



# ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

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25 June 2020

My dear friends:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

This past Saturday, June 20, 2020 the Parish of St. Augustine celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We were established at the fifth Catholic parish in the City of Covington by the second Bishop of Covington, Augustus Toebe, and placed under the patronage and protection of his patron saint, Augustine of Hippo, who was both a bishop and doctor of the church. Even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had already decided that we would have our anniversary celebration on August 28, 2020, the Feast of St. Augustine. As of right now, that is still our plan... please pray in a special way for an end to the pandemic, for the health and safety of all.



As part of the restoration project of the church building, we are adding three new paintings (icons) to the high altar. I have already shared with you the images of St. Monica and St. Ambrose. The last icon will be of St. Augustine and will take the center place just above the Tabernacle, where Our Lord is reserved in the Most Blessed Sacrament. You will notice that he is seated, while dressed in full pontificals (the vesture of a bishop)... with mitre and crozier. This represents his teaching office, and our call to listen. You will also notice that he holds the restless heart in his right hand, and in his left hand he holds our church building, which shows that he is our protector and guide in this journey to meet the Lord.

They have just started the painting process. I have seen other works produced by New Guild Studio and I am excited to see the final color version of these icons!

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, we will have a new logo to use during the rest of the year, that Father Jordan created using his graphic design skills. See it off to the side here. We are working to get t-shirts and other apparel made. As soon as I have that information, I'll let you know.

As you all know, we have moved back into the church building! It took us three full days to put the pews back in and clean and clean and clean. A special word of thanks to all those, who in any way were able to help... either through the sweat of their brow or the bowing of their heads in prayer. THANK YOU!

One last note of the “work” being done here. I’ve gotten word that the Statue of St. Augustine that will go on the new parish sign should be installed the second week of July! Pray that we don’t have any delays.

“Flocknote” has been extremely helpful in allowing me to communicate quickly with the parish. I strongly encourage your participation. You need only a cell phone or an email address. If you are going to use email, please go online and login to [www.flocknote.com](http://www.flocknote.com); if you want to use a cell phone, simply text **RestlessHeart** (one word) to **84576**.

Our seminarian Devin Heffernan has asked Bishop Foys for a leave of absence from the Program for Priestly Formation, which the bishop has granted. Devin will be taking this next year away from the seminary to continue to discern if the Lord is



indeed calling him to be a priest. He left the parish this past week. In your kindness, I ask that you please pray in a special way for Devin. He is still considered one of our seminarians.

We continue to pray for all of our loved ones who have died; our beloved parishioner Phyllis Megerle who died while the parish church was closed will be buried from the church on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 10:00am. I will be sending out a reminder as they day draws closer.

I am asking everyone in Christian Charity to continue to wear masks when they come to church for the celebration of Holy Mass. If you have been paying attention to the news, you see that the number of COVID cases is 'spiking'. We need to show love of our neighbor by protecting each other... especially those who are high risk. I've heard from a handful of parishioners who are afraid to return to Mass because they see some people not wearing masks. If you don't want to wear the mask for your own protection, please wear it for the protection of others.

We are excited to announce that St. Augustine School will be opening to traditional instruction the week of August 10, 2020. We have approximately 120 students currently enrolled. I would very much like to see that number closer to 150. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors with school aged children to consider sending them to St. Augustine. Finances should never be a deterrent for someone not seeking a Catholic School education. We will find the money! Also, I am proud to say that we are the only Catholic School in our Diocese that has the children attend Mass daily.

The Parish Kitchen will be moving to a new location in the month of July and will be entering our parish boundaries (well maybe St. Benedict's... not sure, on the edge). The new location is at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue. One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to feed the hungry. The Parish Kitchen offers lunch to anyone in need every single day of the year. They are always looking for volunteers. I think it would be great if our parish could take at least one day per month to serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters. If you are interested in helping, please call the parish office.

Because of the COVID shutdown and the construction in the church building, we have not yet been able to celebrate 1<sup>st</sup> Penance and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion with our second graders; nor have we been able to welcome into the church through the Sacraments of Initiation those in our RCIA program. We are still planning those celebrations to occur before the end of the summer. We are waiting until the church is "finished". Please continue to pray for these students and adults.

As you know from my last letter, the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal is underway. We are having to conduct it in a different way than usual this year. Our goal is to raise \$24,000.00. Anything we raise over the goal comes back to the parish... and possibly more because we usually receive a service grant. Please be as generous as you can to this appeal. I don't have numbers yet to share with you as to our progress... hopefully by my next letter.

Two final things:

I will not be writing to you before we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I take this opportunity to wish you all well as we celebrate as ONE Nation **UNDER** God! Please pray for peace in our country and in our neighborhoods, in our families and in ourselves. Let us be true witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world by loving God first and our neighbors second.

Bishop Foys will be celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday on July 27, 2020. By Church law, he is required to submit his letter for resignation (retirement) to the Holy Father, Pope Francis. This means that in the near future the Pope will be giving us a new bishop. Bishop Foys will continue to be the Bishop of Covington until that time. Let us thank the Lord for the 18 years of faithful service of Bishop Foys and let us ask the Lord to send us another Good Shepherd to guide us into the future.

You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers! Please pray for me.

Prayers and Blessings Always!

Very Reverend Daniel L. Schomaker  
Pastor