

ST MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

207 N MAIN ST (PO BOX 1443), COUPEVILLE, WA 98239

REV. PAUL R PLUTH, JCL, PASTOR

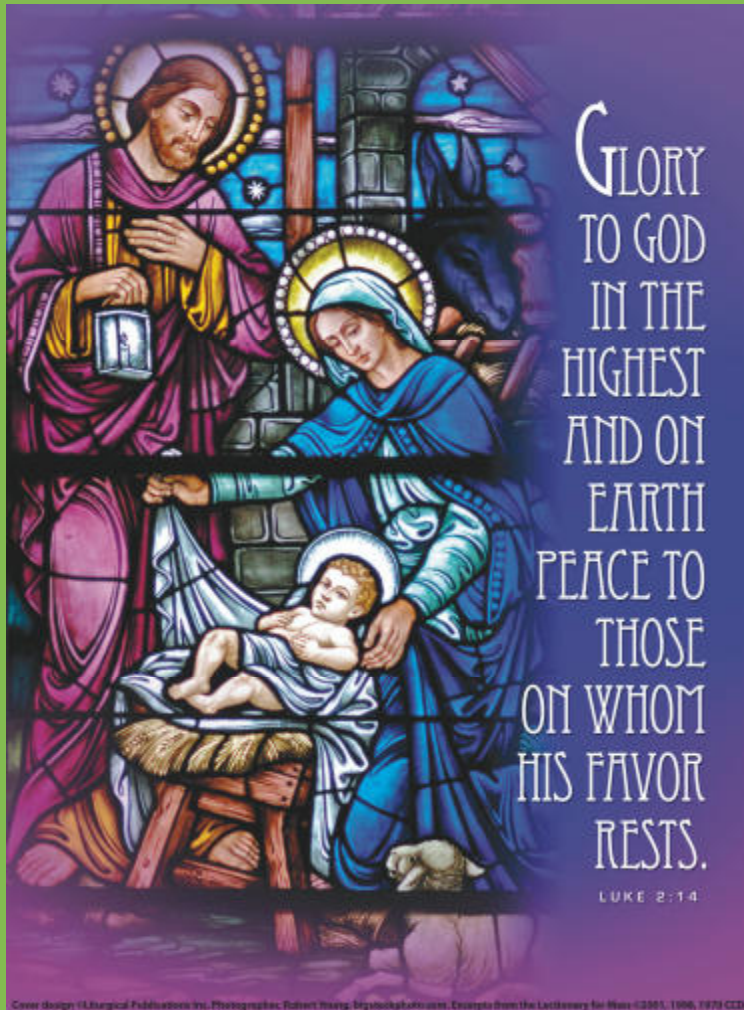
(360) 678-6536

Information@StAugustineOH.org

www.StAugustineOH.org

4th Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020



*We wish you God's
richest blessings
at Christmas
and peace in the
New Year!*

*Father Paul Pluth,
Mary Waters,
Peggy Smith,
Rowena Harless,
Ruth Joy Abrea,
Jim Kraft,
Peggy McCormick, &
Kathleen Dodge-DeHaven*

Blessed Advent! Reflection: 4th Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:39-45

Today we have two mothers meeting: they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the dessert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way.

Pastoral Council Corner



Dear St. Mary Family,
We wish you a most blessed Christmas
And a New Year that is filled with hope and joy.
Let us celebrate together Christ within us.
We are grateful for each of you and for the blessings you bring to the world.
With Our Prayers and Love,
Your St. Mary Pastoral Council,
Aida, Barbara, Bill, Chris, Maria, Paula, Shari

Christmas

Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation and Christ takes on a human body precisely so as to offer the sacrifice of that body that saves the world.

"A Savior is born for you." He is a savior precisely because he bears our human nature, and has a human body like we do – a body offered on the cross and in the Eucharist.

As we see in readings and the Gospels, the details of His birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth, and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires.

Abortion is diametrically opposed to this vision of peace, life and love. May all believers and their clergy, take renewed strength and courage to speak out against abortion, consistent with the vision of Christmas and the proclamation of the Gospel.
Pro-Life Articles

Christmas Greetings from our Works of Mercy

We wish every member of our faith community a safe and peaceful Christmas season. If anyone in our parish needs assistance with problems due to the pandemic, or know of someone needing help, please leave a message for us on the church phone (360-678-6536). We are here to serve those in need. May God keep you in His tender care.



2021
Calendars
are available
in the Church
and in
Harrington
Hall
Please take
1 per family

DECEMBER MASSES TO BE LIVESTREAMED TO FACEBOOK PAGE, 'St Augustine Catholic Church'

All 9:30 am Sunday Masses
Christmas Eve Mass,
December 24, Thursday at 7:30 pm
New Year's Eve Mass
December 31, Thursday at 5:00 pm

Please Note:

All 2020 contributions to the parish must be received by December 31, 2020 in order to be counted towards your 2020 income tax.

Thank you for your
Stewardship of Treasure!

Weekly Expenses: \$3,188
December 6 Mass was canceled due to a water leak
December 13 Collection: 5,890
(includes Immaculate Conception)

Please write your envelope # on your check.
We encourage you to mail your donations to
St Mary Church, P.O. Box 1319, Oak Harbor, WA 98277.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION:

It is one thing to sing out the words, "Joy to the World," and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manager at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, "I and me," but, "we and us," and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?
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December 20-27

Sun 12/20	4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Mass Livestream (<i>St Augustine Catholic Church FB page</i>)
Mon 12/21	9:30am-12 noon call 360-678-6536 or email pmccormick@staugustineoh.org
Tue 12/22	9:30am-12 noon call 360-678-6536 or email pmccormick@staugustineoh.org
Wed 12/23	9:30am-12 noon call 360-678-6536 or email pmccormick@staugustineoh.org
Thu 12/24	Christmas Eve - Office is closed, Holiday No Private prayer today 4:00 pm Christmas Mass (reservations only)
Fri 12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY - Office Closed, Holiday
Sat 12/26	No activity
Sun 12/27	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 9:30 am Mass Livestream on <i>St Augustine Catholic Church FB page</i>



LIVE THE LITURGY - Inspiration for the week

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain.

The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is.

Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

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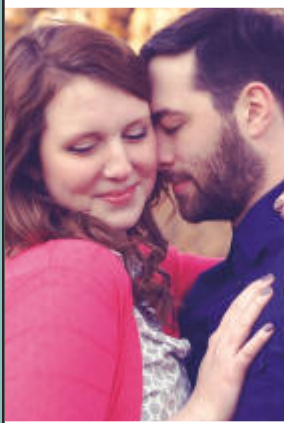
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