

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.”

ST. AUGUSTINE

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY



In 2012, Pageant Queen Mbathio Beye was crowned the first Miss Black France. Beye is a 21 year-old marketing student from Senegal. The Miss Black France pageant was created to “celebrate black beauty,” and give opportunities to African-American models that feel they have been underrepresented in France. However, protestors have publicly criticized the event. The pageant has been called “stupid, dangerous and hostile,” even by the French Representative Council of Black Associations. Picketers claimed the pageant was showing favoritism to minorities. Despite criticism, Beye was chosen as Miss Black France from a pool of 1,000 women and 22 finalists This is not the first time a woman of color has placed first in a French beauty pageant; in 2009, Chloé Mortaud, a biracial woman of African-American and French descent, won the title of Miss France.


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St. Augustine Catholic Church

December 20, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Advent



The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God’s wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God’s salvation. Mary, already full of God’s grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God’s saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

(Rev) Dr. Francis Chiawa, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Talley, Deacon and Rev. Mr. Andrew Terry, Deacon

Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) Before 4:00pm Mass on Saturday; Before 8:00am and 11:00am Mass on Sunday
Baptism, First Penance and Eucharist, Confirmation: Please contact the parish office at 774-2297.

Weddings: The parish welcomes all those who wish to be married in our Church, if at least one party of the couple is Catholic or intends to be Catholic. Contact the church office at least 6 months prior to the wedding to make arrangements.

Funerals: Contact **Mrs. Marilyn Coleman at 901-849-2808** as soon as possible after the death of a loved one. Please call the church office to give notification of hospitalization, confinement to a nursing home or facility for the aging.

Parish Mission Statement

We are predominantly African-American by birth and Catholic by choice. We are empowered to proclaim the Good News of Jesus through the Word, the Eucharist and service.

Items for publication must be transmitted electronically to karen.owens@staugustine.cdom.org by 10:00am Tuesday

STAFF

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Facilities Director

Karen Owens

Ministers of Music

Gwen Atkins

Robert Clayborne

Leo Davis, DMA

MASS TIMES

Wednesday-12:00pm (Church)

Thursday-12:00pm (Church)

Friday-10:30am (Church)

1st Friday of the month—10:30am (Church)

Saturday-4:00pm (vigil)

Sunday-8:00am & 11:00am

Phone: 901-774-2297 Fax: 901-774-1067

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 St. Augustine Catholic Parish

Prayer List

Nursing Homes/Rehab Centers: Mr. Harold Adams Beamon (Christian Care Center, 6500 Kirby Gate Blvd., Memphis, TN 38119) Ms. Tina Crawford (Signature Healthcare of Memphis) Mr. Floyd Shavers (Parkway Health & Rehab)

Ill/Shut-Ins: Mrs. Gloria Alsandor, Mrs. Annie Beck, Mr. Gerald Bond, Mr. Eugene Brassell, Mrs. Patricia Cowart, Mr. Robert Crowley, Ms. Sharl Golden, Mrs. Vivian Harris, Ms. Bernice Hayes, Mr. Darrell Hollimon, Mrs. Ernestine Hollimon, Mr. Maurice Hooker, Sr., Mr. Marvin Housley, Sr., Mrs. Mae Johnson, Mrs. Pat Lacey, Mr. Michael Lemon, Mrs. Daisy London, Mrs. Freda Martin, Mrs. Grace Milburn, Mrs. Maurice McDonald, Mrs. Sandra McGhee, Mrs. Florine McMillan, Mrs. Hattie Moore, Mr. Raymond Moore, Sr., Mrs. Theresa Varnado, Mr. Ben Wells, Mr. Eric Wells, Mr. Joe L. White, Mrs. Geraldine Whitthorne, Dr. Joyce Young and Dr. Joseph Young.

May Their Souls Rest in Peace

December 20-26

Tommie Harris 1971; Everett Toliver 1972; William Phoenix Smith 1990; Ruth H. Evans, Clester Veona Frazier 1993; Sheila Yvonne Key 1997; Luther Steinberg 1999; Wilbur Berry 2001; Sheila Carlene Robertson, Robert James Crawford, Sr 2007; Charles Augustus Adair, Sr 2009; Vera Pickett, Willie Tuggle 2016

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SALUTATION AND BLESSINGS

Dear brothers and sisters, how are you today? How are you preparing for the festivities of Christmas? I trust that you are blessed, highly favored and taking it easy according to the order of priorities. The first thing is try and avail yourself of opportunity for Confession this Christmas. Please do your best to wear your mask and give your confessor six feet apart if possible. The second thing is to plan to attend Christmas Mass with family or friends. At St Augustine we have three Christmas Masses: 4:00 p.m and 7:00 pm on the eve of Christmas & 10:00 a.m on Christmas morning. **Our Churches are open. Thank God!**

READINESS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD LIKE MARY

"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 Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:31-33). Dear brothers and sisters, these words of the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary the unique role she would play in God's plan of salvation for the whole world. When Gabriel explained to Mary how this miracle would come about, Mary unhesitatingly said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). This is called the fiat or consent of Mary. God does not need human help in order to carry out the work of incarnation and redemption but as a loving Father, he chose to enlist the cooperation of a humble maiden.

THE CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

Only a handful of us came for the Christmas Confession. Maybe the scheduled time for it was not convenient for you. If that is the case, you can do it after the Sunday Mass on December 20. "Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation" (CCC 1440).

HOW TO CONFESS

I know that many of us know how to do this but for the benefit of the few who are not familiar with it. Before the Confessor, say bless me father for I have sinned. It's been seven or seventeen years since my last confession.

Next Sunday's Readings December 27, 2020

Genesis	15:1-6; 21:1-3
Hebrews	11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke	2:22-40

IS IT NECESSARY TO GO TO CONFESSION?

Yes, Confession like all the Sacraments are necessary for our salvation. "All mortal sins of which penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in confession, even if they are most secret and have been committed against the last two precepts of the Decalogue; for these sins sometimes wound the soul more grievously and are more dangerous than those which are committed openly (Council of Trent (1551): DS 1680 (ND 1626); cf. Ex 20:17; Mt 5:28).

THE NEXT FIRST FRIDAY ON THE NEW YEAR DAY - THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

We shall begin the New Year with God and the heavenly courts with a holy Mass at 10:30 am and then expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration till the hour of Mercy. Please come and begin the New Year with the Lord.

ST JOSEPHITES' CALENDAR IS STILL AVAILABLE

If you have not gotten your calendar for the year 2021, please see Mrs Lenora Morris at the Narthex after the Mass.

CHURCH DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Please continue to keep Mrs Hildred Lomax in your prayers. She enthusiastically oversees the Christmas decorations of our Church every year. This year, Mama Hildred has been quite sick. Two of our sisters Mrs Forrestine Owens and Dr Linda Tharp are championing it. May the Lord bless and reward them for their labors of love.

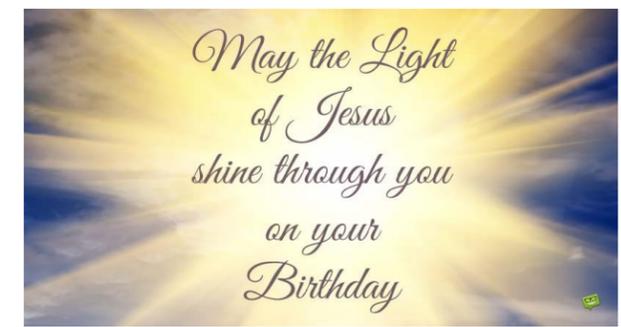
THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Please do not forget to do all you can to gain plenary indulgence as we celebrate the year of St Joseph.

- Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on St. Joseph Sunday, the Sunday after Christmas in the Byzantine Catholic tradition. Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph. Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on the 19th of any month. Honor Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on a Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph.

WHAT IS MORE? WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO TAKE HUMAN NATURE?

For unless the new man, by being made in the likeness of sinful humanity, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father's substance and, being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan (From a Letter to Diognetus).



Steven Harris (12/20) Daryl Love (12/21) Shelia Lomax, Valerie Makarsky, Andrelle Swift, Edna Wright (12/22) Christin Boyd, Billy Hughey, Joye Miller (12/23) Claudette Seymour (12/24) Carolyn Smith (12/26)



Mr. & Mrs. Wayne and Jozelle Booker (12/20)
Deacon & Mrs. Curtiss and Corene Talley (12/21)

