St. Augustine R. C. Parish Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday **†** March 10, 2024



National Shrine of 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.

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

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

Mass Schedule: Monday - Friday: 12:05 PM (LiveStreamed) (10:00 AM on Legal Holidays)

Saturday Vigil — Suspended Indefinitely

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**

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

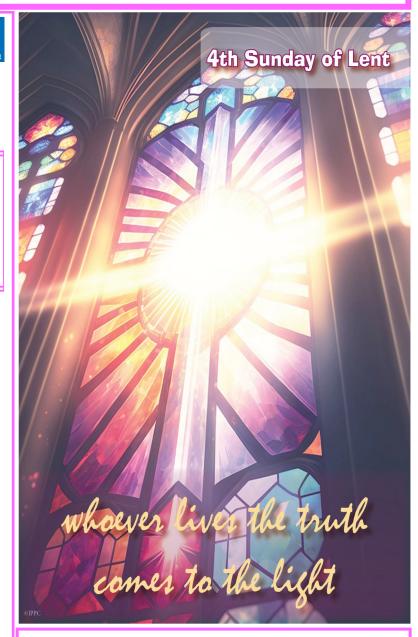
Jean Mangini Wedding Coordinator (Ext. 118) staugweddings9@gmail.com

Kim Barroso Music Director kim.barroso@gmail.com

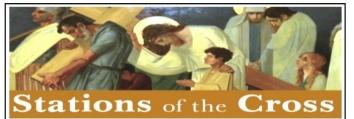
Adam Klukiewski Maintenance Director (Ext. 111) facilities243@gmail.com

Tim Babbage Accountant (Ext. 116) timbabbage@hotmail.com

In Residence: Rev. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., spirhealth@aol.com Rev. James Paradis, O.S.A., Prior Rev. Richard O'Leary, O.S.A.



Weekly Scripture Study via Zoom—7:00 PM on Thursday Meeting ID: 832-4986-0935 PW: 025786



Friday Evenings During Lent + 7:00 P.M. Come, walk, and meditate on the Way of the Cross

Zoom ID: 5590497986 PW: 7139

Give Back to the Augustinians The Augustinian Friars need your help! Tolle Lege Day is the Augustinian Friars' annual day of giving, which takes place on April 24, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Augustine. Please consider becoming a Tolle Lege Day Ambassador! It's easy: you simply ask your family, friends, and colleagues to join you in supporting the Augustinians with a gift of any size (no matter how small!) on Tolle Lege Day. You can reach out via mail, social media, texts, phone calls, or word of mouth, to inspire those around you to join in celebrating all that makes the Augustinians great. We even provide you with text and images to share! All Ambassadors receive a thank you gift for their efforts, in addition to the satisfaction of making a very real difference in the lives of the Augustinian Friars. You can sign up directly online at www.augustinian.org/ambassador, or if you'd like more information you can contact Brian Kelley, associate director of advancement, at brian.kelley@augustinian.org or at 610-527-3330, ext. 239.



Friday, March 15, 2024

12:05 PM

Saturday, March 16, 2024

† = Deceased



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Goal: \$750,000 (Phase 1) To date: Pledges: 228 Percentage: 130.7021% Amount Pledged: \$980,265.68 Pledges Received: \$924,915.68 In-Kind Gifts Received: \$10,437.71 Campaign Total Rec'd: \$935,353.39

Sacrificial Giving March 3, 2024 Number of Envelopes Used: 20 Amount in Envelopes: \$1,050.00 Average \$/Envelope: \$52.50 Electronic Giving: 50 Amount Electronic: \$1,763.00 Average \$/Electronic: \$35.26 Loose Money: \$713.00 Total Collection: \$3,526.00



"The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

Good Friday, March 29th at 7:30 PM

The service (approximately 90 minutes) will consist of a scripture reading of each of the words,

a short reflection by a parishioner, silence, several petitions and a hymn for each word.

All are welcome to this very moving reflection on our Lord's Passion.

Life Advocate Resource Conference Saturday, April 6, 2024 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Matthew Church Hall

219 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA 19428 All are invited to attend this conference to learn how to get involved with pro-life activities and see all the prolife resources offered in the Philadelphia area. This conference is free, and a free lunch will be provided, but registration is required. To register, please send your name and phone number to:

lifeconference@prolifeunion.org or call 215-885-8150.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

John 3:16



Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 10, 2024

Monday, March 11, 2024

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:00 PM Lenten Program—Zoom 7:00 PM Sexaholics Anonymous (SA)

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 7:00 PM Parish Finance Council—Zoom

Thursday, March 14, 2024 7:00 PM Parish Scripture Study—Zoom 7:PM Sexaholics Anonymous (SA)

Friday, March 15, 2024

Saturday, March 16, 2024 1:00 PM Steering Committee—Zoom 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (NA)



A word from Fr. Bíll...

Dear Parishioners:

On the First Sunday of Advent (the time of the Rite of Acceptance) and on the First Sunday of Lent (the time of the Rite of Continuing Conversion), I mentioned in my letters that Bryan Sobchuk is a Candidate for Full Communion with the Church. Bryan was baptized a Catholic, but never received the other two Sacraments of Initiation. Bryan will receive Confirmation and also receive the Eucharist for the first time on Pentecost, Sunday, May 19th. In preparation, Bryan will participate during Lent in the "Three Scrutinies" which are part of the Christian Initiation process. He did this last Sunday at the 7 PM Mass, and will do it this Sunday at the 9:00 AM Mass and next Sunday at the 11:00 AM Mass. When we scrutinize something we look at it carefully and thoroughly. This means when we scrutinize ourselves we sincerely examine ourselves as to what we are doing well and be honest with ourselves of what we can do better.

In the spirit of Lent, it should not be just Bryan who scrutinizes himself. All of us should be looking at ourselves thoroughly and carefully as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and renew our baptism promises. In the Collect (Opening Prayer) last weekend it very clearly says that one of the remedies to sin is fasting. The discipline of fasting can be a tool to help us scrutinize ourselves and consequently to be in touch with our sinfulness and to remedy that sinfulness.

The history of fasting in the terms of spirituality is rooted in the Old Testament. The idea was that fasting made one's prayer more acceptable to God. It was a way of demonstrating one's level of commitment before the Lord. In the New Testament, we know that Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. He also was questioned about why the apostles didn't fast and his response was you don't fast when the bridegroom is still with you, in other words in time of joy. So, there is a time to fast and a time not too fast.

As we know, the forty days of Lent are an imitation of Jesus' time in the desert. Fasting was not for Jesus, nor should it be for us, an end in itself. It is spiritually healthy at times to "long" for something. We always don't have to have all of our longings met. Also, fasting is appropriate at a time we prepare for something. Jesus was preparing to begin his public ministry. In Lent, we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and to recommit ourselves to him.

As I scrutinize myself concerning the spirituality of fasting in my own life, it is healthy to look at several things. Do I fast only in following the letter of the law? For example, Catholics are to fast from meat on the Fridays of Lent. So on a Friday in Lent, I don't eat meat but I have a lobster dinner, I am following the letter of the law, but I am not following the spirit or purpose of the law. I say I not going to drink coffee in Lent or smoke in Lent, but if I don't drink coffee or smoke anyway, I am obviously not giving anything up. Again, am I disciplining myself in order "too long" for something? This is difficult when we live in a first world country and all our needs and conveniences are generally met instantaneously.

Sometimes, we hear people say they are not going to "give anything up" in Lent but just do something positive for Lent. Jesus did a lot of positive things, but he still fasted. Our spirituality is not that it is one or the other, but it is both. Obviously, we should do good things, but there are positive elements knowing my needs are not always met and I depend on God.

Again, fasting is not an end in itself. If I give up beer for Lent, what do I do with the money I have saved, fatten my bank account or give it to the poor? (Thus, the Rice Bowls.) If I give up television or Facebook for Lent, what do I do with the time I have saved, sleep longer or use my time for more prayer or spiritual reading?

Are there some bad habits from which I should fast? Can I fast from judging someone and rather have more compassion for that person? Can I fast from greed and accumulating things and rather share my surpluses? St. Augustine says if I accumulate things I do not need, I am stealing from those who do need those things. Can I fast from gossip, and make it a point to affirm some people? Can I fast from noise (always have the television or radio on) and take advantage of some silence? Can I fast from holding grudges, and rather reach out for reconciliation or forgiveness? Jesus said if there is a rift with another, make peace with that person before coming to the Eucharist. Can I fast from sharing bad news when it is not necessary, to making it a point to share good news?

Lent is a time to going back to basic training, looking at the fundamentals of our faith, examining ourselves carefully and thoroughly. May we scrutinize ourselves concerning the place of the spirituality of fasting in our lives.

Have a great Fourth Week of Lent.

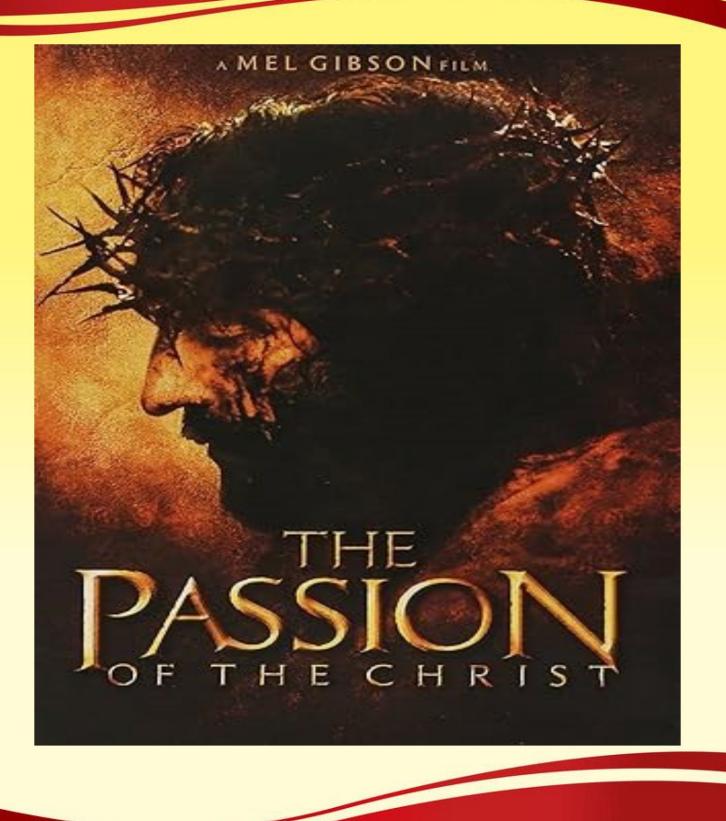
, Aile

Fr. Bill



Please join us for the showing of the movie, "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST" on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 12:30 PM in the Rev. Matthew Carr, OSA Hall.

Refreshements will be served.





The Catholic Preaching Institute

Improving the experience of homilies – from the pulpit and in the pew — is what drives us at **The Catholic Preaching Institute**. But more than tweaking what's already in place, we're looking to launch *a homiletic revival* here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and beyond.

Why? Because we need to up our game in terms of how, what, and where we preach ... and how, what and where we hear the Word of God. As parishes have already done post-pandemic, now we want to help keep those church doors open with a renewed proclamation of the "Good News" for all.

This is a grassroots initiative, wholly dependent on the involvement of *all* members of the local Church as the Body of Christ and People of God. That's why we're so happy you found us ... *and why we invite you to see below for how you can help right now!*

... and we want to hear from YOU!

Our initiative is to help priests and deacons to deliver more compelling homilies in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. <u>Your honest input from the pews</u> is vital to understanding what is working and what can be improved in our parishes to give you a stronger connection to the Mass. Be a part of the largest preaching survey ever undertaken by completing the survey TODAY!

The CPI at Saint Charles Seminary again invites you to participate in what could be the largest-ever study of preaching in the nation! Tell us what you think in a 10-miniutes online survey at https://catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching or you can go to https://www.scs.edu/preaching/

Please share this info with your family members, friends, and contacts so that we receive maximum input ... to help us better design programs that will make your experience of homilies more compelling!



THE PARISHIONER SURVEY IS NOW OPEN !

The survey closes March 22nd

Saint Charles

Borromeo Seminary



WHAT ARE YOUR QUESTIONS?

Join us this Lent for our ongoing series when we will discuss and answer questions regarding "Lent and the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus." Join us and our special guests via Zoom from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on the dates listed below!



2/20 "Why do we observe Lent each year?" - Rev. G. Dennis Gill, S.L.L., M.Div., Director, Office for Divine Worship and Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia -Register at the link below: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkfu6urzorGtNmEShspH_urRCI7GP21FRz



2/27 "Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?" - Dr. Janet Haggerty, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology, College Seminary and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Theological Seminary, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary - **Register at the link below:** <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucOCtqDMuH9I3UPg2PeCIrFxQufGOKNR7</u>



3/5 "What does it mean, if we share in Jesus' life in Baptism, we have to share in his suffering and death?" - Dr. Joseph T. Kelley, Ph.D., D.Min., Professor of Religious and Theological Studies, Merrimack College - Register at the link below: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkce2pqTotHtDB2X24jFqINkb_XyvQwUbg



3/12 "Why did Jesus rise from the dead and what does St. Paul mean when he says, 'If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our faith is in vain?'" - Rev. James Paradis, O.S.A., D.Min., Director of Cascia Center Ministries, Shrine of St. Rita, Philadelphia - Register at the link below: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcemtrj8jGtJapRZBU9X4-4FfODvsvIQo



3/19 "What will our risen life be like?" - Most Reverend Daniel Turley, O.S.A., D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Chulucanas, Peru - **Register at the link below:** <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kf-2sqzsvE9Oco-nbui7OJvDXCarZQrP-</u>

For more information and to submit your questions, contact Jacob Marquart, O.F.S. at: staugustineparish09@gmail.com or call (215) 627-1838 Parish Website: www.st-augustinechurch.com



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