

# St. Augustine R. C. Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2019

*“Creating A Community Of Involvement And Evangelization”*

**Served by the Augustinian Friars since 1796**



National Shrine of Santo Niño de Cebú

*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.*



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243 North Lawrence Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(GPS Address: 250 N. 4th Street)  
Phone: 215-627-1838 FAX: 215-627-3911



Website: [www.st-augustinechurch.com](http://www.st-augustinechurch.com)

**Office Hours:**  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Monday to Friday



**Mass Schedule:**

Monday - Friday: 12:05 PM  
(10:00 AM on Legal Holidays)  
Saturday Vigil: 5:15 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**Parish Staff:**

**Rev. William J. Donnelly, O.S.A.**  
*Parochial Administrator (Ext. 110)*  
[pastorstaugustine@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstaugustine@gmail.com)

**Jacob A. Marquart, III, O.F.S.**  
*Parish Services Director (Ext. 115)*  
[staugustineparish09@gmail.com](mailto:staugustineparish09@gmail.com)

**Jean Mangini**  
*Wedding Coordinator (Ext. 118)*  
[staugweddings9@gmail.com](mailto:staugweddings9@gmail.com)

**Kim Barroso**  
*Music Director*  
[kim.barroso@gmail.com](mailto:kim.barroso@gmail.com)

**Robert Zigmund**  
*Maintenance/Facilities Manager (Ext. 111)*  
[facilities243@gmail.com](mailto:facilities243@gmail.com)

**Tim Babbage**  
*Accountant (Ext. 116)*  
[timbabbage@hotmail.com](mailto:timbabbage@hotmail.com)

**In Residence:**

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

## Sacramental Celebrations

### Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on a regular basis, except during Lent. It is usually celebrated within Mass. Arrangements must be made in advance. The parents of the child to be baptized meet personally ahead of time with the priest celebrating the sacrament. Contact the parish office for further information.

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Weddings are arranged by appointment at least eight months in advance of the desired wedding date. Contact the parish office for more information.

### Ministry to the Sick & Sacrament of the Sick

If anyone in your family is seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or in a nursing home and they would like a visit from the pastor, please call the parish office.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM  
Anytime by appointment.

### Parish Registration

Please call the parish office or visit the parish website for a registration form or more information. Forms are also available in the back of the Church.

### Parish Committees

The Parish Council, Filipino Sub-Council, and Finance Committees assist the staff in serving the parish. Please contact the parish office or see Fr. Bill for information about serving on these various committees.

### Novena to the Santo Niño

Each Sunday, after the 11:00 AM Mass there is a novena in honor of the Santo Niño.



A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is seated, holding the infant Jesus in her arms. To her right, Joseph is kneeling in prayer. To her left, three wise men are kneeling, offering gifts. The scene is set in a stable with a manger filled with straw. Two sheep are visible in the foreground. The background features palm trees and a star in the night sky.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2019**

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:30 PM, 8:30 PM and 10:30 PM**

**+**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

**+**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**New Year's Day**

**Holy Day Vigil Mass 5:15 PM**

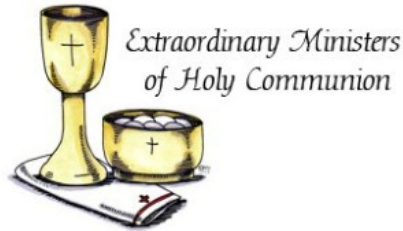
**Tuesday, January 01, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

**No 7:00 PM Mass**

## Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

We are in need of additional ministers to distribute the Blessed Sacrament at the week-end Masses. If you feel called to this ministry, please call Jacob in the Parish Office. We will supply all of the training that you need for this ministry. Once you are trained and commissioned, you will be officially appointed by the Archbishop of Philadelphia to serve in the parish of Saint Augustine.



*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM Masses on the four Sundays of Advent.**

**Visiting Angels** is a non-medical homecare agency serving families in the counties of Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia over 20 years. Our Havertown agency, the original Visiting Angels, was established in 1998 and is licensed through the Pennsylvania Board of Health, which permits us to provide assistance with companion care, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, dementia, stroke, cancer, palliative care and end stages of life. We are currently looking to employ experienced caregivers, full-time/part-time, to provide in-home care for our seniors, starting at a four-hour minimum. We do cover one-hour & two-hour cases as well. Our caregivers provide companionship, meals, light housekeeping & perform errands & some are able to assist with personal hygiene, transfers & hospice care. If interested go to our website to apply:

<https://vahavertown.clearcareonline.com/apply>

**Save the Date !  
Winter Sinulog  
Feast of Santo Niño  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
11:00 AM Mass**



**Light Lunch to follow Mass  
in Carr Hall.**

**All Are Welcome!**



**CatholicPhilly.com** is updated every day with local Catholic news from the Philadelphia region.



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday & Sunday,  
December 21 & 22, 2019**

5:15 PM † JoAnne Brady  
9:00 AM Nadene Shearstone & Family  
11:00 AM † Catalina Insong Gahob  
7:00 PM -----

**Monday, December 23, 2019**

12:05 PM -----

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:30 PM -----  
8:30 PM Young & Ong Families  
10:30 PM -----

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 AM For The People

**Thursday, December 26, 2019**

12:05 PM Young & Ong Families

**Friday, December 27, 2019**

12:05 PM Young & Ong Families

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

5:15 PM -----

† = Deceased



## MARCH FOR LIFE

The **March for Life** official program will be held on Friday, **January 24, 2020** on the **National Mall in Washington, D.C.** The program begins with a rally at 12 noon, and a time of musical reflection at 11:00 a.m. There will be jumbo-trons for easier viewing.

[www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)

End abortion by uniting, educating, and mobilizing pro-life people in the public square.

### Electronic Giving

Just log on to our website,  
[www.st-augustinechurch.com](http://www.st-augustinechurch.com)  
and click on:

"Sign Up For Electronic Giving"



## The Bulletin Board

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 22, 2019**  
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**Monday, December 23, 2019**  
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**Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB**

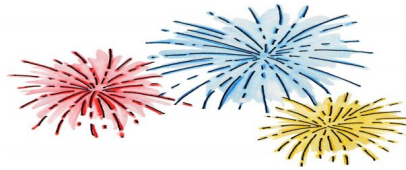
**Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB**

**Thursday, December 26, 2019  
2:30 PM Blumberg-Jones Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Beahan-Bucher Rehearsal  
7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB**

**Friday, December 27, 2019  
2:30 PM Beahan-Bucher Wedding**

**Saturday, December 28, 2019  
2:30 PM Blumberg-Jones Wedding  
7:00 PM N.A. Meeting in CHB**





## New Year's Eve Party

Come and enjoy a night of fun, singing, dancing, free champagne, Filipino and American food (BYOB) at Saint Augustine Church – Carr Hall on **December 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM.**

**THIS YEAR, MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED BEFORE THE PARTY AT THE 5:15 PM VIGIL MASS.**

(There will be NO Midnight Mass this year.)

Tickets are: \$20 for adults, \$10 for child ages 13-17, \$5 for children ages 8-12, and children under the age of 7 are free. For more info please contact:

Dr. Lita Manguba - 267.538.8042  
Elgene Morales - 267.307.8145  
Cesar Manguba - 215.613.8627  
Ferdie Luyun - 267.625.8958  
Femy Whitzell - 856-423-0441



### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED



Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ CLOSED

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> ~ CLOSED

Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

Re-Open at 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> ~ CLOSED

Many years ago a candy maker wanted to make a candy that would symbolize the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus.



The hard candy was shaped like a "J" to represent that Jesus is our rock of all ages. The candy was made of white to stand for the pureness of Jesus. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed to save us from our sins.

So the next time you see a candy cane take a minute to remember the real meaning of Christmas.....Jesus!

### Did You Know?



The birthplace of Jesus, "Bethlehem," means "House of Bread." Many ancient commentators interpret this as prefiguring the Eucharist. Jesus came to earth in the "House of Bread," and comes to us in the form of Living Bread, every time we receive him under the forms of bread and wine in the Blessed Sacrament.

Please visit our parish website for all of the latest parish news and events!

[www.st-augustinechurch.com](http://www.st-augustinechurch.com)



Please visit our Facebook:

**St.AugustineChurchPhiladelphia**



The nativity scene, or crèche, was first popularized by Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Many put out most of the nativity scene before Christmas, but wait until December 25<sup>th</sup> to place Baby Jesus in the manger, and wait until the feast of the Epiphany to arrange the Magi. Setting up the crib can be an occasion for prayer and the reading of Holy Scripture.

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Matthew 1:23

*Merry Christmas Maligayang Pasko!*





## Christmas 2019

Arriving at your faith home on Palm Sunday weekend, my eyes were illuminated by the beauty of St. Augustine. The church's unique (classical) architectural design is a symbol of a very rich and challenging history. While the site is a foundation or birth place of the Augustinians in the United States, it is a living legacy where you and I along with family and friends nurture our faith. When Augustinians arrived from Ireland in 1796 and established St. Augustine Church; the focus of their work was to minister to the Irish who were settling in the neighborhood. Those immigrants once supplied the labor that established the region as a powerhouse of industry and finances. As the new immigrants were arriving, a political party known as the *Nativist*, an anti-immigrant movement with a legacy of hatred, was opposed to having Irish Catholics in "their" city. In 1842, as a protest against the Catholic immigrants, they burnt down the church of St. Augustine. A history that is all of our history.

Who were those 19<sup>th</sup> century Augustinian Friars and early immigrants who lived in an environment of division and how did they respond? Historically, the response was characterized by their faith and fortitude. The parishioners and the Augustinians rebuilt the church, surprisingly, the beginnings of Villanova University also arose, as if from the ashes. With courage, faith and commitment, St. Augustine Parish was re-established.

How does this history of St. Augustine Church in the early days of its foundation touch us today? One example, from my perspective, is to ask "have we found ways to express a heartfelt concern for those families whose children have been separated from their parents at our boarder?" There are, fortunately, individuals and groups who are presently working at shelters on both sides of the boarder offering an environment of safety. These individuals are the prophets and prophetess, who give witness to the legacy of Abrahamic hospitality, the caring of strangers rooted in the First or Old Testament of the Bible. Remember the Holy Family's Flight into Egypt during the time of Herod's massacre of the Innocents. Who welcomed them in their moment of exile? Someone did.

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they must have experienced what our own parents experienced when they held their Son for the first time. What was that moment like? When I ask parents at a wedding liturgy about their son and daughter's birth and what they experienced, I have received a variety of responses which I believe are deeply rooted in mystery of life and their love for their newborn child. For example, one father, a commercial fisherman from New England, responded to my question with tears at the memory of that sacred moment. Tears represented his heartfelt love.

On this Christmas Feast, I wish you a blessed Christmas remembering that each of us was held for the first time and there was joy in the hearts of our parents as there was for the Holy Family. May many of you who are parents and grandparents recall the legacy of Mary and Joseph, when as parent you held someone in love at their birth and probably experienced tears like the fisherman.

To future parents, may the Star of Bethlehem guide you to see new life as a gift, God's love made visible through your love. May all us: parents, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers, rejoice at the mystery that is Christmas, God's Love made visible in the Son. May we be people of peace as we pray for **Peace** in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and the communities of the world and in each of our hearts.

Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bill" with a small flourish underneath.

### **Prayer for Christmas Dinner**

Eternal God, This joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen.

### **Nativity Prayer of St. Augustine**

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, For their Savior is born. Let the captives rejoice, For their Redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born. Let free men rejoice, For their Liberator is born. Let All Christians rejoice, For Jesus Christ is born. Amen.

### **Christmas Tree Blessing Prayer**

Lord our God, the heavens are the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars you made; the earth and the sea,  
and every living creature came into being by your word.  
And all of us, too.

May this tree bring cheer to this house though Jesus Christ  
your good and holy Son, who brings life and beauty to us  
and to our world. Lighting this tree, we hope in his promise.  
Amen.

