

St. Augustine

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to grow in loving support and forgiveness in union with Jesus Christ. We pledge our talents and resources through communal worship, Christian education, service, outreach, and witness, to love God and neighbor in the world around us. Prayerfully seeking to make the efforts of each the advantage of all, we invite, encourage, and welcome all to join us.

February 28, 2010

68035 Main Street - Richmond, Michigan 48062

(586) 727-5215

LENTEN CALENDAR ~ Week of February 28

Liturgies:

- ✧ Monday - 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✧ Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. Mass and Perpetual Help Devotions
- ✧ Wednesday, Thursday - 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✧ Friday - 8:00 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction

Sacrament of Penance:

- ✧ Saturday - Noon-12:30 p.m. and 4:15-4:45 p.m.

Faith Enrichment:

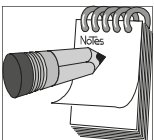
- ✧ *THE WORD AMONG US*, Lenten Issue - Available by church entrances. Copies are free, one per family.

Special Events:

- ✧ Monday, March 1 - 6:00 p.m., Room 7 of the Parish Center - Lenten reflection series: *Soup, Scripture, Change & Conversion*
- ➔ PLEASE NOTE: The Soup & Scripture February 22 gathering was cancelled due to inclement weather. Three sessions will still be held: Mondays, March 1, 8, and 15. Please plan to attend!

Almsgiving:

1. Support the work of local Church outreach by giving to the special second "Almsgiving Collection" following Communion each Sunday.
2. Make an extra sacrifice by purchasing a Parish Spring Raffle Ticket at any of the Fish Fry Dinners or at the Parish Office during the week.



A Note From Fr. Joe

In order that we make the most of this special time of Lent through which we are encouraged through our united journey of faith to focus more on our Lord through penance and prayer, I would like to offer the following "inspired words" of instruction. Due to the fact that there are several points given, I will offer the first part in this article, and in next weekend's article offer the remainder of the instructions:

"[In this season of Lent] we begin by turning our mind and heart towards God... Mindful that we assist God in preparing our place in eternity by our works that we do through faith, we are also mindful that we help, assist and make the white robe that we will wear in eternity.

(Continued on page 4)



St. Augustine Catholic Church

68035 Main St., Richmond, Michigan 48062
Website - <http://www.staugustinecatholicchurch.com>

Parish Office: (586) 727-5215 Fax: (586) 727-3760
E-mail: staugustinerichmond@comcast.net

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., or by appointment

Rev. Joseph Plawecki, Pastor - Ext. 115
Rev. John Nedumcheril, Associate Pastor - Ext. 119
Bob Fillhart, Business Manager - Ext. 116
Colleen Baumgarten, Bookkeeper - Ext. 114
Joe Agosta, Director of Music - Ext. 171
Ted Suwalkowski, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Bev Clark,
Christian Service Coordinator/Parish Secretary - Ext. 110

Office of Faith Formation: (586) 727-9290

Tina Kovalcik,
Pastoral Associate/Director of Religious Education - Ext. 125
Lisa Hamel, After-School Program Assistant - Ext. 141
Betty Raska, Secretary - Ext. 111

St. Augustine School: (586) 727-9365
Website - <http://www.staugustinecatholicschool.com>

Jerry Bagierek, Principal - Ext. 131
Connie Miller, Secretary - Ext. 129
Judy Rey, Secretary - Ext. 130

Sunday Masses:

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday - 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Daily Masses:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - 8:00 a.m.;
Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.; First Saturday of the Month - 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Masses: 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, Noon and 4:15 p.m. in Church; or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Preparation is required. Please contact the Office of
Faith Formation as far in advance as possible.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements must be made at least six months in
advance; contact the Pastor for an appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick:

Notify the Parish Office of any need for hospital or home
visits.

Registration and Parish Membership:

New Parishioners are always welcome!
Call or visit the Parish Office during business hours to
request registration materials.
Please remember to notify the Parish Office of any change
in your address, phone number, or membership status.

Richmond Knights of Columbus:
Michael Misteravich, Grand Knight



Stewardship

"... Wherever your treasure lies,
there will your heart be..."

- Luke 12:34

Weekend Collection February 20-21, 2010

Budget Amount: \$ 11,329.00
February 20-21, 2010

Weekend Collection: \$ 9,566.52

Net over/(under): (\$ 1,762.48)

34th Week Year-to-Date

Budgeted Total: \$ 385,186.00

Weekend Collection

Year-to-Date Total: \$ 354,774.50

Net over/(under): (\$ 30,411.50)

This Sunday Collection included:

Number of adult envelopes used: 321

Loose collection: \$596.05

Number of children's envelopes used: 89

Children's collection: \$108.47

St. Augustine Parish Council 2009-2010

† Gerry St. John, Chair

† Steven Kovalcik, Vice Chair

† Greg Rushlow, Secretary

† Mary Lou Brickel

† Otto Hohmann

† Tanya Muylaert

† Patty Smith

† Mary Szczerbinski

† Sue Thomas

† Fr. Joe Plawecki



*Please remember
in your prayers this week ...*

*Sunday, March 7, 2010
Third Sunday of Lent*

Scriptures

Intentions

Monday, March 1, 2010

Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

**7:30 a.m. –
Rosary
8:00 a.m. –
Mass**

Irene Caughell,
req. by Family and Friends

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Is 1:10,16-20
Mt 23:1-12

**6:00 p.m. –
Rosary
6:30 p.m. –
Mass**

Joe Matousek,
req. by His Family

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Katherine Drexel

Jer 18:18-20
Mt 20:17-28

**7:30 a.m. –
Rosary
8:00 a.m. –
Mass**

Paul Koleda,
req. by St. A's Parish Money Counters

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Casimir

Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

**7:30 a.m. –
Rosary
8:00 a.m. –
Mass**

Edward "Tim" Tymoscek -
First Anniversary Remembrance,
req. by His Family

Friday, March 5, 2010

Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,
17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43,45-46

**7:30 a.m. –
Rosary
8:00 a.m. –
Mass
7:00 p.m. –
Stations
8:00 p.m. –
Reconciliation**

David Raska,
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Raska

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Mi 7:14-15,18-20
Lk 15:1-3,11-32

**8:00 a.m. –
Mass
Noon-12:30 p.m.,
and
4:15-4:45 p.m. –
Reconciliation**

Joseph & Hellen Plawecki, Children,
and Grandchildren,
req. by Family



Eucharistic Liturgies:

– Saturday –
5:00 p.m.

– Sunday –
7:30 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.;
11:30 a.m.

Scriptures:

Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15
I Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12
Luke 13:1-9

Intentions:

Deceased Members of
the Schweiger Family,
req. by the Schweiger Family

Leo Weingartz,
req. by Mary Rhein

Mae Ottenbacher -
7th Anniversary Remembrance,
req. by Her Family

Vincent Raska -
18th Anniversary Remembrance,
req. by Betty Raska and Family

Please remember those who are ...

**Facing the challenges of illness at home,
Receiving extended care,
and
those who have gone on to
Celebrate Eternal Life in Christ**

*God the Father, Hear Our Prayer,
Hear Us, God the Son,
Holy Spirit, Hear Our Prayer,
Mercy on Your People, Lord.*

Sunday's Scriptures
 ~ February 28, 2010 ~
 Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

~ ~ ~ ~

Who can forget the "bargain" that Abraham tried to make with God when he interceded on behalf of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?

That was pretty bold of him, wasn't it? Think, too, about how David, Job, Isaiah, and Paul all communicated with the Lord. And we all know about Mary's conversation with the angel Gabriel. In fact, the more you look at the Bible, the more stories you find about ordinary human beings actually speaking with – and hearing from – Almighty God. It's on almost every page of Scripture!

All of these divine encounters are summed up and capped off by the story of Jesus's Transfiguration. If none of the other stories in the Bible convinces us, perhaps this amazing event can help us believe that communication with heaven really is possible.

The story of Jesus's Transfiguration prompts us to ask a key question: Does my experience at Mass, in prayer, or while reading Scripture, include being influenced by Jesus? Does it include the promise that I can hear from heaven and be changed by what I hear? We may not know exactly what it feels like when Jesus is speaking to us, but there are a few signs we can be on the lookout for.

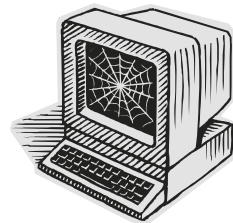


Perhaps you feel a desire in your heart to praise Jesus and thank Him for His love. Perhaps you experience a growing hatred of sin and the way it separates you from the peace of Christ. You may feel a great sense of happiness, peace, or joy – especially after receiving the Eucharist. Or possibly you will find yourself moved

to show greater love for your family. Or maybe you will experience a growing desire to serve the Lord, whether in your parish or in your community. Don't discount these feelings! Jesus works in many ways, and the more we respond to Him, the more confident we will be in His love.

"Jesus, I trust that You hear my prayers, and so I will keep coming to You. Lord, I trust You to give me the wisdom and grace to live a life pleasing to You."

We're back on the Web!



Visit our all-new Parish website:

WWW.

StAugustineCatholicChurch.com

You'll find our Mass schedule, Parish Calendar, Ministry Schedule, past and current Bulletins, plus Faith Formation program details and more. We will also help you connect to important info, including the St. Augustine School website, the Archdiocese of Detroit, and sites of neighboring Catholic churches.

Check it out, and check often for updates!

A Note From Fr. Joe

(Continued from page 1)

Lent is a time of special grace that Holy Mother Church gives to us to help us grow in holiness and greater understanding of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lent, then, when used properly becomes a time when the soul can advance spiritually. During Lent God asks for fasting and prayer and almsgiving...

There are four qualities of prayer... They are:

First and foremost: Attention, number one. Christ requires that we pray with an absolute inner sincerity, not with external, hypocritical prayer as the Pharisees did... see Matthew Chapter 6, verses 5 through 8.

Second, we must have devotion. Prayer is more than an exercise of the mind. It is a genuflection of the will of God in your life. In other words, it is adoration. Genuine devotion should not be confused with the feeling of satisfaction, nor should it be one connected with emotion. Devotion is and should be total dedication to God and to His will in your life.

Three: Confidence. The Lord has told us to pray with unshakable confidence born of faith, and we look to Matthew, Chapter 11, verse 24. We also look to Luke, Chapter 17, verse 5. We do this by praying in the name of Jesus... by invoking the name in which all of heaven, on earth and under the earth bow at the sound of..." (To be continued...)

Fr. Joe



**St. Augustine
Lenten Fish Fry**
Parish Hall
Friday, March 5
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

All you can eat!

Baked or Fried Fish
French Fries or Baked Potato
Coleslaw ~ Rolls & Butter ~ Beverages

Adults \$8.00 ~ Seniors \$7.50
Carry Out \$8.00
Kids 6 - 12 \$5.00 ~ Age 5 and Under Free
Desserts for sale, too!

Next Week - Friday, March 12
Holy Family's Fish & Shrimp Fry

*Soup, Scripture,
Change & Conversion*



**A St. Augustine Parish
Program of
Lenten Reflections**

Please Note: Our February 22 gathering was cancelled due to inclement weather. The series has been extended by one week, through March 15, to ensure that all three original topics will be covered.

~ Monday, March 1 ~
Understanding the
Symbols and Practices Of Lent

~ Monday, March 8 ~
Lenten Reflections for Peace & Healing

~ Monday, March 15 ~
Seven Steps of
Becoming a Better Catholic

We will begin each evening with Soup & Bread at 6:00 p.m. in Room 7 of the Parish Center, followed by the discussion topics.

All are welcome!

For more information, call Tina: (586) 727-9290, ext. 125

~ The Week Ahead ~

Monday, March 1, 2010

6:00 p.m. Soup & Scripture Lenten series (Rm 7)
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

10:00 a.m. OA Meeting (Room 5)
6:30-8:00 p.m. School Open House
6:30 p.m. Altar Sodality Meeting (Church, Room 7)

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

4:30 p.m. Faith Formation Classes (Parish Center)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Church)
7:00 p.m. RCIA (Room 1)

Friday, March 5, 2010

4:30-7:00 p.m. Fish Fry (Hall)



**St. A's School
Open House This Week**

The St. Augustine Catholic School Open House will be held Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This is a vital event for the future success of the school. We appreciate any effort toward the promotion of the quality Catholic education we provide. Prospective parents and students (as well as the Parish family) are invited to tour the building, and meet with representatives of the School Committee, PTC, Faith Formation, Athletic Board, and faculty. The science and computer labs will be open for observation and all teachers will answer questions about our curriculum.

We appreciate the testimony of all current and past families of St. Augustine Catholic School's proud tradition. Today's economic situation is creating difficult decisions for many families, and many are deciding whether or not they can afford tuition. The lifetime value of a Catholic education is priceless and worth the struggle. Any time you get the chance, please encourage any prospective families to investigate our school. The Open House is a great time for parents and students to examine the school and decide to join the St. Augustine family.



Catholic Schools
Teaching Minds. Reaching Hearts.



This Tuesday, March 2, the ladies of the St. A's Altar Sodality will **meet in Church at 6:30 p.m.** for a Holy Hour, **followed by a meeting in Room 7 of the Parish Center** – the location change is for this month only. Topics will be the upcoming Bake Sale (March 27-28) and finalization of Rummage Sale plans (April 5-10). Refreshment Committee for this meeting is Bernadette Sharpe, Marie Ryan, Theresa Stevens, and Karen Stevens.



K.I.D.S. Needs Your Help

Kids In Distress, Inc. is experiencing a critical shortage of items this winter. They are desperately in need of the following items to continue their care for children:

- ♥ Boys Pants and Sweats - Sizes 3T - 12
- ♥ Girls Pants and Sweats - Sizes 3 - 10
- ♥ Infant Boys Clothes - 18 months - 24 months
- ♥ Blankets - New, all sizes

K.I.D.S. hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you can donate, PLEASE CONTACT K.I.D.S. DIRECTLY: (810) 326-4505, or drop off donations at their facility: 1114 S. 7th Street in St. Clair.

St. A's Faith Formation Office Wish List

Contact Tina Kovalcik if you can help:
(586) 727-9290, ext. 125

- ⌘ Two sturdy wooden bookcases for the Pastoral Associate/DRE's office.

MANY THANKS to the two donors of DVD players, and to a generous donor who gave a monetary donation towards a new book case.

Faith Formation

Live ~ Learn ~ Grow

Lent is a great time for us to step back and take a good look at our lives and who we have become. Lent is a time to get back to basics. Throughout the year, sometimes we get caught up in "stuff" and "put things aside". Some great examples are not attending Mass every Sunday because of other obligations; or, if I have time and treasure left over, then I'll make a commitment to help.

In the fast pace of today's lifestyle, sometimes we don't pray as often as we should, we don't put the needs of others before our own, we forget to take care of our health, etc. Lent is that great reminder to get back to basics and re-connect with God. Maybe we need to pray more, eat less, give to the needy, make personal sacrifices for the good of another. The Corporal Works of Mercy are a great reminder of how God wants us to live our life on earth. If you have forgotten all of them, here they are:

- ✧ Feed people who are hungry.
- ✧ Give drink to people who are thirsty.
- ✧ Clothe people who need clothes.
- ✧ Visit prisoners.
- ✧ Shelter people who are homeless.
- ✧ Visit people who are sick.
- ✧ Bury people who have died.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy go right along with the Corporal Works of Mercy. Do you remember these?

- ✧ Help people who sin.
- ✧ Teach people who are ignorant.
- ✧ Give advice to people who have doubts.
- ✧ Comfort people who suffer.
- ✧ Be patient with other people.
- ✧ Forgive people who hurt you.
- ✧ Pray for people who are alive and for those who have died.

We know through Scripture that God tells us if we live our life according to the Corporal Works of Mercy we are guaranteed eternal salvation. Lent – what a great time of year to get back on track with our faith life! Maybe if we exercise these Works during our Lenten season ... imagine the metamorphosis that can happen!

Lenten Blessings,
Tina Kovalcik
Pastoral Associate/DRE



Lenten Almsgiving Spotlight

- Solid Ground
Giving Hope and a Future to the Homeless

In cooperation with other agencies, faith-based organizations, and individuals, Solid Ground addresses the problem of homelessness in Macomb County, with an emphasis on families with children, the elderly, and disabled individuals.

The organization's goal is to empower their residents so that they can achieve independence. They achieve that by providing safe, transitional housing, and offering programs and services designed to address their physical, financial, emotional, social, and spiritual needs for up to 18 months.

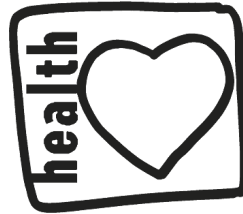
Solid Ground's services include 24/7 handicap-accessible transitional housing which offers food and shelter to families with children, the elderly, and mentally or physically challenged individuals; access to a family-to-family community specialist; mentoring; financial planning and skill building; referrals to a network of other community services and programs; assistance for filling out forms and applications; and multi-purpose space for collaborative agencies to provide services for residents.



Lenten Gifts of Love

The bleak winter months can be an especially difficult time for those who are alone. Many older and disabled people throughout our area are isolated and looking for a special friend who can drop by every week or two to chat, read mail, go out for coffee, or just let them know that someone cares.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program tries to meet some of the increasing needs for support for our frail, isolated and struggling neighbors. If you have just a few hours each month that you could give to someone who has no one, you can make a real difference. Your special gift of service, especially begun at this time of Lent, may turn into a very special spiritual gift for you as well. For more information, please contact Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Macomb County at (586) 757-5551.



Anxiety Over Your Health

Any threat to something extremely important to us triggers major apprehension. Anxiety over a significant

change for the worse in your health is not foolish. If a health issue of any kind concerns you, your anxiety does not indicate weakness or inability to cope. What matters is that you avoid letting the anxiety grow to a point where it controls you. The following suggestions may prove helpful.

Identify and express your feelings. Anxiety over health spawns a number of related worries as well, such as the cost of medical care and needed medication; the potential for pain; dealing with a recurrence or worsening of the condition; the risk of death; the possibility of diminished capabilities and its impact on employment, interaction with others, and general lifestyle; and loss of self-sufficiency. These are real considerations.

Put your feelings into words in your mind, or better, write them down which helps get them outside yourself. There's something very liberating and calming about doing that. Then, put your concerns into words spoken to a trusted friend. That's even more liberating.

Learn. Knowledge is power. It's in your best interest to learn as much as you can about the condition threatening your health. Health problems generate a wealth of informational material, available in books, periodicals, and on the internet. The key is to acquire information from reputable sources. Medical issues are not like math problems where only one correct answer is possible.

Be proactive (and cooperative). Taking medication as directed and promptly going for tests, check-ups, and follow-ups are essential to ensure the best possible outcomes. So are making healthy food choices, and exercising, especially if a certain routine has been prescribed.

Make faith work. Even people of faith can grow a bit weary of hearing, "Have faith." Yet we need to hear it, and actively practice faith until we deeply internalize it. This is the time to draw on faith, to let it guide you, to be open to the peace it can bring. When you have done all you can about a problem, mentally put it into a one-way "God delivery bag". "One-way" means the problem cannot be drawn back out. Once it goes in, God owns the problem. Ask for a stronger faith, as did the man in the Gospel of Mark who cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).



Remembering Those Who Serve

- FNE3 Nathan Bilbrey
- 1Lt Kevin Chamberlain
- LCpl Kyle Dupuis
- Spc Samuel Feldman
- Mid3 Adam Haag
- 2Lt Christopher Haag
- LT USN Ryan Haag
- Sgt Michael R. Hagan
- Cpt Michael A. Hoffman, D.D.S.
- SP4 Cory Moore
- SPC James Orzel
- Cpt Christopher Platz
- TSgt Jeffrey Platz
- PFC Ryan Pryslak
- MSgt Kevin Quant
- Lt Col Matthew Rettke
- POHM2 John-Christopher Sbraccia
- SPC Kurtis Schneider
- PFC Nicholas Spens
- CMSgt Chris Stevens
- SMSgt Joseph Stevens
- SSG Raymond Stier
- PFC Christopher Tishler
- Sgt Nathaniel Wirgau
- SSgt Jeffrey Yelencich

Reminders!

OFFICE HOURS CHANGE

Due to budget cuts, beginning this week the Parish Office will be open only four days a week: Monday through Thursday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m. Please plan your visits to the office accordingly.

BULLETIN MAILING

If you are a "snowbird", spending the winter season out of town, this is the last bulletin you will receive via U.S. Mail unless and until you have made a donation to cover the postage cost. We can no longer afford to mail bulletins to you free of charge.

Sincere thanks to our local shut-ins and other friends of St. Augustine who receive the bulletin by mail and have donated stamps or postage money without being asked. Mailing of the bulletin to our homebound Parishioners is a ministry we plan to continue whether or not these members are able to donate for postage.

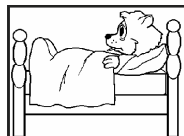
**National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233**

**Family Violence Hotline
1-800-996-6228**

Do not suffer in silence ... You are NOT alone.
These hotlines are staffed with trained counselors who will provide crisis assistance and information.

Remember The Sick

Please include the following name(s) on the Prayer List during March 2010





A great big THANK YOU to all who helped make the Anniversary Breakfast a memorable experience for all the celebrating couples and their families!

God Bless,
St. Augustine Altar Sodality

"Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens."

Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931) - Artist, Poet, and Writer