

## St. Augustine Parish Bulletin

**Fourth Sunday  
Of Advent  
Dec. 24, 2017**

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**MASS** – Saturday, Dec. 30, Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart and 6:30 p.m. at St. James; **Sunday, Sun. Dec. 31 at 8:30 a.m. here at St. Augustine**; Sacred Heart at 10:30 a.m.; Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated a half hour before weekend Masses and by appointment.

**IN ADDITION** to a half hour before Masses on Sat. evening & Sunday; there will also be confessions available each Friday at Sacred Heart on Friday, Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

**MASS WILL NOT BE HELD HERE ON TUESDAY, DEC. 26 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**; Sun. Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. at SH; at 6:30 p.m. at SJ; **Sunday, Dec. 24 at 11:00 p.m. here at St. Augustine (Midnight Mass)**; Mon. Dec. 25 at 9:00 a.m. at SH;

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY) is not a holyday of obligation this year; Mass on January 1 at noon here at St. Augustine Parish.** The intention of this Mass will be for those on our Memory Tree. (all are welcome to come and bring in the New Year with prayer at this Mass)

### **NOTE FROM FATHER ARUL**

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart- Sabetha, St. James – Wetmore and St. Augustine – Fidelity,

Home Coming!

I am sure most of you remember me serving in all three parishes when I was very young and beginning my priestly ministry in the Archdiocese. I learned from the Archbishop recently wanting me to be administrator for all three parishes. I willingly said “YES” because of my love for all three parishes. I had the feeling of Home coming where I started. I had great time in my first run and look forward to having a wonderful time again. I have Fr. Anthony assisting me for Masses and other liturgical services. I will also rotate with him often to be able to see you all.

Fr. Anthony is a baby priest from India ordained less than two years. He was serving as Secretary to my Bishop back in India. I had to request the Bishop to send him over here. It all happened in a very quick time. He is very charming, young and dynamic. He comes from a large family of 10 children and his father died when he entered the seminary. A saintly mother raised all the children and has still siblings at home in High School. He will be a great fit in the meantime till we get a new pastor in July. He has come first time out side of the country and please welcome him. I am trying my best to get him Americanized by assisting him to drive by himself, taking him to McDonald's and a little bit of spoiling. He is a holy priest and I look forward to introduce him to you all. We both will celebrate New Year's Day Mass in Fidelity. All are welcome to meet us then.

I am going time to visit my family in India from January 2 to February 8. You can always reach me via email [acarasala@homail.com](mailto:acarasala@homail.com) or I reside at [411 Pioneer St. Seneca. KS 66538](http://411 Pioneer St. Seneca. KS 66538). Please pray for our parishes and families to strengthen our faith during this Christmas Season.

God Bless you all!

Fr. Arul Carasala

**FATHER ANTHONY'S** email is: [anthonychendumalli@gmail.com](mailto:anthonychendumalli@gmail.com) and Father Anthony's cell phone number is [785-294-8862](tel:785-294-8862)

**HAIL, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH YOU!** Luke 1:28 Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have, and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

**LECTOR** – Midnight Mass – Don Haverkamp; Dec. 31 – Greg Renyer; New Year's Day – volunteer needed or will ask someone that day who is at Mass. Sun. Jan. 7 – Rod Winkler; Sun. Jan. 14 – Jim Renyer

**SERVERS** - Midnight Mass – Anthony Deters, Jonathan Renyer, Luke Renyer; Dec. 31 – Erin Deters & Anthony Deters; New Year's Day - If any server would like to help that day, please do so. Thanks! Jan. 7 – Jonathan & Caleb Renyer; Jan. 14 – Emma Popkess & Luke Renyer

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** - Midnight Mass – Matt Popkess family; Dec. 31 – Miles Ploeger family; New Year's Day – volunteer needed or will ask someone that day who is at Mass; Jan. 7 – JoEllen Key & Lynn Dierking; Jan. 14 – Andy Renyer family

**USHERS** – Midnight Mass - Pat Jurgensmeier & Rod Winkler; Dec. 31 – Brian McClain & Don Haverkamp; New Year's Day – No collection; Jan. 7 – Adam Renyer & Larry Lierz; Jan. 14 – Ben Rettele & Jim Renyer

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Midnight Mass – Rod Winkler, Denise Plattner, Teresa Baumgartner, (David Wehner – Choir) Dec. 31 – David Wehner, Dwaine Baumgartner, Greg Renyer; New Year's Day - If you are at Mass please help Father! Jan. 7 – Don Haverkamp David Wehner, Denise Plattner

**MASS INTENTIONS** - Christmas Eve - Sun. Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. at SH - parishioners of the 3 parishes; Christmas Eve - Sun. Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at SJ – Adam Bloom+; **Christmas Eve Midnight Mass Dec. 24 at 11:00 p.m. here at St. Augustine – Leo & David Bindel+**; Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25 at 9:00 a.m. at SH – Vincent & Marguerite Bradbury+; No Mass on Dec. 26 at 5:15p.m. at SH; **NO MASS here on Tues. Dec. 26 at 6:00 p.m.**; No Mass on Dec. 27 at 8:00 a.m. at SJ; Dec. 27 at 5:15 pm. at SH – Mark & Jack Daily+; Thurs. Dec. 28 at 5:15 p.m. at SH – Erma Wiltz+ ; Fri. Dec. 29 at 5:15 p.m. at SH – Larry Haug+; Vigil Mass Sat. Dec. 30 at 4:00 p.m. at SH – Parishioners of the 3 parishes; at 6:30 p.m. at SJ – L&D members of Ed Hermes family; **Sun. Dec. 31 at 8:30 a.m. here at St. Augustine - Elton Rettele+**; at 10:30 a.m. at SH – Bryan Torrey+ ; **New Year's Day here at noon – For those on the memory tree here at St. Augustine – Fr. Arul and Fr. Anthony both plan to be here for the Mass.**

**CHURCH CLEANERS AND CHOIR LOFT** - Dec. 24 – Diana Jurgensmeier, Denise Plattner, Ellen Buser; Dec. 31 – Lois Bindel, Barbara Spellmeier, Janelle Popkess; Jan. 7 – Barbara Rettele, Sharon Winkler, Sarah Renyer

**CHURCH HALL/KITCHEN CLEANERS** through the month of **JAN.** – Diana Jurgensmeier, Denise Plattner, Ellen Buser

**LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION:** \$112.00 Plate; \$1150.00 Envelope; \$50.00 Retirement Fund for religious; Thanks for your generosity! Catholic Charities of NE Kansas exists because there is need. Because of our generosity, they are able to meet this need every day. Our help is someone's hope. Give generously to this year's Christmas collection. There is an envelope in your packet.

**THE TOTAL COLLECTED** for the Memory Hearts here at St. Augustine was \$275.00. This goes to the CYO youth activities.

**MONEY COUNTERS FOR DEC.** Jeremy Sweat, Andy Renyer, Dennis Rettele; **JAN.** – Jean Renyer, Janelle Popkess, Andy Renyer

**A FAREWELL FOR FR. CLAYTON** will be held this morning after Mass in the church hall. We wish Father the best in his new parish and thank him for his service here at St. Augustine.

**THE ALTAR SOCIETY** will be collecting baby items during Advent and Christmas. This year the items will be donated to a local site to help those in need locally. Please bring your baby items to the church in the next few weeks to honor our Savior's birth. We have a container in the entryway for your donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation you may give it to Teresa Baumgartner or Amy Deters. Thank you for your contributions.

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY** will be held Sunday, Jan. 7 with Rodney Lierz' (Group I) in charge. This includes Ben Rettele, Larry Lierz, Don Haverkamp, David Wehner; Ervin Deters, Jim Renyer & Rod Winkler.

**MARRIAGE MINUTE** – Christmas time is filled with symbols: trees, holly, and of course, the Nativity. But did you know that if you're married, YOU are a sign too? In the Christmas Eve liturgy, the prophet Isaiah tells us, "As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." At Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God does not love us from a distance. He became a baby boy so that he would share all of our joys and sorrows—all our sufferings except sin. As spouses, we proclaim this reality every time we share: •Joy of our spouse's accomplishments •Grief of a loss with our spouse •The weight of an important decision. By entering deeply into our spouse's reality, we shine brightly like the Star of Bethlehem, guiding people to the love of God. Discover more for your marriage at [www.JoyfulMarriageProject.com](http://www.JoyfulMarriageProject.com)

**YEAR-END GIFTS AND STOCK GIFTS YEAR** - Gifts mailed or delivered by December 31 will be acknowledged for tax purposes in the 2017 tax year. Using appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds to make year-end charitable gifts has tax advantages to those who itemize deductions. Simple instructions for making a stock gift to the parish or other charities within the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are available at [www.archkck.org/stock](http://www.archkck.org/stock). Contact the Stewardship and Development Office, at 913-647-0325 or email [stewdev@archkck.org](mailto:stewdev@archkck.org) for help with your gift.

**AUDIO ACCESS TO THE LEAVEN** -The Leaven is available through the University of Kansas Audio-Reader Service for those who are blind, have low vision or are otherwise print disabled (non-reader, dyslexic). For information on how to receive this service, contact the Audio-Reader general office at 785.864.4600 or The Archdiocesan Special Needs Ministry at 913.647.3054 or email [tracunas@archkck.org](mailto:tracunas@archkck.org)

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK:** The Mystery of Christmas

Unwrap the Greatest Gift Ever Given with Fr. Larry Richards. With humor, compassion and clarity, Fr. Larry illuminates the true joy of Christmas and inspired us to better recognize, receive and respond to God's immense love for us. Listen on [formed.org](http://formed.org) by using our parish code b70478.

**ADVENT FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** The Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High'" (Lk 1:30-32).

- Advent Wreath Prayer: Light the fourth candle and say... "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1). God of wisdom, bless us with Mary's "yes" as we welcome Emmanuel into our hearts and homes. Amen.
- Family Advent Activity: Spend time at the Crib – Encourage each member of your family to spend some quiet time in prayer near the Nativity scene at home or in your parish. What does the manger teach us? How could God allow his Son to be born in a stable? Give thanks for the gift of Christ and the joy of the Christmas season to come.
- Reflect: Like the angels, how might we be witnesses of God's miraculous love?

**CCD DATES TO NOTE:**

- December 20 thru January 3 - Christmas Break - NO CCD
- January 3 - Catechist Formation/work day
- CCD resumes January 10

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST AND LIVE THE FAITH FOR YOUTH** - for more information contact Gina.

- January: TEC RETREAT (Teens Encounter Christ)-January 13-15, 2018
- January 22: Pro Life Rally in Topeka, "Ignite"
- Parents Save the Date: Parenting for Purity with Jason Evert--February 4. Location TBA
- February 25: Jr. High Youth Rally, Prairie Star Ranch All Day featuring keynote Emily Wilson (NCYC'17 EMCEE), Mikey Needleman Band and performance artist, Mike Debus
- MARCH: TEC RETREAT--March 10-12, 2018 at Prairie Star Ranch
- JUNE 17-22: CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP OKLAHOMA CITY; \$90 non-refundable deposit - Contact Gina ASAP! This is a piggyback opportunity with St. Peter and Paul. (High School)
- CAMP KATERI TEKAKWITHA 2018: Camp Kateri Tekakwitha combines demanding outdoor activities with powerful spiritual instruction bringing about a unique encounter with God. Although our adventure activities are memorable, often the love that campers experience through prayer is what kids remember most. Your child will have the opportunity to experience different forms of prayer during camp. Adoration, Reconciliation, veneration of the cross, rosaries, litanies, Mass, information group prayer and individual reflection are among the many styles of prayer we practice here. These prayer experiences will have a lasting impact on campers ONLY IF they are lived out and continued. REGISTRATION INFO TO COME. We encourage you to pray for your children during camp and with them after camp.

**MOMNIPOTENT STUDY** –We just completed session #3 of our Mommipotent Study. The next session will be held on **Sunday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the couch room at Sacred Heart. ALL mothers are welcome to join us. If you can't make these sessions, but would like to grab some girlfriends and view sessions 1-4 at another time- please contact Gina to borrow DVDs. Each DVD has two sessions on them. As we begin this Advent season, may we hold all mothers in our prayers- that we can find peace in the preparations and celebrations and draw our families closer to Jesus! Remember this tip from our last session: **“Do not compare the outside of another mother's home (life) to the inside of yours.”**

**ROSARY ON THURSDAYS** – we pray the rosary at Sacred Heart every Thursday at 12:10 p.m. for the intentions of our parishes, those on the sick list and our own personal intentions.

**A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL THE PARISHIONERS**