

Sunday: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM (All Masses are LiveStreamed on masslivestream.com)

Parish Staff:

Rev. William F. Waters, O.S.A. *Pastor (Ext. 110)* **pastorstaugustine@gmail.com**

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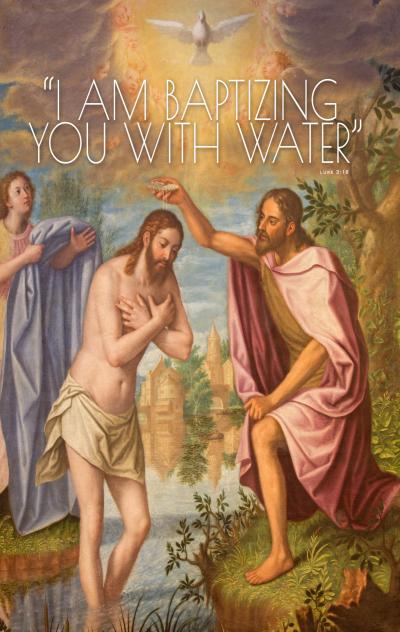
Kim Barroso Music Director kim.barroso@gmail.com

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In Residence:

Rev. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., Prison Chaplain Rev. James Keating, O.S.A. Rev. James Paradis, O.S.A., Prior





A word from Fr. Bill.....

Dear Parishioners:

Hopefully, the New Year has started out well for everyone.

Everyone is saying, and understandably so, how grateful they are that 2020 is behind us. As I said in my letter last week, the pandemic has affected all of us to some degree or another. Many of us know someone who has died from it. Several of our Augustinians have. Probably all of us know people who have been quarantined because of having the virus or being exposed to it. All of this just reinforces the need for us to be very diligent in observing the directives of face masks and social distancing, etc.

In the midst of all this, we can ask "Where is God?" First and foremost, it is important to say God did not cause the coronavirus. You cannot get evil out of all good. God is all good. We cannot get evil out of God.

James Martin, SJ who volunteered his help at Ground Zero after 9/11, wrote a book entitled "Where was God on 9/11." He said God was in those who responded to the needs of the victims, with those who prayed with victims, family members and first responders, with those who brought food, clothing and supplies to all those at the site of the Towers. He said he very much experienced God's presence at Ground Zero.

Where is God in the midst of the pandemic? I think we can safely say God is in the scientists who are using their God given abilities to develop vaccines. God is in all healthcare workers who are working directly with victims of the virus and their families, as Jesus responded to the sick in his time. God is with all those using their gifts in their occupations (teachers, public safety officials, etc. etc.) who work tirelessly, and selflessly for all of us.

On the local scene in the parish, God is working in all those who are living out their baptism by sharing their time, talents and treasurers to keep the parish going. I am referring to all those who consult with me and advise me on pastoral issues referring to the pandemic and other areas of the parish; those who consult and advise me with the financial ramifications of the virus and other issues; those who consult and advise me on the Capital Campaign; liturgical ministers who have helped our liturgies go smoothly; those who have met virtually many times so that other aspects of the parish would continue; those who have helped in soooo many ways (like making phone calls to parishioners) so that we can stay connected when we have to be apart; those who have soooooo generously continue to support us financially. I recently received a check from a parishioner for five months of donations. The Christmas collection and last weekend's collection were very encouraging, especially considering there were not many people in church. Please see the reports elsewhere in this bulletin. We are so grateful for the generosity of our parishioners during these (overused words) challenging and unprecedented times. I need to add that even some parishioners have provided meals for the friars. By no means are we undernourished.

As we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus this weekend and experience the results of those who share in Jesus' life, may we not lose sight of God's presence, love, care and faithfulness during these days. May we look for it. May we observe it. May we be aware of it. May we help it to happen. And may we be thankful for it.

Stay strong, SAFE, and informed.

Aile Fr Bill

