



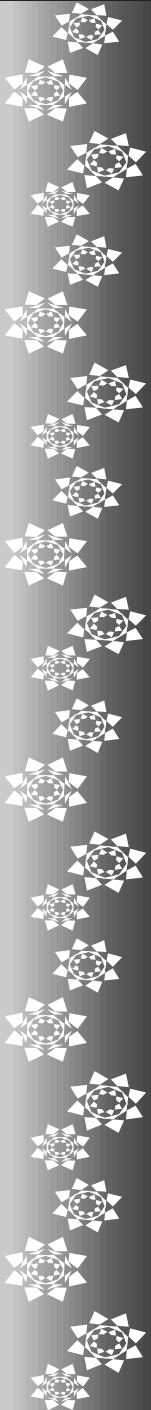
# St. Augustine

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.

January 2, 2011

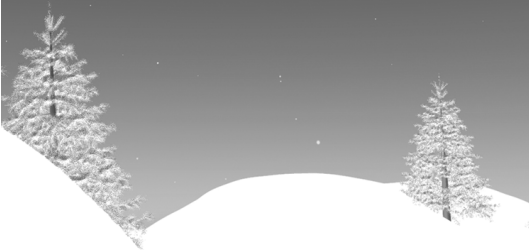
68035 Main Street - Richmond, Michigan 48062

(586) 727-5215



*Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."*

— Mt 2:1b-2



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
Cover design ©Liturgical Publications Inc. Photo ©Alessia Giangrande from Bigstockphoto.com



## *A Note from Father Joe*

I wish to offer our congratulations and best wishes to Fr. John Nedumcheril, our Associate Pastor, who has just celebrated his 20th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. He was ordained at his home parish of St. Mary's in his hometown of Pathanamthitta, Kerala, in the southern part of India on December 19, 1990. In his years since, Fr. John has served as a pastor, and founded and built the St. Thomas Secondary School in Bhopal, India. Fr. John also served as principal of the school for several years. He has accomplished quite a lot in the 20 years of his priesthood! We pray that God will continue to bless, strengthen, and guide him for many more years to come.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek "epiphanein," which means a "showing, appearance, or revelation." Since this word was used to describe a theophany, or a visit, from some civil dignitary, the Greek-speaking church of the East found it natural to use the word to describe the appearance of the Word made Flesh, who is Jesus Christ.

Connected with the story of the Epiphany is the coming of the Magi from the East. This story of the three Wise Men paying homage to the true King is meant as a reflection of an

(cont. on page 5)

## St. Augustine Catholic Church

68035 Main St., Richmond, Michigan 48062  
 Website - <http://www.staugustinecatholicchurch.com>  
 Email - [staugustinerichmond@comcast.net](mailto:staugustinerichmond@comcast.net)

Parish Office: (586) 727-5215 Fax: (586) 727-3760

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

**Bulletin Submissions Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. on Friday for the following weekend; deadline changes near major holidays. Please submit **electronically** to [dbertossi.st.a@comcast.net](mailto:dbertossi.st.a@comcast.net)

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  
 Barbara Armstrong & Patti Misiuk, Secretaries - Ext. 110

**Office of Faith Formation: (586) 727-9290**  
 Email - [faithformation@staugustinecatholicchurch.com](mailto:faithformation@staugustinecatholicchurch.com)

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

**Youth Ministry (586) 727-9290**

**St. Augustine School: (586) 727-9365**  
 Website - <http://www.staugustinecatholicsschool.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, 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.

## ~ This Week Ahead ~

**Monday, January 3, 2011**  
 8:00 p.m. - AA Meeting (Hall)

**Tuesday, January 4, 2011**  
 7:15 p.m. - Altar Sodality Meeting (Hall)

**Wednesday, January 5, 2011**  
 4:30 p.m. - Faith Formation (Hall)  
 7:00 p.m. - Baptism Prep I (Room 7)

**Thursday, January 6, 2011**  
 6:30 p.m. - NJHS Inductions (Hall)  
 7:00 p.m. - RCIA (Room 3)  
 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Church)

**Friday, January 7, 2011**  
 6:30 p.m. - Holy Hour (Church)

**Saturday, January 8, 2011**  
 9:00 a.m. - Altar Server Training (Church)  
 4:15 p.m. - Reconciliation (Church)

## St. Augustine Parish Pastoral Council 2010-2011

- ✠ Debbie Michon - Chair
- ✠ Otto Hohmann - Vice Chair
- ✠ Jill Hebel - Secretary
- ✠ Steven Kovalcik
- ✠ Douglas Kubick
- ✠ Jessica Leenknecht
- ✠ Elizabeth Montgomery
- ✠ Greg Rushlow
- ✠ Patty Smith
- ✠ Fr. Joe Plawecki

**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:**  
 Brian J. Brickel, Grand Knight



## Our Parish Life

### Scriptures

### Intentions

Monday, January 3, 2011		The Most Holy Name of Jesus
1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	7:30 a.m. - Rosary 8:00 a.m. - Mass	Albert Commyn, req. by His Family
Tuesday, January 4, 2011		St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
1 Jn 4:7-10 Mk 6:34-44	6:00 p.m. - Rosary 6:30 p.m. - Mass	Joseph Stanley Armstrong req. by Barbara Armstrong & Family
Wednesday, January 5, 2011		St. John Neumann
1 Jn 4:11-18 Mk 6:45-52	7:30 a.m. Rosary 8:00 a.m. Mass	For the People of St. John Neumann Parish, Canton
Thursday, January 6, 2011		Blessed Andre Bessette
1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Lk 4:14-22a	7:30 a.m. - Rosary 8:00 a.m. - Mass	The Sick of St. Augustine Parish
Friday, January 7, 2011		St. Raymond of Penafort
1 Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-16	7:30 a.m. Rosary 8:00 a.m. Mass	For the People of St. Raymond Parish, Detroit
Saturday, January 8, 2011		
1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 3:22-30	12:00 Noon Reconciliation 4:15-4:45 p.m. Reconciliation	

Sunday, January 9, 2011

## The Baptism of The Lord



### +Eucharistic Liturgies:

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

### Scriptures:

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Acts 10:34-38  
Matthew 3:13-17

### Intentions:

Benjamin Aponik,  
req. by Catherine Bednarski

Eleanor Blosch -  
Birthday Remembrance,  
req. by Beverly Woloczyk

Leonard R. Schmidt -  
Anniversary Remembrance,  
req. by His Children

Lillian Martindale,  
req. by John & Florence Wessel

Margaret Kammer,  
req. by Dave & Marilyn Kammer

*Please remember those who are...*

Facing the challenges of illness at home or in the hospital,  
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.*

## Faith Formation

### Live ~ Learn ~ Grow

A few weeks ago, I had an interesting conversation with Grace and Alfred. They were the couple that came to display the religious articles made from the olivewood grown in the Holy Land. The monies raised from their sales are to help the Christians who still remain there.

Alfred shared with me some devastating facts. In 1950, 50% of the people living in Jerusalem were Christian. In 2000, it dropped to 10%. Today, it is less than 1%!

These statistics broke my heart. To think that this land where God placed his only Son is almost depleted of our Christian brothers and sisters. This is where it all began; this is where it all happened!



Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Jerusalem, and gathered his apostles. This is where he did his Father's will. He taught many, he healed the afflicted, and he performed his first miracle here - the Wedding at Cana!

Today, there are so many check points in and out of the city that people are afraid to come and go. Many have fled their homeland for safety reasons. Those that remain cannot earn a living because of the fighting. Imagine living in fear every day. We hear in Scripture "Be Not Afraid" 365 times, once for every day of the year. Truly the people living in the Holy Land have such great faith. They are **living** the Word of God!

I cannot even begin to imagine the Holy Land with NO Christians. I guess since we are such a distance away, we envision the war in a different area, not touching the land where our Christian roots began. As we reflect on the traditional Christmas theme or the journey of the magi, we must be imagining things as they were over 2,000 years ago, peaceful and serene. The reality of today tells us something different.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

We are looking for at least 20 volunteers to be part of the Capital Campaign Committee for a four-month commitment. Please consider if you can help and attend this meeting in the School Library for more information.

Alfred and Grace have devoted themselves to helping people in the Holy Land through the sales from the religious articles. They invited me to visit and said that if I come, they would be my personal tour guide and share with me their excellent cuisine. What an awesome offer!

In Grace's gratitude for allowing them to come to St. A's, she gave me a gift; a rosary made from olivewood. As we shared conversation of traditions and sacramentals, I gave her a gift of several brown Carmelite scapulars, which she will share with her family.

I promised them, per their request, that I would pray for peace, especially in the Holy Land. During this Christmas season, I cannot begin to imagine what the Christians in Jerusalem and Bethlehem must be experiencing in the presence of war.

This Christmas season, as we pray for peace and joy, let us remember our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. The place where our story began, a place where salvation happened. We all need to pray for world peace! By the way, I have invited Alfred and Grace to join us again in December 2011, so that we can do our part in supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.



**Tina Kovalcik**  
Pastoral Associate/DRE



**20 + C + M + B + 11**

On Epiphany, Christ is revealed to the world. The Magi offer gifts to their newborn King. The star of Bethlehem drives away the darkness of night to welcome the Messiah, the Prince of Peace.

Epiphany is the merriest day of Christmastime. We can make our homes and community glitter with gold and fragrantly smell from frankincense and myrrh. A big part of the Epiphany celebration is the blessing of the home in the new year. Select a royal person in your family. Give him/her a crown to wear, a piece of chalk, and an evergreen sprig with a bowl of water. Gather at the front door and pray the Lord's Prayer. The crowned person writes in chalk over the door 20 + C + M + B + 11. The crosses stand for the four seasons. The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Now bless your home and sprinkle it with water while you sing "We Three Kings" and "Joy to the World." Now, each time you enter your home, you will remember to bring blessings into your home in this new year of grace.



## January Altar Sodality Meeting

The first Altar Sodality Meeting of 2011 will be held on Tuesday, January 4, at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. A topic of discussion will cover the Anniversary Breakfast to be held on February 13.

All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

(cont. from page 1)

important aspect of the Incarnation: that the Messiah has come not just for the Jews, but for all people.

Along with this theme, a popular religious tradition of blessing homes on the Feast of Epiphany developed in the Middle Ages. The Word made Flesh among us to bring us all into the one family of God. See the article inside this bulletin regarding the blessing of one's home on this Feast.

*F. Joe*



**Friday, January 7, 2011**

**Holy Hour for  
Peace and Conversions  
6:30 p.m. - in Church**

Join us as we begin this New Year in prayer for peace in our world, the good of souls, those suffering from the economy, and God's protection for our country and our service men and women.

## Is the Christmas Season Bringing You Joy or Sadness?



Christmas is a time of joy and excitement for many married couples and families. But for some, it is a time of tension and sadness. Some married couples may think they made a mistake by getting married. They see unhappiness ahead of them and may have even considered divorce. Do you feel anxious about your marriage?

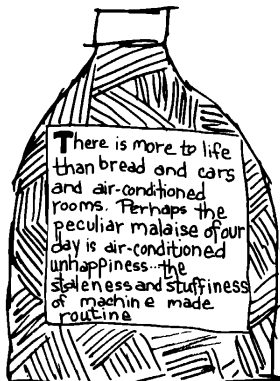
Other couples have found happiness in a marriage that looked like it was heading for disaster. Retrouvaille helped!

The next Retrouvaille program begins with a weekend at the Embassy Suites in Livonia on January 14 - 16, 2011. For further information, call (800) 470-2230.

# Word of Life

Men and women were created for something great, for infinity. The desire for a more meaningful life is a sign that God created us and that we bear His "imprint." God is life, and that is why every creature reaches out towards life. Because human beings are made in the image of God, we do this in a unique and special way. We reach out for love, joy and peace.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, "Message for World Youth Day" (2011)



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ruth Luszczyki. She is the winner of the early bird drawing for a \$300 Scrip gift certificate selected from those who bought tickets for the March 19th Spring Raffle.

The Scrip program allows the "buyer" to choose gift cards from a long list of participating vendors, such as Ken's Restaurant, Brengman's, The Gap, Macy's, and L.L. Bean. When these cards are used to make purchases at these locations, a percentage of the sale goes to the non-profit organization. In St. Augustine's case, it is our school. (Scrip order forms may be obtained at the ramp entrance of the church, and at the School office during normal business hours.)

Stay tuned for more early bird prize information!



## For Widows and Widowers

*Widowed Friends*, a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, is offering GRIEF RECOVERY, a six-series session dealing with grief, loneliness, and other related issues. It is especially helpful during the first few years following the loss of a spouse. This series will be conducted by a trained member of *Widowed Friends* beginning on SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd, at 1:00 p.m. at Lee-Ellena Funeral Home, 46530 Romeo Plank Road, Macomb. A \$20.00 fee covers all materials. Contact Rose at (586) 726-0844 for details.

# HANKS!

A special thank you is extended to the following church members who braved the snow and ice on Monday, December 13, to clean the church for Christmas.

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mary Brickel    | Ken Schweiger     |
| Kathy Dolan     | Pat Schweiger     |
| Dee Franz       | Roy Schweiger     |
| Pat Manchik     | Bernadette Sharpe |
| Sharon Ozark    | Rosemary Smith    |
| Pattie Papuga   | Theresa Teska     |
| Sandy Pridotkas | Gladys Verbrugge  |
| Janet Schmidt   |                   |

The church received a very thorough cleaning and the efforts of everyone is greatly appreciated.



**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.



## Life is a Gift Conference

How can you be a living witness of the Gospel of Life in our times? Be part of the Archdiocese of Detroit's "Life is a Gift" conference, which will be held on January 22 at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Archbishop Allen Vigneron will give a keynote address at the conference, as well as Dr. Janet Smith, Dr. Paul A. Wright, and Dr. Michael Kenney. Workshops will be held on sidewalk counseling, ministering through Project Rachel, living out your vocation for life, and end-of-life and hospice care. Ave Maria Radio's Teresa Tomeo will emcee the event. All are welcome to attend.

Cost of the conference is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students ages 13 and older. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. For information or to register online, visit [www.aodonline.org/lifeisagift](http://www.aodonline.org/lifeisagift), or call

### Blood Drive

Where? St. Mary School, St. Clair  
 When? Sunday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 No appointment necessary  
 Why? To save lives!



## A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel tells us "all Jerusalem" was upset because "King Herod was deeply troubled." A similar ripple effect happens in families. One person's negative attitude can affect the whole family. If you want a peaceful and joyful home, it must start with you. Be peaceful and joyful!

### St. A's Health Ministry



Greetings! How much sleep do you need? Most everyone has experienced the feeling of going through a day without getting enough sleep the night before. Too little sleep can make you feel groggy, make it difficult to focus, or even compromise your memory. These side effects can definitely be frustrating, but there are some much greater dire consequences for getting too little sleep, especially when the problem is chronic.

People who don't get enough sleep on a regular basis may also be limiting their quality of life - they may be putting relationships in jeopardy or may be unable to participate in certain activities due to fatigue. They may also be putting themselves at a higher risk for occupational injury or automobile injury (the National Highway Traffic Safety administration estimates that drowsy driving is responsible for at least 71,000 injuries and 1,550 fatalities each year).

Join us next week to learn more about sleep deprivation and its affects on everyday life!

Maureen Duncan, RN



## ~ Stewardship ~

### Weekly Sunday Collection December 19, 2010



Budget Amount	\$ 11,329.00
Collection Amount	\$ 10,853.06
Net Over/(Under)	(\$ 475.94)
Week 25 YTD Budget Amount	\$283,225.00
Sunday Collection YTD Total	\$247,514.33
Net Over/(Under)	(\$ 35,710.67)

Number of adult envelopes used:	301
Loose collection	\$675.85
Number of children's envelopes used:	82
Children's collection	\$108.21
October EFTs	\$1,825.00

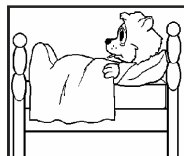


## Remembering Those Who Serve

- DC2 Troy Baran
- FNE3 Nathan Bilbrey
- Cpt Kevin Chamberlain
- Cpl Kyle Dupuis
- Spc Samuel Feldman
- Mid3 Adam Haag
- Cpt Christopher Haag
- LT USN Ryan Haag
- SSgt Michael R. Hagan
- Cpt Michael A. Hoffman, D.D.S.
- Sgt Daniel Johns
- 1Lt David F Kuntz
- Cpl Christopher Lemke
- SP4 Cory Moore
- Cpt Christopher Platz
- Cpt Lisa Marie Platz
- MSgt Jeffrey Platz
- PFC Ryan Pryslak
- MSgt Kevin Quant
- Col Matthew Rettke
- 1Lt Brad Roshak
- POHM2 John-Christopher Sbraccia
- SPC Kurtis Schneider
- PFC Nicholas Spens
- SMSgt Joseph Stevens
- SSG Raymond Stier
- PFC Christopher Tishler
- Sgt Nathaniel Wirgau
- TSgt Jeffrey Yelencich

### Remember The Sick

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



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_



## NET Retreat

**National Evangelization Team**

Experience God through uplifting prayer, moving dramas, funny skits, great music, personal testimony, and small groups.

**Sunday, January 30, 2011**

**4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**St. Mary Catholic Church**

**415 North Sixth St.**

**St. Clair**

(Begin in school activities room, and end in church)

**Teens Grades 7 - 12**  
**Free admission and pizza dinner**



**Includes Sunday Liturgy**

Families are invited to join us in church at 8:00 p.m. for Mass

**NET:** The National Evangelization Teams are Catholic young adults from around the U.S. (and beyond) who travel across the country conducting retreats for Catholic young people just like YOU!

**[www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org)**

Challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church.

Please RSVP by January 25 to Tina Kovalcik at (586) 727-9290, ext 125, or at [tinakovalcik@yahoo.com](mailto:tinakovalcik@yahoo.com)

Any questions may also be addressed to Tina.

This event is made possible by the Catholic Churches of the Bluewater Vicariate.

