

# FATHER PAT'S SERMON NOTES

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Don't Let Life's Circumstances Steal your Joy!

John the Baptist was probably Jesus's number one fan (maybe second only to the Blessed Mother). He sincerely and passionately believed in him. As an extraordinary man of God in his own right, John was often presumed to be the long awaited Messiah! But whenever speculation began along these lines he was quick and emphatic in his response: *"I am not the Messiah". "I am not worthy to untie the straps of his sandals", "He must increase while I must decrease."* Despite his great confidence in Jesus, however, and his divinely appointed role to prepare the world to meet the Messiah, John began to have serious doubts. Like many of us, these doubts were sparked by an unexpected crisis; a crisis which moved him to even question his core belief in the identity of Jesus as the long awaited Messiah.

After all, if the Messiah has come, why is Herod still in power and able to snatch him off the street and throw him in prison like a common criminal? Wasn't the true Messiah supposed to put an end to exactly these types of injustices? I imagine him saying: *"Lord, I have done everything you asked of me; and was willing to pay any price to do it!" "Was I wrong when I pointed out Jesus as the long awaited Savior?" "Was I wrong to think that He was your Chosen One?" "Are you the one or should we expect another?"*

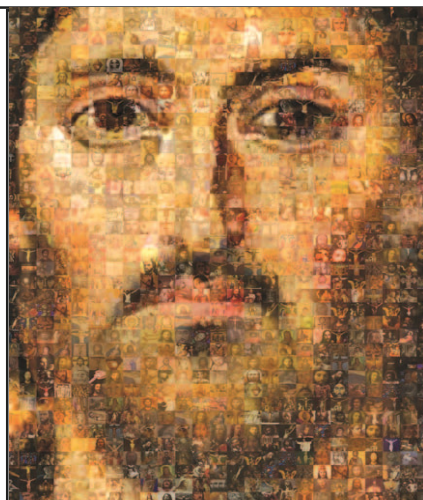
John sent his disciples to ask Jesus precisely this question. Jesus not only had an answer for his beloved cousin, he had a critical lesson in discipleship to teach him as well. **When in doubt, return to the source of your faith: God's Holy Word.** Jesus' response was actually a paraphrasing of the scriptures – scriptures he knew that John would recognize immediately. **Tell John**, Jesus said, *that the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them!* John would be able to die in peace even at the hands of an executioner. Nothing else mattered once he was reassured that the Lord was near. Not even Herod could steal his joy. Don't let anything steal yours either!

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[reprint of 2013].



See Fr. Pat's Sermon Notes and listen to the podcast at <http://saintaugustine-dc.org/category/sermon-notes/>

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



**Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?**

Sunday, December 11, 2016

## Scripture Readings

3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6, 10

Jas 5:7-10

Mt 11:2-11

4th Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24



## 8:15 am Daily Mass Intentions

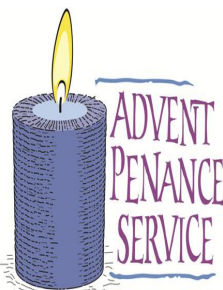
Mon	Dec	12	Norma Brown	- Living
Tues	Dec	13	Charles Jackson	- Living
Wed	Dec	14	Marlene Jackson	- Living
Thurs	Dec	15	Royal Robinson	- Living
Fri	Dec	16	Bernadette Mahoney	- Living

Attendance 940



## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held on every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the School Cafeteria.



**Advent Penance Service**  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016  
7:00Pm in the Church

Several Priests  
will be on hand to hear  
Confessions

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



3rd Sunday Of Advent

This Sunday's Second Collection is for the Retired Religious, an Archdiocesan Collection.  
Next Sunday's Second Collection is for our Church Renovations Fund.

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

SR. GLORIA AGUMAGU, HHCJ PRINCIPAL

INFORMATION: 202-667-2608

## Catholic Education Corner



Saint Augustine School is now registering for the 2016-2017 school year for grades Pre-K3, Pre-K4 through

Eighth. For an application or more information, please contact Mr. Wilkins, Direction of Admissions at 202-667-2608 or email: admissions@saintaugustine-dc.org



### SUPPORT

#### Saint Augustine School

Saint Augustine Students will be selling candy after each Mass.  
The candy is \$1.00 a bar.

### "Prepare the Way of the Lord"



#### Saint Augustine School Play

Wednesday, December 21, 2016  
7:00pm

**Tickets:** Adults \$7 (in advance) \$10 (at the door)

Children (5-12) \$5 (in advance) \$7(at the door ).

For tickets and more information, contact the school at 202-667-2608



### ADVENT SERIES

*It is a great way to prepare for the birth of Jesus.*

Beginning Monday, December 5, Father Steve Carter will lead the **Arise in**

**Christ** — series of Scriptural reflections for Advent. We will meet in the Chapel of the Gingras Center at 1419 V Street NW at 7:00pm. Please join us!

### Please Pray for Our Sick & Homebound

Gwendolyn Adams  
John Adams, Sr.  
Beatrice Alexander  
Francis Arnold  
Ronald Ausbrooks  
William Barksdale  
Valerie Barrows  
Althea Black  
Frances Brooks  
Norma Brown  
Mary Burgan  
Williams Burgan  
Andrew Burton  
Angela Callighan  
Elizabeth Carter  
Phillip Cephas  
Ollie Mae Clark  
Ernestine Coghill-Howard  
Karen Dickerson  
Pauline Dines  
Theola Douglas  
Susan Epps  
Barbara Ferguson  
Julie Fish  
Toni Fisher  
Richard B. Fowler  
Daniel Galloway  
Inez Gaskins  
Charles Gathers  
Rev Charles Green  
Valencia Green  
Robert Greenfield  
Frances Gulston  
Louise Harrison

Grace Hansberry  
Brian Harvey  
John Harris  
Patricia Herndon  
Emily Hill  
Jeanne Hinckley  
Deborah Jackson  
Charles Jackson  
Marlene Jackson  
Malcom Jamison  
Eleanor Johnson  
Paul Joy  
Sedonia Labee  
Keats Labule  
Raymond Lane  
Louisa Lee  
Mary Leonard  
Bernadette Mahoney  
Lita Majors  
Catherine Mason  
Florence Matthews  
Floyd McCory  
James McNamara  
Sylvia Monroe  
Arnetia Montague  
Alpha Nacnas  
Evelyn Norris  
Julius Oben  
Colelle Ogbey  
Eileen Ogu  
Harriet Parker  
Marguerite Parker  
Audrey Plaskett  
Theresa Purcell

George Queen  
Ashley Redhead, Jr.  
Royal Robinson  
Lisa Rivera  
Doris Silas  
Gertina Simms  
Alise Simmons  
George Simmons  
Mary Smith  
Zedekiah Smith  
Donnie Stewart  
Willis Thomas  
Juanita Towns  
Selma Twitty  
Hayden Vaughn  
Lillian Vaughn  
Terry Vaughn  
Shirley Ward  
Betty Washington  
William Waters  
Elliot Weaver  
Cynthia Wilkins  
Bernice Williams  
Teresa Wilkinson  
Lozzie York



### PRAY FOR OUR DEAD



### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastoral Parish Council Meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in the Gingras Center. Meetings are open to all parishioners.



**PARK FREE SUNDAY**  
FROM 9am — 4pm  
REEVES CENTER

### Our Parish Bookstore and Gift Shop

Opens before and after weekend Masses. Use Visa or MasterCard (\$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 Choir CDs

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, RECEIVING CONFIRMATION? SPONSORING INQUIRERS?  
RCIA MEETS TUESDAYS AT 6:45 – 8:45PM IN THE GINGRAS CENTER - SABRINA WILLIAMS AT 202-294-6990.

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