

FATHER PAT'S SERMON NOTES

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Facing the Giants in Your Life

"Tell me what's impossible for God?" the coach asked his players after they just won the championship game against all odds! One by one the players answered: "*Nothing coach!*" This scene was from a movie a friend loaned me recently called, Facing the Giants. A losing football team ended up having a winning season after they changed their focus and their goals. In a nutshell, they stopped making winning games their primary objective and instead made glorifying God by doing their very best the number one goal and definition of success. Their new motto became: "If we win, we'll praise Him; and if we lose we'll still praise Him!" But either way they came to believe that if they gave their best effort and used the gifts God had given them to their fullest potential that God would be glorified not only by them but by all that witnessed their effort!

On this fourth Sunday of Advent we see a teenage girl being confronted with the unexpected, the unbelievable and the impossible. An angel from God comes to speak with her; to reveal to her a message from the Almighty. He tells her unbelievable things beyond her wildest imagination: She has been favored by God; God wants to perform a miracle through her; and she should not be afraid to let Him. The girl's name was Mary. At first she protests: *What you ask of me is impossible for me to do.* The angel replies: *What is impossible for you is not impossible for God. With God all things are possible!*

In the end, Mary embraced the Angel's message that God would do through her what she could not do herself. **But she still was required to do her part!** God needed her permission; and she gave it. He needed her faith, and she placed it in him. He needed her willingness to cooperate with him and she surrendered it (her will). It is one thing to believe that God is able and willing. But if YOU are not willing to **let him act**, then the miracle you are looking for will never come to pass. As Saint Augustine said, "God can save us, but not without us". Saint Paul once said, "*Fight the good fight of faith*" (1 Tim 6:12). Entering this fight is a decision, a choice; an act of the will. Will you choose to believe when things get hard or scary or tough? Or, will you just quit? Will you fight temptation or just give in? Will you pray when you don't feel like it or praise God when things don't go your way? Will you make the extra effort even when you are tired? Will you do what's right even when no one is looking? Nothing is impossible for God **for those who put their trust in Him**. Live for his glory and behold, the impossible will become achievable!

REMEMBER ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH IN YOUR WILL & BEQUESTS
SEE WEB PAGE FOR FATHER PAT'S SERMON NOTES



4th Sunday of Advent December 18, 2011

Scripture Readings

Fourth Sunday in Advent

2Sm7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

Nativity of The Lord

Is 52:7-10

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14



Mass Intentions

Mon	Dec	18	Keats Labule	-	Living
Tues	Dec	19	Catherine Mason	-	Living
Wed	Dec	20	Francis Kelly	-	Living
Thurs	Dec	21	Catherine Douglas	-	Living
Fri	Dec	22	Dorsey Davis	-	Living

Attendance 894



Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Gingras Center basement conference room. Deacon Kelly and Brother Francis are leading the discussion on the Gospel of Mark.



From our Pastor on The Christmas Collection:

Just a reminder to be EXTRA generous this Christmas with your **Christmas Envelope** this month! Since Christmas and New Year's fall on Sunday this year we lose about six collections that would normally occur between Sundays. For those who are wage earners, if you are able, please consider doubling the normal \$50 Christmas request with at least a **\$100 contribution**. As always, your generosity makes it possible for us as a parish to bear witness to the extraordinary generosity of God toward those most in need around us. Thank you for this witness of faith... and for your great generosity! - Fr. Pat Smith

ST AUGUSTINE SCHOOL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN # 20000 ♦
ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN #9670



Fourth Sunday of Advent

THIS SUNDAY DECEMBER 18 2011, SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR CHURCH RENOVATIONS
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011 SECOND COLLECTION IS OUR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

St. Augustine School *Love to Learn; Learn to Love*

SR. GLORIA AGUMAGU, HHCJ PRINCIPAL

INFORMATION: 202-667-2608

Catholic Education Corner



Saint Augustine Catholic School is now registering for the 2011-2012 school year for grades Pre-K through Eighth. For an application or more information, please contact the school office at 202-667-2608 or email: admissions@staug-dc.org.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule



December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve Children's Mass 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Music Program 11:00—11:50pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass Midnight

Sunday, December 25, 2011

Christmas Day Mass 8:00am
10:00am
12:30pm

December 31, 2011

New Year's Eve Mass 4:30pm
11:00pm

Sunday, January 1, 2012

New Year's Day Mass 8:00am
10:00am
12:30pm

Please Pray for the Sick and Homebound

John Adams, Sr. Sylvia X Allen Angelina Arnold Vera I Austin Joan Barber Nora Basey Milton Best Evelyn Bezell Beulah Bridges Thomas Brock Eric Brown Margaret Burgan Andrew Burton Agnes Carey Elizabeth Carter Phillip Cephas Ollie Clark Vincent Clarke, Sr. Dorsey Davis John Harris Pauline Dines Pat Dodson Susan Epps Charles Gathers	Delores V. Greene Tammie Grillo Priscilla Harvison Mary Howard Patricia Herndon Gail Bethea Jackson Eleanor Johnson Dorothy Joy Naetis Keels Mattie Keels Francis Kelly Sedonia Labee Keats Labule Louisa Lee Martha Lonon Catherine Mason Florence Matthews Lussia Matthews Edna Mills Joyce Morton Albert Nellums Jullius Oben Coralys Passapera Angela Piepers	Alice Rush Lisa Rivera Ruby Roberts Lydia Scurlock Mary E. Smith Delores Sweeney Juanita Towns Selma Twitty Lillie White Mary Whitman Cynthia Wilkins Virginia Winston Shirley Wooden Lozzie York
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Pray For Our Dead
Connie Ray
12:30 Mass Usher



SAVE THE DATE — Our Annual Ministry Thank You celebration for all our ministry volunteers will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2011 in the rectory at 6:00pm. This is our way to thank you for your service.

Calling all college students!!!

St. Augustine's wants to stay connected. The teens in CCD are holding their annual college panel/Kwanzaa celebration on Sunday January 1st at 2:30 pm (immediately following the 12:30 mass) at the Gingras Center (1419 V St NW). Come for food! Fellowship! And fun! We share an open discussion about the college experience and our faith. Please contact Paul McKenzie at pfmckenz@gmail.com or (571) 436-6032 for more information or to get on our mailing list.

Our Parish Bookstore and Gift Shop

Opens before and after weekend Masses. Use Visa, Master Card (\$10 min), check (\$5min), or cash to buy: Bibles - Missals - Rosaries - Books on the Pope, Saints, Parish History, Faith, Discernment, marriage, Children's Books, Father Pat's Homilies and More

PARK FREE SUNDAYS 9AM-4PM
REEVES CENTER, U STREET
AT 14TH ST. NW
ENTER ON U STREET

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, RECEIVING CONFIRMATION? SPONSORING INQUIRERS? RCIA MEETS SUNDAYS AT 9:00 – 11:30 SABRINA WILLIAMS AT 202-294-6990.

▼ SEE GINGRAS CENTER BULLETIN BOARD FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH AND ADULT OPPORTUNITIES. ▼