



# ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

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28 April 2020

My dear friends:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

I hope and pray that this letter finds you well and not too stir crazy. I have spoken to a handful of you who are struggling with the isolation. I encourage you to reach out to friends and family, or to Fr. Michael and me.

When God made us, he formed us in His own image... in the Divine Image. But God Himself, in His very being, is a community of persons... Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Therefore, we know that God did not make us to be alone... we are social creatures by nature. We need each other and we are called to support each other. As Christians, we know that we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our society. As I write this, I'm reminded of something that Mother Teresa once said: "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." Let us love those who are lonely and feel abandoned and unwanted. This is our mission! Mother Teresa also said: "Intense love does not measure; it just gives!" and "Do not think that love, to be genuine, has to be extraordinary." And "Do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

Let us love one another! Let us love our neighbor! Let us love the stranger! Let us love our enemies!

The work of the Gospel continues here at St. Augustine and throughout the world. Although, I've been consumed with some office work here in the parish and at the Curia these last few days, I promise that I will get back to making some videos to answer the questions that have been emailed to me. I encourage you to check the parish website regularly for more information... not just from me, but also from Fr. Michael and the deacons.

Work in the church building and on the property continues. This week, they continue to take down the scaffolding... although it is taking much too long from my perspective! But, that's just me being impatient. Yesterday, the artisans from Evergreene put up the new stencil that goes behind the pieta! Fr. Michael helped by climbing the scaffolding (called a "baker's rack") to put in the hook that holds the cross. That cross was just cleaned, refinished and waxed, and rehung... looks great! The superintendent informed me that he thinks they will finish installing the wainscoting around the church and stencil in the apse by the end of the week. That would complete about 95% of the decorative work!

Last Friday, the woodworkers who will be building the new shrines/confessionals as well as new "tops" for the high altar and side altars were in to take final measurements. COVID-19 has slowed their work... please pray for them! I have shared with a few people that I have decided to purchase a new Ambo (pulpit). I decided to go with one from a church that had recently closed... unfortunately, it's stuck... in New York. So, we will get it once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

If you drive past the church in the next few days, you will see a big pile of dirt out front. Today some workers from the Diocesan Cemetery Office came down with a backhoe to dig the hole for the footer for the new parish sign and statue. I am very grateful to them... this way I didn't have to do it with a shovel!!! The concrete will be coming in the next few days so they can begin constructing the new masonry sign before the statue arrives (in about a month). In addition, you will notice that some of the plants near the main entrance have disappeared. I cleaned those out (they were overgrown) to make way for the donation of two monuments... the 10 Commandment and the Beatitudes.

I'm also pleased to announce that over the past couple months Father Michael and I have been working with the school and St. Vincent de Paul to begin a vegetable garden. Father Michael will begin building raised beds for the garden (using the dirt that was excavated for the sign) later this week. The school children planted seeds in class before the COVID-19 outbreak... those seeds are ready for planting! I am grateful to Ms. Nienaber and the teachers who are going to

oversee the garden which will be in the backyard of the parish office building. We will be able to provide fresh produce to our neighbors in need later this summer!

This coming Friday will begin the month of May! As you know, as Catholics, we set aside this month to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here in the parish we are trying to figure out how to honor Our Lady in a tangible way... probably through a simple type of May Crowning. I encourage you to display an image of Mary this month prominently in your home and to seek her intercession for your needs and your intentions, for our parish and community, and indeed for the whole world. This coming **Friday, May 1, 2020** the bishops of the United States and Canada have decided to re-consecrate our nations to the Blessed Mother under the title of "Mary, Mother of the Church". Bishop Foys will celebrate this consecration via live-stream at **3:00pm** from the Cathedral. We will have a link on our website. I hope you can join us.

As many of you know, May also brings with it a number of other celebrations, including First Holy Communion, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotions, and High School Graduations. Since the social distancing requirements dictate that we cannot gather for these celebrations, I ask that the parish please pray in a special way for our second graders and RCIA Candidates as they wait with joyful anticipation to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time. I also encourage all of you who desire to receive the Lord, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to remember back to your own First Holy Communion and have that longing heart of a child! Please pray also for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high school seniors as they transition to the next stage of their life in a rather unexpected and unique way.

Also, in May, our very own Deacon Jordan Hainsey will be ordained a priest by Bishop Foys. His Ordination will be limited to just 10 people... his only guests will be his parents. As of this Friday, the good deacon has just two weeks left to prepare for priestly ordination... please pray for him during these next two weeks that he will be a good and holy priest of Jesus Christ. On **Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10:00am** you will be able to live-stream his ordination from the Cathedral Basilica... please join the whole diocese and showing our support for him and all who seek to follow the Lord in a priestly vocation. On **Sunday, May 17, 2020**, Father Jordan was scheduled to celebrate his First Mass here at St. Augustine. However, because we do not have the capability to live-stream the Mass, he has moved his Mass of Thanksgiving to the Cathedral, where it will be live-streamed at **10:00am**. Please also join us for that!

On Friday of this week (May 1, 2020) you will have the opportunity to purchase our Summer Raffle Split-the-Pot tickets on the parish website. Please do so, and encourage other to do so as well. Our goal is to sell all 4000 tickets giving the parish a profit of around \$22,000! The tickets are \$10.00 each.

As always, thank you for your faith in our Lord Jesus and for your continued commitment to St. Augustine Parish! If you need ANYTHING – call the rectory/office – 859-431-3943.

Prayers and Blessings!

Very Reverend Daniel L. Schomaker  
Pastor

### **Parish Mass Intentions**

Monday, April 27 – **Jeanette Herzog**  
Tuesday, April 28 – **Tom Dressman, Sr.**  
Wednesday, April 29 – **People of the Parish**  
Thursday, April 30 – **Jack & Eleanor Grefer**  
Friday, May 1 – **Marilyn Ford**  
Saturday, May 2 – **Purgatorial Society**  
Sunday, May 3 – **Charles Ober, Jr. (9am) & Anna Romito (11am)**

Monday, May 4 – **Tom Dressman, Sr.**  
Tuesday, May 5 – **Tashawn Feldman**  
Wednesday, May 6 – **Purgatorial Society**  
Thursday, May 7 – **People of the Parish**  
Friday, May 8 – **Deceased Members of the Meier Family**  
Saturday, May 9 – **Deloris & John Huellemeier**  
Sunday, May 10 – **Celine Greene (9am) & Clara Voskuhl (11am)**