

Parishes of
ST. AUGUSTINE
and
ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30pm, St. Peter

St. Augustine Flower Collection

The weekend of December 17/18, the Altar Society will collect money for flowers for Christmas. You may donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Just purchase it and put it in the Sacristy.

Christmas Baskets (St. Augustine)

Once again, we will stock Christmas Baskets for those who need them. You may start bringing non-perishable food and goods to Church for the Christmas Baskets.

Clean/Decorate for Christmas

St. Augustine Parish will clean and decorate for Christmas on Friday, December 23, at 5:00pm. Come when you can. It takes a while to get it finished.

Christmas Masses Schedule

St. Peter of Alcantara:

Christmas Eve 4:30pm
Christmas Day 9:30am

St. Augustine:

Christmas Eve 4:30pm
Christmas Day 8:00am

Choir Practice

St. Augustine Choir meet at Church on December 24, at 3:45pm.

Scripture Study Thursday, Dec. 22, 6:30pm

Youth Group News!!

Youth Group Meeting Sunday, December 18, at 6:00pm. Holding nominations for new officers. Mike Coomes has volunteered to be the facilitator for the Youth Group. Marie Murphy and James Huddleston have agreed to help. Thank you all for the generous use of your time and talents.

Giving Tree

Check out the Giving Tree. There are still a few cards not taken.

Carols before Christmas Eve Mass

On Christmas Eve at 4:15pm, we will start singing carols before the 4:30pm Mass. This is at both St. Peter and St. Augustine. Come a little early and join in the singing!

UK Raffle Tickets

Don't forget your raffle tickets! You'll be seeing all your families this weekend!

Christmas Hams and Burgoo

The Men's Club will be cooking Christmas hams and burgoo on Wednesday, December 21. Anyone interested in purchasing, call Denny Grant (764-1024).

We have another family in need of our help. Family of 4—father recently lost job, 2 yr old in Louisville hospital after receiving bone marrow transplant from 4 yr old sibling. The Ladies Auxiliary will have boxes set up for donations at the back entrances of church Christmas Eve & Day.

Phone:.....Office 270-764-1983.....Rectory 270-764-1691
Fr. Ray Pastor..... ray@gus-n-pete.org
Stanette Blair Secretary stanette@gus-n-pete.org
Tracy Miller Bookkeeper (St. Augustine) tracy@gus-n-pete.org
Mike Smith..... Maintenance (St. Peter of Alcantara) mike@gus-n-pete.org
Parishes' Web Site.....http://www.gus-n-pete.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Oh what a mystery we are preparing to celebrate—in fact, it is a mystery that we celebrate daily! If one studies the history of religion he or she will notice that every culture that ever believed in a god, whether a god they created or one that they discovered in nature, has always

laid out rules and rituals for appeasing the gods. Altars and temples of some sort were common to most religions and faiths.

But the God of the people of Israel was different. Rather than demand that his servant, King David, build him a temple, this God pledges to build a house for David—a house that would stand forever. What kind of a God would make such a promise to his own creation? What could possibly motivate such a God? This God of the children of the Hebrews would prove, over and over throughout history, that he is absolutely unique, and absolutely powerful. This God was so powerful that he could not be intimidated, even by the insubordination of his creatures.

We know that the house of David got in trouble from the beginning. David sinned, Solomon sinned—and then things got really bad! The kingdom divided and both sides eventually forgot about God. Oh, they gave him lip-service, but their hearts were not in it. They became so self-possessed, so self-reliant, so self-absorbed, that they completely turned from the life that God had called them to. They became so alienated from God that they were carried off into captivity for an entire generation. But God never gave up on them.

We are preparing to celebrate the very amazing and special way that God bridged the gap between God and humanity. The mystery of the Incarnation is, to say the least, mind (and soul) boggling! Even though every attempt that God made to give his people PEACE was spurned by us, God decided to send his Son as one of us. Maybe we could begin to distinguish between the false glitter of the lifestyles we create and the truly joy-filled completeness of the LIFE that God created us for. Even though we first tortured and killed his Son, we later came around and began to spread his Word to all lands. Things started looking up!

But we became too successful in the ways of the world, and complacency crowded into our lives. We created more comfortable life-styles. We built our own house, and we didn't consult God's plan as we did it. Sure, we built many "Houses of God" around the earth—a sort of appeasement—but even they became a part of our own image of God. Once built, we protected our churches as if they were sacred

only because of their design or architecture. Too often the buildings became more like museums full of memories of a culture long dead than centers of live, vibrant celebrations of God's love. We built houses of brick and mortar for God, and then moved on to the more important issue of building our own kingdoms in this dog-eat-dog world.

If any one of us were God, chances are that we would have destroyed such a self-possessed, self-reliant, self absorbed people. But God is not like us. Through his Son and the Holy Spirit, he made it possible for us to rise above ourselves and respond to God's love. When we can take a rest from all the tinsel, lights and ornaments, maybe we will be able to reflect on what the upcoming season is REALLY all about. Maybe we can, after all these millennia, allow God to finally build our house! There is a possibility that we can move beyond the glitz and greed of this season and truly accept our calling as God's children. What true HOPE this season elicits from us!

Food Pantry

We are starting a food pantry for those in need in our communities. We will have a basket inside St. Peter's Church where you can put your donations. They will be sorted and stored in a room in the old school. A good suggestion is to add an extra item to your cart when you go grocery shopping each week. Once we have a decent stock, we will stop asking for donations. When the stock begins to get low, we'll ask for donations again. Some of the most often needed items are: peanut butter, soups, crackers, all sorts of canned goods, biscuit and cornbread mixes, tuna and sandwich spreads. Things that don't need to be cooked are always good to have on hand.

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers:

Mary Jane Alexander, Nathan Bach, Carla Bellwood, Taylor Bernhard, Sr. Mary Ignatius Byrne, Virginia Clary, Jared Crisp, Bonnie Crabtree, Jimmy Eblen, Fizzie Fulkerson, Bill Gibson, Mary Alice Grant, Sandy Hines, Pat Jackson, Betty Dean Jones, Jan King, Ruth Lanham, Loretta McEwen, Carol Medley, Anita Mitchell, Herbert & Ruby Murphy, Aaron Patrick, Bob Payne, Eric Potter, Margaret Purgeason, Dot Quinn, Paul Raley, Boonie Ralph, Tommy Ralph, Viola Sanders, Bill Schartung, Randall Schwartz, Catherine Simon, Anita Skaggs, Keith Sterett, Kevin Ward, Mrs. Vernon Wathen, Jessica Wilkerson, Bill & Connie Williams.

Welcome to Sts. Augustine & Peter of Alcantara Parishes!

We want to welcome our visitors and new parishioners! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Ray. If you have not registered, we ask that you pick up a form from the back table in church, fill it out, and return it to us. You may bring it to the office, mail it, or place it in the collection baskets. We really are glad that you are here to share the Liturgy with our community.

Sunday Collection Envelopes for 2006

The collection envelopes for **St. Augustine** are in church now. Try to pick them up this weekend (before Christmas). We'll be decorating on the 23rd. After that, they'll be in the Sacristy.

The collection envelopes for **St. Peter** are also in the back of church. Try to pick them up this weekend so they'll be out of the way for decorating.

Congratulations

Lillie Goetz of St. Peter's Parish participated in the Kentucky Conservation Poster Contest. Lillie's poster was chosen to advance to the next level.

Academic Team

The Sixth Grade Academic Team placed first overall in The Kentucky Colonel's Sixth Grade Academic Showcase Competition. The Quick Recall team placed second.

Radio Spots

As a way to promote Owensboro Catholic Schools—Faith in Education, several radio spots are airing on WIMM, the local Catholic radio station, 107.7. Be sure to listen for them.

Fun, Fitness, Lunch and Prayer

Join us for FUN (we will be playing Pokeno, so break into those piggy banks and bring all of the pennies you can carry), FITNESS (we will do some light exercise and stretching), LUNCH and PRAYER each Tuesday, beginning January 3, from 11am until 2pm. We plan to have a different theme each week, so your input is welcome. Depending on participation, this can be extended to Thursdays, also. Contact Helen Smith, Blessed Sacrament Chapel (926-4741) for further information.

Our accounting of your stewardship of treasure (St. Augustine)

Sunday Collection, December 11	\$787.50
Building Fund	153.00
Retired Religious	121.50
Thanksgiving	15.00

Our accounting of your stewardship of treasure (St. Peter of Alcantara)

Sunday Collection, December 11	\$1,705.50
Children	12.15
Retired Religious	559.50

Readings for the Week

Monday	.Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday	.Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	.Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday	.1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday	.Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday	.Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Sunday	.Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Chili Supper and Bingo

St. Augustine will host a Chili Supper and Bingo on Saturday, January 14, 2006. Watch for details in future bulletins.

Fish Fry & Auction

The St. Peter's Ladies Auxiliary Fish Fry & Auction is scheduled for January 27, 2006 at 6pm. Ladies, begin finding your auction items for the big event!

A Lifeline for Marriage

Retrouvaille (pronounced (retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning the weekend of January 20-22, call 683-1545 or e-mail dpretrowens@aol.com or visit the website at www.retrouvaille.com

Mass Schedule (St. Augustine)

Mon.	8:00am	No Mass
Tues.	8:00am	No Mass
Wed.	8:00am	Mass at Stanley
Thur.	8:00am	Mass at Stanley
Fri.	8:00am	Mass at Stanley
Sat.	4:30pm	Thelma Murphy
Sun.	8:00am	Virginia Williams

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00pm at Reed
or by appointment.

Mass Schedule (St. Peter of Alcantara)

Mon.	8:00am	No Mass
Tues.	8:00am	No Mass
	6:30pm	Penance Service
Wed.	8:00am	Dot Quinn
Thu.	8:00am	Wayne Payne
Fri.	8:00am	Bill Settles
Sat.	4:30pm	Charles Hamilton
Sun.	9:30am	People of the Parishes

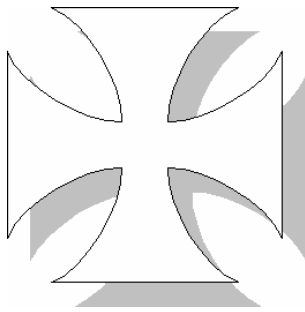
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00pm at Reed
Friday 7:30 am
or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism for infants is administered upon request. Parents and Godparents must attend an evening class on Baptism in the Catholic Church. Please contact the pastor and set up an appointment for this class at least a month in advance. At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic for their child to be baptized in the Catholic Church. Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, and at least one must be a practicing Catholic.

Sacrament of Marriage

A couple wishing to marry must contact the priest at least six months before the desired wedding date. According to the guidelines of our diocese, you should not make absolute plans for a specific wedding date until after meeting with the pastor. The couple will be required to attend a marriage preparation course which will include at least one formal program such as an Engaged Encounter weekend or the Sponsor Couple Program.



Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is celebrated upon request, and at least four times a year at all the weekend Masses. Please notify the pastor or call the parish office if you know of anyone who might need this sacrament, but may not be able to notify the pastor personally. Please inform the pastor or someone in the parish office if you or any of your family is in the hospital. If you notify us before surgery, we can celebrate this sacrament before you are admitted to the hospital. If your doctor is willing we can also have a blessing for him/her at the time of your anointing.

Sacraments to the Home-Bound

Please inform the pastor or the parish office if you know of anyone who is home-bound, so that we can insure that they are afforded ample opportunities to receive the Sacraments. We would rather be notified by several people than to not be notified at all, so please don't presume that someone else has already notified us if there is any question.

St. Peter of Alcantara Ministries

Servers: 4:30pm Kaycee & Dylan McKay
9:30am Bridgett Schrecker & Jessica Fogle

Lectors: 4:30pm Randall Murphy
9:30am Marty Mitchell

Eucharistic Ministers:
4:30pm Marie Murphy, Mike & Nancy Coomes
9:30am Sarona Grant, Ken & Edie McKay

Gifts: 4:30pm Tim Cecil Family
9:30am Rickey Rearden Family

Ushers: 4:30pm Volunteers
9:30am Gilbert Connor & Doug Kelly

Tellers: Ken McKay & Steve Murphy

Church Cleaner: Cathy Connor

St. Augustine Ministries

Servers: 4:30pm Nolan Miller, Joseph Schwartz
8am Anna Marie & Margaret Blair

Lectors: 4:30pm Tracy Miller
8am Barbara Smith

Eucharistic Ministers:
4:30pm Connie Williams, Larry Schwartz
8am Ben Blair, Linda Evans

Gifts: 4:30pm Glenn Miller Family
8am Ben Blair Family

Church Cleaners: Stacy Cain (December 12-24)

