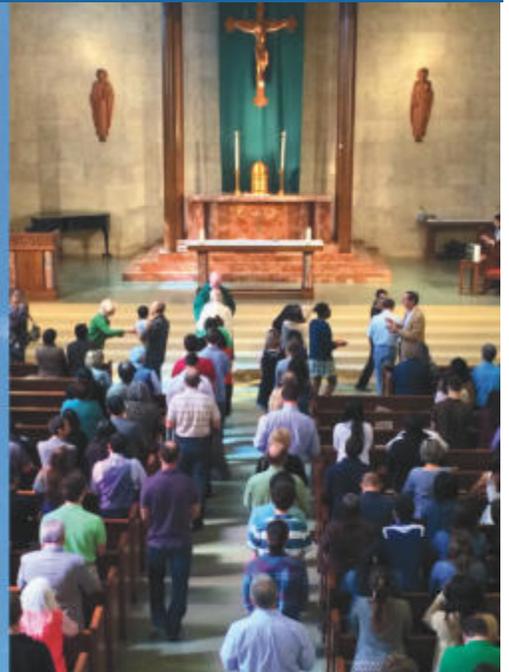




**BRINGING THE WORD OF GOD TO LIFE SINCE 1908**



**MASS SCHEDULE**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. in the church  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

**ALL DAILY & SUNDAY MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED,  
EXCEPT FOR 5 P.M. SATURDAY VIGIL & 7:30 A.M. SUNDAY,  
VISIT STAUSTIN.ORG, YOUTUBE, OR FACEBOOK**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (answering phones)  
Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (answering phones)  
Saturday & Sunday Closed

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT FOR DELIVERIES, PICK UPS,  
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

Seating is limited to maintain 6' between households, we have about 15% of our normal capacity. We clean and sanitize after every Mass. Masks must be worn by all over 8 years of age. Doors open 20 minutes before Mass, please maintain the 6' spacing as you wait. We close our doors when Mass begins.

Please follow the instructions regarding Communion:

- Wearing your mask over your nose and mouth, approach the altar in a single file using the tape on the floor for space,
- Cup your hands to give the presider or Eucharistic minister a wide space to lay the Blessed Sacrament
- Step to the side, 6' away from the Eucharistic minister, and move your mask to consume the host.
- Replace your mask properly covering your nose and mouth.

**SACRAMENTS**

**RECONCILIATION**

Available in the church 3:30-4:30 p.m. Saturdays or by appointment by contacting slehtonen@staustin.org. Social distancing will be observed. You must wear a mask in the church at all times.

**BECOMING CATHOLIC**

For information on becoming Catholic, please contact Rachel Vaughn at rvaughn@staustin.org.

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Austin Catholic Parish, guided and served by the Paulist Fathers, is a dynamic, urban, Roman Catholic faith community of the Diocese of Austin.

Empowered by the Word of God, formed and nourished by the Eucharist and made bold by the Holy Spirit, we strive, through prayer, education and service to others, to manifest God's transforming love in the world and to deepen our relationship with God, one another and the universal Church. Inspired by our patrons, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Augustine of Canterbury, we dedicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, and to His continuing mission to sanctify, teach, heal, reconcile and serve.

**THE PAULIST FATHERS**

The Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle was founded in 1858 as the first community of priests established in North America. They came to Austin in 1908 to establish St. Austin Catholic Parish, named to honor St. Augustine of Canterbury. The Paulist Fathers also staff St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Horseshoe Bay, TX.

FR. CHUCK'S COLUMN



Here it is the third week of Advent already! Time is flying by. I hope that you have registered to join us for the information sessions today on the big Development Project here at St Austin Church and School. We have some exciting pictures to show, and bring you up-to-date on the latest developments! We have quite an adventure ahead of us. The presentation will be given twice,

once at **10 a.m.** and again at **2 p.m. TODAY, Sun., Dec. 13.** You are welcome to join either presentation, and you can sign up at [www.staustin.org](http://www.staustin.org) under the heading of "OUR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY."

The presentation will be recorded, and you will be able to watch it later through our website. Many hours of planning and work have brought us to this juncture. The results are truly exciting!

Also, the finishing touches on the interior renovation of our church should be done by Christmas. We are waiting on some electrical work and several fine-tuning of balances and other adjustments. Christmas in the church should be wonderful.

I hope that you are all staying safe and being very careful during this dangerous time. Until we have wide-spread availability of the vaccine, we are in for a difficult time. Let us continue to be wary, and continue to do all those things that help keep us and those we love safe and healthy: wearing a mask, observing social distancing of at least six feet, washing your hands frequently, avoiding crowds, and just being very careful.

God bless,

*Fr. Chuck*



**Advent Communal Penance Service**

We will hold our annual Advent communal penance service on **Mon., Dec. 14** at **7 p.m.** If you haven't been to Confession since before the pandemic began, this is a great opportunity to celebrate the sacrament! We will take precautions to keep everyone safe. After a brief Liturgy of the Word, four Paulist priests will be available for individual Confession. Please join us if you feel comfortable doing so. The service will be livestreamed for those who are staying home.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

**Time is Running Out**

The online EIM training is available until **Thurs., Dec. 31**, unless an extension is needed based on COVID-19 conditions.

If your record is in need of updating, please visit [EIM](http://EIM) today.

LITURGY & MUSIC

**We Need Your Welcoming Presence**



The holidays are quite different this year, but that doesn't mean our welcoming of the Newborn King will be downplayed! Please consider helping us welcome parishioners and friends to Masses on Christmas Eve and Day. Those who sign up must be current with their EIM certification. If you can help, please sign up on our [website](#).

**Decorate the Church for Christmas!**

Please help us make our worship space beautiful for our celebration of Christ's birth! We will decorate the church on **Tues., Dec. 22 3-7 p.m.** Please use the link on our website under "Advent 2020." You're welcome to sign up for one or more time slots if you are able; families are asked to sign up as ONE "decorator" and will be assigned a task to work on together. No professional decorating skills are required - only a positive, willing spirit! *\*\*We will observe COVID safety precautions, but know that there may be times when we may have to be closer than 6 ft.*

**Hospitality Helpers Needed!**

We you will consider giving us a hand with Hospitality at Mass. You **DO NOT** have to be a member of our regular Hospitality Ministry to help but you **DO** have to be EIM certified.

This task is very easy and involves: Ushering families/individuals to available seats, making sure to maintain 6-foot distance between parties, and reminding them of the importance of wearing their face mask during Mass. (You will not hand out worship aids or have any physical contact with anything/anyone.)

Hospitality Helpers must wear a face mask at all times. If you feel comfortable helping, please contact Dr. Andrea Pobanz at [apobanz@staustin.org](mailto:apobanz@staustin.org).

**Christmas Decorations in the Church**



Each year our Christmas decorations are placed in the Church in honor of our loved ones. If you would like to make a donation in someone's memory or honor, please either contribute online or complete this form and either mail it to the parish office. Please submit a new form for each honoree. The suggested offering is \$20 per name. Names and donations are due by **Wed., Dec. 23**. All names will be posted to our website over the Christmas Season.

**Please PRINT clearly and return the form below with your donation.**

You may attach a separate sheet if needed.  
 in honor of      or       in memory of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



### Christmas Baskets Delivery

Thanks to your help, we are bringing our annual Christmas Basket Project to a successful close! It looks very different, where "Baskets" are actually Bags, and no food will pass hands, but we do plan to finish with our traditional delivery plan.

As it stands now, if you plan to deliver, we ask that you email [xmasbasket@gmail.com](mailto:xmasbasket@gmail.com) to let us know to expect you. We are working from the Parking Garage this year, beginning at **9 a.m.** on **Dec. 19**. Enter from San Antonio St. Social distancing and face masks are a must.

If there are any changes, we will let you know via email, so do please send us a note at [Xmasbasket@gmail.com](mailto:Xmasbasket@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your incredible support!



### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Here is a "good news" story: A young single mother had lost her job of 13 years because of COVID. She had disability insurance but it was accidentally canceled and she was left with nothing. She was desperate for rent and food for her two small children, ages 7 and 1. We helped her with rent, utilities, and food cards and not least of all, prayers! We just spoke with her this week and her disability was reinstated. With our help and the disability insurance - and she is sure that our prayers did it! - she is getting her life back on track and is so grateful and appreciative. Such a beautiful Christmas story!

## FAITH FORMATION

### Faith Formation

Visit our [Faith Formation webpages](#) for information on our programs for both young people and adults, including registration for catechesis.

### Bible Study

If you are interested in joining or leading a Bible or book discussion for the 2020-2021 school year, please reach out to Rachel Vaughn to discuss possibilities!

### RCIA

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, or finishing Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation as an adult, please email Rachel Vaughn.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### Visit our Christmas eBazaar!

Join the merry-making online to shop for hand-crafted and artisanal wares, Fair Trade merchandise, pecans, baked goods, poinsettias, St. Austin logo gear and more! Save the date for **Sun. Dec. 13**, we'll end shopping **9 a.m. Mon., Dec. 14**. Shop safely at our [eBazaar](#)! It's a great way to both find gifts for your loved ones and also to support local, independent businesses. Many of these vendors are offering pick-up options at our Christmas Tailgate to save on shipping costs.

### Christmas Basket & Bazaar Tailgate

From **8 a.m. -12 p.m.** on **Sun., Dec. 13**, visit our blacktop tailgate event combining the Christmas Baskets and eBazaar. You can drop off goodies for the Christmas Baskets and pick up your eBazaar orders. Because you mean the world to us, we've made it **SAFE, MASKED, DISTANCED** and have gallons of hand sanitizer ready!

### Advent 2020

[Advent 2020](#) is the hub of our online presence during this liturgical season. There you can find information on our eBazaar, Christmas Baskets Project, Advent resources such as Little Books and a Busted Halo Advent Calendar, donations for Christmas decorations, and more. Please check it regularly for updates. We're striving to celebrate Advent with you safely, so that we will all be together in person when the pandemic passes.

### Prayer Blanket Raffle, Blessing and Anointing of the Sick

**Mon., Dec. 14 at 8 a.m. Mass**

Please join us for the monthly Blessing of Prayer Blankets. If you or a loved one would like a prayer blanket, or if you would like to get involved, please contact the parish office or Nancy Hrin at 512-837-3658 or [tnejs@aol.com](mailto:tnejs@aol.com). Check out our website for both the Prayer Blanket [boutique](#) and our [raffle](#) - this year we'll raffle off a large quilt and an embroidered linen shirt! The drawing for both prizes will be at this Mass!



### Knights News

The Council is wrapping up this year's Pecan Sale. It has been very successful thanks to our nut-loving patrons at St. Austin's! We still have available just a few bags of chocolate covered pecans (milk, dark, amaretto). Please contact us at (512) 288-0661 to check availability before ordering online. **THANK YOU!**

Our Founder is now Blessed Fr. Michael Joseph McGivney! In honor of his Beatification, the Knights of Columbus is offering **FREE** online memberships until **Dec. 31**. The Beatification Mass, more information, and membership sign-up are on our [website](#).

## What to Expect from Parish Communications During the Holidays

The bulletin on **Sun., Dec. 20** will be our last of the year, bulletins will resume on **Sun., Jan. 10**. Our eNews will be released on our regular Friday evening schedule with two exceptions: **Wed., Dec. 23** and **Wed., Dec. 30**.

Do you receive our eNews? We're sending out good news each week, but know that, though hundreds are read, many are unopened. Some folks have found our emails in their SPAM, JUNK, SOCIAL, or PROMOTIONS folders. Please look for us there. Others have found that the email address we have on file is out of date. Is your email address current? We can check for you through our [website](#)! Email [stewardship@staustin.org](mailto:stewardship@staustin.org) with questions or to update our files.

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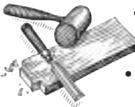
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