St. Augustine R. C. Parish

Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020



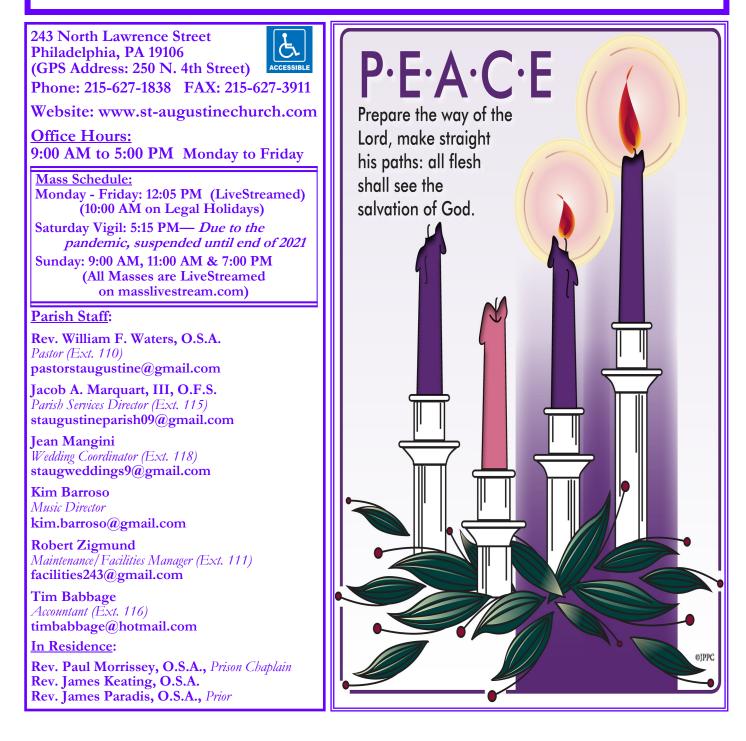
Santo Niño de Cebú

"Creating A Community Of Involvement And Evangelization"

Served by the Augustinian Friars since 1796

St. Augustine parish is an open, diverse, and active Roman Catholic community rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and founded in the Augustinian Tradition. We invite all to participate in our worship, service to others, and our faith development. These endeavors allow us to grow in the knowledge of God present in ourselves and each other.

Our community joyfully welcomes all who are searching for a spiritual center to call home.





A word from Fr. Bill.....

Dear Parishioners:

Several people have asked about the participation this year in "The Giving Tree," the opportunity for parishioners to take the name of a gift from a tree and return the gift which we then forward to an organization or agency who in turn distribute the gifts to the needy. Because of the various ramifications of the pandemic, we will be doing this in a different way this year. On the third Sunday of each month we regularly have a second collection entitled, "Parish Fellowship and Community Outreach." We ask you to especially be generous to this collection this month (December 20th) because we will use the contributions from this collection to distribute \$100 in cash to the seven organizations, so they can provide Christmas gifts for those whom they serve. Thank you for your kindness.

How is your Advent going? I bet not too many people have asked you that question!

As we get closer to Christmas, people will probably ask if you are ready for Christmas. Most of us will respond that we are or that we aren't due to the degree that our cards are out, the tree is up, the gifts are bought and wrapped or ordered thru Amazon, the decorations are up, and arrangements are made for Christmas dinner, etc. It is very easy to fall into the secular notion of what it means to be ready for Christmas.

It is not too uncommon that as we get caught up in all these "things" that we lose the meaning of Advent and don't take advantage of this liturgical season.

Can we use various resources (scripture, private prayer, sharing with others) to reflect on what a great gift we have in the first coming of Jesus Christ? Can we reflect on our sins and the fact that Jesus came to wash away our sins? This can bring a real sense of joy?

Can we reflect (literally spending quiet time thinking, maybe listening to Advent music not Christmas songs) on what we say in the Creed every Sunday: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." This can bring a real sense of hope?

Can we reflect on how Jesus comes to us regularly in many ways: in the Word, in the Eucharist, in the least of his people, in the sacrament of Penance, in my spouse, in my children, in my parents, in my coworkers, in members of my community, in my therapist, counselor or spiritual director, in the people with whom I pray or share scripture. And can we take time to specifically think of how Jesus comes to us in any of these ways?

As we get closer to Christmas each year, sometimes I hear people say, "I can't wait until it is over." I often see Christmas trees out on the sidewalk on December 26th. I am not so sure my family was thinking about being liturgically correct, but our Christmas tree didn't go up until Christmas Eve.

For us as Christians, there is real competition with our culture. For us, the Christmas season begins with the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The celebration of his birth doesn't end the season. The Christmas season ends with the Baptism of Jesus.

The season of Advent is a gift to help us prepare to celebrate the first and second coming of Jesus as well as his comings in between. In the midst of the hyperactivity, may we try to incorporate that into our lives.

How is your Advent going? Hopefully there is joy and hope.

Have a SAFE and good week.

Jr. Aile Fr. Bill

