



St. Augustine Church

16777 St. Augustine Church Road
Reed, Kentucky 42451

Christmas Solemnity: December 25, 2016

Welcome to St. Augustine!!!

Parish Website: www.staugustinereed.org



We want to welcome our visitors and new parishioners! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Jegin. If you have not registered, we ask that you fill out a form from the back of church and mail or place it in the collection basket.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor: Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal
Cell Phone: (270) 929-2294
Email: jputhenpurackal@stpeterandstaugustine.com

Website Admin: Kristin Miller
Parish Council Pres: Larry Schwartz
Finance Comm. Chair: Rob Mitchell
Parish Hall Rental: Rosemary Murphy
Bookkeeper: Rosemary Murphy
Email Address: rmurphee@hotmail.com

Please send your bulletin announcements to Stacy Cain by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. scain42966@att.net

Ministries for 1/1/17

Servers: Ellie & Sam Mitchell
Lectors: Barbara Smith
Eucharistic Min: Ben Blair, Christa Hundley
Gifts: Larry Schwartz Family
Ushers: Larry Schwartz, Joseph Schwartz

Mass Intention 1/1

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Donnie Brown

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Father Jegin
Mack Lacer
Paula Mayfield
Michele Alexander Johnson

WEEKLY BUDGET:

Regular Collection	\$1,221.15
Christmas Food Baskets	\$539.00
	\$68.00

BIRTHDAY'S FOR THIS WEEK:

Jamie Boeglin 12/27

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THIS WEEK

Church Cleaners:

Ruth Raley 12/18 – 12/31

Church Cleaners: Cleaning the Church is an act of your love and gratitude to God for our Church. If for some reason you are unable to clean when it is your turn, please contact Herschel Smith (270) 302-0601 and for a fee of \$30.00 he will clean for your two weeks. If you are physically unable to clean, please contact Herschel so other arrangements can be made.

Announcements

Blessing of Families: Father will Bless Families during Mass on January 1, 2017.

Anointing of the Sick: Father will have Anointing of the Sick during Mass on January 8, 2017.

Meeting with Parents of First Communicants on January 22, 2017, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Sister C.J. would like to meet with parents of children signed up to receive First Sacraments this year. This meeting is basically to review requirements and to set dates to meet for classes. First Communion is scheduled for May 7, 2017 during 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Church envelopes are ready and available in the pew at the side of the church

Patriotic Rosary: Patriotic Rosary will resume after the holidays.

2017 Church Cleaning List has been posted by both doors of the church.

Confirmation Retreat on January 14, 2017, from 12:00–4:30 p.m. ending Mass with Bishop Medley at St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Local Confession Schedules

St. Stephen	Saturday	9:30am-11:30am
St. Mary Magdalene	Saturday	2:30pm
Precious Blood	Saturday	3:30pm



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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 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 if you or any one in 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 if you know of anyone who is homebound 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.*

Sacrament of Marriage: *A couple wishing to marry must contact the priest at least six months prior to 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 priest. 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.*

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Traditionally we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, friends and loved ones. I do hope that your Christmas will be filled with peace, joy and celebration, although a joyful celebration may not be possible for some. They may have lost a loved one since last Christmas or they may be overburdened by financial worries, family problems, sickness or other reasons. If you are, I want to assure you that, as a parish community, we do care and offer you our support. I want you to know that even in the midst of these darkest hours, there is still light, light that is brighter than that great star over Bethlehem which will take us to the place where we need to be. It will take us to the heart of Christ, who will heal our brokenness, remove our anger and hurt, and fill us with the peace and strength we need to not just move forward but to reclaim our life as a community in Christ Jesus. Yes, we can reclaim our life as a community in Christ Jesus only if we have true love in our heart. Yes, it is this true love we celebrate today in the name of Christmas, for the Gospel of [John 3:16](#) says *“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son to us....”* Yes, Christmas is the celebration of Love, Love of God and Love of neighbor.

Once there was a beautiful family consisting of a father, mother and daughter. On a fine morning, while cleaning the front yard, the mother of the house happened to see three young men sitting on the roadside. As she did not know any of them, she went and asked them to introduce themselves. So they introduced themselves as wealth, prosperity and love respectively. The woman asked why there were here, and they replied, “We are on a long trip to a particular place, as we are tired from walking, we just want to take a rest here”. Looking at their tired faces, the woman felt sorry and invited them to her house to have some food and rest afterwards. They asked if her husband was there in the house? She said no, left for work early this morning. They replied that they would only be able to come to her home only if her husband was there. That evening when the husband returned home from work, the woman told him about the travelers waiting outside the house. After listening to the wife, the husband asked the wife to invite them in. The wife went out to invite them into the house, they responded that the three of them could not be in the house at the same time, so you can only have one of us, so go home, and discuss with your family and decide whom you want to be your guest today. The woman went inside and told her husband all about this. He was excited. He said, “If that is the case, let us invite wealth! Our house will then be filled with happiness.” The wife was not happy with that, and said “I feel we should

invite prosperity, so that we will be happy.” Their daughter was in the next room listening to the discussions, so she came in the room and said, “I feel we should invite love for nothing is more important than love.” So they all agreed to invite Love into their home as their guest of the day. The woman went out and advised the three men that she and her family would like to have love in their home and to please come. As love started walking towards the house, the woman noticed that wealth and prosperity were following. With surprise, the woman turned around and asked, “You said you three cannot be in the house at the same time, so why is it that you are all following me?” They replied, “Wherever there is wealth, it is not necessary that love and prosperity should be there. It is not necessary that where there is prosperity, love and wealth be there, but where there is love, there will be wealth and prosperity for Love cannot walk alone or stay alone in one place”.

Dear friends, as we are celebrating Christmas today, what is priority in our lives? Is it wealth? Is it prosperity? Is it love that you are looking for? I leave that for you to decide. Let us not forget and remind ourselves very often that there is nothing greater than love in this world. So it is the love of God we celebrate today, and it is Love that makes a human divine. So, if you want to make a transition from human to divine, hold to the true love that God is giving us through Child Jesus.

In a certain village, there was a bad guy whose main hobby was to steal sheep, kill and eat them. Being tired of his stealing, the whole village came together to complain. So the head of the village ordered his soldiers to bring the bad guy before the village parliament. Investigating all his bad doings, the head of the village ordered the letter “S”, representing sheep, to be tattooed on the forehead of the guy so that everyone who sees him will tease him by calling sheep. It was a great humiliation for him actually. Whenever he went out of the house people began to tease him. Being tired of people’s teasing, he decided to change his way of life. Later on, he became the best person in the village by loving, caring and helping everyone in the village in their needs. Years passed, the new generation kids began to notice the tattoo on his forehead and questioned their parents about it. The parents explained that the “S” means saint. Yes, the tattoo “S” that indicated sheep became the letter that stands for Saint. It is the love that he nurtured and shared that made the transformation in his life.

Yes, it is love and the presence of Jesus that makes an unimportant into an important one. I know some of you have cows and a barn for the cows, some of you have sheep and a sheep shed, some of you do farming and have straw in your barn, and some of you have a donkey in your stable. Now let me ask you a personal question, how much importance do you give all these animals and things in your life? I am sure you don’t give much importance to all these, otherwise you would have allowed them to be in your home with all the facilities you enjoy today. Just like any one of us, before the birth of Jesus, none of these animals and things were given much importance. But from the time Jesus was born in a cowshed, we see everything becomes important. Look here in our church, we have a replica of a cowshed, and we call it a manger. We have a statue of a donkey, cow, sheep, straw etc., in our church. Yes, all these animals and things gave place for the birth of Jesus, thus they become important and have a better place in the church. Today, as you listen to me, if any of you feel that you are not important for your family or friends, any of you feel that you are not loved by your dear ones, here is the solution, allow Jesus to enter into your life and you will see a difference beyond imagination and expectation. Today, Jesus is born for you, me and everybody. Now it is up to you to make the decision whether to take home Child Jesus and His blessings with you or not, invite love to your home as your guest or not. As I wish you all a Merry Christmas, I pray earnestly that you make the right decision to take home Child Jesus and His love to your home. The Book of Revelation says, “But I have this against you, you have abandoned your first love. Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen. Repent and perform the deeds you did at first.” (Rev. 2:4-5). **May God bless you all.**