

# St. Augustine Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## ECHOING MARY'S DECISION

The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. In a way, it is the ultimate “Whodunit?” that Mary expresses in her question “How can this be?” The mystery of salvation in Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for Paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is “yes.” We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means “solved.” We may understand it a bit better due to Mary’s “yes.” We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But ultimately, it still remains a reality beyond our comprehension, a mystery to which we all must give our own “yes.” Soon we will be singing “O come, let us adore him.” May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary’s “yes,” continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH!

Our faith community is full of goodness, rich in spirituality and welcoming to all. Through our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and our reliance upon the Holy Spirit, we live out our tradition of faith, hope and love as we continue to serve Him through His church. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Father John Jicha so he may personally welcome you to our parish.

## PRAYER CIRCLE

The prayer list published in the bulletin each week is a vehicle to notify parishioners of those in need of prayer. We focus on praying for the sick, those who have died, and for those who are serving in the military. Please call to add names to the listing by calling the church office or contacting Pat Palmer at 301.223.7992.

**Please pray for:** Connie Adenhardt, Pat & Jim Baer, Provie Cardinale, Fr. Carter, Don Christensen, Midge Christopher, Jean Cushwa, Lisa Deleo, Joe DePalma, Doug DiRisio, Betty & Jack Dove, Kathryn Folley, Angela Gentile, George Gildersleeve, Mary Ann Gohr, Mark Gordon, Arnold Gozora, Bernice & Jim Grandstaff, Ed Grebenstein, Debra Grogg, Joe Harris, Sabrina Jones, Joe Kallas, Beulah Keller, Danny Keller, Jonathan Knight, Dot Komarinski, Patty & George Koons, Claire O'Connell, Our Military, Betty Moore, Betty Nordmann, Keegan Oursler, Pat Palmer, Alli Pinieski, Thomas Quinlan (baby), Toni Rickard, Ginny Russell, Don Sanders, Tracy Serpi, Lawrence Shaw, Teresa (Elly) & Harry Sirbaugh, Danny Spaw, Vocations, Norm Walker, Antoinette Wetzell, Dee Wyand, Katie Yentsch.

## CARD MINISTRY

St. Augustine's cares about our fellow parishioners. To express our care and concerns, we have a card ministry. We can send cards to parishioners who are sick, hospitalized, recuperating from surgery, experiencing a terminal illness or homebound. Cards of sympathy can also be sent to those who have had a death in their immediate family. We can also send congratulatory cards to parishioners who are celebrating births and marriages. If you know of a parishioner who would like to receive a card, please contact Connie by calling 301.582.4394.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> 2011	St. Augustine	St. James
Attendance	221	344
Offertory Envelopes	\$1,555	\$2,196
Offertory Electronic	\$505	\$585
Offertory Loose	\$260	\$671
Maintenance	\$110	\$175
Pastoral Collection	\$35	\$28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,465</b>	<b>\$3,655</b>

### THANK YOU

As always we are most grateful to all persons for their financial gifts to the church, in whatever form best suits them. May God bless and guide us always in using all such gifts for the building of His Kingdom.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING

Saint Augustine's offers you another way to share what God has given you through our electronic giving format. This simple and secure method of giving to Saint Augustine has many advantages, and with more and more people using the internet for financial matters, we hope it is useful and helpful for many parishioners. If you are interested in signing-up for electronic giving, please go to [www.staugustinemd.org](http://www.staugustinemd.org) for additional information.

## RESPECT LIFE

The angel's Annunciation to Mary is framed by these reassuring words: "Do not be afraid, Mary" and "with God nothing will be impossible" (*Lk* 1:30, 37). The whole of the Virgin Mother's life is in fact pervaded by the certainty that God is near to her and that he accompanies her with his providential care. The same is true of the Church, which finds "a place prepared by God" (*Rev* 12:6) in the desert, the place of trial but also of the manifestation of God's love for his people (cf. *Hos* 2:16). Mary is a living word of comfort for the Church in her struggle against death. Showing us the Son, the Church assures us that in him the forces of death have already been defeated: "Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign". (*Roman Missal*, Sequence for Easter Sunday). --*The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul the Great

## WILLIAMSPORT COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please join us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM, at Saint James Brethren Church, 17718, Lappans Road, 1 mile past Fountain Rock Elementary School. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served following the concert.

### GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS

#### Lighthouse Ministry CD's

Please see display in the atrium. Suggested donation is \$3 per CD or 4 CD's for only \$10. Please make checks payable to Saint Augustine Church.

#### Cash for Causes

##### Martin's Gift/Grocery Card

The parish receives a 5% rebate on each card. Therefore, for example, if you purchase \$100 worth of gift cards, St. Augustine's will receive \$5. Cards are available after Mass.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Winter begins on December 21<sup>st</sup>. With the arrival of winter comes the chance of ice and snow becoming a threat, OR if you are a snowman, dogs. Any who, please do not risk coming to Mass if the conditions are poor.

**YOU wanted a dog!!  
YOU walk him!!**

