

Vision Statement of the Parish

Every member of St. Augustine's seeks to bring forth the spirit of Christian Community through prayer and loving service.



Parish Mission Statement

Saint Augustine's, a Roman Catholic Christian Community, is rooted in the values of peace, justice and love as preached by Jesus Christ. Striving to act as Jesus would and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we reach out in faith, prayer and service to all, while continuing to foster our spiritual growth.

Covenant Ministries Handbook



Baldwinsville, New York 13027

(315) 638-0585

Fax: (315) 635-0931

website www.staugustinesparish.org

Revised May 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject	Page#
History of the Parish	3
Liturgy Schedule	4
Parish Staff	5
Pastoral Council	5
Vision Statement of the Parish.....	24
Mission Statement	24

Pastoral Council Covenant Ministries

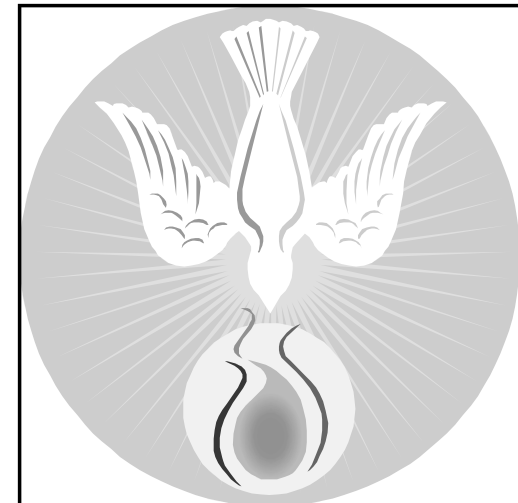
I. Parish Life & Worship Ministries	6
II. Parish Outreach Ministries.....	8
III. Spiritual Development Ministries	13
IV. Stewardship Ministries	18

Stewardship Covenant Ministries

Building and Grounds	As needed
Cleaning	1 Saturday per month for 2 hours
Collection Counters	Sunday mornings after Mass, 4 month rotation
Fr. McLaughlin Scholarship	2-3 times annually
Finance	Quarterly, as needed
Fund Raising	Coordinate and conduct 4-5 fundraising events
Labyrinth Care	Spring/Fall upkeep, plant and mulch
Pastoral Office Volunteers	As needed, perform clerical duties
Plant Care	Meet as needed, weekly care, rotating schedule
Sr. Pat Geary Service Award	Meet 2 times annually
Snow removal	As needed
Tithing	Meet annually in spring

Non-Covenant Interests/Activities

Retreats	As Scheduled
Spiritual Direction Groups	Monthly, afternoon or evening
Just Faith	Monthly, with group of 6 or more



Parish Outreach Covenant Ministries (cont'd)

Prayer Line	Pray on own time as requested
Prayer Shawl	1st Monday after 10 am Mass
St. Joseph's Day Dinner	Meet one weekend near March 19th
Senior Luncheon	1st Weds after 11:30 mass, make dish to pass
Social Action	Monthly meetings, additional meetings as needed
Summer Picnic	Yearly, meetings for planning near time of event

Spiritual Development Covenant Ministries

Book Group	Monthly meeting until book is completed
Bible Study	Weekly sessions Sept.—June
CYO	Weekly on Sunday evenings and special events

Faith Formation Ministry

E-Team	As needed, with lots of hours throughout the year
--------	---

Catechist Teacher

Seeds	1 fall meeting, 10:15 mass Oct.—April
Kindergarten	1 fall meeting, 10:15 mass Oct.—April
Grades 1-5 (Sun & Tues)	Training req., Sept—April, Sun 9-10, Tues 2:15-3:15
Grades 6-10	Oct—Nov and Feb-Mar, Sun or Tues for 1hr 15 mins
Substitutes	As needed
Children's Liturgy of the Word	
Summer Class Grade 6-10	

Catechist Helper

Seeds	Assist teacher during 10:15 Mass, Oct—April
Kindergarten	Assist teacher during 10:15 Mass, Oct—April
Grades 1-5 (Sun & Tues)	Assist teacher Sept-April, Sun 9-10, Tues 2:15-3:15
Tues pm walkers	Tues afternoon 2-3:20 late Sept-end of April
Evening Hall Monitor	Tues evening Oct-Nov, Feb-Mar
Children's Liturgy of the Word	

Sacramental Preparation (training provided)

Baptism	2nd Tuesday of month, members rotate meetings
Confirmation	1 team meeting required, various Saturdays Jan-Apr.
First Eucharist	4 classes various Weds evenings Feb-Apr.
First Reconciliation	4 classes various Weds evenings Oct-Jan.
Marriage	Meet with couple, conduct rehearsal, attend wedding
RCIA Adult	Weekly catechetical sessions, team meetings as needed
RCIA Youth	Several planning sessions, members teach every 6 wks
Calligraphers	Twice per year for certificates (Dec and Apr)
Eucharistic Bread Baker	Bake bread end of Apr for 1st Eucharist
Sewing	At your convenience, sew baptismal robes for Easter Vigil Mass

St. Augustine's Parish History

In 1964, St. Mary's Parish of Baldwinsville, under Msgr. John B. Daley, purchased 10 acres of land on O'Brien Road and built a Catechetical Center on the site of the present church. This center provided for both release time education from McNamara School and for Sunday Mass. In 1966, the Most Rev. Walter A. Forey, Bishop of Syracuse, created St. Augustine's as a new parish in the Diocese of Syracuse. The Rev. John J. Daley was appointed as the first pastor and the Catechetical Center served as the first church. The existing rectory was built in 1967, and in 1969, the previous Religious Education Center was built to provide release time education for Reynolds School. Construction of the Parish Hall was done in stages, primarily by members of the parish, over the period of 1973 - 1981. The new Pastoral Center was completed in 1999 and houses the classrooms for faith formation and the parish offices, the nursery, parish meeting rooms and the Sr. Pat Geary Gathering Room.

In 1973, Father Thomas J. McLaughlin became the second pastor of St. Augustine's. He greatly increased the size of the parish. He also rebuilt the interior of the center into a church, and continued to provide religious education. In 1984, a decision was made by the parish to build a new church, and in December of 1985, the Most Rev. Frank J. Harrison, Bishop of Syracuse, dedicated the present St. Augustine's Church. In 1989, Father McLaughlin retired and the Rev. Msgr. Paul A. Brigandi became the third pastor. In 1991, the Rev. John F. Rose became the 4th pastor. In spring of 2003, Rev. Paul Alciati was appointed the 5th pastor of St. Augustine's. St. Augustine's and St. Mary's parishes were linked in August of 2008. In December of 2008, Rev. Abraham Esper was appointed as the pastor of St. Augustine's and St. Mary's, linked parishes in Baldwinsville. In fall of 2010, St. Augustine's was delinked with St. Mary's Parish to form a new linkage with the Syracuse Diocesan Office of Seminarians which brought Fr. Tom Servatius to us as our Parish Administrator.

St. Augustine's currently serves approximately 600 families and provides a wide variety of religious, educational, recreational, and community programs. The history of our parish is one of both spiritual and physical growth, as well as service to the community.

We are the future of St. Augustine's!!

LITURGY SCHEDULE

- Saturday:** 5:15 p.m..
- Sunday:** 8:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.
- Holy Days:** As scheduled in the bulletin
- Weekdays:** As scheduled in the bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Saturday** 4:30 p.m.
By Appointment: Arrange with the Pastor/
Administrator

Sacrament of Baptism

Preparation: the second Tuesday of each month. Please call the Pastoral Office if you plan to attend. You are encouraged to attend the Baptismal class before the birth of your baby.

RCIA for Adults and Children

Adults, youth and children of catechetical age who wish to become members of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation are invited to call the Pastoral Office for more information about this process.

Sacrament of Marriage

Pre-Marriage preparation is required. Call to make arrangements at least six months in advance

2011 St. Augustine's Adult Covenant: Time Commitment for Ministries

Parish Life and Worship Covenant Ministries

Altar Server	1 general mtg, 2 trainings/year, serve as scheduled
Crossbearer	Annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection, serve as sched.
Extraordinary Minister	Annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection, serve as sched.
Family Mass Comm.	As needed
Greeter	Annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection, arrive 20 minutes before Mass, serve as scheduled.
Lector	Annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection, training session, serve as scheduled, every 4—6 weeks
Liturgy Committee	Meets monthly September through June
Music Ministry	
Adult Choir	Weekly Rehearsals Sept.—June, sing at weekend Mass
Funeral choir	Rehearse 30 mins prior to service
Instrumentalist	Play at liturgies during year as needed
Liturgical Dance	Weekly rehearsals for 6 weeks prior to date of dance
Ushers	Serve weekly for 1 month on schedule of every 3rd month

Parish Outreach Covenant Ministries

Bereavement Ministry

Lazarus Ministry

Adult Server	As needed for Funeral Mass
Greeter	20 minutes before funeral to welcome people
Extraordinary Minister	As needed for Funeral Mass
Funeral program	Work at home as needed/copy programs in office
Lector	As needed for Funeral Mass
Recording	Start and end recording for Funeral Mass

Bethany Hospitality

Cook	As needed: prepare dish and deliver on day of funeral
Set up/clean	As needed, 1 hour before and 1 hour after funeral
Food Pantry	Serve for 1 month of the year
Organizer	Gather food monthly as needed, deliver to Methodist Church
Helper	As needed
Purchase Food	As needed
Hospitality Reception	One meeting in fall/serve as needed for events
Parish Newsletter	Gather articles, format, edit, published twice per year
Pastoral Visitor	
to Homebound	Initial training session, 1-2 other sessions for prayer
Visit/Take Communion	Weekly, as needed
Plant Prep/delivery	Christmas and Easter
Mail Bulletins	Weekly
Send card/note	As needed

PLANT CARE MINISTRY

The purpose and function of this committee is the care of all house-plants in the Church and Pastoral Center through a weekly watering and grooming schedule. Meetings are as needed.

SISTER PAT GEARY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

This committee was established after the death of Sr. Pat in 1998 to continue and share the Christian service, the social mission of the Church and a call to respect the dignity of all people as Sister Pat had throughout her life. Through the process of completed nomination forms returned to the committee, the recipient is chosen after prayerful thought and consideration of each nominated parishioner. The committee meets twice a year.

TITHING COMMITTEE

The Tithing Committee was established to oversee the use of parish budgeted money through the process of grant applications that are received from both local and global organizations and charities. This committee meets once in the spring to prayerfully review and determine which grants will be honored and how much money they will receive.



Members of the Parish Staff:

Fr. Tom Servatius, Administrator
Deacon John Pedrotti
David M. Ditz, Supervisor for Building & Grounds
Deborah Klamm, Bulletin Editor
Debra Krisher, Minister for Adult Faith Enrichment
Patti Pitts, Bookkeeper
Kathy Raddell, Parish Receptionist
Ryan Schafer, Director of Music Ministry
Kristine Skinner, Faith Formation Associate

Members of the Pastoral Council – 2010 - 2011

Fr. Tom Servatius, Administrator	638-0585
Judy Carr, Delegate-at-Large	475-3957
Michelle Chase, Trustee	303-4359
Colleen Denniston, Parish Outreach Ministries Rep.	380-9024
Debra Krisher, Staff Representative	487-3678
Elizabeth Kahl, Delegate-at-Large	638-2798
Ed Vander Voort, Spiritual Dev. Ministries Rep.	638-2467
Liz Case, Parish Life & Worship Ministries Rep.	635-6064
Chris Raddell, Trustee	635-2597
Christy Murphy, Youth Representative	635-1090
Deborah Starczewski, Delegate-at-Large	635-1945
Charles Farrell, Stewardship Ministries Rep.	638-8855
Mary Daniszewski, Delegate-at-Large	638-2095

The function of St. Augustine's Pastoral Council is to:

- Advise and make recommendations to the pastor/administrator for the good of the parish.
- Serve as a unifying body for all organizations within the parish.
- Provide support for all activities of the parish.
- Establish and evaluate parish goals that will enable the people of the parish to grow in holiness and to meet the needs of the times.

In light of the goals of the Parish and the vehicles through which parishioners can share the gifts and talents that God has given them, the following Committees and Groups are established in the Parish.

Should you wish to have more information about any of the committees or groups, you should contact the parish office at 638-0585.

† **PARISH LIFE & WORSHIP MINISTRIES** †

The Parish Life & Worship Ministries nourish and give direction to the liturgical aspect of parish life. These ministries ensure that parishioners are provided with opportunities to deepen their faith through a variety of prayer experiences and liturgical celebrations.

ALTAR SERVERS

The Altar Servers assist the Presider at Liturgies/Services in order to promote a sense of reverence among the community. Altar Servers will have an understanding of liturgy as well as knowledge of “behind-the-scenes” preparation for Mass. Altar serving is open to Grades 4 and up. The servers have two training sessions a year and one general meeting.

ART & ENVIRONMENT

Art & Environment entails getting the church ready for major liturgies including Advent, Lent, Easter, and times in between. It encompasses putting up decorations and new themes for celebrations.

CROSS BEARERS

Cross Bearers assist in the Liturgy by leading the procession into the church at the beginning of Mass, and the recessional from the church at the conclusion of the Liturgy. There are no formal meetings, just a short informative session before you begin your ministry. If you do not have a lot of spare time, it is a great ministry in which to participate. The Cross Bearer ministry is open to grades 8 and up.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The purpose of Extraordinary Ministers (Eucharistic Ministers) is to assist in distributing Holy Communion. There is a required training session. Attendance at the annual evening for liturgical ministers is expected.

GREETERS

Greeters arrive at weekend liturgies 15 to 20 minutes early and stand at the church entrances to welcome everyone, and at the conclusion of Mass, distribute the weekly bulletin as the assembly leaves the church. Greeters also invite parishioners attending Mass to be gift bearers if no one has signed up. Greeters may choose to attend the Mass convenient for them and are scheduled every 4-6 weeks. Training is provided as needed. Attendance at the annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection is expected.

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Collection Counters count and deposit the weekend and any special church collections. There are 4 teams of 3-5 people who usually meet Sunday morning after the 10:15 Mass.

FR. MC LAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The trust is a perpetual trust in memory of Fr. Tom’s contribution to the parish and his love for its members. The scholarship is given to a high school senior from the parish who will be attending a Catholic college or university in the fall. The committee meets 2-3 times per year to collect and review applications and selects the winner. The award is presented at the Graduates’ Mass in June.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee works with and advises the pastor/administrator concerning all aspects of parish finance and budget. It prepares the annual budget for approval by the pastor and the committee, working to balance the projected income with the parish operations and ministries. The Committee’s goal is to be good stewards of the parish resources. It prepares the annual financial report to the parish and coordinates all major fund raising activities, such as the Hope Appeal, major renovations, etc. The Finance Committee also informs the Pastoral Council on the financial status of the parish at council meetings. Meetings are held quarterly or on an as needed basis.

LABYRINTH MINISTRY

This ministry provides upkeep of the labyrinth, i.e., weeding, planting and occasionally filling in additional dirt or mulch as needed. The labyrinth ministry is also available to assist in educating interested groups in the history and use of the labyrinth.

FUN(D) RAISING COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for planning 3-4 fund raising events throughout the year. The goal is to raise money while promoting fun events that encourage socialization, and help build community. Proceeds from the events help defray parish expenses and are used toward our Diocesan assessment for Catholic schools.

On occasion a meeting may be needed, but most communications can be done after mass, through email or by phone.

PASTORAL OFFICE MINISTRY

Do you like to answer phones, take messages, greet people as they come into the parish office and other clerical duties? Then this ministry is for you! Occasionally, when the parish business administrator is out of the office, someone is needed to do these tasks. No meetings are necessary, just a welcoming personality!

Eucharistic Bread Bakers

We supply the baking tins and the bread mix, unless you make home-made mix. Little loaves of bread are given to each of our children on the day they receive First Eucharist. This baking takes place at the end of April or the beginning of May.

Sewing Ministry

Do you enjoy sewing? This ministry would mainly consist of making the baptismal robes given to our newly baptized youth and adults at the Easter Vigil Mass. The sewing can be done at your convenience. We will supply the fabric and pattern if needed. You must have a sewing machine.

SPIRITUALITY GROUPS

Men's and Women's Spirituality Groups help participants to grow in their relationship with God. In each session, members share with each other their unique experiences of God in their prayer and in their everyday lives. The Men's Group meets on the first Saturday of the month. The Women's Spiritual Direction group currently meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 2-3:30 pm.



† STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES †

The Stewardship Ministry makes recommendations to the Pastoral Council concerning all aspects of parish finance and budget; personnel, stewardship of resources, church and fund raising coordination, and upkeep of the physical facilities and properties of the parish. The activities and recommendations of this ministry are firmly rooted in the Biblical concept of stewardship.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

The purpose and function of this Committee is to inspect the church property and buildings. It recommends repairs and improvements and implements their completion. Meetings are as needed.

CLEANING MINISTRY

The purpose and function of the Cleaning Ministry is to keep the church and Pastoral Center ready for worship and parish functions through a weekly cleaning schedule. The group meets once a year, in September, to set up the cleaning schedule.

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim "The Word of God" at weekend and special liturgies. A training session is required, as well as attendance at the annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection. Lectors are scheduled approximately once every four to six weeks at the Mass of your choice.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Mass doesn't just happen – it takes planning. The Liturgy Committee plans and coordinates our liturgies throughout the year. Anyone interested may join this ministry. All that is required is a desire to help out; no special training or education is needed. The Liturgy Committee is comprised of the pastor, representatives from each liturgical ministry, director of music ministry, a staff representative, and any interested parishioners. This committee meets once a month from September to June from 7 to 9 p.m.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Parishioners of all ages are invited to share your love of music with others in the music ministry by singing and/or playing musical instruments at liturgies. Anyone who loves music is invited to contact the Music Office.

Adult Choir

Weekly rehearsals are Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. for all weekend Masses. Extra rehearsals as needed for special liturgies, or special events such as preparing a Cantata. Anyone in Grade 9 and older is welcome to sing in the choir. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required! There is also no audition. Adult choir does not rehearse during the summer.

Funeral Choir

Provides musical support at funeral liturgies (usually weekday mornings). Funeral Choir meets 30 minutes before the funeral to rehearse music. Other rehearsals as needed.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir: Weekly rehearsals are Tuesday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The handbell choir plays periodically throughout the school year, including Holy Week, and Christmas. Anyone in Grade 9 and older is welcome! The ability to read music is helpful, but not required! There is no audition!

Instrumentalists

Everyone who plays an instrument is welcome to play at Mass. This includes guitars, string, woodwinds, brass, percussion and more! Instrumentalists, grade 7 and up are invited to play at all liturgies. Contact the Music Office for more detail.

Liturgical Dance

If you don't like sitting still, this ministry is for you. Liturgical Dance is prayer in motion; it is not people performing in pretty outfits. Our dancers add the beauty of moving prayer to various liturgies throughout the year. Although the group currently consists of women, men can also participate in liturgical dance. Rehearsals are once a week, during the 5 weeks prior to the date of the special liturgy. Any adult or youth parishioner in Grade 6 or above with an interest in dancing for God is welcome and encouraged to join this ministry.

USHERS

Ushers assist at Mass welcoming and seating people. They are responsible for taking up the collection. Attendance at the annual Evening of Spiritual Reflection is encouraged. Day and time of service: Ushers serve for a month at a time, every third month, at the Mass of their choice.



† PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES †

The Parish Outreach Ministries discern the needs of persons in the parish and wider community, especially the poor, and identifies resources to meet these needs, enlisting the active cooperation of parishioners. These ministries fulfill the justice dimension of Scripture and our church tradition acknowledging every Christian is called to service and to work for justice. The ministries' scope of responsibility is two-fold: to meet immediate needs and to work for changes in structures of society, which are oppressive.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The purpose of the Bereavement Committee is to provide support and comfort on behalf of the parish to family members when they have lost a loved one.

Bethany Hospitality Committee

The purpose of the committee is to prepare and serve a luncheon after a funeral in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Members extend any assistance and comfort to the family and friends of the deceased that they can, and hopefully ease their pain from a very sad day in their lives. The committee meets at "every funeral we serve", and an annual general meeting.

First Eucharist

Children preparing for First Eucharist are always full of excitement! Parents are the teachers at home and catechists review that work with the children and expand upon their lessons during the classes. These five classes are held on various Wednesday evenings during the months of February through April.

First Reconciliation

Our God is a God of mercy and forgiveness! This is the message we teach our children in First Reconciliation classes. Parents teach the lessons at home and catechists review the work with the children and expand upon their lessons during the classes. There are four classes held on Wednesday evenings beginning in late September through late November.

Marriage Team

Couples serving on the Marriage Team meet with engaged couples and conduct a couple to couple marriage preparation session. They are also responsible for conducting the wedding rehearsal, and are present to start off the wedding ceremony. The married couple talks about their Sacrament of Marriage and topics like communication, sexuality, finances, etc. Training and materials are provided. Interfaith couples welcome. Day and time of the meetings are at the convenience of the couples.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - Adult Team

The Christian Initiation Team journeys with adults who are seeking to become Catholic through the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Team members lead faith sharing and catechetical (instruction) sessions for those who are seeking full initiation as well as assist in the planning and implementation of the many liturgical rites associated with the process. Ministry opportunities include being a catechist (teacher), providing hospitality, and being a sponsor. Training is provided. Sessions for the individuals who are in the RCIA process generally take place once a week and team members rotate responsibility for facilitating the sessions. Team meetings are as needed.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - Youth Team

Team members journey with young people who desire to become Catholic through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, as well as with their parents or guardians. Team members are responsible for leading faith sharing and catechetical (instruction) sessions with the youth and their parents. There are several planning sessions and team members teach on a rotating basis. An understanding of the RCIA process is important and training is available.

Calligraphers

Did God give you this remarkable talent? All of our sacramental certificates are individually completed by a calligrapher. This service is needed during December and April. Your artistic work becomes a meaningful keepsake for families.

Hall Monitors/Parking Lot Supervisors

Hall monitors help ensure the safety of both students and teachers when classes are in session. Bring a book or the newspaper and catch up on some reading while being a valuable presence in our classroom corridor. Volunteers for this ministry can sign up for a few weeks throughout the semester. Even one session will be so helpful.

The safety of our students and catechists is of great importance to St. Augustine's Parish. With that in mind, parking lot volunteers are needed to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of classes to supervise the drop off of students for Faith Formation classes. These same volunteers then supervise the pick-up on the same date. Volunteers for this ministry can sign up for a few weeks throughout the semester. Even one session is very helpful. Prayerfully consider this ministry, please.

Walkers

If you like fresh air, enjoy walking for exercise in all forms of weather, and like children, this might just be the ministry for you! Walkers accompany students from McNamara Elementary School to and from Faith Formation classes held at the Pastoral Center. Walkers are needed on Tuesday afternoons during the months of September through April from 2 PM until 3:20 PM. Coffee and treats are shared while the students are in class. St. Augustine's has a wonderful team of Walkers but more help is always welcome!

FAITH SHARING GROUPS

A group of parishioners (8 - 10) gather to pray and share faith experiences that flow from the gospel of the coming Sunday and participate in the mission of Christ through some action that they choose to do together. Meetings vary according to host home and participants' needs. Groups meet once a week for six weeks. Ministry for these groups includes facilitating the group and/or hosting the group.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION TEAMS

Baptism Team

Baptism team members meet with new parents to help them understand the responsibilities they are undertaking when baptizing their children, and to offer them support and encouragement. It is recommended that team members be parents themselves. Preparation sessions for parents seeking to baptize their children are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Team members rotate responsibility for offering the sessions. Training for this team is available.

Confirmation

Any youth or adult who has been confirmed is invited to join the Confirmation Team and help our Confirmation candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sessions are held on various Saturdays during the months of January through April. Attending a team meeting before the sessions begin is required and regularly assisting at the Saturday sessions is helpful for the candidates.

Lazarus Ministry

As the friends of Lazarus gathered at the time of his death, parishioners who attend the funeral mass at our parish do the same for those who have died, thus are called the Lazarus Assembly. There are no meetings, parishioners attend as members of the assembly when they are available and represent the parish family of St. Augustine's.

Funeral Liturgies

Parishioners who help with our funeral liturgies give a presence of comfort to families in time of sorrow. The various ministries listed below help to provide a final farewell to deceased members of our parish community. Individual training for all the ministries is provided as needed.

Adult Servers

There are two ways in which servers are needed at a funeral. One person is the Crossbearer and takes care of the incense, and the other person is the Altar Server as at a funeral mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

They attend the funeral. We are always in need of two ministers for the cups, and more stations are added to enhance the accessibility for those present, to receive Eucharist under both species. The number of Eucharistic Ministers needed for the mass depends on how many people attend the liturgy.

Greeters

The Greeters are the first people those attending the funeral mass meet when entering our church. A friendly smile, warm hello, and handing of the funeral programs to those who gather for the mass, help to create a sense of peace and a place of welcome.

Funeral Programs

Funeral programs are a helpful way for those attending the funeral to be aware of the music, readings and other elements of the funeral mass that will take place. To prepare funeral programs you must have a computer at home and be computer literate. You must also have the time to come to the Pastoral Office, on short notice, to make copies of the number of programs requested.

Lectors

At our funeral masses, we encourage family members, or friends of the family, to read the selected Scripture and Prayers of the Faithful. When this is not possible, the parish provides lectors for the mass.

Recording Ministry

Each funeral is recorded and given to the family as a memory. One person is needed to set up, begin the recording and stop the recording. The recording is presented to a member of the family.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregiver's Support Group is a parish based support group for those who are involved in the care of others (e.g. an elderly parent, ill spouse, chronically ill child, someone with a developmental disability, someone with Alzheimer's disease, long distance care etc.). Its purpose is to allow caregivers to share their stories, concerns, and needs and receive support in a warm, caring, nonjudgmental, confidential atmosphere. Meetings are from 7:00-9:00 PM once a month.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry collects non-perishable food donated weekly by parishioners. Once a month or as needed, a volunteer delivers the food to the Methodist Church which is the main food pantry for the Baldwinsville community. There are 12 groups of volunteers, one for each month of the year.

HOSPITALITY RECEPTION TEAM

This team provides a welcoming atmosphere of friendship and fellowship for celebrations and occasions that occur within the church community. Volunteers in this group can help by providing baked goods, setting up, serving and/or greeting at the event(s). Volunteers will be contacted to see what they would like to provide.

JUST FAITH

Just Faith is an extended justice education process that employs books, videos, lecture, discussion, etc. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasizes and enlivens the justice tradition of the Church. These programs are designed to empower and transform participants so they can become voices and agents of God's news to the poor. This group needs at least 6 members in order to be effective. For more information, please contact Jean Gentilcor at 638-0544.

PARISH NEWSLETTER TEAM

This team publishes news concerning parish ministries and events in "St. Augustine's News" which is distributed twice yearly. The team gathers information and photos for articles, and edits, formats, proofreads, and distributes the newsletter via bulk mail and online. Meetings are as necessary, most are accomplished via email.

PASTORAL VISITORS

Pastoral Visitors are people of prayer called to share in Christ's healing mission by visiting the sick, elderly or shut-ins of the parish weekly or biweekly. By listening to, talking with, praying with, and bringing Communion to our sick and shut-ins, Pastoral Visitors remind them of the parish's concern and become a visible sign of God's presence in their lives.

Faith Formation - Grades 1 - 5

If you enjoy working with elementary school age children, prayerfully consider being a catechist or classroom aide for Grades 1-5. Catechists are amazed at how much their own faith grows when shared with young people on a regular basis. Classes are held Sundays from 9 AM until 10 AM or on Tuesdays from 2:15 PM until 3:15 PM. Faith Formation classes for Grades 1-5 are held from September through April.

Kindergarten

These classes take place during the 10:15 AM Mass from September through April. Very often, a few catechists teach this class on a rotating basis. All who have or currently teach this age group will agree that Kindergarten faith formation is never dull and sometimes downright funny. Nonetheless, helping to plant the seeds of faith in these young children's hearts is such an important ministry and catechists are greatly needed.

Seeds

If you enjoy watching 3 and 4 year olds come alive when they experience something new, teaching SEEDS may be for you! Stories, simple crafts and songs are used to help teach these young learners about God's great love and all God's goodness. Very often, a few catechists teach this class on a rotating basis. These classes take place during the 10:15 AM Mass from September through April.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Do you have storytelling gifts and like working with children in Grades 1-4? Children's Liturgy of the Word might be just the ministry for you! Children's Liturgy of the Word begins with dismissal after the Opening Prayer at the 10:15 AM Mass. The Sunday Readings are proclaimed in children's language from the Children's Lectionary and then explained by a teacher. The Profession of Faith is prayed and intercessory prayers are offered. The children return to church for the Preparation of the Gifts. Members of the Children's Liturgy of the Word Team are provided the materials necessary to present the weekly readings and most often are scheduled once every 4 or 5 weeks.

Helpers/Aides/Substitute Teachers

Any good catechetical program relies on a variety of people who share their gifts and talents. As St. Paul states, "*As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.*" If you like to help out but perhaps cannot make a long-term commitment, you might consider being a classroom helper/aide or being available to substitute teach occasionally.

FAITH FORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: Any volunteer whose ministry brings them into contact with children and youth is required to attend a 3-hour *Protecting God's Children* (VIRTUS) training session. Youth between 16 & 18 may attend with parental permission. This training is free of charge and will be offered on site twice a year at St. Augustine's. Additional VIRTUS training sessions are held throughout the year at various locations in the Syracuse Diocese. Go to www.syrдио.org for additional information.

CATECHISTS & CLASSROOM AIDES

The Catechist is called to witness to the Word in all areas of life. If the message of faith is to be heard and lived, the catechist must be given ongoing formation in the faith in order to understand it more fully and to speak it clearly, skillfully, and faithfully.
(The Catechist in the Third Millennium, pg. 2)

A variety of training opportunities are provided by the Office of Faith Formation of the Syracuse Diocese at little or no charge for those who teach or assist in Religious Education classes. Some classes are held in person, while others are offered online. Please contact St. Augustine's Faith Formation Office for more information. In addition to Diocesan course offerings, meetings for those involved with faith formation will be held at St. Augustine's at least once or twice a year. Teaching materials and all classroom resources are provided. Additional resources are available in our parish Faith Formation Office and at our Diocesan Resource Centers (<http://resources.syrдио.org/>).

Faith Formation - Grades 6 - and higher

Teaching pre-teens and teens about their faith can be extremely rewarding and sometimes challenging. Just imagine the amazing discussions that can ensue as these young adults ask serious questions about their faith!

A catechist for Grades 6 and higher aims to help students grow in relationship with God and develop a better understanding of Scripture, our shared Catholic faith and traditions, Liturgy and prayer as a part of everyday life. Because faith formation is lifelong and ongoing, catechists for this age group assist the young people in seeing how one's faith life can continue to be a viable part of adolescent life and beyond.

Classes for Grades 6 and higher are arranged by semester. The first semester meets from October through December and the second semester meets from late January/early February through April. Catechists may volunteer to teach one semester or two and have the option of teaching on Sundays from 11:30 AM until 12:45 PM or on Mondays from 6:30 PM until 7:45 PM.

Catechists may volunteer to teach a summer class session. Most often, these classes are held Monday through Thursday for one week, running from 9 AM until 11:45 AM. As with the regular semester classes, courses are only held if there are a sufficient number of students.

Additional opportunities include assisting with sending bulletins and/or cards to our sick and shut-ins, audio taping funeral liturgies for the family of the deceased or weekend liturgies for our shut-ins, and helping pick up, prepare and deliver Easter and Christmas plants from the parish to our sick and homebound. After an initial training session, Pastoral Visitors meet once or twice a year for prayer, additional training in pastoral skills, experience sharing, and spiritual development.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

A *Prayer Line* was established at St. Augustine's in 2004. It offers a chance for people to share their need for prayers either for themselves or others, in a quick response way. Permission is needed from the person who is being prayed for so they are aware that their name is out in the community for prayers. For confidentiality, first names can be used if desired. After signing a covenant you will receive a list of participants. Requests for prayers are made by e-mail or telephone.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

St. Augustine's Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2004 by a parishioner who had been ill and had received a prayer shawl. He thought it was a wonderful idea for St. Augustine's and we have enjoyed great success ever since.

We are a fun group of ladies who knit, crochet and quilt afghans, blankets, and lap robes for anyone requesting one, either for themselves or someone in need. These are "gifts" freely given by the wonderful members of our prayer shawl group. To date, we have given away over 415 shawls. Some of our shawls have gone to University Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Traci's Hope and Chadwick Residence, just to name a few. We also give a "baby blanket" to every baby that is baptized at St. Augustine's. Our shawls give comfort and warmth to those with illness, bereavement or to those who just need help in getting over a rough time in their lives.

We generally meet the 1st Monday of the month in the Gathering Room after the 10:00 Mass from September to December and again in April and May.

Please consider joining our group if you like to knit, crochet, quilt or sew as we welcome everyone. You do not need to be a St. Augustine's parishioner to join. There is no time commitment to create a shawl. You work at your leisure and when you are done, all shawls are blessed by Fr. Tom Servatius and a gift tag is attached.

Prayer Shawl Ministry coordinators are Rose Hurd (638-0694) and Carol Turner (638-0897). You can call us anytime for help with your project, yarn supply or patterns, and also to request a shawl.

Come and join us and see what we are all about. We are an informal group of ladies who enjoy socializing while working on our projects.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DINNER COMMITTEE

The St. Joseph's Day dinner is a social event for the whole family that takes place near St. Joseph's Day in March. It replicates an Italian custom of a meatless meal in honor of this feast day. Homemade Italian breads, dishes and desserts are prepared by parishioners. Italian music accompanies the dinner.

SENIOR LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to provide a get together of seniors or anyone else who wishes to come. Everyone brings a dish, which is set up in buffet style. Occasionally there is a presentation of mutual interest. Typically 35 or so attend. Come and share a meal and good fellowship. The luncheon meets all year round on the first Wednesday of the month following an 11:30 Mass. You do not have to be a member of this parish to attend and feel free to bring a friend.

SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

The Social Action Ministry provides opportunities for local and global action and empowers parishioners to embrace the values of peace, justice and love as preached by Jesus Christ. This ministry meets the last Tuesday of the month and has various sub committees as needed. There are many ways for you to be involved. Some of the projects we are involved with are: Migrant Workers, Soldier's Angels, Refugee Settlement, Respect Life, ACTS, Food Baskets and L'Arche. In addition, we coordinate collections, donations, bake sales, etc. to support others such as school supply collection and white ribbon campaign and other various groups. We welcome new ideas for how we can reach out to those who are in need.

SUMMER PICNIC COMMITTEE

The summer picnic is a social function that the whole family can enjoy. It follows the annual Mass on the Grass with a picnic lunch provided by the parish. It continues with an afternoon full of games and prizes for both children and adults. Meetings are as needed.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

This committee reaches out to welcome new parishioners to our parish community. Currently the activity of this group is to send a welcome card to anyone who registers in the parish. The future goal of this committee is to establish ways that the team can help new parishioners get more connected to the parish. Meetings are as needed.



† SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES †

Spiritual Development is a life-long process aimed at personal conversion and growth in faith. The committee advises in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the total Catholic Christian educational and formational process in the parish. This includes sacramental preparation, formational and educational programs for adults, youth and children, and various opportunities for spiritual and social experiences.

BIBLE STUDY

The purpose of Bible Study is to join with others to gain further insight into the wonders of God found in Scripture. Through study, discussion, and presentation, participants allow current Biblical understanding to touch their minds and hearts in order to enter into a deeper relationship with God. The meetings are announced in the bulletin.

BOOK GROUP

Parishioners are invited to share in small group discussions on selected books. These discussions are at various times and are announced in the bulletin.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (C.Y.O.)

CYO is open to any teenager in grades 7 through 12 and adults who are interested in working with the youth of the parish. The purpose of CYO is three-fold: (1) Spiritual: to promote/explore members' relationship to God/each other; (2) Social: to plan appropriate social events that promote healthy interaction; and (3) Community: to encourage events that benefit the community/social awareness. Meetings are held on Sundays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m./Special Events (September - June).

E-TEAM (Evangelization Team)

The E-Team seeks to provide enriching experiences that will help members of our church community, as well as new people who are not members of the community, to deepen their relationship with the living God. The work of the team includes developing new and exciting ways to reach out to individuals who are seeking something more in their lives, inviting them to knowledge of Jesus and participation in the life of the community. This committee meets year round. Summer gatherings allow team members time for learning, visioning and planning. Meetings during the year are scheduled as needed for implementations of various activities and projects.