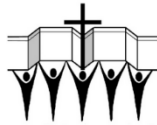




ST. AUGUSTINE'S

COVENANT
MINISTRIES
HANDBOOK

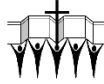


ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH MISSION

St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Christian community is rooted in Jesus the Christ and embraces the values of peace, justice, and love. As a people of Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to act as Jesus would. We reach out in faith, prayer, support, and service to all, while fostering our spiritual growth. We are an active, welcoming parish, sharing our gifts and talents.

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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 as 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 Seminarian Formation, which brought Fr. Tom Servatius to us as our pastor.

In July of 2017 the parishes of St. Mary's and St. Augustine's were once again linked and Fr. Clifford Auth joined us as pastor. Fr. Lou Sogliuzzo, S.J., is in residence and helps with liturgies.

St. Augustine's currently serves approximately 850 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.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Mass Times

St. Augustine's	St. Mary's
Saturday at 5:30 pm	Saturday at 4:00 pm
Sunday at 10:30 am	Sunday at 7:30 & 9:00 am
Wednesday at 10:00 am	Monday at 10:00 am
Thursday at 10:00 am	Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Celebration of the sacrament rotates weekly between St. Augustine's and St. Mary's. The schedule is for alternate Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm at St. Mary's and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am at St. Augustine's. Please check the bulletin or call the parish office for dates. You may also schedule an appointment for the sacrament by calling the office.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Pastoral Office to schedule a Baptism and register for class.

Adults and Children Becoming Catholic

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.

Members of the Parish Staff:

Fr. Clifford Auth, Pastor
Fr. Lou Sogliuzzo, S. J., In Residence
Deacon John Pedrotti
David M. Ditz, Supervisor for Building & Grounds
Debra Krisher, Pastoral Associate
Angie Banes, Bookkeeper
Kathleen Raddell, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Schaffer, Director of Music Ministry
Kristin Jankowski, Parish Communications
Amanda Darcangelo, Bulletin Editor
Cathy Mackey, Director of Faith Formation
Carlos Gonzalez, Youth Minister

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY FOR ALL MINISTRIES

It is recommended that, when possible, all lay ministers be safe environment trained. Any volunteer whose ministry brings them into contact with children, youth or vulnerable adults is required to attend a Safe Environment Training Program. Youth between 16 & 18 may attend with parent permission. This training is free of charge and training sessions are regularly held throughout the year at various locations in the Syracuse Diocese including St. Augustine's. Go to www.syrdio.org for additional information.

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

The Art and Environment Ministry Team gets the church ready for major liturgies and seasons, including New Beginnings, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and other celebrations. The team meets when available to put up and take down the appropriate décor, such as wreaths and banners, or to decide on new décor. Artistic talent is not required. Anyone who can help is welcome.

CAMERA OPERATOR

Operators are responsible for controlling the camera remotely for the live-streaming of Masses. All that is required is an app on your smart phone. This position is for those who are in high school or older. Training is available.

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

Extraordinary Ministers (Eucharistic Ministers) serve our parish community by distributing Holy Communion at weekend and special liturgies. A training session is required for first-time ministers of the parish. Any persons renewing their covenant to this ministry who desire a refresher training class are also welcome to attend. Ministers are scheduled approximately once every four weeks at the mass of your choice.

GREETERS

Greeters are the first people we meet when entering our Church for Mass. It is one of welcome and hospitality. A friendly smile and a warm hello convey the message that each individual who enters our parish grounds is Christ present and we, as Church, are delighted because they are the reason we gather.

Greeters arrive at weekend liturgies 20 minutes early and stand at the Church entrances. At the conclusion of Mass, they distribute the weekly bulletin as the assembly leaves the Church. Greeters also invite parishioners attending Mass to be Gift Bearers. They are scheduled for the Mass time convenient for them every 3-5 weeks; training is provided as needed.

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim scripture readings from the Lectionary and read the Prayers of the Faithful at weekend and special liturgies. The ministry of a lector is to help make the readings come alive for the congregation. A training session is required for first-time ministers of the parish. Any persons renewing their covenant to this ministry who desire a refresher training class are also welcome to attend. Lectors are scheduled approximately once every three to six weeks at the Mass of your choice. If you love to read and have been told you have a clear speaking voice, please consider becoming a Lector.

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 their 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.

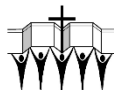
Adult Choir: Weekly rehearsals are Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. for all weekend Masses. Extra rehearsals occur as needed for special liturgies, or special events such as preparing a Cantata. Anyone in Grade 8 and older is welcome to sing in the choir. The ability to read music is helpful, but not 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). We are blessed to have the combined Funeral choir with St. Mary's. Funeral Choir meets 30 minutes before the funeral to rehearse music. Other rehearsals are as needed.

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.

USHERS

Ushers assist at Mass welcoming and seating people. They are responsible for taking up the collection. Day and time of service: Ushers are scheduled to serve monthly 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 identify resources to meet these needs, enlisting the active cooperation of parishioners. These ministries acknowledge our baptismal call to service and work for justice. The ministries' scope of responsibility is two-fold: to meet immediate needs and to work for changes in structures of society.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement Ministry provides support and comfort on behalf of the parish to family members when they have lost a loved one. Please consider serving on this ministry even if you can only help on weekends.

Bethany Hospitality Committee: This committee prepares and serves 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. Coordinators of the luncheon as well as people who cook and bake are needed for this ministry.

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.

Adult Servers/Cross Bearer: There are two ways in which servers are needed at a funeral. One person is the Cross Bearer and takes care of the incense, and the other person is the Altar Server as at a funeral mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Eucharistic Ministers serve at the liturgy by assisting the presider to distribute Communion to all who attend.

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.

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.

CREATION CARE TEAM

The Creation Care Team was formed in 2022 to promote a love for God’s Earth by offering ways to connect with God through the Earth and ways we can better care for the Earth. We pray, share thoughts, feelings, and ideas; and implement learning opportunities and actions. Our work is based on direction provided by the last three popes, most recently Pope Francis in his 2015 Encyclical Letter titled Laudato Si’ (Praise Be/On Care for our Common Home). Each of us is interconnected with each other and with God’s Earth in wondrous ways! Creation Care is a key element of our Catholic Social Teaching and is so necessary given our ongoing impacts to God’s Earth.

COVENANT WEEKEND COMMITTEE

Covenant Weekend is our annual showcase of all of the ministries that our parish has to offer under one roof. This committee implements the creativity and Spirit of the St. Augustine’s faith-filled community and organizes the logistics of creating this parish-wide celebration of faith. The committee decides on a theme and follows an already created timeline of procedures to meet deadlines for communication to ministry heads, bulletin announcements, handbook revisions and more. Support is provided by the Pastoral Council. Meetings are conducted as necessary.

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.

INFORMATION TABLE

The Information Team provides a sincere welcome to all parishioners and visitors who seek information about our parish. We are the welcoming “face” of St. Augustine’s. This friendly team provides information regarding how to register as a parishioner and how to sign up for church programs and events; it also serves as a gateway to the many different opportunities offered within the parish. If you are a “people” person, we need you! The Information Team provides this service at each Mass on the weekends. No meetings are necessary.

NEW BEGINNINGS PICNIC COMMITTEE

The New Beginnings picnic is a social function that the whole family can enjoy. It takes place after the 10:30 Mass on New Beginnings Sunday, the Sunday after Labor Day, with lunch provided by the parish. It continues with an afternoon full of games and prizes for both children and adults. Meetings are scheduled as needed for planning the event.

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 bi-weekly. 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.

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, and helping pick up, prepare and deliver Easter and Christmas plants from the parish to our sick and homebound.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

The Prayer Line Ministry was established at St. Augustine's in 2004. It offers a chance for people to share their need for prayer either for themselves or others, and an opportunity to take the needs shared to God in prayer. No experience is necessary, just a love of God and a love of others. The team of Prayer Line participants will honor confidentiality and be compassionate while lifting others up in prayer. This ministry allows for plenty of schedule flexibility, as each Prayer Line member prays on their own time. Checking email daily is expected. Those who sign a covenant will receive a welcome letter via email with detailed information from the prayer line coordinator. Generally, prayer requests are made via email, but if you do not have an email account, other options will be made available.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

St. Augustine's Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2004. We are a fun group of parishioners who like to knit, crochet and quilt. There is no time commitment to make a shawl, just work at your leisure. We make shawls, blankets, lap blankets, hats, gloves and scarves. Every baby baptized at St. Augustine's receives a white blanket and stole to commemorate the occasion. All our items are blessed by Fr. Cliff. As of 2023, we have given away over 2,000 shawls, blankets, hats, mittens and scarves. If anyone wants a shawl or blanket, contact the parish office or Carol Turner and we will see that you get whatever you need. We meet in September, October, November and December. After a break for the winter, we meet again in

April, May and June in the Gathering Space at our Church. This year our meetings are held on Tuesday, once a month. A schedule will be provided when you sign a covenant agreement. Ministry coordinator is Carol Turner (315) 743-1277.

RACIAL AWARENESS

The race awareness group formed in 2020 following five summers of reading books that provided insights about what life is like for American people of color. The group provides time for prayer, learning and reflecting about how each of us are called to be God's children regardless of our background or skin color. We have begun to discern the effect of living in predominantly white suburbs, how much we have missed about our American history, and how more enriched our lives are when we interact with people of color. We seek healing for ourselves and solidarity with all types of people, including Black Americans, Native Americans, Latin Americans, Asian Americans, and more.

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 the Italian custom of a meatless meal in honor of this feast day. Homemade Italian breads, dishes and desserts are prepared by committee members cooking and baking together in the Parish Hall.

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 year-round on the first Wednesday of the month. You do not have to be a member of this parish to attend. Feel free to bring a friend.

SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

The Social Action Ministry of St. Augustine's Parish Community seeks to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ to promote the well-being of all people through social justice, love and peace. We strive to embrace the dignity of all through active discipleship focusing on values taught and implemented by Jesus for the common good.

Bingo: O'Brien Road Apartments: SAM volunteers sponsor bi-monthly bingo games. Volunteers are needed to help seniors play Bingo and award prizes.

Catholic Charities Men's Shelter Meals: Volunteers of the committee and parishioners are asked to prepare and serve meals, (two Chili Dinners, one Pizza Breakfast and one Casserole Breakfast) which are brought to 100 homeless men staying at the Men's Shelter.

Children's Parties: SAM volunteers help coordinate parties for grade school children at an inner-city parish or drop-in center. SAM and youth group members provide food, drinks, games, activities and gift bags.

Christmas Gift Bags: This activity is in conjunction with Faith Formation classes. Gift bags are prepared and delivered to senior citizens in the area.

Emergency Food Bags: Food bags are prepared and always available to anyone in need. Each bag has enough food for three complete meals and can feed 4-5 people.

Food Collection: Easter and Thanksgiving: Food donations from the parish and grocery store gift cards are provided at Easter and Thanksgiving for nearby families in need, as well as for two to three military families.

Food Drive: Baldwinsville Turkey Day Race: Under the combined sponsorship of St. Mary's and St. Augustine's Church, SAM volunteers collect, sort and deliver food items to local food pantries in the area.

Food Pantry: St. Augustine's parishioners donate non-perishable food for the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. On a weekly basis, SAM members volunteer to deliver the donated food to the pantry.

Fundraising: Every year SAM sponsors fantasy football and a March Madness basketball tournament bracket to raise money for charity selected by participants and approved by the pastor.

Giving Tree: An Advent tradition, SAM volunteers set up the parish giving tree with suggested gifts tags. The gifts are collected for the Christmas Bureau, parish families and needy families at St. Vincent DePaul's Church, (an inner-city church).

Gospel of Life: Provides educational, spiritual and service opportunities for the parish which focus on respecting all life.

Jail Ministry: SAM volunteers collect and deliver Ramen Noodles to the Jail Ministry. The noodles are part of the gift bags given to inmates who will spend Christmas at the Justice Center. Volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver the gift bags and then sing carols alongside inmates who will be spending Christmas at the Justice Center.

Migrant Workers: SAM provides support for migrant workers who work at local farms by providing clothing, food and personal supplies, as needed. Members also help sort and/or distribute supplies to workers in spring and summer.

Other Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for behind the scenes such as making posters, reading announcements at Mass, taking pictures and writing bulletin articles about an activity that they participated in. Also, SAM members on occasion assist serving the coffee and donut distribution after Masses on Sunday.

Outhouse Challenge: Annually, the parish is asked to contribute to a month-long collection of paper products or toiletry items, which are then provided to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry.

Pet Supply Challenge: Annually, SAM volunteers coordinate a Pet House Challenge. Parishioners are asked to contribute items for cats, dogs, rabbits, etc. Items collected food, toys, grooming supplies, collars and leashes, cleaning supplies, towels and blankets. Items are donated to Helping Hounds, SPCA, Humane Society and Hardeko Helping Paws Pantry.

Produce Table: Annually, SAM volunteers coordinate a produce exchange between those in the parish with garden surplus with others desiring fresh produce. Any funds raised go to the local Food Pantry.

Public Policy: As the need arises, SAM may be asked to take action in support of US Catholic Bishops' policies addressing immigration, budget priorities, education, petitions, etc.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: SAM volunteers coordinate collections of gently used towels, eyeglasses, hearing aids, toddler clothing, toys and sweatshirts. These items are given to the Men's Shelter, Lions Club, Optimist Club, and St. Vincent dePaul Center to assist those in need.

Refugee Family Resettlement: From time to time, parishioners working with refugee families help them settle into this country. This can include tutoring, shopping, and assisting with daily activities that help the family acclimate.

Samaritan Center Desserts: SAM volunteers coordinate making sandwiches by different parish ministries. The sandwiches are then delivered to the Samaritan Center.

Samaritan Center Sandwiches: Also, on a monthly basis, parishioners bake or purchase desserts for the Samaritan Center. The Samaritan Center serves no cost meals to low income and homeless people and their families.

School Supplies: SAM volunteers coordinate parish contributions of school supplies for PEACE, Inc., which then go to Baldwinsville school children.

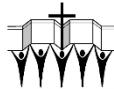
Veterans and Soldiers Assistance: Through contact with local military personnel, soldiers and their families and veterans identified as in need. Special collections are made at holiday times and as needed.

Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS): A grassroots, interfaith network advocating for social justice in CNY, ACTS is voices striving for a more just and fair community that improves the quality of life for all. Our mission is to come together as people of faith and conscience to address the social, economic, educational and political concerns of our communities. ACTS is powerful, faith-based, urban-suburban, multi-faith and multi-cultural doing its work in task forces and in community-wide gatherings. St. Augustine's has been a member of ACTS since 2007.

The **Social Action Ministry** typically meets on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7-8:30 pm, starting in September and ending in May. Usually, we do not meet in December and January. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can express interest in an event or project by contacting the person who coordinates the event. Also, as volunteers are needed for a project, SAM members will be notified by email or text messaging (for those SAM members who do not have access to email) about one month before the project takes place. We also have subcommittees for the various projects that meet as necessary. SAM members are kept informed through the monthly meeting minutes and monthly and weekly reminders. SAM members will be provided with a SAM calendar listing all events taking place.

SUNDAY COFFEE AND DONUTS

This ministry is of a social nature. Members of this committee serve coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings after the 10:30 Mass. We are looking for people who will help pick up donuts and set up the coffee as well as for people who will serve the coffee and donuts after Mass and then clean up.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

Spiritual Development is a life-long process aimed at personal conversion and growth in faith. These ministries design, implement, and evaluate 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

Members of Bible Study come together to gain further insight into the wonders of God found in Scripture. Through study, discussion, and video presentations, participants allow current Biblical understanding to touch their minds and hearts in order to enter into a deeper relationship with God. Facilitators are needed, training is provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Augustine's and St. Mary's are sharing in a new youth ministry. A professional Youth Minister engages with young people grades 6–12 from both parishes. Youth members participate in social activities, community and justice outreach, and spiritual activities. A volunteer team of adults provides support to the youth community and the youth minister.

FAITH FORMATION

Catechists, Classroom Aides and Substitute Catechists

“Each of us had something to learn from the others, and something to teach in return.” St. Augustine

Faith Formation catechists, classroom aides and substitute catechists are faith-filled people who have the desire to share their faith with the younger generation, the future of our Church. These giving people initially meet one on one with the Director of Faith Formation to discuss our program and to determine together where the individual's gifts, skills and talents fit best. They receive training, as well as weekly and as needed support, by the Director of Faith Formation. Come grow with us!

Faith Formation - Grades 6 and higher (including Confirmation prep):

Adolescents and teens face many challenges in society today. In a world with constant distraction right at their fingertips, many of our young people find it difficult to just “be” and struggle to determine who and what they are meant for. Teaching this age group is phenomenally rewarding, as both the students and the

catechists discern, grow and learn together, albeit differently. Journey into their world and see it from their eyes, and take them into yours. It will be transformative!

Classes for grades 6 and higher meet five times a year from October to April on Sunday evenings. We start with a Mass at 5:00, with the students attending with their families. After Mass, students come together for fellowship and friendship, enjoying a delicious meal together. Each session, we will have a guest speaker who will speak on the topic of the month. This engaging speaker will be someone with great experience on the subject. Students will then spend time in small group, working with their catechist, learning more about the topic that had been addressed during the homily, and the speakers talk. Finally, the night ends with students being set off with a fun challenge to consider participating in during the month. Our night ends at 8:00 pm.

We also hold weeklong Faith Formation classes during the months of August and February. These classes are very interactive and project based, while always tying back into Theology and Church teachings. These classes are held for four days in a row from 9:00 – 12:00. These stimulating, interactive and engaging events help students see their faith through many different lenses and help to teach to a multitude of different learning styles.

Faith Formation - Grades 1 – 5: Do you love working with younger children? Do you feel that you'd like to grow in your faith, knowledge, and understanding and would enjoy learning along with them? There's nothing like introducing children to God and our Church. Come plant the seeds and watch them grow in their faith!

Our program for grades 1-5 meets twice a month for an hour session. We hold classes on Sunday mornings before Mass and on Monday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Families can choose which day works best for their schedules. Also, families are welcome to make up classes on the opposite day, or switch back and forth between days, if they so desire. Flexibility and “helping families do it all” is very important to us. These fun and informative magazines follow the liturgical calendar and are able to be taken home each week so they can be reviewed by parents. We will also include a “Living the Lesson” for families to complete during the month. This will help connect the bridge between church and home and let parents lead their children in acting out their faith.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (C.L.O.W.): Do you have storytelling gifts and like working with children in Grades 1-5? 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 10:30 AM Mass. The Sunday Readings are proclaimed in children's language from the Children's Lectionary and then explained by a catechist. The Profession of Faith is prayed, and intercessory prayers are offered. 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.

Special Education Catechists: It is our fervent desire to share our faith and sacraments with children who have special needs. If you are a special education teacher, or would like to be classroom assistant to students that need one on one teaching and special accommodations for learning, come join us for this very special and rewarding experience.

First Reconciliation: There is nothing quite like the gift of being forgiven. Our God loves us immeasurably and desires to always welcome us to return to Him with open arms! First Reconciliation classes are direct sacrament preparation classes that meet two times and teach our children all about this incredible sacrament. Students attend Mass with their families on the Sunday morning that their workshop is held. They then have their workshop from 5:30-7:30 pm, learning about sin, forgiveness, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Please note that students must also be enrolled in bi-monthly Faith Formation program or must be attending Catholic School in order to receive the sacrament. Also, first grade is a required prerequisite in order to receive the sacrament in second grade. However, students may also join our program in second grade and receive the sacrament in third grade. Each student must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist.

First Eucharist (Communion): The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium, no. 11 cf Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1324*) Partaking in the Body and Blood is our life-giving nourishment. There is nothing like working with children who are learning about this incredible sacrament. They are always in awe and desire to get closer to Jesus by learning more. Their wonder, excitement, enthusiasm, and piety always bring joy to whomever is in their presence. First Eucharist classes are direct sacrament preparation classes that meet three times and teach our children all about this incredible sacrament. Students attend Mass with their families on the Sunday that their workshop is held. They then have their workshop from 5:30-7:30 pm, learning about Passover, Jesus' sacrifice and the sacrament of the Eucharist. Please note that students must be enrolled in the bi-monthly Faith Formation program or attending Catholic School. Also, first grade is a required prerequisite class in order to receive the sacrament in second grade, as well as having celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, students may also join our program in the second grade and receive the sacrament in third grade.

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 support and encouragement. Preparation sessions for parents seeking to baptize their children are held monthly. 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 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; regularly assisting at the Saturday sessions is helpful for the candidates.

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. Classes are held during the months of January through April. There is also one rehearsal for First Eucharist.

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. Classes are held during the months of September through November.

Parish Picnic Volunteers: Each September, we kick off the Faith Formation year on Catechetical Sunday by having our outstanding Parish Picnic! This is great fun for parishioners of all ages and brings us together as a faith community in an interactive and exciting way! Volunteers are needed for set up, cooking, running games, clean up, etc.

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 own Sacrament of Marriage and topics like communication, sexuality, finances, etc. Training and materials are provided. Interfaith couples are welcome. Day and time of the meetings are at the convenience of the couples.

Becoming Catholic - Adult Team: The entire Catholic Community is responsible for initiating new members into the Catholic Church. This team represents the community and journeys with adults who are seeking to become

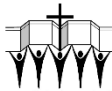
Catholic through the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Team members lead faith sharing and catechetical (instruction) sessions for those who are seeking full initiation as well as assist in the planning and implementation of many liturgical rites associated with the process. Ministry opportunities include being a catechist (teacher), providing hospitality, and being a sponsor. Training is provided.

Becoming Catholic - 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 as needed with the youth and their parents. There are some planning sessions and team members teach on a rotating basis. An understanding of the RCIA process is important and training is available.

Sewing Ministry: Do you enjoy sewing? Are you crafty? Then we need you! Our Christmas Pageant is held every year on Christmas Eve. We need costumes and would love to have someone who can sew to create simple costumes. We have many guests that attend our parish for this Mass and our Christmas Pageant is something that they truly cherish and look forward to year after year. The costumes help to create a very special, spiritual and holy evening for so many.

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. Meetings take place regularly, scheduled by the group.



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.

ALTAR LINEN CLEANING MINISTRY

The purpose and function of this committee is to keep the altar linens that are used washed and pressed through a weekly schedule set up in September.

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.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY

This Ministry takes on new construction and remodeling needs of the parish. Projects are identified and calls for professional (architect, engineer), skilled craftsmen (all trades including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, painting) and helping hand volunteers are communicated via email, announcements and social media as needed for each project. The project group works together to multiply the value of work completed throughout the campus.

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.

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Collection Counters meet in the parish office on Monday mornings at 9:00 am to count and record the weekly collection and any special church collections. Teams consist of 2 or 3 people with each team scheduled once per month. The parish bookkeeper offers assistance as necessary. Time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours per month. Thank you for your service!

FR. MCLAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The trust is a perpetual trust in memory of Fr. Tom McLaughlin'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 3 times per year to collect and review applications and select the winner. The award is presented in June.

FUN(D) RAISING COMMITTEE

This Committee plans and executes the major Parish fund raising events throughout the year. The goal of these is not only to raise money, but to encourage socialization, to build community within the Parish, and also to have fun. Funds from the events are primarily used to defray the costs of upkeep and improvements to the Parish Campus, but may be used for other expenses as the need arises. Committee meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis, but much of the Committee's work is conducted at after-Mass sales.

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. The labyrinth is an aid for an individual's spiritual journey.

PASTORAL OFFICE MINISTRY

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

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

Are you an amateur photographer or videographer? Would you be willing to put your gifts and talents to use for the parish? St. Augustine's is trying to develop a more visual presence in the bulletin as well as on our website and on social media. To do this we need people who would be willing to take photographs and video at our many events and rites as the year unfolds. The frequency of the commitment would be based on your availability.

PLANT CARE MINISTRY

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

SET-UP/CLEAN-UP CREW

All the many and various activities that take place in the parish need people who are willing to come both before and/or after an event to help with set-up and clean-up. This work typically involves setting up/taking down tables and chairs, rearranging furniture, helping put up/take down decorations – all the different things that go into making and cleaning up from a successful event. The time commitment involved would be fairly limited – an hour before or an hour after a specific event, on an as-needed basis.

SISTER PAT GEARY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

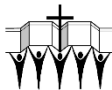
This committee was established after the death of Sr. Pat in 1998 to continue and share the Christian service, the social mission of the Church and a call to respect the dignity of all people as Sister Pat had throughout her life. Through the process of completed nomination forms returned to the committee,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

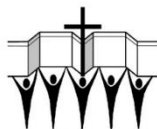
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee developed from the 2012 parish Appreciative Inquiry (AI) session. No experience is necessary, only a passion for the sustainability and progress of our parish through the use and support of technology. Projects supported by this committee include parish Wi-Fi, office PC and network support, general audio/visual support and consultation, website and social media, electronic giving and security. This committee meets on an as-needed basis, typically 2-3 times 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.





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Check us out frequently for parish information.

Should you wish to have more information

about any of the committees or groups,

please contact us!

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