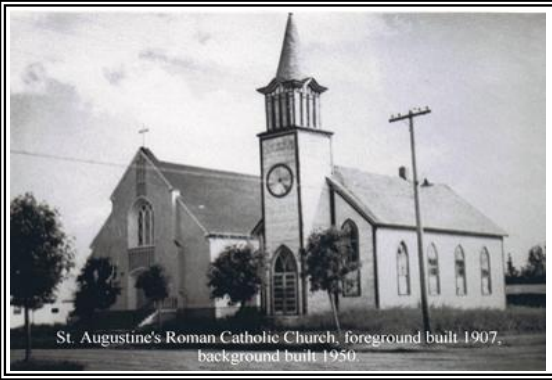

St. Augustine Parish

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 – 1:30 PM Tuesday to Friday

PASSION (Palm) SUNDAY March 29, 2026

Isaiah 50.4-7 Psalm 22

Philippians 2.6-11 Matthew 26.14-27.66

USHERING IN THE holiest week of the year, Palm Sunday sheds light on our life's journey. Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, to the wild acclaim of the cheering crowd. Yet he did so on a humble donkey, leading the way into his kingdom, and knowing that this was just the overture to a week of Passion.

We wave our palm branches and process into the church, joyously singing praises. Yet almost immediately, we plunge from glory into unimaginable grief with a description of the Suffering Servant, the psalm of abandonment used by Jesus on the Cross and the reading of his Passion. Our human nature recoils: this is not the way our Saviour should be treated. This is not the way our life should go.

And yet it does. One year, I bask in light and hope, and the next sees my dreams shredded at my feet. As Jesus cried out Father, why have you abandoned me? His heart did not waver from both his trust in God and his passion to save us by conquering death through his own death and resurrection.

Whether at the seeming pinnacle or nadir of our life, our eyes and hearts must be riveted to our Redeemer, who is even now leading us into his eternal life. Let us not take our eyes off him!

Cheryl Ann Smith (Living in Christ)

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday —**March 29 @ 9:00 AM**

Holy/Maundy Thursday—

April 2 @ 6:00 PM

Friday of the Passion of the Lord

April 3 @ 3:00 PM

Holy Saturday—**April 4 @ 6:30 PM**

Easter Sunday—**April 5 @ 9:00 AM**

THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

begins on Good Friday, April 3

Pray with us in the Church:

Good Friday; April 3 After Good Friday Service

Holy Saturday April 4 @ 5:45 pm

Easter Sunday April 5 @ 8:15 am

Monday April 6 — **Friday** April 10 @ 5:00 pm

Divine Mercy Sunday—April 12 @ 3:00 pm

Celebrate God's endless mercy and love for us.

Bring a Potluck item to share.

Mass Times: ***Saturday @ 7 PM Sunday @ 9 AM Wednesday @ 12 NOON Thursday @ 9 AM***

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)**

The Pastoral Team visits hospitals/long term care & senior residences on Tuesdays.

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	March 28	7:00 PM	+ John Morin
Sunday	March 29	9:00 AM	+ Jannette Stang
Thursday	April 2	6:00 pm	+ Wes Kohlman
Sunday	April 5	9:00 am	+ Wayne Saunders
Saturday	April 11	7:00 pm	+ Florence Roach
Sunday	April 12	9:00 am	Intentions of the Stang & Prediger Families
Wednesday	April 15	12 Noon	+ Roy Faircloughg

WHAT IS EASTER?

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. **The Paschal Candle used during the Easter Vigil is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and lit for all** liturgical celebrations.

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils" and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays. **The season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times, which Catholics celebrate as the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.**

The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

The parish has begun to make pies for Stampede and some extra apple pies for sale at $15.00 per pie. Saturday March 28 & Sunday March 29. Easter Sunday after 9:00 am after Mass. Cash only.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, a time of renewal and resurrection, parishioners are invited to have their homes blessed as a way of welcoming God's grace, peace, and presence into their lives.

Home blessings are a meaningful tradition that help us recognize our living spaces as sacred places where faith is lived, love is shared, and families grow together in God's care.

If you would like your home blessed during this season or at a later time, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the suggestion box or email it to the parish office.

Thank you,

Fr Liju Jose

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, e-Transfer

Knights of Columbus, Council 4503

In Service for One, In Service

Welcome Brother Henry Hollman as the new Financial Secretary for our council. Thank you Brother Ken Kustiak for your years of service as the past FS.

Please forward all membership dues to brother Henry.

Grand Knight, **Joe Henderson**
(403)358–4845
Financial Secretary, **Henry Hollman**
(403) 801-7948

Catholic Women's League

Faith, Service & Social Justice

Instead of Soup to Go on April 1th this year the CWL has decided to serve Meatless Soup with Hot Cross Buns after our Good Friday Service on April 3. We hope you will join us!

Co-presidents: Carol (403) 783-2148

Maria P (403) 783-8912

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12.1-8, 11-14 Psalm 116

Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.34

ON THIS FIRST night of the Triduum (three days of one liturgy), the Scriptures give us three sets of directions. First, prepare the meal and eat it hurriedly. Next, do this eucharistic meal in memory of Jesus. Then, wash feet. What an invitation!

Liturgy exists to ritually prepare us for similar seasons in our lives. The Holy Thursdays of my real life look like last meals before young adults move away from home, like silent meals eaten in palliative care, like eating toast before calling a therapist. Big things follow-endings and recovery, waiting, getting lost and, eventuallly, new beginnings. Some of the passions we prepare for are long anticipated and 'normal" And some of them will be unexpected, confusing, tragic, painful or traumatic.

Holy Thursday teaches us to share food, no matter how simple, awkward or transitory. Then, to remember with Eucharist that Jesus has walked before us on this transformation from death to new life. And then to serve humbly—with love. Eat, pray, love.

Tonight, as you make haste to get to Mass and start this both three-day and eternal journey, practise the way of sharing, remembering and serving. Then, when life's next passion comes your way, practise again. The end will always be new life, but walking through to the other side with hope takes practiice..
Leah Perrault

April 25 & 26 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

God's blessing & congratulations to

Grant Reid, Tyler and Kara Gariepy.

They will received Sacrament of Confirmation on Holy Saturday

April 4.

Welcome to our Catholic Community

Maxwell, Sylvie and Joelle Gariepy

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on April 4

Holy Saturday

PRAY for Fr. Liju and All the Priests in The

Archdiocese of Edmonton during the Holy Week

Holy Week Office Hours

Holy Thursday, April 2 The will close at 12:00 Noon

Good Friday April 3 - The Office will be closed

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, April 7

May you have a blessed and joyful cerebration of Christ's Ressurrection

World Youth Day 2027 – Parish Group Registration

The Archdiocese of Edmonton is beginning preparations for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, and we are collecting preliminary information from parish groups interested in attending under the Archdiocesan umbrella.

Travel Dates: July 25 – August 9, 2027
Days in the Diocese: July 27 – August 1 (tentative)

World Youth Day: August 3- 8, 2027

Pope's Prayer Intention: the following intention may be included in Sunday and daily Prayer of the Faithful during Mass and at Morning and Evening Prayer, on serveral occasions during the month.

For priests in crisis —Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understnding and prayer.

Save the dates: **June 24 to July 1** for the 2026 Ponoka Stampede Food Booth. We look forward to your support and your company as we serve together. Let us sail together for the Lord and for St. Augustine Church!

Bring your refundable cans & bottles
To the church
We CAN BUILD for the Building Fund!

Encourage hope, prevent MAiD

SAVE THE DATES! You are invited to participate in **Hope and Dignity Activation Week, April 18-24** with Amanda Achtman, creator of *Dying to Meet You* and Ethics Director for Canadian Physicians for Life. Stay tuned for locations and more details.

Every life deserves dignity, care, and protection. Our bishops have released a pastoral letter on Bill 18: *Safeguards for Last Resort Termination of Life Act* and calls us to **SHARE** this message, **SPEAK UP** and **PRAY FOR A CULTURE THAT UPHOLDS LIFE.**