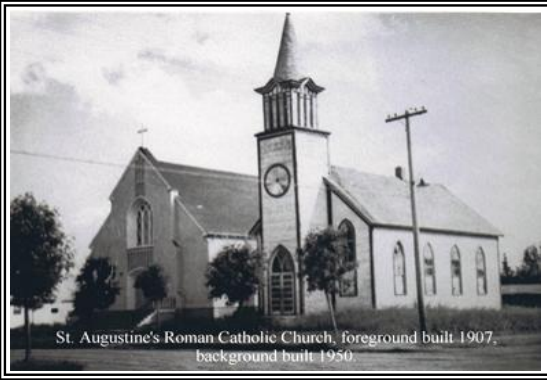
St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, foreground built 1907, background built 1950.

St. Augustine Parish

5113 - 52 Avenue, Ponoka, Alberta T4J 1H6

Phone: 403.783-4048 Text: 825.706-4863

E-mail: StAugustine.Ponoka@caedm.ca

Website: staugustine.caedm.ca

Facebook: St.AugustinePonoka ***https://staugustineponoka.flocknote.com/***

Office Hours: 9 AM – 1 PM Tuesday to Friday

December 14, 2025 - Year A
Third Sunday of Advent

"Among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater that he"

During Advent, we recall Christ's birth and anticipate Christ's coming at the end of time. Not only did Jesus come into the world some 2000 years ago; he is with us still, through the Holy Spirit. We might feel called to ask: why did Jesus choose to become a human being?

Both the first reading and the Gospel today help us answer this question: God wants to heal us. Jesus came to heal us. More than the physical, Jesus wants to heal us of our weaknesses and sin : to purify, sanctify and glorify us. He comes to raise humanity to himself.

When Jesus praises John the Baptist in today's Gospel, he then says that even the least in the kingsom of heaven is greater than John. That means each of us, members of the body of Christ who hope to join him in his kingdom, will be greater than John the Baptist. The beauty that he has in store for us is beyond our imagination!

Our eager hope as we approach Christmas is a very personal one. We await Our Lord's work in us: the healing he has wrought, is working and will continue to work in us. Gabreille Tonelli/livingwith Christ

Christmas Eve/
Thur. Dec 24:
3:30 PM & 9:30 PM
Nativity of the Lord/
Fri. **Dec 25**: 9 AM

HOLY FAMILY OF Jesus, Mary & Jesus:
Dec 27@ 7 PM & Dec 28 @ 9 AM
Holy Day of Obligation—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Thurs, January 1,2026 @ 9 AM

Prepare for mass with Sunday Readings.
Missals for sale at the front entrance for $7.00 . Place the money in the locked box.

2026 DONATION ENVELOPES are ready for pickup at the Front Entrance. The number printed on your envelope is recorded, with your name in the data base. Please use only your envelopes. Write your name on your envelope when you first use them. **Thank you for using your envelopes regularly.** If you are absent, St. Augustine Parish expenses go on just the same.

If you would like a Box of Donation Envelopes, please call the office at 403.783-4048.

Thank you to everyone who came to the **2026 Food Booth Planning meeting** on Dec 10. The newly formed Food Booth Steering Committee/Team will be focusing on: Prep-Operations; Execution-Operations; Food Orders; Recruitment & Financial. The minutes & notes will be sent out shortly.

Mass Times: Saturday - 7:00 p.m. Sunday—9:00 am
Monday—Friday 6:00 PM (Rosary at 5:30)

Adoration: Saturday (at 6:20 PM)
Rosary: 30 minutes before weekend masses
Confession: 30 minutes before mass or by appointment

Sacrament/Anointing of the Sick: in case of emergency call **Fr. Liju (780.935-1589)**

If you know someone who needs prayers,

call our **Prayer Line Co-ordinators**

Judy @ 403.783-4347 Gail @ 403.783-8123

ADORATION
Wednesdays @ 11:15 AM
Saturdays— @ 6:20 PM

Mass Intentions

Saturday	December 13	7:00 PM	+ Marinus Huysman
Sunday	December 14	9:00 AM	+ Garry Farwell
Monday	December 15	6:00 PM	+ Deceased members of the Saunders Family (Simbang Gabi begins)
Tuesday	December 16	6:00 PM	Intentions of Anne & John Corry
Wednesday	December 17	6:00 PM	+ Loreto Aviles
Thursday	December 18	6:00 PM	+ Carlos Asuncion
Friday	December 19	6:00 PM	+ Clyde David Lynn
Saturday	December 20	7:00 PM	+ Marinus Huysman
Sunday	December 21	9:00 AM	+ Valerie Hauck
Monday	December 22	6:00 PM	+ Phil and Clare Cook
Tuesday	December 23	6"00 PM	+ Deceased members of Abel & Koleyak Families (Simbang Gabi ends)
Wednesday	December 24	3:30 PM	+ Fallon Jenkins
Wednesday	December 24	9:30 PM	+ Marinus Huysman

December 27 & 28 is the <u>Second Collection for the Building Fund</u> (after Communion). Every donation helps!

Write your name & address on the **beige Building Fund envelopes** (for your tax receipt) Thank you for your generosity & sacrifice!

The Children's Donations will go the Building Fund on the Fourth Sunday.

Thank you all for your monetary donations and volunteer support throughout the year

Blessings to Fr. Andrzeg (Andrew) Bogdanowicz and Fr. Josephin Raj Mutuswamy for helping Fr. Liju with our **Advent Penitential Service on December 3.**

Thank you to everyone who came to the **PARISH CHRISTMAS POTLUCK on Dec 5.** There were many food choices and donated prizes for the Card Bingo. Thank you to the CWL and everyone who helped set-up & clean– up. Peace on earth!

Simbang Gabi starts Monday, December 15 at 6 pm and finishes on Tuesday Dec 23. See the Mass Intention Schedule. **Simbang Gabi** is a Filipino Catholic tradition consisting of **nine Masses** held from **December 15 to 23** as a spiritual preparation for Christmas. Attending all nine Masses is believed by many to bring special blessings or the granting of a personal prayer.

SACRAMENTAL PREP/FAITH FORMATION

December 21—**Confirmation Meeting**
January 4 —**First Communion Meeting**
RCIA—Mondays
Contact Deacon Rollie: (403) 396—1700

Chalice

Thank you for supporting our Chalice children, **Peace** from Kenya & **Anna** from the Ukraine! **Anna will be 5 years old on January 29**

Catholic Women's League

Faith, Service & Social Justice

Bake Sale—Dec 13 & 14:
CWL bake sale after both masses.
Check out all the goodies

No December meeting
Ministry Sunday—December 28

Co-presidents: Carol (403) 783-2148
Maria P (403) 783-8912

Knights of Columbus, Council 4503

In Service for One, In Service for All

Pancake Breakfast—December 14
Ministry Sunday**—Jan 4, 2026**

Grand Knight, **Joe Henderson (403)358–4845**
Financial Secretary, **Ken Kustiak (403) 307-2705**

Membership are due at the end of January. $40 can be e-transferred to kenn21@telus.net or dropped off in the collection basket with KofC on the envelope. Make cheque payable to Ponoka Kof C. For Life and Honorary life members, your membership fees are $10.00

What do the four candles of Advent symbolize? The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the center of the wreath. **Advent candle weeks, names & colors:** Advent week 1 – **Hope**: Prophecy Candle (purple); Advent week 2 – **Peace**: Bethlehem Candle (purple); Advent week 3 – **Joy**: Shepherd's Candle (pink); Advent week 4 – **Love**: Angel's Candle (purple)
https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/#:~:text=each%20have%20meaning.-,What%20do%20the%20four%20candles%20of%20Advent%20symbolize?,and%20a%20color%20symbolizing%20royalty.

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for December **For Christians in areas of conflict**. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Santa's Anonymous thanks you for your Children's toy donations on their 44th year of serving the Ponoka community.

Last minute gift idea!

When you give to our parish, you are making a Spiritual Investment with Eternal Returns!

All gifts received by **December 31** are eligible for a Canadian tax credit.

If you give...	Your get a tax credit of...	The actual cost to you is...
$20/week or $1,040/year	$470	**$11/week** or $570/year
$40/week or $2,080/year	$990	**$21/week** or $1,090/year
$100/week or $5,200/year	$2,550	**$51/week** or $2,650
$200/week or $10,400/year	$5,150	**$101/week** or $5,250/year

PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS (PAD) !

No service fees. The Pre-Authorized funds are deposited directly into the parish bank account. Pre-authorized withdrawals will come out of your bank account ***on the last banking day of the month***.

You choose the monthly amount & fund or funds you want to donate to. Pre-Authorized donations provides you the ***convenience*** of **not having to write cheques or find cash** each Sunday. You ***support the parish when you are away.*** You only need to ***plan your parish giving once a year.*** The parish benefits from the steady and anticipated revenue stream. PAD allows for **greater security** when less cash is on site and **saves time** in counting & banking cash & cheques.

Forms are available at the entrances. Bring the form back with a void cheque in a sealed envelope in the collection basket, by

December 21, 2025—Year A

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Todays's Gospel Story is so familiar that it feels like a warm blanket surrounding us, comforting us, giving us a sense of peace and security. We are drawn into the unfathomable mystery of God's astounding decision to enter our reality as one of us so that, through the Son, we might find the way to eternal life. That statement alone is enough to engage us in fruitful comtemplation.

In his Gospel Matthew is inviting his Jewish readers to consider how Jesus is the fulfillment of everything they have heard from the long line of prophets in their history. He emphasizes the role of Joseph, who is the house of David, to assure the unbroken patrilineal heritage of the Messiah, which is detailed at the beginning of chapter 1 of Matthew's Gospel. The angel encourages Joseph to accept the responsibility of supporting Mary in bringing the Son of God into the world.

But for me the most significant detail in this beautiful story is Matthew's quotation from Isaish: and they shall name him Emmanuel…." God is with us " It is utterly mind-boggling to consider that the omnipotent, eternal, omniscient God in whom we believe would deign to put aside all that to become human just so he could be with us. May this inspire our contemplation in the days that remain before Christmas.

Rev. Leonard Altilia

Next bulletin: **Christmas/Dec 24 & Solemnity of Mary/Jan 4, 2026**
Please send info by**: December 17**

Ladies— please leave the garden hose in the washroom sink. We have drainage issues with the cold weather. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience.

We accept e-transfers!
No service fees
Include your **name, address & phone number**.
For **OPERATIONS** (mass supplies, utilities, Together We Serve, Children's Liturgy; Holy Thursday; Good Friday, Christmas, flowers, utilities, etc.) Send your e-transfer to:
StAugustine.Ponoka@caedm.ca.
For **BUILDING FUND** donations,
Send e-transfer to:
StAugustine.Ponoka@caedm.ca

FOOD BANK

FEED THE HUNGRY with non-perishables like peanut butter; canned fish/meat; fruit & vegetables; boxed or dry pasta & tomato sauce; crackers, granola bars, etc. **Please drop off in our basket in our entrances.**