

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.

March 7, 2010

68035 Main Street - Richmond, Michigan 48062

(586) 727-5215

LENTEN CALENDAR ~ Week of March 7

Liturgies:

- ✧ Monday - 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✧ Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. Mass and Perpetual Help Devotions
- ✧ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Sacrament of Penance:

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

Faith Enrichment:

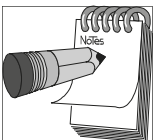
- ✧ *THE WORD AMONG US*, Lenten Issue - Available by church entrances. Copies are free, one per family.

Special Events:

- ✧ Monday, March 8 - 6:00 p.m., Room 7 of the Parish Center - Lenten reflection series: *Soup, Scripture, Change & Conversion*

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

The following is a continuation of the "inspired" words of instruction from my previous article regarding our approach to Lent. I continue with the fourth point regarding the qualities of prayer:

"Four: Perseverance. We learn from the gospel to pray with perseverance. Look to: Luke Chapter 18, verse 7; Matthew Chapter 7, verses 7 through 11; and Luke Chapter 11, verses 1 through 13. The Christian, then, should never lose heart. It's a sad thought that many times when we do not get our prayers answered as we think they should be or in a timely fashion, we lose heart. Never be discouraged and never give up. Look at Luke Chapter 18, verse 1. Prayer then becomes a mystery where God meets man and the Holy Spirit works to bring this communication about.

Prayer, then, is beyond what a human being can do himself. It cannot be mastered by human effort or by



human technique. Prayer, then, becomes the action of God in one's soul. Prayer is possible because God works in and through us, and prayer also becomes an expression of supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and love. Prayer is the Holy Spirit within us, and yet we, through our act of will, are the ones who pray.

(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 27-28, 2010

Budget Amount: \$ 11,329.00
February 27-28, 2010

Weekend Collection: \$ 10,889.10

Net over/(under): (\$ 439.90)

35th Week Year-to-Date

Budgeted Total: \$ 396,515.00

Weekend Collection

Year-to-Date Total: \$ 365,663.60

Net over/(under): (\$ 30,851.40)

This Sunday Collection included:

Number of adult envelopes used: 292

Loose collection: \$628.50

Number of children's envelopes used: 78

Children's collection: \$91.60

January EFTs: \$2,050.00

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 ...*

Scriptures

Intentions

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday, March 8, 2010 | | St. John of God |
| II Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30 | 7:30 a.m. – Rosary 8:00 a.m. – Mass | Virginia Bartoszek, req. by Her Husband, Louis |
| Tuesday, March 9, 2010 | | St. Frances of Rome |
| Dn 3:25,34-43 Mt 18:21-35 | 6:00 p.m. – Rosary 6:30 p.m. – Mass | Joe Matousek, req. by His Family |
| Wednesday, March 10, 2010 | | |
| Dt 4:1,5-9 Mt 5:17-19 | 7:30 a.m. – Rosary 8:00 a.m. – Mass | Rose Catherine Jahn, req. by the Jahn Family |
| Thursday, March 11, 2010 | | |
| Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23 | 7:30 a.m. – Rosary 8:00 a.m. – Mass | Bill Franz - Birthday Remembrance, req. by His Wife |
| Friday, March 12, 2010 | | |
| Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34 | 7:30 a.m. – Rosary 8:00 a.m. – Mass | David Iwanicki, req. by Tom Iwanicki & Family |
| Saturday, March 13, 2010 | | |
| Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14 | Noon-12:30 p.m., and 4:15-4:45 p.m. – Reconciliation | |

*Sunday, March 14, 2010
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Daylight Savings Time
Begins*



Eucharistic Liturgies:

– Saturday –
5:00 p.m.

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

Scriptures:

Joshua 5:9a,10-12
II Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Intentions:

Marie Breuer,
req. by Betty Ann Trumble

Leo Weingartz,
req. by the Rita Schlaud Family

Virginia Bartoszek,
req. by Her Husband, Louis

JoAnn Schubert,
req. by Dave & Marilyn Kammer

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

~ March 7, 2010 ~

Third Sunday of Lent

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

~ ~ ~ ~

When God called Moses from the burning bush, God launched him on one of the longest, most significant journeys in history – and began by telling him: “Remove the sandals from your feet” (Exodus 3:5). Why would God say that?



The second half of the verse offers a reason: “The place where you stand is holy ground.” Imagine how fast Moses obeyed! In Egypt, where he grew up, people were required to go barefoot before Pharaoh or any other superior. It was both an expression of respect and an admission of a lower-status position. Standing before the greatest Lord of all, whose glory shimmered out like an invisible force field, Moses must have felt awed and humble indeed.

What does this tell us about our approach to prayer? Without any burning bushes to jolt us, it's easy to relate to God casually, even as if it's something of a chore. The image of Moses removing his sandals reminds us that our loving Father is an awesome God whose holiness we cannot even begin to comprehend. It tells us to approach Him with reverence, humility, and an awareness of our sin and frailty. But the scene speaks to us in other ways as well.

Shoes and sandals get dirty, and still today in many cultures and homes, people take them off before entering the house. In a way, that's what we're called to do when we come before God. Grimy footwear can also symbolize the distractions that pop up when we pray. If this happens, we can follow the advice of St. Alphonsus Liguori and try our best to leave all extraneous thoughts at the door of our prayer time. We can also say, along with St. Bernard: “O my thoughts, wait here. After prayer we shall speak about other matters.”

So as you go to pray today, take off your sandals! The One who called Moses is calling you!

“Father, who am I that You should love me so much – enough to give up Your only Son for my sake? Help me to set aside everything that separates me from You and to return Your love as fully as I can.”

A Note From Fr. Joe

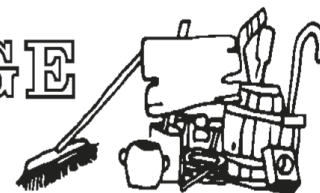
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As we reflect on these “inspired words,” let us turn our hearts towards contemplating Lent. Let us immerse ourselves in this prayer and let us ask the Holy Spirit, then, to come to us that our prayer may be reflected before the Throne of Heaven with the help of our mother, Mary, for she remains our advocate, the one who continues to plead our cause. She is always with us whenever we pray, and we know that where she is, there Jesus is, as well, and of course, she is the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

We, as Catholics, as Christian Catholics, have the fullness of faith. Let us always be mindful of the great seasons that the Holy Mother, Church on earth, gives to us, especially Lent. And let us embrace prayer and fasting and almsgiving, and let us strive towards true devotion. Let us give ourselves to our Savior in our prayer every day, that we may grow in holiness and forge our robe, that we may be worthy to stand among those already present at the wedding feast.”

F. Joe

RUMMAGE SALE



April 8-9-10

in the Parish Hall

sponsored by the
St. Augustine Altar Sodality

Donations are gratefully accepted!

Plan to drop off your items

Monday - Wednesday, April 5-6-7

Contact the Altar sodality for details

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Christ

We need Lent. In the midst of our busy lives, with worldly forces and temptations working hard to distract us from the call of Christ, the weeks of Lent are a gift. As we fast and pray, and extend our hands to the poor, we are imitating Christ, joining ourselves more closely to Him. He suffered and sacrificed; so do we. He lives in eternal joy; so will we, as we follow Him in hope.



The eighth graders of our Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation next Saturday, March 13, 2010, at our 5:00 p.m. Liturgy.

For those of you who regularly attend 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday: Please note that seating on March 13 will be at a premium as we welcome the families of our Confirmation candidates to this celebration. You may wish to choose another Mass to attend the weekend of March 12-13, in order to help accommodate our many guests.

Please take a few moments to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they enter their final days of preparation:

God our loving Father, these candidates for Confirmation have been anointed in Baptism to share in the mission of Your Son in the world. Send Your Holy Spirit upon them to make them fearless witnesses of the Gospel. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Soup, Scripture, Change & Conversion



A St. Augustine Parish Program of Lenten Reflections

~ 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 8, 2010

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

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

10:00 a.m. OA Meeting (Room 5)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

4:30 p.m. Faith Formation Classes (Parish Center)
7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Library)

Thursday, March 11, 2010

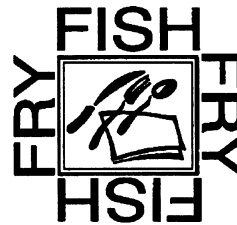
10:00 a.m. Rosary Makers (Rm 2)
6:00 p.m. Cantors Rehearsal (Church)
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Church)
7:00 p.m. RCIA (Room 1)

Friday, March 12, 2010

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Practice (Church)

Saturday, March 13, 2009

5:00 p.m. Mass Celebration of Confirmation



**Holy Family
Fish & Shrimp Fry**
Main Street, in Memphis
Friday, March 12
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Price Includes:

Fish and/or Shrimp

Mac & Cheese, French Fries or Baked Potato

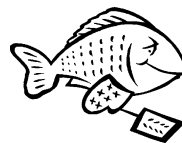
Coleslaw ~ Rolls ~ Beverages ~ Dessert

Adults \$8.50 ~ Senior Citizens \$7.50

Children 5-12 \$5.00 ~ Under 5 Free

Mac & Cheese Only: \$4.00

Carry-Outs Available



Next week:

**St. A's Fish Fry –
Friday, March 19**

Visit our all-new
Parish website!

WWW.

StAugustineCatholicChurch
.com

Faith Formation

Live ~ Learn ~ Grow

Lent ... A Time For Renewal

How many of us truly understand the importance of Scripture and its ongoing tradition of the Church? We hear the Word week after week, but do we understand what it all means? Of course not! Unless we are all scripture scholars or well-versed in scripture. That is why it is so important to attend Mass weekly – listen intently to God's Word and the homily, so that we can learn and understand God's message and apply those teaching in our life and in our world.



As community, the Church is rooted in a variety of places. The Church is an organic body – it is alive! Christ is its head, and it is enlivened by His Spirit. The Church is in a continual process of change, growth and renewal. At the same time, it is united to its apostolic tradition. The teaching office of the Church safeguards the authenticity of the developments in the life of this community.

Because our focus is in the Church in the United States, the work of new lay ministers, people like you and me, answer God's call to serve one another. Our bishops respond to the developments and changes in their diocese and the currents of change in the Church at large. They are striving to read the signs of the times in light of the tradition which they are charged to safeguard.

We are in need of lay ecclesial ministers since there is such a shortage of priests. Did you know it will take approximately 10 years for the seminarians enrolled today to graduate and be placed in their own parish? Did you know that every day our priests do more than prepare for daily Mass, visit the ill, make hospital calls, attend meetings (day and night), do unending paperwork ... the list goes on and on. It is true that the people make up the very life of a parish, and it is through our baptismal call that we have obligations to fulfill. Won't you consider becoming a Lector, Cantor, Usher, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Sacristan, Catechist, Minister to the homebound, Minister of Liturgy of the Word for Children, join the Funeral Vigil team, etc.? Would you consider becoming a Commission member, meeting once a month for nine months? Would you like to plan parish activities? Could you minister at a School Mass once a month? Won't



God Bless You!

Congratulations best wishes to our 2010 Anniversary Couples, who shared their celebrations with the Parish at the February 14 Anniversary Breakfast:

- ♥ 10 Years Dennis and Susie Dobrasko
- ♥ 20 Years Lyle and Betsy John
- ♥ 25 Years Charles and Angela Lietaert
- ♥ 25 Years Dennis and Katie Schweiger
- ♥ 25 Years Bruce and Lori Uhl
- ♥ 25 Years Gerald and Mary Szczerbinski
- ♥ 30 Years Chris and Lucy Evans
- ♥ 45 Years John and Karen Knapp
- ♥ 50 Years David and Ruby Austin
- ♥ 50 Years Robert and Karon Ottenbacher
- ♥ 50 Years Charles and Sharon Ozark
- ♥ 50 Years Bernard and Ginny Ritter
- ♥ 50 Years Lloyd and Doris Suess
- ♥ 50 Years David and Judy Schweiger
- ♥ 50 Years David and Joyce Torres
- ♥ 51 Years Arthur and Julia Hebel
- ♥ 51 Years Frank and Marie Ryan
- ♥ 52 Years Sam and Ida Lucido
- ♥ 54 Years Leslie and Barbara Osterland
- ♥ 55 Years David and Marilyn Kammer
- ♥ 56 Years Henry and Dorothy Zaleski
- ♥ 58 Years John and Stephanie Brozowski
- ♥ 59 Years Donald and Pat Scheuer
- ♥ 59 Years Clifford and Arlene Schweiger
- ♥ 60 Years Edward and Virginia Bulski
- ♥ 61 Years Glen and Irene Schweiger
- ♥ 62 Years Jack and Mary Lou Brickel
- ♥ 63 Years Edmund and Mary Iwanicki
- ♥ 65 Years Elmer and Jenny Ferguson

you consider answering God's call today? For some, ministry is temporary. For others, it is lifelong. Try it on!

As we travel through this time of **Lent, a time of growth, renewal and change**, please consider taking on a new role in your faith life. Call me at (586) 727-9290, ext. 125; or email me at tinakovalcik@yahoo.com for more information. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

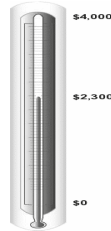
Lenten Blessings,
Tina Kovalcik
 Pastoral Associate/DRE



"Business 101" at St. A's

"CAMPAIGN - SILVER BELLS"

We are plodding along. We are now at approximately \$2,300, a little over halfway. Thanks very much to everyone who is helping with this collection.



STATE OF THE PARISH

I will continue this portion of the column as we attempt to balance our budget and prepare for the next fiscal year budget which starts in July.

This budgetary process is not easy for me or the rest of the Parish staff, but it is something that needs to be done. It is never easy to trim expenses from a budget that is already pretty much at a "bare bones" level. The staff is working very hard to come up with ideas, all of which I am reviewing. I take the ones that I think will work to Fr. Joe and together we decide if we will implement the idea. Any cuts that have been accepted I intend to list in this column, so that you will be kept abreast of what is going on with your Parish. The only cuts that I will not be able to publish are any items that would affect a particular staff employee.

I can also tell you that our current money situation will not affect the viability of the school. The school will continue, so please don't start those rumors. It is true that they will seriously have to cut their budget as the rest of us are doing, but the school will continue to operate.

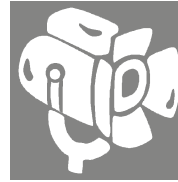
New budget cuts that are being implemented are:

- Elimination of staff Christmas bonuses
- No raises except where contractual
- Eliminate mailing of offertory envelopes to parishioners' homes

Things to Ponder

"Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."

– Anthony Robbins (b. 1960)
Self-Help Writer and Speaker



Lenten Almsgiving Spotlight

- Compassion Pregnancy Center

The Compassion Pregnancy Center, located in Clinton Township, was founded in 1994 to offer women facing a crisis pregnancy a place to go for information, assistance and encouragement. The Center provides services to women and their families regardless of age, religion, race, marital status, or location of residence.

In the past 15 years, the Compassion Pregnancy Center has helped thousands of women facing unexpected pregnancies. In 2008 alone, the Center had nearly 600 new clients and almost 2,200 client visits.

The center is open Monday through Saturday, with a small staff and a collection of dedicated, concerned and loving volunteers trained as peer counselors and receptionists. Each volunteer receives 21 hours of training, as well as close supervision in order to provide the services offered. All services are free and confidential.

Services include free pregnancy testing; information on pregnancy and abortion alternatives; confidential peer counseling and guidance including post-abortion peer counseling; referrals for medical care, housing, social services, legal aid, and material needs; and prenatal, infant, and childcare classes. The Center focuses on providing physical, emotional and spiritual support for all who come to them, through these services as well as classes addressing issues including:

- Abusive vs. Healthy Relationships
- Bible Studies
- Breastfeeding
- Building Your Future
- Childbirth
- Fetal Development
- Healthy Child
- Mothers of Preschoolers
- Nutrition and Food
- Parenting and Discipline

For complete information, call (586) 783-2229, or visit their website, www.compassionpregnancy.org

In Christ's Love,
Bob Fillhart
A Parish Family Member First,
and also Your Business Manager
rfillhar@hotmail.com



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
- Cpt Lisa Marie 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

St. A's Spring 2010 Raffle



~~ Cash Prizes ~~



One \$5,000 prize

One \$2,500 prize

Three \$500 prizes Five \$250 prizes

Drawing will be held at the Fish Fry on Friday evening, March 19 – tickets will be sold until the time of the drawing!

Purchase a ticket after any weekend Mass, or Monday-Thursday at the Parish Office
Get yours by 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 8 for a chance at a bonus \$100 gas card!



St. Augustine Student Alumni 2nd Quarter 2009-10 Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following young men and women – we are proud of you!

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

Principal's List - All A's

- Alyssa Radzwion
- Kathryn Shepherd

First Honors - Minimum of 3 A's, No Grade Lower than an A or B

- Devin Webber

Regina Catholic High School

9th Grade Honor Roll

- Alexandra Byrd

10th Grade Honor Roll

- Stefana Fanelli
- Christine Hampton
- Jacqueline Szydowski

12th Grade Honor Roll

- Talia Fanelli
- Alexandra Kasperski
- Kelly Speck

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

