \$2,733.00 Christmas \$2,412.00 Other Collections \$111.00 **Total Collection** \$5,256.00

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.

Counter Team C is scheduled

Love Without Measure...

The Holy Family was a refugee family. There is little doubt about this. We hear in the gospel for the Feast of Holy Family that King Herod was determined to kill the Christ Child. So, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the child. Joseph does so and remained in Egypt until the death of Herod. This means that the first year of Jesus' life, he was forced to flee his own country because of political oppression. What would have happened if the Holy Family had been turned away from the border in Egypt and sent back to Herod? Would Herod have been successful in his desire to kill Jesus before he could begin his ministry and win our salvation? Of course, we do not know the answer to that question. But we should always be grateful to the Egyptians as we ponder the Christmas story for protecting the Holy Family.

As we celebrate this holy season, I wish I could tell you that there is no longer any need for people to flee their own country. But we all know that is not true, in fact, the plight of refugees is greater than it has been for centuries. In our world today there are nearly 85 million people who have been displaced from their homes because of war or crisis. This is the largest number of displaced persons since the Second World War. Over half of that number of people who are fleeing the war in Ukraine, combat in Syria, southern Sudan and many countries of Central and South America. They like the Holy Family are fleeing political violence in an effort to save themselves and their families.

This harsh and tragic reality brushes up against our lives during the Christmas Season as we seek to be of help to Ukrainian refugees. Last year, on Christmas Eve I spoke with an older Ukrainian lady making her way through the snow and blistering cold from our cupboard, closet and Christmas Present Center with bags filled for her family. She recently arrived with children as she left her husband behind to fight. She also told me that the weather was much more difficult at home than in Cleveland. As she walked away she said, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you."

One might ask and I am sure some are, "Why are you bringing up these horrible statistics to our attention now?" The lights are still on the Christmas trees! The poinsettias have not yet begun to wilt, and you are talking to us about refugees. I am. I am doing so because I want to keep Christ in Christmas. The Christmas Season is more than exchanging gift and gathering with family and friends. If Jesus is the reason for the season, we should know Christ's teachings and follow them. What we discover is that the issue of refugees is very high on Jesus' agenda. In the Great Judgment Scene in Matthew's gospel, Jesus presents us with six issues that will concern him on the Last Day. The first three are these, "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Jesus puts out treatment of those who displaced right up there with food and drink. This makes welcoming refugees central to our responsibilities.

Like, many I hope, I was deeply saddened by the political gamesmanship of the Governor of Texas, a Catholic I am told, for delivering hundreds of refugees from Texas to the front door of the home of the Vice President on Christmas Eve. Using refuges as political pawns cries out for justice. We can do so much better, Our faith demands so much better.

This same commitment to welcome the stranger applies to those who we would choose in our time to judge or condemn or push away from our table and hearts due to the newest group or persons we have chosen to reject. I think of the members of the LGBT+ community. How can we be so hostile to these our bothers and sisters and reject those we know so little about. Did you know that the word "homosexual" did not enter European and western vocabulary until the end of the 19th Century. Same sex orientation is a great mystery and has been present from the beginning of recorded history. Why would we not as loving people, as our faith requires, presume goodness instead of condemnation. People for the most part are good and trying to find their way in life.

Have you been around long enough to remember when we condemned divorce and rejected the divorced as a mandate of our faith? When in time of great stress and personal difficulty we should be supportive and caring, we have done the opposite.

The same applied to people of other faith traditions; judgment with such little knowledge. Approaching life as if our way is the only way will create a world isolated and lonely. Christ invites us to open our eyes to the wonders all around us, people on a different road but holy and beautiful nonetheless. The flight of the Holy Family continues in our world today.

Around the Parish & Events

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 resume this Monday, January 8, 2024 from 10 AM until 11:30 AM in Walsh Hall.

Handbell Choir



The Handbell Choir is looking for a 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

Throughout the Advent season the Signing Choir traveled to several nursing homes and senior citizen buildings spreading Christmas cheer. They will be taking a short break and will resume practicing for various performances scheduled in the new year. New members are always welcome (knowledge of sign language is not required).

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 on 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 17th 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 on Thursday, January 11th 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



Christmas Flowers in Church are in Memory of



Forgotten Bob Bencic Rivera Family Dan Concepcion Florence Seifert **Emil Solderitsch** The Anderson Family **Kathy and Wally Duda** Sr. Mary Schrader, CSJ **John and Mary Schepis Tony and Marge Zingale Nathan Patrick McNulty Bob and Rosemary Moon Petro and Katharina Duda Chester and Theresa Ziemba** Henry, Esther, and Carol Oden **Raymond and Jeanette Rogalski Members of LINKS West Clubhouse Members of Cleveland Catholic Deaf Center Members of St. Augustine Blind Community** Members of Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf

Parenting Tune-Up



How will you celebrate today, the last day of 2023? Why not gather the family and remember the joys of the year (birthdays, accomplishments, milestones) and sorrows (deaths, hurts, mistakes).? End with a group hug and affirmations of loving support.

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 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



Two older men in a retirement village were chatting: "How do you really feel? I mean, you're 75 years old, how do you honestly feel?" The other one answered: "Honestly, I feel like a newborn baby. I've got no hair, no teeth, and I just peed myself."

Solemnity of Mary- January 1, 2024

Monday, January $1^{\rm st}$ is not only New Year's Day but also the Solemnity of Mary. Usually it is a Holy Day of Obligation, but because the Holy Day falls on a Monday in the New Year of 2024 the obligation to come to Mass on January $1^{\rm st}$ is lifted. So, we will only have one Mass on Monday, January $1^{\rm st}$ at 10:00 am (There will not be a 5:30 pm Mass)

Relationship Tune-Up

We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we start a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful today, to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your loved one, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together. Embrace.

Faith and Reflections



Our Parish School of Religion for children in Pre-K thru 8th will resume next 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 INeuhart@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 livestream

Can You See Salvation in Your Own Jerusalem...?

Her grace and courage in dealing with her illness was an inspiration to all of you. Oh, it was rough when the diagnosis was first determined but she soon found a measure of peace — and gratitude. And your entire family came together to help her make her last days especially happy ones. Yes, she's missed terribly but the memory of your time with her strengthened your bond as a family. In your loved one's spirit of gratitude and peace, in the hope manifested in her courage, you have seen the salvation of God . . .

Losing your job was devastating. The career you worked so hard to establish was derailed, if not lost altogether. But your first boss who became a mentor called immediately and guided you through that difficult time. Her perspective and advice were invaluable. You found a new position and re-established your career — wiser and humbler as a result. In your mentor's care and support, her wisdom and experience, you have seen the salvation of God . . .

Something had to be done. This situation could not go on any longer. But those in charge dropped the ball; those responsible were not up to the challenge. So you made some calls. Can we fix this? you asked. Yeah, we can, they all replied. So you all put your individual interests in check and focused on the greater good — and a plan was put in place that made things better without subjecting anyone to suspicion or embarrassment. The good of the community was the focus. In the generosity of heart of these good folks, you witnessed the salvation of God.

You messed up big time, but forgiveness was readily offered and the opportunity to fix your error was afforded. You were pushed aside, thrown under the bus, betrayed — but someone was there to pick you up. In your grief, in your loss, in your brokenness, someone was there to help you put your life back together. In these good folks, you witnessed the salvation of God.

If we're willing to look around our own Jerusalems with eyes of faith, if we can refocus our vision on the good in our tumultuous lives, we can see the "salvation" of God in our midst: God "saves" us from our self-centeredness when a child or elderly parent calls out to us for help; God "saves" us from despair by enabling us to do good and meaningful things with the abilities and resources we possess; God "saves" us from a sense of "deadness" by revealing his compassion in the forgiveness we seek and give. Behold, as the faithful Simeon realizes, the many signs of salvation in our own lives, the many cracks in our overwhelmingly busy days when the light of God's love manages to break through, the many small resurrections we experience when the Spirit of God lifts us out of our hurt and brokenness.

7 UPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- 1) WAKE UP: Begin the day thanking the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.
- 2) LOOK-UP: Open your eyes to the Lord. Ask for His strength and blessings for the day. After all, He is your only Savior.
- 3) DRESS-UP: Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude. It enables Jesus living within you smile at others.
- 4) SHUT-UP: Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Don't be judgmental. Say nice things. Learn to listen to others with love. Be sympathetic.
- 5) STAND-UP: Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good. Have courage of your Christian convictions by practicing your beliefs
- 6) REACH-UP: Spend time in prayer by talking to God and by listening to Him
- 7) LIFT-UP: Be available to help those in need--serving, supporting, and sharing. Try to find Jesus in others and serve him who lives in others. (Adapted from Rev. Walter Schoedel)

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd. Regular Office Hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

May you have a healthy and happy New Year filled with God's abundant love and blessings.

Christmas Thank You

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for those who helped make our Advent and Christmas so beautiful. The members of the Signing Choir who spent several months practicing for their "road show" bringing the beauty of song through sign language to several locations in our diocese - our music and liturgical ministers who added their talents to our worship - those who helped decorate our church - those who have helped those in need during this season through our Community Cupboard and Community Closet- and for those whose "Merry Christmas!" greetings, cookies, and gifts continue to brighten our days.

Supreme Court's Advice To Families!

"Make the family a confessional rather than a court room." A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a court room; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins.

On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one."

Monday, January 1, 2024- Parish Office Closed

10:00 am: Mass (Church)

Tuesday, January 2, 2024- Parish Office Closed

5:30 pm: Mass (Church) 6:00 pm Rosary (Church)

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Wednesday, January 3, 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 4, 2024

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)

6:00 pm Rosary (Church)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (School Building)

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Friday, January 5, 2024

5:30 pm: Mass (Church)

6:00 pm Rosary (Church)

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Mylott Hall)

Saturday, January 6, 2024

11:00 am – 3:00 pm: Community Cupboard and Closet

4:15 pm Mass (Church)

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:30 am: Mass (Church)

9:30 am - 10:30 am: Parish School of Religion

11:00 am: Mass (Church)

	December	r 30 th and 31 st	
	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	Migdalia Santiago-White	Joe Lewandowski	Jeannie Rawlings Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Helen Bencic Robin McMarlin Teresa Yurchisin	Rob Owens Maria Rivera Debbie Sollars	Karen Halupnik Kate Slosar
<u>.</u>	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