

St. Augustine R. C. Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 22, 2020

“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.

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
(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)
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Jacob A. Marquart, III, O.F.S.
Parish Services Director (Ext. 115)
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Jean Mangini
Wedding Coordinator (Ext. 118)
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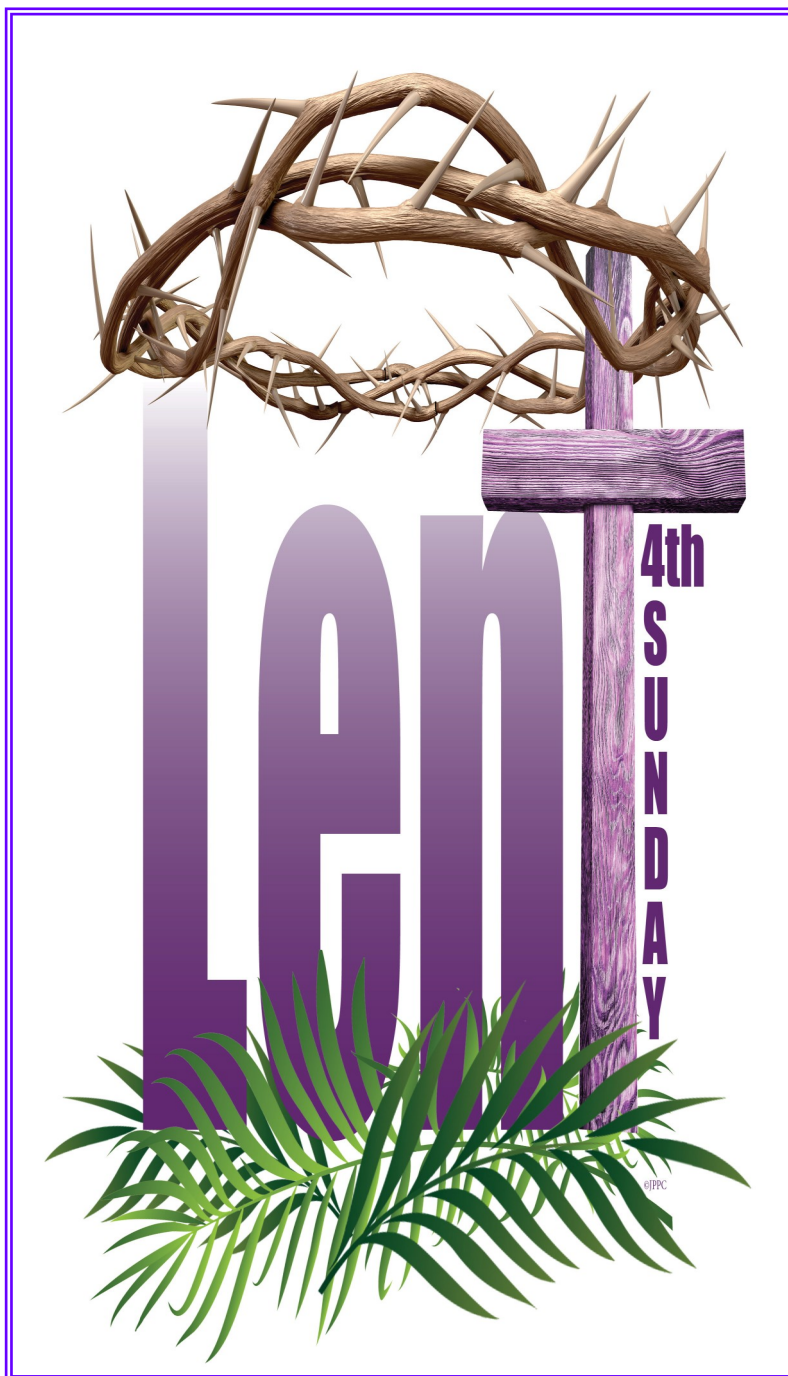
Kim Barroso
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Robert Zigmund
Maintenance/Facilities Manager (Ext. 111)
facilities243@gmail.com

Tim Babbage
Accountant (Ext. 116)
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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*



Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez Announces The Suspension Of All Public Masses In The Archdiocese Of Philadelphia Effective At Noon, March 18

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez has suspended all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia effective at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th and until further notice.

Last week, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels. These measures will be re-evaluated pending future developments.

Archbishop Pérez said, “As the Archbishop of Philadelphia, my first priority is to ensure the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church. So, in light of the developing Coronavirus pandemic, a decision has been made to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time being.





All of us need to do our part to slow the spread of this illness. Like you, we are monitoring coronavirus developments and look forward to continuing our lives on a more normal basis.

While things may look and feel different during these uncertain times, I want to be very clear that the Catholic Church in Philadelphia is not closing down. It is not disappearing and it will not abandon you. Time and again as our history has proven the Church has risen to meet great challenges and provide a beacon of hope and light.”

Though public Masses are suspended in all churches in the Archdiocese, the right and need of the faithful to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments is not put aside. Pastors, along with all those who work with them, will be as attentive as possible to all the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of the people they serve.

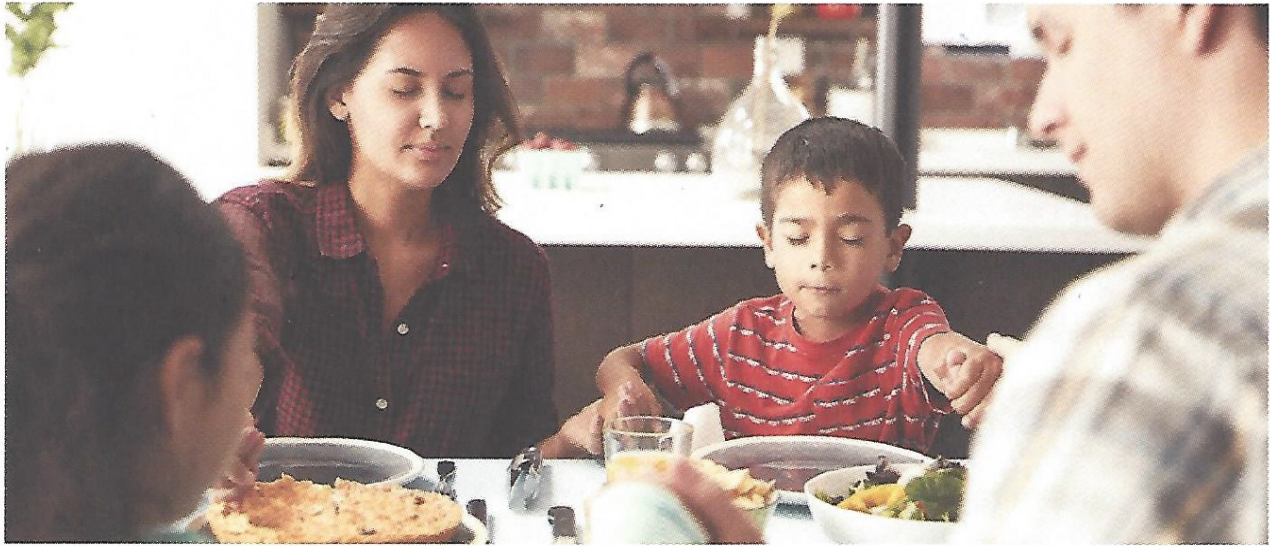
Priests will continue to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.

Churches can remain open as a location for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor. Baptisms, Confessions, Marriages, and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

 <p>Mass Intentions</p> <p>All Mass Intentions will be celebrated privately by the Parish Friars</p> <p>Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, 2020</p> <p>5:15 PM ----- 9:00 AM ----- 11:00 AM ----- 7:00 PM † Arthur Flores</p> <p>Monday, March 23, 2020</p> <p>12:05 PM Joseph Matozzo, Special Intention</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24, 2020</p> <p>12:05 PM † Susan Marascio</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25, 2020</p> <p>12:05 PM -----</p> <p>Thursday, March 26, 2020</p> <p>12:05 PM -----</p> <p>Friday, March 27, 2020</p> <p>12:05 PM The Parish Community</p> <p>Saturday, March 28, 2020</p> <p>5:15 PM ----- † = Deceased</p>	<p>Sacrificial Giving March 14 & 15, 2020</p> <p>Number of Envelopes Used: 26 Amount in Envelopes: \$894.00 Average \$/Envelope: \$34.38 Electronic Giving: 36 Amount Electronic: \$593.00 Average \$/Electronic: \$16.48 Loose Money: \$222.00 Total Collection: \$1,709.00</p>  <p>Capital Campaign News Goal: \$750,000 (Phase 1) To date: Pledges: 197 Percentage: 93.0145% Amount Pledged: \$697,608.50 Pledges Received: \$514,529.00 June 1st Gala Revenue: \$40,250.00 In-Kind Gifts Received: \$10,437.71 Campaign Total Rec'd: \$565,216.71</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Electronic Giving Just log on to our website, www.st-augustinechurch.com and click on: “Sign Up For Electronic Giving”</p>  </div>	 <p>Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 22, 2020 -----</p> <p>Monday, March 23, 2020 -----</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:30 PM Steering Committee Meeting 7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB</p> <p>Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:00 PM S.A. Meeting in CHB</p> <p>Friday, March 27, 2020 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Saturday, March 28, 2020 7:00 PM N.A. Meeting in CHB</p>
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Sacrifice of Praise

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a / Ephesians 5:8–14 / John 9:1–41



All images: Shutterstock/unlisa marked

The Blessing of a Thankful Heart

In today's Gospel, the disciples questioned Jesus if sin caused the man's blindness. Did he or someone in his family warrant this punishment by their offense to God? The disciples listened and accepted Jesus' explanation that the man's lack of sight was not due to sin but instead was to show the glory of God. Meanwhile, the Pharisees refused to accept Jesus' teaching and in essence became the blind ones. Ironically, their inability to see could be directly attributed to sin — specifically, the sin of pride.

They refused to believe in the miracle which had occurred right before them and would never be able to see the miracles Jesus could perform in their lives. Their metaphorical blindness remained because they were unwilling to believe in any truth other than their own. Jesus has the power and authority to open anyone's eyes, to break through anyone's darkness, but first we have to be willing to see.

Sometimes we face circumstances truly beyond our control, which make

FOR REFLECTION

- Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each one.
- In difficult situations, are you able to recognize reasons to be thankful?
- What burdens keep you free from embracing a hope-filled life in Christ?

us wonder what we've done to be abandoned by God or what may have angered him. It is imperative to understand an important truth about God: He does not bring hardships; these exist as a result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God has given each of us free will so that we may be able to freely choose to enter into a relationship with him — one based on love, not coercion.

Trusting in God's promises that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28), or that "for human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mt

19:26), can be difficult in the midst of a tragedy, trial, or difficulty. However, one who continues to pray in thanksgiving maintains a grateful heart and remains hopeful, like the man born blind. Although Jesus' method of curing the man's blindness may have seemed strange, the man, thankful for a chance at healing, followed Jesus' instructions.

Lent is the perfect time to rub mud in our eyes, figurately speaking, and allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness. Whether currently struggling through a difficult time, or scars from past battles that are hard to forget, prayers of thanksgiving can mold those experiences into blessings. Clarity of vision of the cumulative experiences in our lives belong only with God; apart from him, we will never make sense of them. Remaining close, thankful, and open to seeing his hand in all that happens in the world, keeps our hearts safeguarded from growing hard. Lent is a time to reflect on what blinds us from saying, "Lord, I believe," and a time to refocus on following the Light of the World.

PRAYER TIP

When do you find time for prayer within a typically busy day? Some days do not lend themselves to dedicated or uninterrupted prayer time. Instead of skipping prayer, find ways to build it into the things you are already doing. Here are a few suggestions:

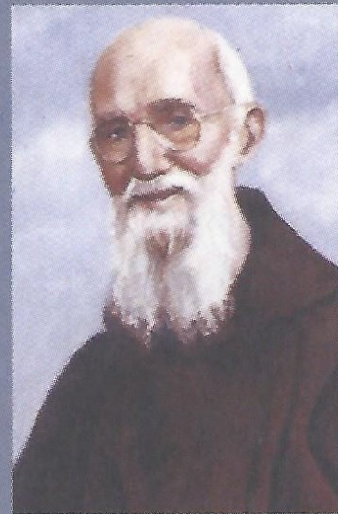
- Use your morning coffee time to read a Scripture verse.
- Recite the Rosary on your drive to work.
- Bring joy to your chores by thanking God for the food that dirtied the dishes, the clothes that now fill the hamper, and a floor that requires vacuuming.
- Offer a Hail Mary while brushing your teeth.
- Pray before (and even after) each meal.

“Give thanks to the Lord ...
whose love endures forever.”

– 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Thank God Ahead

Blessed Solanus Casey was a simple Capuchin friar from Oak Grove, Wisconsin. Blessed Solanus is an extraordinary example of how a person can foster devout faith amid an ordinary life. Through his many hardships, he learned the blessing of maintaining a heart of gratitude, regardless of current circumstances. Solanus often counseled people to consider the good God would do in the future for them, and to “Thank God ahead of time!”



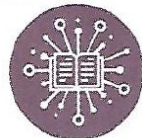
Painting by Nancy January Casey



Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I remember each day this Lent to thank you for each blessing and each cross. May the devotion I offer you be from a place of great love and not hinge on my happiness, but instead on the blessed hope found in Easter. Our blessings are abundant; so should our thanks to the One who bestows them. Lord, this week, I will pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.

CATECHISM CONNECTION



“The inexhaustible richness of [the Eucharist] is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called:

“Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God’s works: creation, redemption, and sanctification.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1328



“Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is. Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head.

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2637

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What's My Name?
 The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.
#WHATSMYNAME
In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

