

*A publication from the ministries, pastoral council and staff of St. Augustine's Parish, Baldwinsville, New York*

## In This Issue

Holiday Mass Schedule .....	1
From the Pastor.....	1
From the Pastoral Council .....	1
ACTS .....	2
Bereavement/Pastoral Visitors Retreat .....	2
Tips for Staying Healthy.....	3
Mass of Remembrance .....	3
Prayer Shawl Ministry .....	3
Prayer Line Ministry.....	3
Migrant Ministry.....	4
Music Ministry.....	4
Meet the Staff: Ryan Schaffer .....	4
CYO Corner.....	5
Faith Formation News .....	6
Fun(d) Raising .....	7
Photos/About the Newsletter .....	7

## Holiday Mass Schedule

Penance Service: Sunday, December 13th at 2:00pm  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm  
 Christmas Day: 10:00am

## From the Pastor

*My dear brothers and sisters,*

The church begins another year, a birth day, an opportunity; to begin conversion again. The annual question we ask at this time is: "What must we do in our lives to better prepare for God's gift of salvation and dwelling in the presence of Jesus?" Our church helps prepare us through Word, song and symbol. Hope is arriving, the light which dispels the darkness of our world and lives. Salvation will be ours because of what our Godhead will accomplish all out of love in Jesus.

You, the Church, of St. Augustine's continue to do a wonderful job of bringing salvation to each other through your lives and ministry. Your commitment to Jesus is so evident in your commitment to love and care for all of God's people. My wish for you is that you continue to make a dwelling place in your lives for He who loves you so much.

With you I am a Christian, for you I am a Priest.

*Fr. Abe Esper*

## From The Pastoral Council A Year in Transitions...

This has been a transitioning year for St. Augustine's and the Pastoral Council. The Council and the Staff met in late September with Fr. Ron Bill and started the transition process. We planned and hosted a Town Meeting in the fall of 2008 to give the parish an update on the diocesan process for replacing our pastor, a format for sharing their thoughts and concerns and a brief financial report. We worked with Fr. Bill to "keep the home fires burning" while we waited for a new pastor to be assigned.

Another area that we worked on was a presentation on the goal setting process in preparation for the parish goal planning for the next three years. We then welcomed Fr. Abe Esper to St. Augustine's and began our journey with our new pastor. Fr. Abe was receptive to the way the Council's agenda is set and the processes we have in place for our meetings. We have also explored many ideas and practices from Fr. Abe's previous assignments and have instituted a number of them over the last year.

The Council asked all the committees to focus on how they could work with their talented ministries to contribute to more outreach to others and help the parish to grow. (continued on page 2)



*Marie LaBrake and Linda Speech at the center of the labyrinth, during Parish Participation Weekend*

(cont. from pg. 1) The Pastoral Council contributed to the questions in the parish survey led by Spiritual Development as part of the process of determining additional parish needs.

Parish Participation Weekend (aka Covenant Weekend) was a huge success. This year the Council changed the name and the focus of the weekend to reach out to the greater community and not just those who attend St. Augustine's. We had over 300 individuals sign covenants for the 2009–2010 year. The covenant is our promise to give one year to the ministry of our choice. The gathering of information on the Covenants is then used to let the chairpersons know who will participate in their ministry/committee. The weekend was filled with food, fun, laughter, wonderful displays, and a video display from past covenants. It was surely a great way for parishioners to reconnect.

At the end the Council year we had a picnic with the Parish Staff at Lori Browne's home to share a meal and get to know each other better.

At our first meeting of the 2009-2010 year the Council discerned their officers for the year: Colleen Denniston-Chairperson, Pat Williams - Vice Chairperson and Maureen Murphy - Secretary.



*Parish Participation Weekend 2009*



## **Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS)**

Concern for social justice issues remains strong at St Augustine's. Throughout the year twenty plus members of ACTS continue their efforts bring about reforms in health care, immigration, criminal justice and jobs availability. Parishioners have supported ACTS by joining task forces on specific topics, attending the annual public meeting and or Spring Banquet. Many have provided financial support as well. Whether you have a lot of time or just a little ACTS has a role for you to play as it holds our political leaders accountable on pressing social justice issues for the nation and the greater Syracuse area. Check the bulletin for events involving ACTS.



*Parish Representative Dave Babcock at the ACTS Annual Public Meeting*

## **Bereavement Ministries/ Pastoral Visitors Morning of Retreat**

Many of our parishioners are involved with our various funeral ministries and visiting of our homebound. Each fall our parish provides a morning of retreat to help renew the women and men in these ministries. On Saturday morning, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Meg Castellini, a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital and a member of our parish, provided a morning that focused on the heart of ministry. It is so easy for those in ministry to continue to give and do for others, that they often neglect themselves. This morning of retreat was to nourish the spirit and soul of those who attended. The nourishment of body was also included as the morning ended with lunch and dessert.

If you would like to be a part of our bereavement ministry or a pastoral visitor please call the parish office at 638-0585.



## Tips for Staying Healthy from the Parish Nurses

During the winter, we are all concerned about avoiding illness. Here are some tips to help keep you healthy:

- Wash hands with soap and water often. If you can't use soap, use a waterless, alcohol-based hand cleaner. Be sure to wash before eating and after using the rest room.
- Get a seasonal flu shot. If you are in one of the high-risk groups, speak with your doctor about also getting the H1N1 flu vaccine.
- To help your immune system fight disease, eat right, exercise and get enough sleep. Be sure your diet includes lots of fruits and vegetables. Drink plenty of water. Adults should sleep eight hours and children need much more.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with your arm (not your hand). Remember that your hands touch other people, as well as surfaces that are touched by others.
- At home and work wipe down surfaces such as telephones and door knobs with sanitizers to keep illness from spreading. Don't forget about wiping grocery cart handles, which can also harbor germs.
- Keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes. They are pathways for germs to enter your body.
- When you are sick, be thoughtful of others and stay home from school or work. This is an important way you can help to keep others healthy.



## Mass of Remembrance

Our parish Mass of Remembrance was celebrated at our 10:15 mass on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. We remembered and prayed for the members of our parish who had funerals celebrated here since last November 1<sup>st</sup>. As each person's name was called, they were remembered and honored through the lighting of a candle by a family member. Those we remembered were: Eddie Swain, Josephine A. Kalitan, Michael Bill, Helen E. Mahoney, Jamie Lynn Batruch, Lora M. Eiholzer, Dora M. Doubles, Mary Lou Shaffner, Michael Colella, Richard E. Allen, Sr., Jack F. Roe, Helen Thibeault, John (Gus) Bochino, Margaret C. Alguire, James W. Finan, Robert L. MacConaghy, Robert J. Golden, Charles D. Kratz, Georgena (Jean) Thorek, Violet G. Fanella and Lester T. Mosher. May they know the fullness of God's love as they live forever in God's heavenly kingdom.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry makes knitted or crocheted shawls to be given to those in need of comfort or solace, or as a welcoming gesture. The shawls are blessed before they are presented, and are symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who wear them are enveloped in the arms of prayer.

Shawls are made by members on their own time, and finished items are collected at periodic meetings. Our members were busy all summer, as twenty five new shawls and baby blankets were collected at the first meeting this fall.

The group meets after the 10:00 Daily Mass once a month through December (the next meetings will be November 16, and December 7) and starts up again in April after taking a winter hiatus. We presently have 34 active members and have given away 300 shawls and many Baptismal blankets.

Anyone who would like a shawl may contact Rose Hurd (638-0694) or Carol Turner (638-0897) or contact the parish office and leave a message. If you are interested in working on a shawl or blanket in your spare time we would love to have you join our ministry. New members are always welcome; no need to wait for Covenant Weekend!



## Prayer Line Ministry

A telephone prayer line Ministry was established at St. Augustine's in 2004 to give people a chance to share their need for prayers for themselves or others. 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.

This year ('09-'10) we have 19 active members who pray for those in need of prayers at a moments notice. Because of the times, most of us are now connecting with each other via the internet in addition to the telephone. For confidentiality first names only can be used if desired. Call Bob Peet at 635-3064.





## Migrant Ministry

The Migrant Ministry's primary emphasis has been collecting and distributing food and clothing to the local migrant worker community. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we have continued to make this a program a success.

I have met and spoken with the migrant workers when they have come to our functions (the summer picnics). This summer, however, I had the unique experience of being the visitor on their turf, their home away from home – on the farms where they live and work.

After the Summer Picnic this year, we had some food left over. I noticed the migrant workers had not been able to come out this year, so I called Mike Conway and asked if he could take it out to them. We met later that day to deliver the food and some of the clothing that he had collected for the workers.

Mike and I made three stops that evening. Each stop was full of people who spoke either no English or very little English, and Mike and I speak very little Spanish, so communication was a challenge. Luckily, they recognized Mike, so they knew we were from St. Augustine's. We passed out the food and clothing. We also gave out Spanish version Bibles and a few rosaries.

The expressions of happiness worked better than a translator to let us know that our efforts were greatly appreciated. I thought for sure that I had gotten everything that I could out of the trip before we made our final stop. As we were trying to talk to the group (and we were doing a somewhat better job with our Spanish by this point, although having a translator definitely would have been a plus), it began to rain.

Several of the men invited us into their home to get us out of the rain, and offered us a drink while we waited out the storm. They offered *us* food and shelter when we were there to help them. It was still raining when we left; I was offered a hooded jacket and walked to my car so that I would not get wet. All this for a little bit of leftovers and some hand-me-down clothes??

These are true gentlemen that remember how to treat people the way the God wants us to treat people, regardless of who they are or where they come from. We are all equal in God's eyes. It took me talking to someone I could not understand to show me what I needed to understand.

Thank you Jose, Filberto, Jorge, Miguel, Alfredo, Alejandro, Edgar and all the others out at the 3<sup>rd</sup> farm for the hospitality and the life lessons that we too often forget. See you next summer. – *Colleen Denniston*



## Music Ministry

St. Augustine's music ministry is in full swing this year! Our adult choir is still looking for new members to join. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm in the music room. We welcome any and all new members! We are presently working on new music for Christ the King, Advent, and the Christmas season. Please come join us!

In November, our Youth Choir will begin again. Students in grades 2-6 are invited to join this special ministry. Rehearsal dates and times will be announced soon.

After the Christmas season, our handbell choir will resume! If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact our music director, Ryan Schaffer.

Our funeral choir is an important component of our music ministry program. Music during a funeral liturgy provides a sense of comfort to the grieving family. Our funeral choir meets a half-hour before a scheduled funeral service. A member of our funeral choir will contact you when a mass will be taking place at St. Augustine's. We hope you will come join us soon!

In the coming weeks, a special hymnal supplement will be inserted into our Journeysongs Hymnal. This supplement will contain some of our favorite hymns at St. Augustine's, which are not included in our hymnal.

*Meet the Staff*

**Ryan Schaffer**



We welcome our new Director of Music Ministries/organist, Ryan Schaffer, to St. Augustine's Parish!

Ryan Schaffer, a 29 year-old native of Oswego, is excited to begin his new adventure at St. Augustine's. Mr. Schaffer was the previous organist at St. John the Evangelist in Oswego, St. Michael's in Central Square, and the linked parishes of St. Joseph's and St. Stephen the King in Oswego, New York. He comes to St. Augustine's with a strong music background in voice and organ performance. He studied with Steav Congdon of Syracuse, New York.

Ryan has a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from SUNY Oswego, and continues his music studies privately through Syracuse University.

Ryan has lived in Village Green for 3 years, and looks forward to *not* traveling back and forth to Oswego in the snow!

We look forward to Ryan's wonderful talents here at St. Augustine's parish.

## Visit to the Bronx

Last August, 36 CYO members spent a weekend in New York, visiting our unofficial “sister parish” – St. Augustine’s in the Bronx. We went down to work, but we also managed to see a lot of the sights of the city.

We spent most of Saturday cleaning up the grounds around the parish buildings.

We cut down trees, trimmed shrubs, raked, picked up debris and repaired a fence. We were migrant workers for the day!

After our landscaping work, we split into smaller groups and went separate ways. Some visited Little Italy, some window-shopped and people-watched along Park Avenue, others took in the sights and sounds of Times Square. The full group returned to Times Square late that evening, before coming back to the parish in the Bronx, where we slept in the school cafeteria.



*CYO at Battery Park, August 2009*

Sunday morning we attended Mass in the school auditorium, the location for all the Masses, since the church building had been closed due to structural problems with both the roof and the floor. Mass in the Bronx was an experience worth the trip all by itself! The clapping and cheering and dancing created such a community feeling, and we were welcomed like neighbors, instead of strangers.

After Mass, we headed by bus to Ground Zero (empty, but full of its stories) and Battery Park (full of vendors and bargains). Then it was back to the bus for a quiet ride home, since most of us slept at least part of the way back.

The CYO group schedules other trips and service projects throughout the year, but our trip to the Big Apple will stand out as a highlight of our year.

## Newly Reorganized!

The newly reorganized CYO is alive, healthy and linked, and so far being linked has been a good thing for CYO. We have more members and it is a different group of members who have approached CYO without any preconceived ideas, just a healthy amount of energy and enthusiasm.

St. Augustine’s CYO is now St. Mary’s/St. Augustine’s CYO. We have officially become the youth group for both parishes. The teens have taken to the idea and our meetings have been well attended. We have expanded our adult advisor team to include parents and volunteers from St Mary’s and in October we began holding some of our meetings in St Mary’s cafeteria. There have been some glitches along the way but so far things are flowing along well.

As far as St. Augustine’s is concerned, CYO hasn’t really changed. Coffee and doughnuts is continuing on Sunday mornings, we have our first pancake breakfast scheduled for November first in St. Augustine’s parish hall and our spaghetti dinner with Santa is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>, again in the parish hall.

We will move an occasional breakfast or dinner to St. Mary’s but those dates are yet to be determined.

CYO is open to anyone in grades 7 through 12 whether they belong to St. Augustine’s parish or not. We do something every week and it is run by the CYO board which has been selected by their peers.

About the only change parishioners might notice is the addition of the used clothing shed at the edge of the church parking lot. It is there as a drop off place for your used clothing. CYO earns a small fee from the company that collects the clothing, which will eventually be distributed to those in need.

Thank you for your continuous and generous support of CYO over the years and God Bless you.



Another year of Faith Formation classes for children in pre-k through Grade 10 is underway. Our Tuesday Release Time program from McNamara School has 80 children in Grades 1 -5, and we can always use more helpers and walkers. If you are available on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 – 3:15 come and join us! Please call Kathy Meus at 638-0864 for more information.

### **Sacramental News**

Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation takes place at various times of the year. First to begin is preparation for First Reconciliation. On the weekend masses of December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> our young people will be officially enrolled for First Reconciliation preparation. They will be learning about God's great love and forgiveness as they prepare for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The celebration of this sacrament will be on Wednesday evening, January 13, 2010. Preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist will begin in January and February. Information will be sent to parents.

### **RCIA Youth**

This process is for children and youth who have not been baptized, or are in Grade 2 or higher and have not been in a Faith Formation program, they have not received any formal catechesis. Cassandra (Cassie) Hahn is in her second year of her journey towards receiving the Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil in 2010.

On October 18<sup>th</sup> at our 10:15 mass, our community welcomed Alexandra (Allie) Hahn and Gage Rivere to begin their journey for receiving the Initiation Sacraments. Through the Rite of Acceptance, Allie and Gage were presented to the community, signed with the cross, prayed for and received affirmation from the members of our community gathered at mass.

This process includes family members and becomes an opportunity for all to deepen their relationship with Jesus, and to fall in love with God as they learn about our Catholic faith. We are all called to discipleship and the RCIA process also helps those who are becoming Catholic Christians to become followers of Jesus.

Please pray for Cassie, Allie and Gage as they journey to the Sacraments of Initiation.

### **North American Forum on the Catechumenate**

What is this you may ask? The Forum is an international network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians united to share the vision and practice of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The Syracuse Diocese is hosting a 4 day workshop on the RCIA process and members of the Forum will be the presenters. The workshop will take place on January 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> at Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse. If you are interested in Initiation Ministry and would like to be a member of our adult or children's RCIA teams, this workshop would be ideal for you. Please call Kathy Meus or Debbie Krisher at 638-0864 for more details. The cut off date for registration is November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

On this Holy Day the Church celebrates that Mary was redeemed from the moment of conception. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception, as Pope Pius proclaimed in 1854 is, "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was..... preserved immune from all stain of original sin." (CCC # 491).

This year, December 8<sup>th</sup> falls on a Tuesday. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate this Holy Day with our release time students from McNamara School. The mass will be at 2:30 in the afternoon with our children taking an active role in some of the ministries. Everyone is invited to this mass, especially parents, grandparents, and other family members of our students. Join our children in prayer and mark your calendar now for this Tuesday afternoon mass.

### **Christmas Eve Family Mass**

Once again our 4:00 mass on Christmas Eve will feature our youth as they present the familiar story of the birth of Jesus. We are always in need of children in Grades K – 6 to help with the play, and older students to read, and help as altar servers and cross bearer. If your child or youth is able to participate, or you would like to be a member of this planning committee please call the Faith Formation Office at 638-0864. There will be a planning meeting in late November.

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## ✉ Fun(d) Raising

### Golf

Thank you to everyone who made our 2nd annual golf outing a huge success. We had 41 golfers gather at the Seneca golf course for a fun filled (rain free) Saturday afternoon. Team Theobald took honors with a 63 and even though team Miller (photo) was several strokes higher, they were closing fast at the end. After golf we all met in the parish hall for a pizza party. Thanks to everyone for making this a successful fun(d) raiser.



*Team Miller at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parish Golf Outing*

### Happy Holidays Raffle

Don't forget to get your tickets in for our 10th annual Happy Holiday's raffle. Prizes range from \$100 to \$5,000. Also, as in previous years, we will have 10-12 theme baskets that you can take a chance on. We will have the baskets on display the weekend before the grand finale, in the gathering room.

So get your tickets in today and make plans to join us November 21st at the grand finale.

### Spring Lottery

Yes, spring is right around the corner and that means it's time for our spring lottery. Look for details about the spring lottery in the bulletin.

## 📖 Attention regarding website and newsletter publications:

*If you would rather NOT have you or a family member's picture, name or phone number published in this newsletter or on the parish website, you MUST contact our office by sending an email to [staugustineparish@yahoo.com](mailto:staugustineparish@yahoo.com) or by delivering a signed letter stating your request.*

## 📖 About the Newsletter

St. Augustine's Parish News is published twice yearly. Questions regarding the newsletter may be directed to the parish office at 638-0585.

The Parish Newsletter Team: Colleen Denniston, Chief Editor; Michelle Ekross, Graphic Designer; Ed Tarney, Editor; as well as many proof readers. Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter.



*Parish Luau, August 2009*

