

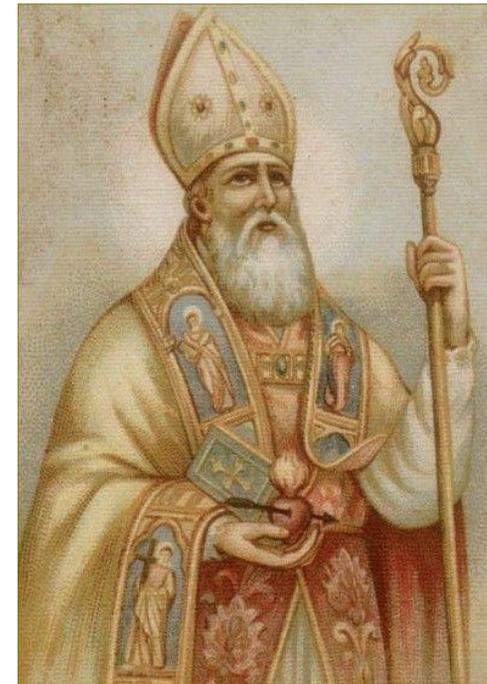
## Background on St. Augustine

- ❖ **Born** about 350 AD, lived in North Africa in what is today Algeria. His mother was Monica, later named a saint, and father converted to Christianity on his deathbed.
- ❖ **Well educated.** Lived a young life of love affairs – many lovers, boasting of his conquests. He had a child with one woman and was with her for 15 years and was preparing to marry another very young woman, when he decided to become celibate. This happened at the same time when his academic career came to a screeching halt. His heart was restless.
- ❖ **He turned to Christianity** because it helped to answer many questions he had. He traveled with other saints, most notably St. Ambrose who helped him cultivate his keen mind and academic rigor.
- ❖ He spent his life and gifts as **an orator**, and in rhetoric building strong persuasive arguments for the faith. His writings, over 100 titles have been preserved.
- ❖ He was named a bishop and in death named a saint, **designated a doctor of the church** and influenced much of the churches' theology. By some, he was considered the greatest shaper of our theology since the earliest days of St. Paul, the writer of early epistles.
- ❖ In his death, he became a far more **powerful influence on our faith** because of his writings and his story of battling internally his own challenges with pride and lustfulness.

Holy Spirit Parish

## RE-IGNITE WITH THE SAINTS

-- St. Augustine --  
Desire/New Beginnings



“My heart is restless until it rests in you.”

- St. Augustine

## Scripture Passages

### ❖ Isaiah 43: 18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

### ❖ Colossians 3: 1-17

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above ...Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature... You used to walk in these ways, but now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### For further reading...

- ❖ *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly
- ❖ *The Confessions of St. Augustine* by Saint Augustine

## Reflection Questions

1. What is it about your past that is keeping you from your future?
2. Describe your current relationship with God in a handful of thoughtful words.
3. If you DESIRE a closer relationship with God:
  - a.) List 2 - 3 practical steps you'd like to take to move your relationship in the right direction.
  - b.) How will you follow through to actually take these steps?  
Any help needed?