



St. Augustine Historical Society
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SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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2262 HWY 484, Natchez, LA 71456

Pastor: **Rev. William ‘Bill’ Gearheard**
Office Email: [staugustine1803@gmail.com](#)
Office Phone Number: 318.379.2521
Father’s Email: [frwgearheard@diocesealex.org](#)
Deacon: Dr. Harlan Mark Guidry 409.656.4651
Deacon’s Email: [dcnmguidry@diocesealex.org](#)
Website: [staugustinecanriver.com](#)
Office Hours: Wed–Fri 8:00 am–1 pm
Parish Manager: Elizabeth Metoyer

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
St. Augustine.....Saturday, 5:00 pm
.....Sunday, 10:30 am
Mission: St. Anne:.....Sunday, 8:30 am
3659 Old River Road, Natchitoches, LA 71457

*Holy Day’s of Obligations & All Special Celebrations
will be at 6:00 pm
Weekday Masses: 1st Saturday 9:00 am
Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00 pm
Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
1st Friday, Holy Hour after Mass
For an Emergency Call: 318.581.1612

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023**

It is the passage we hear in the first reading that Mark chooses in part to open his Gospel, which he calls “the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God”. His goal in writing this account, the first of the Gospels to be written, is to establish that the man Jesus was, first, the Messiah (*Christ* in Greek), but more importantly, the Son of God. Therefore, it makes sense that he starts by quoting Isaiah and Malachi, identifying John the Baptist as the messenger who prepared the way for the Messiah. Immediately after this passage, Mark describes Jesus’ baptism, during which God’s voice is heard saying, “You are my beloved Son”. However, as Mark goes on to reveal, both assertions are rejected by most people and doubted by even his disciples. As his disciples now, we too can have our doubts.

Perhaps our task this Advent is to prepare our hearts for the Lord by removing those obstacles that can lead us to doubt. Perhaps the mountain that blocks our faith is a narcissism that wants to believe that we can do it alone. Perhaps the valley that needs to be filled in is a despair that makes us feel abandoned by God. Perhaps the rugged land is an overwhelming quilt that makes feel unworthy of forgiveness. Perhaps making a straight path is as simple as opening our hearts to the possibility that God has an answer to all our doubts. Perhaps God’s power, comfort, and forgiveness, proclaimed by both Isaiah and John, are just searching for a clear path into us.

John the Baptist baptized with water, precious to someone like John who had emerged from the desert. But ever since Jesus, the Holy Spirit has also come in baptism, bringing life and sustenance to our spiritual thirst. May we realize what a life-giving gift we have received in baptism. May we find in the Holy Spirit the power we need to overcome the obstacles that thwart our joy.

What is the most difficult obstacle I face in preparing a way for Christ to come into my heart anew this Christmas? How can I remove this obstacle?

Mass Schedule

Dec 09 Saturday 5:00 pm +Bridgete Roque, +Mary Llorance, +Glenn Conant, Ryan Rickett, +Dennis Jame Velasquez, +Phillip Brosset, Jr., +Benedict LaCour, Jr., +Alberta Marie Meziere, and +Isanor & +Eugene Metoyer

Dec 10 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin and Cayer & Armstrong Families (Living & Deceased)

Dec 10 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Dec 11 Monday No Mass
Readings: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Dec 12 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Ryan Rickett
Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bc, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Dec 13 Wednesday 6:00 pm +Todd Roque
Readings: Is 40: 25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Dec 14 Thursday 8:00 am +Glenn Conant, +Brenda LaCour, +Ernest Pichon & Vicky Villemarette
Readings: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15

Dec 15 Friday 8:00 am +James Felton Moran
Readings: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4,6; Mt 11:16-16

Dec 16 Saturday 5:00 pm +Enalia Narcisse, +Annie Dell Severin, +Justin Picou, Joshua Picou & Family, +Anesia E. Delphin Cheeks, Edna Johnson, Agnes Lucas, Travis Williams and Willie Metoyer
Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Dec 17 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin

Dec 17 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Week's Offering:

December 3, 2023

St. Augustine

St. Anne

Weekly	\$ 3,794.00	\$ 476.00
Building	\$ 136.00	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 511.00	\$ 18.00
Online 11/27-Dec 3	\$ 1,473.25	Building \$30.00 St. Anne \$50.00
Thank you for your generosity!		

This Week at a Glance

Tues 6 pm
Wed 6 pm Mass followed by CCD
(AA Meeting Wed, 7:00 pm at St. Anne's)
Thurs Mass 8 am
Fri 8 am Mass

Parish Service Schedule:

	LECTORS	USHERS	MO Holy Eucharist
Sat Dec 9 5:00 pm	Donna Dupree	Kenneth Metoyer Mike Bordelon	TBA
Sun Dec 10 10:30 am	John Scott	Henry Rachal Chris Sylvia	TBA
Sat Dec 16 5:00 pm	Agnes Ashby	Donald Balthazar Farrell Christophe	TBA
Sun Dec 17 10:30 am	Rebecca Jones	Jerry Campo Norah Sers	TBA

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

On-Line Giving

To give online through our new platform, visit our giving page on our website <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/staugustinecaneriver> You can also give through text message by sending "Give" to 318-217-8833 or just scan the QR code. Please register with the Parish by calling 318.379.2521 during office hours.



Men's Prayer Group meets every Sunday @ 9:30 am

Men's ACTS Reunion, Monday, December 11 @ 6 pm in Parish Hall

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Children's Mass & Christmas Program, December 20 (Mass 6 pm & Program follows)
St. Augustine, December 24, 5 pm & 10:30 PM
St. Anne, December 24, 8 pm
St. Augustine, December 25, 9 am
New Year Day, January 1, 9 am



PARISH CARE MINISTRY - We ask for your prayers for: Nick Jackson, Andrew Balthazar, Carroll Poche, Donald Gallion, Henry Llorence, Jr., Cynthia LaCour, Lizzie Metoyer, Vanue Lacour, Sister Stephanie Langston and Theresa Roque. To add others to the list, contact Dcn. Mark @ 409.656.4651 or anyone in the ministry group (Henry Rachal, Catherine Rachal, Dianne Moran, Sylvia Lacour, Deloris Jones, Roosevelt Washington, Pat Jones, Angela Jones, PJ Jones, Dominick Metoyer, Joy McGraw and Tiffany Roque).

Advent Lenten Mission - December 12, 13 & 14, 2023
6 pm, Tuesday, December 12th — Advent Anticipation Prayer Celebration
(Confessions will begin at 7 pm)

6 pm, Wednesday, December 13th — The Theology of Purgatory (Phillip Brocato)
6:30 pm, Thursday, December 14th— The Theology of Reparation & Indulgences

This Weekend 2nd Collection - Retirement fund for Religious:

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

*All parishioners have a subscription to **FORMED** and **AMEN**. Please utilize these great programs! Call the office for more information.*

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

It is a tragedy that the Body of Christ remains divided by indifference. Jesus reveals that He and the Father are One and invites us to be One in Him through the Most Holy Eucharist. Reception of Holy Communion is reserved for those who are actively practicing the fullness of the Catholic Faith. If you are not currently striving to be available, vulnerable, and obedient to the teachings of His bride, the Catholic Church, I humbly exhort you to refrain from receiving Holy Communion and invite you to recite the following prayer:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You. Amen.