

# *St. Augustine Catholic Church*

*January 28, 2024*

*Second Sunday of Ordinary Time*



Photo courtesy of Artist Vernon Adams

*Rev. Stephan Brown, SVD, Pastor*

*Rev. Mr. Curtiss Talley, Deacon ~~~ Rev. Mr. Andrew Terry, Deacon*

## **PASTORAL TEAM**

### **Office Manager**

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### **Pastoral Team Asst.**

Lenora Morris

### **Bookkeepers**

Brandy Oltremari

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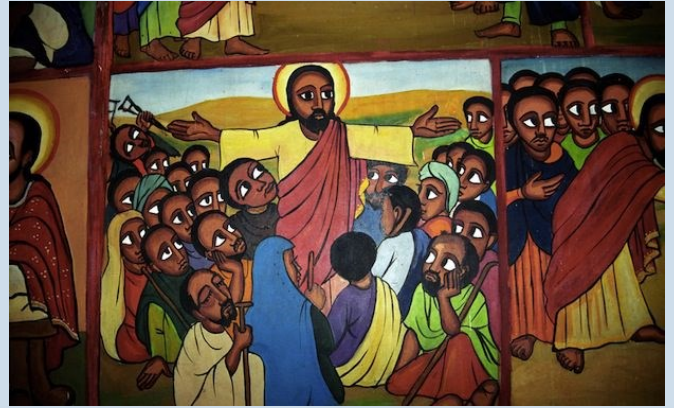
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## **Spiritual Food for The Journey...**

### **“LISTEN! JESUS IS TELLING YOU SOMETHING”**

This weekend like last weekend God is trying to tell us something. God is speaking to us, and teaching us something important for the transformation of our lives. We find Jesus in the Synagogue, the house of prayer and He's teaching. Before we can get into the power of what Jesus is doing then and for us now we need to look first at Deuteronomy.



We begin with a powerful word by Moses. These words of Moses in the "Book of the Re-telling" of the Law, Moses says: " **A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen.**". Moses is clearly the most important figure for the Jewish people. And he is saying a prophet like him shall you listen to. Now as we read further look what Moses says about Him:

*"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin,  
and will put my words into his mouth;  
he shall tell them all that I command him.  
Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name,  
I myself will make him answer for it."*

Now see this, Moses was the one the people listened to, he is still the primary voice for the people of Israel and a true Rabbi's teaching goes back to Moses. So this word of Moses saying that instead of him, rather this new prophet from among you, He is the true one to whom you shall listen. This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus. Today we find Jesus in that place of prayer and He is teaching in a new way, in a powerful way. He is the Divine Word, He is the Logos or Verbum. Jesus teaches with an authority that is amazing because He is the very spoken word of God that is sent forth.

Notice, the unclean spirits know Him. They too are present. This is important for us to remember that then and now the demonic, dark spirits find their way into the church. The divisive ones, the ones that only speak negative and seek to tear down rather than build up. The push back, the devils' advocates. How on earth do we give advocacy to the devil? There is no room nor need for his negativity, division and disruption in church.

Let us seek to listen to the voice of Jesus. I learned something new, that push back in us that goes against us doing the hard things. That push back that says no it's too risky, it's too scary, we can't do anything new, we can't risk it. This is the very place and voice of Jesus. God never calls us to do what's easy, what's safe or what's necessarily sure. Rather like in telling His disciples to go out to deep waters to lower their nets for a catch, even though they thought they knew better, they obeyed and God brought forth an abundance.

There is story after story where what seems too hard and impossible God makes great things happen. Jesus is telling us to Listen to Him. Are you Listening?



**Families in western Haiti face immense hardships. Parents raise children in unsafe dwellings made from mud, sticks, and scraps of wood or metal. At the same time, reliable jobs are almost impossible to find, leaving families hungry, sick and unable to rise out of poverty. With your support, a Christ-centered organization will build safe homes for eight of the poorest families and improve incomes by launching a fishing cooperative.**

**(Weekend of January 20/21)**

God is Trying to tell You Something! Are you Listening?

Before we get into today's scriptures from Jonah and the Gospel of Mark, I want us to first enter into an understanding that God still speaks clearly and frequently to us. The question is are we listening and are we willing to say Yes? We often think that God only spoke to people back in the Biblical Times. Maybe we think yes God spoke to the prophets, like Isaiah, or Jeremiah, or God talked to Moses, or Job, or God talked to Mary, and Zachariah, or yes, God spoke to His Son Jesus upon His rising from the waters of Baptism, but that was then and this is now.

I cannot tell you as a young priest how often God was talking to me through His people, through my religious superiors, through spiritual direction. There is one clear instance where I was too afraid to do what God was calling me to do. I was 31 years old, and newly ordained just two years and I was being asked to take on a pastorate, St. Bernard Parish in Oakland. The Deacon and his wife, the parishioners were ready to back me, but I was too afraid. Everyone had seen that I was ready and able, they saw gifts in me that I couldn't see myself. But God was talking to me, and I refused to listen. After I left the parish and a new administration took over, let's just say things were not going well, so bad the parishioners were picketing at the Diocese because what followed just didn't work. But, after much trial and error I finally let go to what was clearly God's calling and direction speaking to my life. Meaning, it wasn't my planning. I had nothing to do with it and all I would say is Yes, I will do whatever I am asked and accept it as God's will.

Now, let's look at Jonah. God called Jonah to go to the greatest enemy of Israel, the Assyrians to their capital of Ninevah and preach a message of repentance. Now Jonah was completely against it, he was not about to go deep into enemy territory amongst a pagan people and preach to them. So like many of us, he decided he was going to run as far away from God as possible to the south of Spain to escape God. So, he set sail for Tarshish, and what happens, a great storm tosses the boat so much so they are about to sink and they draw straws. Jonah knew it was due to his running from God and he told the pagan men to toss him into the sea. They do as he asks and immediately the wind and waves stop. Jonah is swallowed by a large fish and the pagans come to believe in the one true God. Jonah finally decides to do God's will and does as he is told and all the people down to the cows all repent.

Sisters and brothers, in the Gospel Mark, we find Jesus, much like Jonah, proclaiming a message of Repentance, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. The call to repent is a call to change our focus, to shift our entire selves to seeking to hear, to know and live a Christ centered life. Jesus' proclamation has also an invitation to follow Him. The refocus of our hearts and our minds is to direct ourselves toward God. When our focus is misguided God continues to invite us. He invites us to a new way of seeing and living, as well as understanding our relationship with him. The life of repentance now places our focus on Christ not on the things that distract us. The refocusing of our selves is a daily journey. Each of us gets distracted, out of focus and we are always invited back. This is our hope, our joy and our desire for living. Allow our lives to be caught up in Christ and share His love and good news with others.



## PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

*Next Sunday's Readings-February 4, 2024*

Job 7:1-4,6-7 ~ Job Laments his Sufferings

1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 ~ Paul Preaches the Gospel

Mark 1:29-39 ~ Jesus Performs Miracles



**Will you help share our 11am Mass  
with our homebound  
parishioners?**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DOING  
THE LIVESTREAM VIDEO OF THE  
11AM SUNDAY MASS, PLEASE  
LEAVE YOUR NAME AND CONTACT  
INFORMATION AT THE PARISH  
OFFICE 901-774-2297.**



*Janice Suggs —1/28*

*Shirley Neely —1/29*

*Betty Cummings — 1/31*

*James Barnes, Mary King, Jean Massey, Lena Reese —2/1*

*Darrell Katoe, Jr.—2/2*

*Elizabeth Foster—2/3*

### *Prayer for Healing...*

Foster Adams, Gloria Alsandor, Harold Adams Beamon, Annie Beck, Gerald Bond, Eugene Brassell, Patricia Cowart, Tina Crawford, Robert Crowley, Raye Dudley, Sandra Fitzpatrick, Sharl Golden, David Green, Verna Green, Vivian Harris, Bernice Hayes, Darrell Hollimon, Marvin Housley, Sr., Mae Johnson, Dorothy Katoe, Mary King, Audrey McGhee, Florine McMillan, Hattie Moore, Raymond Moore, Sr., Polk Puryear, Altonette Robinson, Floyd Shavers, Mayme Tuggle, Ben Wells, Eric Wells, Bertharene Young, Joyce Young, Joseph Young

### **LORD, MAY OUR DEARLY DEPARTED REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE**



**January 28 ~ Eddie Johnson**  
**January 29 ~ Charlesetta Vaughn, Donald Williams, Anthony Warren**  
**January 30 ~ Benjamin Ivy, Sr., Bessie Shotwell, Iuka Collins, Vera Peterson, Theris Adair**  
**January 31 ~ Carrie Pickett, Dorothy Nelson, Nannie Matthew, Bryant Billings, Frank Oakey, William Drane**  
**February 1 ~ Fr. Thomas Krupski, OFM, McCall Dodds, A.B. Townsend**  
**February 2 ~ Camille Dellaely**  
**February 3 ~ Lawrence Witzani, William Bowdrick, Vivian Singleton**



## ***Announcements***



**We've lost several members of the parish in the past few weeks. Their services are as follows: Mass of Christian Burial for Jerome Wright will be held Thursday, February 1st at 12:00pm. Mass of Christian Burial for Evelyn Vavasseur will be held Friday, February 2nd at 12:00pm. Memorial for Grace Meacham will be held Saturday, February 3rd at 10:00am.**

**St. Augustine, Even through the rough patches in our lives, we must continue to proclaim that God is Great. We recently lost one of our 2024 Faith Filled Hearts honorees but she will still be honored with other members of our parish and community for their dedication to justice and equality for all. In less than 4 weeks, we will embark on our very 1<sup>st</sup> Faith Filled Hearts Gala where we will celebrate their accomplishments. This is a moment in time that you do not want to miss. As a community of faith, we must uplift, uphold and encourage one another to be catalysts for change in our church, our neighborhoods, our city and in our world. So stop thinking about it and purchase your tickets today. There will be music, great food, dancing, a live auction and lots of fun. Come and be a part of something great for St. Augustine.**

**Do you have friends and family who have been a part of the St Augustine family? Have you wondered how you can invite others to support St Augustine? As a family, organization or individuals, create an Ad and support St Augustine. On our website or on Facebook, just click on the link to our Silent Auction. Create your Ad and offer support. No Ad is too small whether \$10 or \$1000 show your support for St Augustine. Create an Ad and honor an Honoree. Share with family and friends who are out of town and allow them to support our efforts to Honor Great Women and Men who have left a legacy of Excellence in working to make Memphis a better place for all persons of faith and citizens.**

**The Men's Club will be serving breakfast on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00am Mass.**



**St. Augustine Leadership Team**  
**presents**

# **Mardi Heart 2024**

**Saturday, February 10**

**7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**St. Augustine Catholic Church**

**W.P. Porter Gymnasium**

**1169 Kerr Avenue**

**Memphis, TN 38106**

**Eight Person Reserved Table**

**\$140**

**Individual Tickets:**

**\$15 advance; \$20 event day**

**Deadline for table sales Sunday, 02/03/24**

**Music! Door Prizes! Food! Cash Bar!**

**Dress: Comfortable, Classy, & Casual**





*The Parish Community of  
St. Augustine Catholic Church  
Cordially Invite You to the 2024*

*"Faith Filled Hearts"*

*Lifetime Achievement Awards Gala*

Saturday, February 24, 2024  
The Great Hall & Conference Center  
1900 S. Germantown Rd.  
Germantown, TN 38138

*Honorees: The Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD  
The Honorable A.C and Mrs. Ruby Wharton  
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Talley  
Mrs. Bertharene Young and the Late Sullivan Young,  
Mrs. Grace Meacham*



*Rejoicing from the Heart*

*Mass*

Sat. 4PM Vigil Mass

*Gala*

6PM Cocktails & Silent Auction  
7-10PM Dinner-Awards-Dancing

*Scan*



*For Door*

Don't Wait—Purchase Your Tickets Now!!

2024 is fast approaching. To ensure that you are seated with your family, go on [www. Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com) and search for St. Augustine.

This fundraiser is to support our parish financially. We are a “Beacon of Light” on the hill in South Memphis. This endeavor will help us to continue to flourish and support our parish and the community.



## FR. FRANCIS HEALY, SJ

Patrick Francis Healy, SJ (February 27, 1834 – January 10, 1910) was an American Catholic priest and Jesuit who was an influential president of Georgetown University, becoming known as its "second founder". The university's flagship building, Healy Hall, bears his name. Healy was posthumously recognized as the first Black American to become a Jesuit, to earn a PhD, and to become the president of a predominantly White university.

Healy was born in Georgia to a family that produced many Catholic leaders. His mother was one-eighth Black and his father was a White Irish emigrant. Under Georgia law, Healy's father technically owned his wife and children as slaves. Healy and his siblings were sent north by their father to be educated at the College of the Holy Cross, and Healy continued his higher education at the Catholic University of Louvain, where he received his doctorate in philosophy in 1864. He returned to America and started as the chair of philosophy at Georgetown University.

Healy was elected president of Georgetown University in 1873 and appointed rector the following year. Seeking to transform the institution into a modern university, he oversaw a period of extensive growth. He increased the prominence of the sciences, raised the standards of the School of Medicine, and oversaw a rapid expansion of the Law School. He also constructed a grand building that became known as Healy Hall, which left the university in substantial debt. In 1882, he went to live with his brother, James, the Bishop of Portland, Maine, and the two traveled extensively throughout Europe. Afterwards, Healy returned to pastoral work in Rhode Island and New York City, before returning to Georgetown, where he died.

### *MASS TIMES*

#### *Weekday*

*Monday ~ Wednesday ~ Thursday ~ Friday*

*12PM Chapel*

#### *1st Friday*

*10:30 AM Chapel*

#### *Weekend*

*Saturday Vigil 4PM*

*Sunday 8AM and 11AM*

