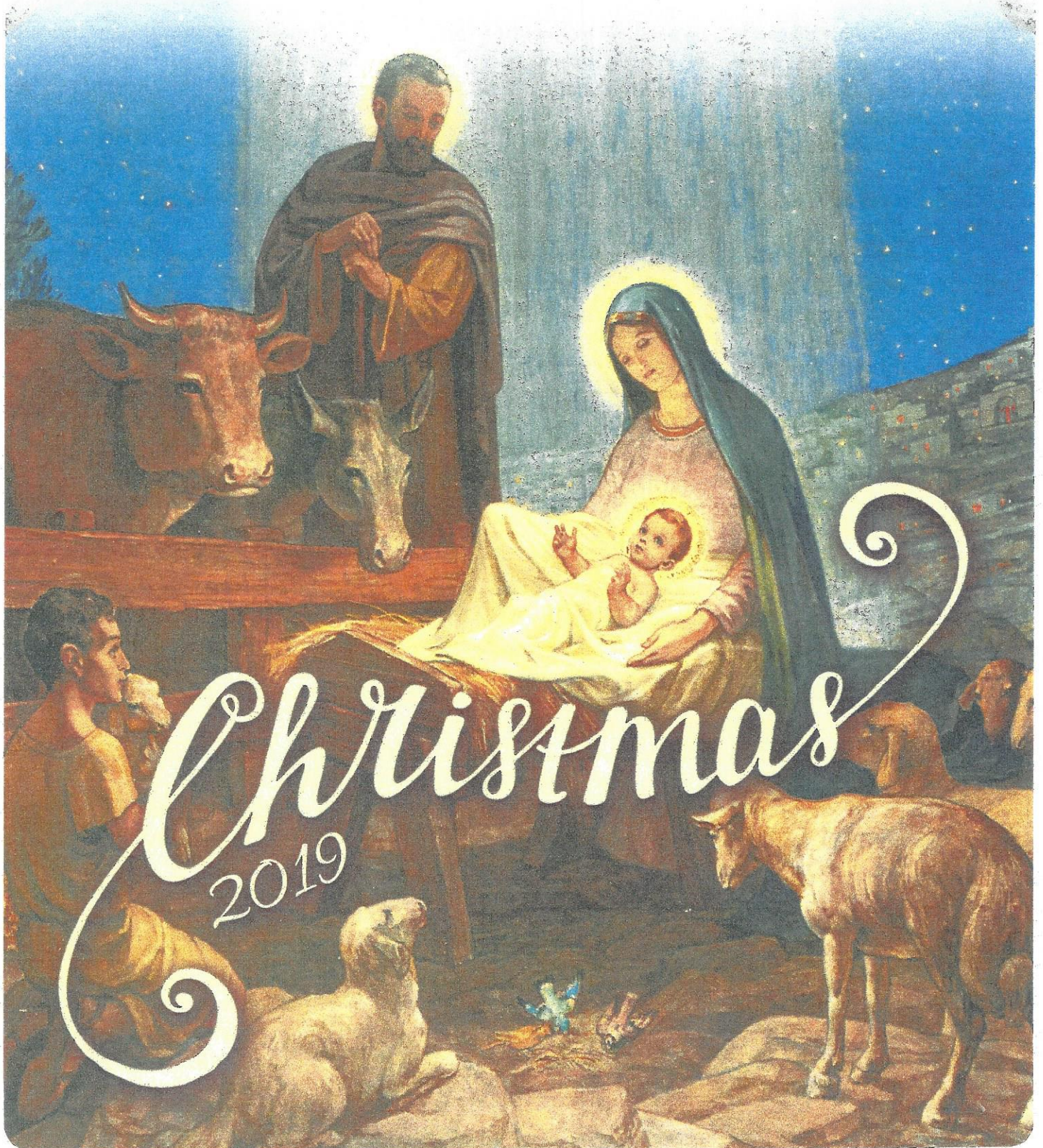


SAINT AUGUSTINE R.C. PARISH
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



St. Augustine Parish

"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)
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

Robert Zigmund
Maintenance/Facilities Manager (Ext. 111)
facilities243@gmail.com

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

In Residence:

Rev. Paul Morrissey, O.S.A., *Prison Chaplain*
Rev. James Keating, O.S.A.
Rev. James Paradis, O.S.A., *Prior*

Sacramental Celebrations

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on a regular basis, except during Lent. It is usually celebrated within Mass. Arrangements must be made in advance. The parents of the child to be baptized meet personally ahead of time with the priest celebrating the sacrament. Contact the parish office for further information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Weddings are arranged by appointment at least eight months in advance of the desired wedding date. Contact the parish office for more information.

Ministry to the Sick & Sacrament of the Sick

If anyone in your family is seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or in a nursing home and they would like a visit from the pastor, please call the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Anytime by appointment.

Parish Registration

Please call the parish office or visit the parish website for a registration form or more information. Forms are also available in the back of the Church.

Parish Committees

The Parish Council, Filipino Sub-Council, and Finance Committees assist the staff in serving the parish. Please contact the parish office or see Fr. Bill for information about serving on these various committees.

Novena to the Santo Niño

Each Sunday, after the 11:00 AM Mass there is a novena in honor of the Santo Niño.



Christmas 2019

Arriving at your faith home on Palm Sunday weekend, my eyes were illuminated by the beauty of St. Augustine. The church's unique (classical) architectural design is a symbol of a very rich and challenging history. While the site is a foundation or birth place of the Augustinians in the United States, it is a living legacy where you and I along with family and friends nurture our faith. When Augustinians arrived from Ireland in 1796 and established St. Augustine Church; the focus of their work was to minister to the Irish who were settling in the neighborhood. Those immigrants once supplied the labor that established the region as a powerhouse of industry and finances. As the new immigrants were arriving, a political party known as the *Nativist*, an anti-immigrant movement with a legacy of hatred, was opposed to having Irish Catholics in "their" city. In 1842, as a protest against the Catholic immigrants, they burnt down the church of St. Augustine. A history that is all of our history.

Who were those 19th century Augustinian Friars and early immigrants who lived in an environment of division and how did they respond? Historically, the response was characterized by their faith and fortitude. The parishioners and the Augustinians rebuilt the church, surprisingly, the beginnings of Villanova University also arose, as if from the ashes. With courage, faith and commitment, St. Augustine Parish was re-established.

How does this history of St. Augustine Church in the early days of its foundation touch us today? One example, from my perspective, is to ask "have we found ways to express a heartfelt concern for those families whose children have been separated from their parents at our boarder?" There are, fortunately, individuals and groups who are presently working at shelters on both sides of the boarder offering an environment of safety. These individuals are the prophets and prophetess, who give witness to the legacy of Abrahamic hospitality, the caring of strangers rooted in the First or Old Testament of the Bible. Remember the Holy Family's Flight into Egypt during the time of Herod's massacre of the Innocents. Who welcomed them in their moment of exile? Someone did.

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they must have experienced what our own parents experienced when they held their Son for the first time. What was that moment like? When I ask parents at a wedding liturgy about their son and daughter's birth and what they experienced, I have received a variety of responses which I believe are deeply rooted in mystery of life and their love for their newborn child. For example, one father, a commercial fisherman from New England, responded to my question with tears at the memory of that sacred moment. Tears represented his heartfelt love.

On this Christmas Feast, I wish you a blessed Christmas remembering that each of us was held for the first time and there was joy in the hearts of our parents as there was for the Holy Family. May many of you who are parents and grandparents recall the legacy of Mary and Joseph, when as parent you held someone in love at their birth and probably experienced tears like the fisherman.

To future parents, may the Star of Bethlehem guide you to see new life as a gift, God's love made visible through your love. May all us: parents, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers, rejoice at the mystery that is Christmas, God's Love made visible in the Son. May we be people of peace as we pray for **Peace** in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and the communities of the world and in each of our hearts.

Christmas Blessings,

Fr. Bill

Merry Christmas



The day that my diligent editor asked me to consider writing this essay it was late August, the last day of the summer's fifth heat wave. The request was an honor. But the challenge was inherent. As I started jotting some notes down soon after, I had to "fast forward" mentally to that glove and hat-wearing time of year, with snowflakes patting the window panes.

My mind instinctively traveled back to Christmases past. It's a tendency that afflicts people like me, "of a certain age." I recalled vivid scenes from my boyhood in our city row house; the decorating skills of my dear Mom brought out in her window glass treatments; the magic of the manger scene and that myth attached to childhood of a man in red.

Later Christmases, growing up in our suburban home, Mom was quite busy with my new siblings, so we older kids pitched in with the decorating. There was never any thought of an artificial tree in those days. Rather came the always imperfect evergreen triumphantly carried indoors right before the great day, filling our house with that inimitable wonderful smell.

The lights used to trim the tree were what are now called "old fashioned": relatively large and unblinking. Later came the hallowed ornaments and tinsel, the latter always hung as straight as possible. Then came my Lionel train layout that began simply but grew to dominate the living room, before moving to the basement. I was a bit too overprotective of it, as my siblings will attest. As time passed, the home Christmas tree not only became artificial, but also shrunk in size. That was enough for Mom and Dad to manage on their own as they aged.

I suppose Christmas will always makes us look backward, rooted as it is in a distant time. The miracle of the first Christmas compels that. Yet it is also at heart a timeless feast. The present will always have room for it, both in our local church and in our homes. We grow up and change as the border of Toyland recedes in the rear view mirror.

Christmas remains timeless in the sense that each new generation gets to hear the story. If our faith stays intact, we can still marvel over that mind-boggling decision by the Almighty to save us from a doomed future by essentially becoming one of us. He took on all of our assets and weaknesses except of course our sinful ways. He really did cry as an infant, wiggling his tiny toes under a rough blanket. He did later experience the awkwardness of adolescence and the burgeoning energies of young manhood. We don't know for sure if St. Joseph was around to help Him become a mature man, but certainly his Mother was there to complete the task.

Suddenly, Jesus is 30, and along comes Cana. There in a defining moment He worked the famous beverage miracle, brought on by His lovely Mother's hint. Their privacy ended there and then.

The Holy Spirit has chosen to refrain from giving us those biographical details that we like to know about a person. But this secretive Divine Person, working through two evangelists, gave us enough to learn Our Lord's way of thinking and doing. Christ's mission mattered most and still does.

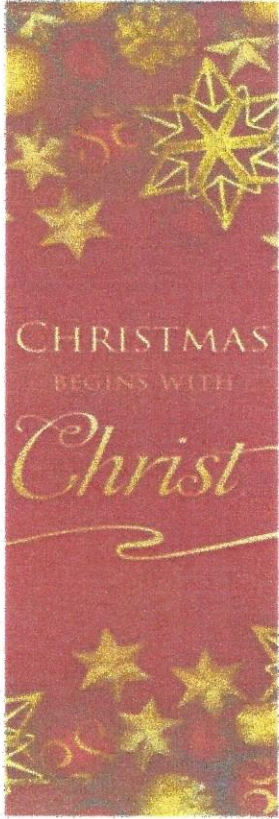
Sadly, ours is a cynical age. It has its own unwritten "bible" which it cites for its defense. It holds that the five senses are the only measure of truth; history itself is irrelevant; and popular opinion is the operative moral code. The media broadcasts this message. Our many handheld devices urge us to accept it. The young will know little else unless someone tells them differently.

We need to know, as Christian believers, now and for the always uncertain future, that cynicism and negativity will not prevail. Having to struggle through it all, Christmas 2019 has come. It marks the anniversary of that most special day, when, for the first time in history, one had to look down to see heaven, for there it was in the lap of Mary. May that thought bring comfort and joy to you and yours.



Christmas Activity Page

Bookmark



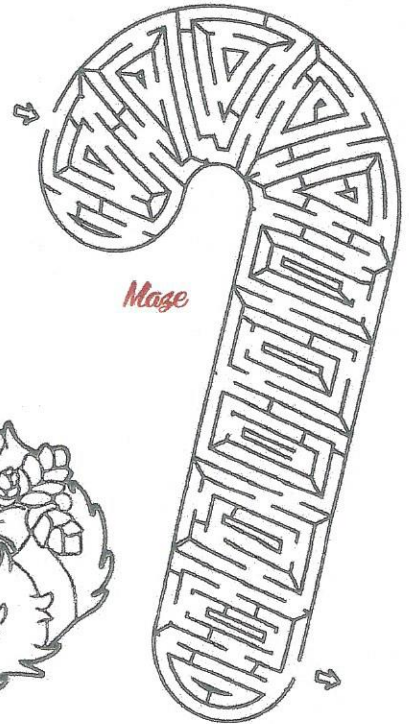
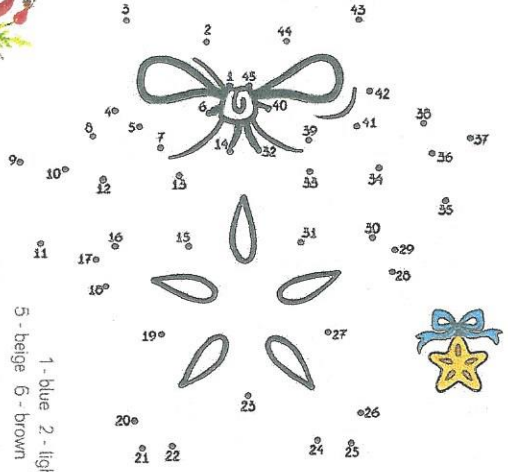
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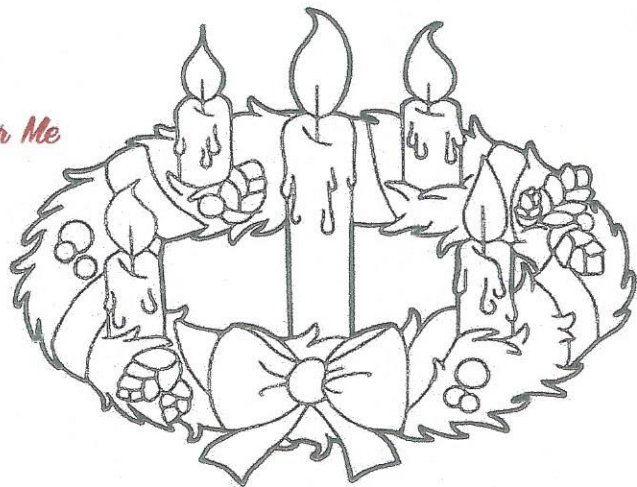
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1 - blue 2 - light blue 3 - dark green 4 - green
5 - beige 6 - brown 7 - orange 8 - red 9 - pink 10 - black

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LUKE 1:49

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