

SAINT
AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
Catholic Church

DECEMBER 25, 2020



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

HOLY MASS

Saturday | 4:30 PM
4:30 Mass in church and
live streamed on YouTube
Sunday | 8 AM and 10:30 AM

Reservation needed through
SignUpGenius or phone
618-671-6519

Weekdays

Wed - Fri | 8 AM

HOLY DAYS

Schedule Varies.
Consult bulletin or call rectory.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday | 3:00 PM-4:00 PM
Sunday | 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick

Call the rectory to schedule
an appointment.

PARISH STAFF

Monsignor William McGhee, Pastor
Deacon Gerry Bach
Deacon Jim Law
Mary Zeveski, Business Manager
Sandy Cange, Office Assistant

Contact Us

1910 W. Belle St., Belleville, IL 62226
Phone: 233-3813 | Fax: 233-3946
staparish@stasaints.org
www.stasaints.org

Follow us on Facebook at
St. Augustine of Canterbury Church

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Cathedral School Campus (Preschool - 8th Grade)
200 South Second Street Belleville, IL 62220
Phone: 233-6414 | www.notredamebelleville.org

Mrs. Linda Hobbs, School Principal
Before and after school care is available.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION CENTER

1900 West Belle Street
Belleville, IL 62226
Parish School of Religion: 234-4958
RCIA: 233-3813

ALTHOFF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

5401 West Main Street, Belleville, IL 62226
Phone: 618-235-1100 | Fax: 618-235-9535
www.althoffcatholic.org
Dr. Sarah Gass, School Principal
sgass@althoffcatholic.org

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

ON BEHALF OF DEACON GERRY BACH AND HIS WIFE ANN, DEACON JIM LAW AND HIS WIFE BRENDA, ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH OFFICE AND ON MY OWN BEHALF, WE WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, PRAYING THE LORD'S MANY BLESSINGS FOR YOU AND FOR ALL THOSE DEAR TO YOUR HEART THIS CHRISTMAS!

As this Year of 2020 has been a difficult one, so this Christmas presents its own challenges: whether it be gathering at church or gathering with loved ones, there seems to be always a "limit" or a "caution" needed to protect the health of ourselves and those around us.

However, on the "spiritual side" of things, the Lord Jesus reveals His "limitless" love in being born for us as Savior. Jesus throws "caution to the wind" as He "risks everything" to be born as our Savior, willing to endure anything for our salvation, whether the limitation of human nature or the limit of the Cross to come.

We put our hope in the "limitless" Love of Jesus as we pray "together" from our hearts in this Christmas Season to come.

As the Parish Family of St. Augustine of Canterbury, we invite you to pray with us, not just this Christmas, but always. If you are looking to be part of a parish family, we invite to consider us. We are a welcoming parish, seeking the Lord together, serving the Lord in one another and also in the wider community.

We make every effort to keep our Parish Family and all others aware of our Parish Activities through our weekly Bulletin, our St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Website and St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Facebook Page. Please take a look at these sites to be better informed about our parish life.

We support Catholic Education by our hosting a Five Parish "Parishes School of Religion" at our St. Augustine of Canterbury Faith Formation Center, RCIA program, and support of Catholic Schooling through Notre Dame Academy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those parishioners who are active in our Parish at the present time—who support our Parish through the gifts of "time, talent and treasure"—to all who faithfully come to pray and participate in our Parish Life, all who support our Parish through financial sacrifice, all who have worked hard to provide special parish events (in this COVID time the "Building/Grounds BBQ" in May, "Carry Out" Chicken Dinner in September and "Carry Out" Wurstmarkt" in November), as well as all who have volunteered at church through this difficult year to enable us to have a safe environment for our worship. We pray that in the year to come to begin to offer some of other regular parish events that have been limited due to the necessary COVID restrictions in 2020.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO COME.

Feel free to call the Church Office at 618-233-3813 or email us at www.stasaints.org for more information, or with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Msgr. Bill McGhee
Pastor





Your generous gifts to St. Augustine parish make our ministries to each other and the wider community possible. Thank you for faithfully mailing your contributions and giving online through WeShare. We can't do it without you!

The parish office can provide information for online giving, for memorial donations and plaques, and for remembering our parish and school in your estate planning. Our Business Manager Mary Zeveski is ready to help with recurring or one-time donations. Contact her at 233-3813 or maryz@stasaints.org.



SCAN HERE FOR QUICK AND SECURE ONLINE GIVING
TO ST. AUGUSTINE THROUGH WESHARE

Worship With Us In Person or Online

Online—Saturday 4:30 PM Mass on You Tube

Mass attendance in church is limited to 100.
Reservations are required for weekend Mass by
noon on Thursday for the upcoming weekend.

Making a Reservation for Mass

ONLINE: Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com> and search
by creator's email: maryz@stasaints.org.
You will see weekend Mass times for the next 30 days.

OR

BY PHONE: Call 618-671-6519.

Leave a message and a volunteer will return your call
and help make your confirmed reservation.

No reservation needed for weekday Mass
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8 AM.

Keep in Touch With St. A's

Sign up for Sunday bulletin by email—parishesonline.com

Website: www.stasaints.org—You Tube link, latest news,
event flyers and photos, newsletters, registration forms

Facebook: St. Augustine of Canterbury Church
Links to livestream Mass, very latest announcements,
seasonal reflections and prayers

Parish Newsletter

available on the parish web page, by email or by mail;
contact the parish office to be added to the mailing list

A Christmas Prayer

*Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open the door of love
all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy
to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us
to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.*

— Robert Louis Stevenson

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

Please return this form to the parish office or visit
www.stasaints.org for a registration form.

I/we would like to become members of St. Augustine's Parish:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Epiphany House Blessing

Celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, (January 3, 2021), it is a tradition of using chalk to write above the home's entrance asking for God's blessing on the home and those who dwell in or visit the home. As the family gathers together in prayer, it is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our lives and our home.

Mark your front doorway (use chalk) for Jesus 20 + C + M + B + 21

Suggested format for the Blessing

Opening:

All: Make the Sign of the Cross

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Reading:

Leader: A reading from Matthew Chapter 2, 1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

House Blessing:

Leader: (using the chalk, write above the door) 20 + C + M + B + 21 saying "May Christ bless this house."

The numbers represent the New Year.

C M B stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" Latin for "May Christ bless this house"

C M B also stands for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthasar

The "+" signs represent the cross, and the four seasons of the year for blessings over all the earth in every cardinal direction.

Acclamation: (from Psalm 24)

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

All: That the King of Glory may enter.

Leader: Who is the King of Glory?

All: The Lord of hosts. He is the King of Glory.

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of the Epiphany. Through the guidance of a star, the coming of Jesus was made known to the Gentiles. We celebrate Christ made known to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today, Christ is made known to us. Today this home is a holy place.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, humility, kindness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

