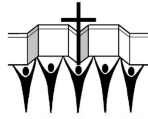


St. Augustine's

covenant
ministries
handbook

2026 - 2027



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 rectory was built in 1967, and construction of the Parish Hall, primarily by members of the parish, was completed in 1981. The new Pastoral Center was completed in 1999 and houses classrooms for faith formation, the parish offices, the nursery, parish meeting rooms, and the Sr. Pat Geary Gathering Room.

In 1973, Fr. Thomas J. McLaughlin became pastor of St. Augustine's. He greatly increased the size of the parish. 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 pastor. In 1991, Fr. John F. Rose became pastor, followed by Fr. Paul Alciati who was appointed pastor in spring of 2003.

Many of the activities and qualities that make St. Augustine's a unique and vibrant parish were established during the years when Sr. Patricia Geary ministered in our parish. Sr. Pat began her ministry at St. Augustine's in 1980 and ultimately served as Director of Spiritual Development from 1990 until her passing in 1998. During her time in leadership, she served as recruiter, catalyst, and planner for many parish processes and ministries. She also shared deep personal spirituality with those she encountered.

St. Augustine's and St. Mary's parishes were linked in August of 2008 and in December 2008, Fr. Abraham Esper was appointed as pastor of the linked parishes. In the fall of 2010, St. Augustine's was delinked from St. Mary's to form a new linkage with the Syracuse Diocesan Office of Seminarian Formation, which brought Fr. Tom Servatius to the church as 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., was in residence and helped with liturgies.

In July of 2024 Fr. Joseph O'Connor, who had been the pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was named the new pastor for St. Augustine's and St. Mary's, creating a new three-parish linkage serving the Baldwinsville community. Fr. Ben Schrantz was named to serve all three parishes as Parochial Vicar. Fr. O'Connor served as pastor for one year, leaving to become the Vice Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland. In August 2025, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of the Syracuse Catholic Diocese, took up the pastorate of all three churches, with Fr. Ben Schrantz serving as Administrator in 2026.

St. Augustine's currently serves approximately 800 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

	St. Augustine's	St. Mary's	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Monday		9 am	
Tuesday		7 pm	
Wednesday	10 am		
Thursday			6:45 am
Friday			9 am
Saturday		4 pm	5:30 pm
Sunday	10:30 am	9 am	7:30 am 10:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

	St. Augustine's	St. Mary's	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Tuesday		Every other Tuesday 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm*	
Wednesday	Every other Wednesday 10:30 am - 11:30 am*		5:30 pm - 6:30 pm (when a priest is available)
Saturday		3 pm - 3:45 pm	4:30 pm – 5:15 pm

**For the St. Augustine's and St. Mary's weekly schedule please refer to the bulletin, weekly update, or website, or call the Parish Office. You may also schedule an appointment by calling the office.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish 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 Parish Office for more information about this process.

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Members of the Parish Staff

Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, Pastor

Fr. Benjamin Schrantz, Administrator

John Pedrotti, Deacon

David Nesbitt, Deacon

David M. Ditz, Supervisor for Buildings & Grounds

Angie Banes, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Case, Administrative Assistant

Ryan Schaffer, Director of Music Ministry

Kristin Jankowski, Parish Communications

Amanda Darcangelo, Bulletin Editor

Julie Moss, Director of Elementary School Faith Formation

Michelle Sunderhaft, Director of Middle/High School Faith Formation

John Sheridan, Middle School Youth Minister

Sharon Scott, Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry

Nick Calaprico, High School Youth Minister

Safe Environment Policy for All Ministries

The Office of Safe Environment provides training and education specifically focused on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The Safe Environment initial training is required for those 18 years of age and older, including,

- all clergy;
- all members of religious orders;
- all diocesan, agency, and parish employees, including those without direct contact with children and youth; and
- all adult volunteers whose ministry or role places them in regular contact with children, young people, or vulnerable adults; and
- all liturgical ministers.

Visit <https://syracusediocese.org/safe-environment> for more information.

Parish Life and 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. All ministers are required to attend Safe Environment Training.

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 those in Grades 4 and up who have received their First Communion. 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 livestreaming 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, and it's very easy and fun to do! No technical knowledge is required because the staff at St. Augustine's will handle any technical issues that may arise.

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 children complete a short activity or craft and are given take-home materials. 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 may choose the weeks they are available to teach. Middle and high school students are encouraged to volunteer as "helpers" for the younger children.

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 Mass 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 weekday, 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 four to six weeks at the Sunday Mass. If you are available for the Wednesday weekday

Mass, you would be scheduled more often. If you have a love for the Word of God, enjoy reading, 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, and any interested parishioners. Committee meetings are done by Zoom at the discretion of the pastor.

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 provide an important service to St. Augustine's parishioners by making them feel welcome, helping them find a seat, gathering the collection, recording the number of parishioners at Mass, and assisting any one in need.

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. Casseroles, baked ziti, salads and desserts are requested. 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 that 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.

Covenant Sunday Committee

Covenant Sunday is our annual showcase of all of the ministries that our parish has to offer under one roof. Spearheaded by the Pastoral Council, 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 our baptismal call to ministry. The committee creates and follows a timeline of procedures to meet deadlines for communication to ministry heads, bulletin announcements, handbook revisions and more. Meetings in the spring 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 various parish 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. No meetings are necessary.

New Beginnings / Summer Picnic Committee

The New Beginnings picnic is a social function that the whole family can enjoy! It typically takes place in August or September. Volunteers are needed to plan the event, cook hot dogs, make popcorn, and plan activities.

As St. Augustine's, St. Mary's, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton continue to offer more unified events, a multi-parish summer picnic is currently in the planning stages for August 2026. Volunteers are needed to help plan and organize 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.

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 scarfs. Every baby baptized at St. Augustine's receives a white blanket and stole to commemorate the occasion. All our items are blessed by St. Augustine's church. Between 2025-2026, we have given away over 6500 blankets, hats, mittens, scarfs and preemie hats to various hospitals, the Samaritan Center and many individuals. 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 one Tuesday per month in September, October, November, December, April, May and June. We meet in the Gathering Room. A schedule will be provided when you sign a covenant. Ministry coordinator is Carol Turner (315) 743-1277.

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 covered 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. Assistance coordinating the event is needed.

Social Action Ministry

The Social Action Ministry 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. Catholic disciples on mission are called to put Two Feet of Love in Action! This foundational tool describes two distinct, but complementary, ways we can put the Gospel in action in response to God's love: social justice (addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people) and charitable works (addressing immediate needs and providing emergency assistance). USCBB.

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 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 by email with monthly meeting minutes and monthly and occasional updates. SAM members will be provided with a SAM calendar listing all events taking place.

Addressing Social Injustice – Left Foot

Advocates for Social Justice: Catholic Social Teaching is an official moral doctrine of our Church. It provides a guide for living out our Catholic faith by applying Gospel values to promote human dignity and the common good.

Pope Francis said, “Today, as in the past, liberating the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted is an integral part of the mission entrusted by God to the Church.” We seek to address the urgent needs of the poor and vulnerable in our

community through works of mercy and work to address injustices in society. We advocate locally for fair housing, environmental justice, especially the elimination of childhood lead poisoning, and the humane treatment of all God's children, including the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the marginalized, the immigrants and refugees.

“Praying with our feet” is how we are called to live the Gospel today. We warmly invite you to join us in this community work.

Baldwinsville Interfaith Green Team: Mission: Promote greater love for God's creation by offering ways to better appreciate and connect with the Earth and ways we can better care for all of creation. Our focus is toward prayer, education, sharing awareness, and actions.

A.C.T.S. - Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse: A grassroots, interfaith network advocating for social justice in CNY, ACTS is a voice 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 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.

Charitable Works to meet Basic Needs – Right Foot

Catholic Charities Men's Shelter Meals: Volunteers are asked to help make a chili dinner or pizza prepared and cooked at the parish hall. The meals are then brought and served to the 100 homeless men staying at the Catholic Charities Men's Shelter.

SAM's Bakers: Periodically a need arises for homemade cookies to enhance a meal at the Men's Shelter, for Migrant worker gatherings, on Election Day or for other fundraisers such as the St Joseph / St Patrick bake goods celebrations.

Emergency Food Bags: Two sets of two 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 Drive: Baldwinsville Turkey Trot: Under the combined sponsorship of St. Mary's and St. Augustine's Church, SAM volunteers collect, sort and deliver food items to families in need for a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal. Additional food is donated to the B'ville food pantry and to the local backpack program for school children.

Food Collection: Food donations from the parish and grocery store gift cards are provided at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter for nearby families in need, as well as for several military families. SAM volunteers collect, sort and deliver food items to families in need.

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

Giving Tree: Each year volunteers coordinate a program at Christmas time for our parishioners to help provide gifts to be distributed to Baldwinsville families in need, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau, and children from St. Vincent De Paul Church in Syracuse. In addition, Ramen Noodles are collected for Jail Ministry as part of Christmas gift bags for inmates at the Onondaga County Justice Center.

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

Jail Ministry: Volunteers are invited to write letters to inmates on a monthly basis, volunteer in the Jail Ministry office, or become trained to visit inmates at the Onondaga County 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 and visit with surplus baked goods as available. Religious services, including Mass, are occasionally offered at one of the farms. Spanish language skills are helpful but not necessary.

Ash Wednesday Luncheon: Parishioners prepare and serve vegetarian soups after Mass on Ash Wednesday.

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

Christmas Party: O'Brien Road Apartments: Volunteers help plan and offer a party for residents.

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 which relies on this donation to defray costs for items that would have to be purchased.

Produce Table: Annually, 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.

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

Samaritan Center Sandwiches: Volunteers prepare sandwiches with church supplied ingredients, typically on the second Wednesday of the month after 10:00 am Mass in the parish hall. The sandwiches are then delivered to the Samaritan Center.

School Supplies: SAM volunteers coordinate parish contributions of school supplies for PEACE, Inc., which then go to Baldwinsville school children. Items are also collected for the local Backpack program for needy children.

Veterans and Soldiers Assistance: Local military families and veterans in need benefit from occasional financial support and donations to a local veterans organization.

St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Day: Since these two feast days are both in March, this committee bakes Italian and Irish bread, cookies and goodies. Committee members bake in the parish hall and at home. The treats are then offered to parishioners after Masses, and proceeds are donated to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry or other worthy causes.

Social Action Administrative Assistant: An administrative assistant is needed to assist the chair in communicating scheduled projects to members and attend and/or take and publish minutes at meetings. Regular contact with the chair would help coordinate the many projects and volunteers needed to successfully manage the numerous projects, bulletin articles, and announcements. Communication and automation skills are helpful.

Case Manager Task Force: SAM has had an ongoing committee working on a special project to see if there is a community wide need and support for a full time locally based case manager. Committee participants are needed to collect data in order to apply for a grant to fund the project. This project has stalled and is in need of new participants as experience has shown this is a complex undertaking.

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.

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 am Mass. We are looking for people who will help pick up donuts at 9:30 am and set up the coffee as well as for people who will serve the coffee and donuts after Mass and then clean up. Commitment varies on how often you would like to participate.

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

Youth Ministry serves young people in grades 6–12 across the three parishes by fostering a welcoming and faith-filled community where teens can grow in their relationship with Christ and one another. Opportunities include retreats, small groups, service projects, social gatherings, and experiences centered on prayer, discipleship, and community. Adult volunteers play an important role in supporting and accompanying the youth through mentorship, hospitality, and participation in ministry events.

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):

Teenagers today are navigating a louder, faster, and more anxious world than any generation before them. They aren’t just looking for answers; they are

looking for authenticity. When you teach a teen faith formation class, you aren't just passing on lessons from a book—you are becoming a trusted anchor. You get the front-row seat to watch doubt turn into conviction, and questions turn into a deeply personal faith. Young people don't just need to hear about God's love; they need to see it lived out in adults who care enough to show up for them. Come invest in the future of our Church—you might just find your own faith deeply renewed in the process.

Grades 6-10th meet twice a month at St. Mary's from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. We have grade level books and instructional guides. You aren't doing this alone. We often gather together as one large group to participate in dynamic, seasonal activities that enrich and supplement the individual lessons. It's a team effort!

Faith Formation - Grades 1 – 5:

The Elementary Faith Formation program places Jesus at the heart of all we do, building on Sacred Scripture and incorporating Catholic teaching with a strong emphasis on living out our faith. Each month, students and families will receive a "Living the Lesson" activity that connects directly to a theme they are exploring in Faith Formation. Classes are held twice a month on Sunday mornings.

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.

Sacrament Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion:

Students preparing to receive sacraments for the first time must be active in the Faith Formation program for two years. Students are expected to have participated in parish faith formation or Catholic school religious education classes for at least one year before he/she begins the direct preparation for the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of Eucharist. Classes for sacrament preparation meet once a month on Monday evenings.

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 based on their schedule. Team members rotate responsibility for offering the sessions. Training for this team is available.

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.

Catholic Initiation (OCIA) - 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.

Initiation (OCIA) - 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 Training is provided.

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 of the committee is to have clean altar linens ready for all Masses. The function of the committee is to take the used altar linens home to wash and press. This is done on a rotating weekly schedule which will be 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.

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 parish fund raising efforts throughout the year. The two main events are Happy Holidays and the Spring Lottery. The goal is to raise money, as well as to encourage socialization, build community within the parish, and have some fun. Funds raised go into the parish general fund, which funds our many ministries and helps defray the costs of upkeep of our facilities. Committee meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis, and 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!

Set - Up / Clean-Up Crew

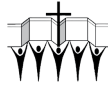
All the many and various activities that take place in the parish need people who are willing to come both before and/or after an event to help with set-up and cleanup. This work typically involves setting up/taking down tables and chairs, rearranging furniture, helping put up / take down decorations – all the different things that go into producing 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

Do you have 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.



St. Augustine's

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facebook.com/staugustinesparishbville
“Like” us on our page!

instagram.com/staugbville

Check us out frequently for parish information.

Should you wish to have more information about any of the committees or groups, please contact the parish office at (315) 638-0585 or email@staugustinesparish.org.