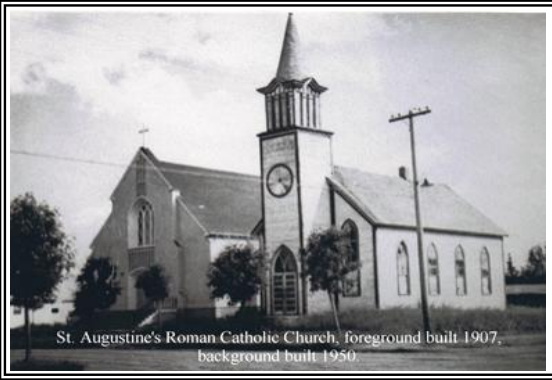

St. Augustine Parish

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

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026

Acts 10.34a 37-43 Psalm 118
Colossians 3.1-4 John 20.1-18

GRIEF. SADNESS. FEAR. Mary awoke before light—perhaps unable to sleep in her grief. What better time for a fearful disciple to visit the grave of an executed friend than under cover of darkness? She would have known that, as a friend of Jesus, her life, too, was in peril. But she was compelled to go. She may have hoped for some solace sitting quietly before the tomb, just before daybreak.

We have expectations when we visit a grave. Not the least of these is that our beloved will be there.

Bewilderment. Astonishment. Incomprehension. It is hard to imagine how disconcerting the experience of finding an empty tomb would have been, first for Mary, and then for the apostles whom she told. How could this be explained?

Hope. Wonder. Joy. Then, one by one, Jesus revealed himself to them. Those who have experienced the death of someone know how surreal it feels for the first few days. Imagine how surreal it must have felt to have Jesus return again from the dead! Alive! Speaking!

At Easter we proclaim that all grief and fear is but a prelude to wonder and joy. The frozen, barren ground yields new life and beauty. Tyrants fall from their thrones. Daisies push through concrete. Wounds slowly heal. Life conquers death.

Christine Way Skinner

HOLY WEEK

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.

There is no first Communion class this Sunday as it is Easter Sunday. Next class is the first Sundayn of May (May 3) After 9:00 am mass . **First Communion Sunday is May 24**

Confirmation class meets on the 3rd Sunday of April (April 19) after the 9:00 am mass.

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

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 and Prediger Families
Wednesday	April 15	12 Noon	+ Roy Fairclough
Thursday	April 16	9:00 am	+ Brian Sautner
Saturday	April 17	7:00 pm	Deceased Members of The Vogel & Kohlman Families

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 during the Holy Week

The parish has begun to make pies for Stampede and some extra apple pies for sale at $15.00 per pie. Easter Sunday 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

Celebration of the Lord's Passion Good Friday

Isaiab 52.13-53.12 Psalm 31
Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9 John 18.1-19.42

WE'VE ALL HAD that day everything goes wrong, the day where something appears to be—even is—well and truly dead. We learn that our business is going belly up, our marriage is over, our diagnosis is terminal, our loved one is gone. Do we dare call such days "good"?

Today, humanity crucified the Son of God. This is not only the worst day in history, it is the worst day possible. No matter what barbarism we descend into, we will not worst this day—which hints at why we call it "good."

The good news is that the worst has already happened. And it was not the end. Evil has taken its best shot and it has not prevailed. The victory is won in principle, even if it still needs to be worked out in its particulars, in Christian's life. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, tells us that, when we were baptized into Christ's death (Rom 6.3). We are already dead! So, what more can befall us? No one called Good Friday "good" on that day—but we know the end of the story. When our own Fridays happen, in faith we can trust that Sunday is as certain as the dawn—no matter how long or dark the night.

Brett Salkeld

Holy Week Office Hours

Good Friday April 3 - The Parish Office will be closed .
Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday

April 7

The Catholic Women's League is hosting MEATLESS (Vegetarian) SOUP & HOT CROSS BUNS after our 3 PM Good Friday Service April 3, 2026

All are welcome.

Donations will be accepted to support CWL projects (Development & Peace, Save-A-Family, MaterCare, etc.) **and scholarships.**

Blessings to our soup makers and bakers!

Did you know?

…The bun marks the end of the season of Lent. ...the different elements of the hot cross bun...have a specific meaning,...the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him.

The Christian tradition, buns with a cross on them are made and consumed after breaking the fast on Good Friday, along with "crying about 'Hot cross buns'", in order to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus.…

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_cross_bun

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.***

Forms are available at the entrances. Bring the form back with a void cheque in a sealed envelope in the collection basket, by mail or in person to the office at 403.783-4048

April 25 & 26 is the Second Collection for the Building Fund (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

Saturday, April 25 10:00am-3:00pm
Registration: 9:30am Sacred Heart Church, 5113-49 Ave., Wetaskiwin

Speaker: Constantine Kolitsos Ignite Your Passion Empower His Mission Blessed are the Poor Door Prizes Vendors Lunch Included Cost: $30 per person Register by Monday, April 20 Linda Webber 780-335-7739 text/ call

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.**