



ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC PARISH

Served by the Paulist Fathers

2026 Guadalupe Street
Austin, Texas 78705
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www.staustin.org

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 2 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



Years ago as a young man I very much enjoyed watching the Cosmos series on TV with Prof. Carl Sagan. He had an axiom which I think is very applicable today: "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

Recently there have been many claims going around regarding massive fraud in the recent national election. This is, by any stretch of the imagination, a most extraordinary claim. It strikes at the very heart of our democracy. Such a claim, I believe, requires extraordinary evidence.

But I have seen no such evidence. Neither have any judges seen any such evidence in numerous court cases filed about the election results, nor have any of the state authorities charged with guaranteeing the integrity of the election in several states where there have been re-counts, found any evidence for these extraordinary claims.

Just as freedom of speech does not permit you to shout "Fire!" in a crowded auditorium where there is in fact no fire, so making repeated claims of election fraud that are not backed by solid and demonstrable evidence (hearsay, rumor, anonymous reports are NOT evidence) is IRRESPONSIBLE, DANGEROUS, and WRONG!

We enjoy the great right of freedom of speech in this country. But that does not guarantee that everything that enters our mind should be spoken out loud. To do that is just plain stupid.

We are in a difficult and dangerous time in our country. All of us have a sacred responsibility to promote and defend the truth. Do not say whatever comes into your mind. Do not retweet or pass on electronically something that is simply interesting and provocative. Weigh what you think before you open your mouth. And do not listen to those who make extraordinary claims with little or no evidence other than their emotions and feelings.

We need to be vigilant in protection of the truth. On the first floor of the UT Tower are the words from the Gospel of John: "You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free." (John 8:32) The truth is too great of a treasure to make light of it. Speak the truth. It is the way forward. And please remember, "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

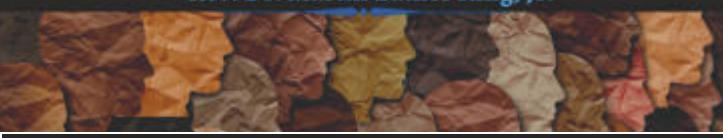
God bless!

Fr. Chuck



"The Philosophy of Christianity is strongly opposed to the underlying philosophy of segregation. Therefore, every Christian is confronted with the basic responsibility of working courageously for a non-segregated society. The task of conquering segregation is an inescapable must confronting the Christian Churches."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Called By Name SUNDAY

JANUARY 16-17, 2021

Called by Name Sunday is about listening and responding to God's call for each of us. As you listen to the Word of God proclaimed at Mass and reflect upon the way that God has worked in your own priest's life, please consider sharing the name(s) and contact information of anyone (yourself included!) you believe might have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life so the diocese can send them a letter of encouragement.

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.

LITURGY & MUSIC

Ordinary Time at Home

As we put away the Christmas decorations and enter Ordinary Time, things might seem just a bit drab. This isn't just a bland waiting-period for Lent. These weeks are an opportunity to focus on the public ministry of Jesus as we work on our spiritual growth. Here are some ways to build faith during the weeks between Christmas and Lent:

Use deeper-colored green items: For the fabric on your home altar or dinner table centerpiece, use a darker, richer shade of green than in summer. This evergreen color is a traditional symbol of hope.

Mark the feasts and events of Ordinary Time: In January, we share the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with our Christian kin and we'll celebrate Catholic Schools Week. On Feb. 2, celebrate the Presentation of the Lord with blessed candles. On the Feast of St. Blaise (Feb. 3), participate in the traditional blessing of throats. These occasions can break up the monotony of winter and bring a different focus to our prayer.

Celebrate Mardi Gras! In the days leading up to Lent, celebrate Carnival. Play lively music, watch a parade on TV, dress in silly clothes, engage in family fun or craft activities, and eat heartily. End with a Mardi Gras prayer. These activities will make the contrast with Ash Wednesday more apparent.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Christmas Basket Success!

We have another Christmas Basket success story to share, in spite of the challenges faced by our annual project in the face of the pandemic.

YOU are the reason that everything went so well. Even though everything was different and we had to try out new things. THANK YOU for donations that enabled us to sponsor 132 neighbors at the Housing Authority project. Four volunteers, Nancy Jones, Sarah Frankenfeld, Susan Shaw and Marianne Bolduc, along with several resident leaders, braved the rain and handed out gift bags, one person at a time.

RHANK YOU for sponsoring whole families and individuals with gift cards and HEB cards, and for those cases who contacted, shopped, wrapped, and delivered to whole families. Thanks also for stocking stuffers and face masks. Our Christmas delivery wasn't as glamorous as usual, but it still helped families bring joy to their children. 73 households, that's 321 individuals, whose names were put forth by Gabriel Project, SVDP, and Thursday Outreach all benefited from your generosity.

St. Austin's School deserves special mention for their stocking stuffers and the proceeds from their e-fundraiser collection. A special thanks to Sarah Sarrat and Tara Cevallos who met the challenge of serving this year with new ideas, and to all students and student council leaders for special handmade cards for our recipients. We appreciate you!

Thanks to Russ Oliver for making maps and to Gary Huffman, Paul Lewis and the "Bolduc Boys" for loading cars and directing traffic on delivery day. Thanks to Emily Korba and Joseph Carruth for filling in as needed throughout the planning year and during delivery preparation, and keeping us grounded and focused.

Finally, a big thank-you to the team at the parish office - K, Marie, Pat, Frank, Stephen, Stanley, and our Paulists - and to Mitzi Eastman for all her support as we tried to communicate and negotiate all the changes this year, plus her unfailing enthusiasm!

Forgive me if we have left anyone out.

The Christmas Basket Elves - Huddie, Jennifer and Lisa

Mass for Life

Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day is **Sat., Jan. 23**. Events are:

- **9 a.m.** – Rosary of Mercy and Healing
- **10 a.m.** – Mass for Life Celebration

Both events will be held at:

- San José (English Mass):
 - [Website](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
- St. Louis King of France (English Mass):
 - [Website](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
- University Catholic Center (English Mass):
 - [Facebook](#)
- Sacred Heart (Spanish Mass):
 - [Website](#)
 - [Facebook](#)

For more information regarding the Rosary, Mass locations and languages please visit the [Diocese of Austin website](#).

SERRV & Earn at the Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to those of you who purchased fair trade items through our SERRV & Earn campaign at the Christmas Bazaar this year. Unfortunately, due to a glitch in their system, St. Austin purchases were not tracked for donation purposes. If you made an purchases through the St. Austin SERRV & Earn website this year, please email Kristen so SERRV can still credit a percent of your purchase to our chosen charity: Catholic Relief Services, which carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas.

COMMUNITY LIFE



Knightly News

All are welcome to a virtual Fraternal Benefits Night on **Tues., Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.** featuring Joe Jordan, author and expert in retirement planning. Joe will share many tips on retirement and generational wealth. This information will be helpful for anyone even if retirement is still years away. Pre-registration is required and can be done on [this website](#).

Annual Report

With a wry smile we look back at the opening of our Annual Report 2018 – 19 and our characterization that it had been an interesting year. We had no clue that after three “normal” quarters, the remainder of our reporting year would be unparalleled, unprecedented, and unimaginable! Our lives changed dramatically in mid-March because of the pandemic. As a community, after waiting with bated breath, we were celebrating milestones as the diocese and the Vatican approved our Development Project. Little did we know that soon our prayers of petition would call for a return to “*A time to embrace,*” after languishing so long in “*a time to refrain from embracing.*” (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*)

Please visit our [website](#) to continue the letter from Fr. Chuck, Kelly Bodu Tarrant, our Parish Pastoral Council Chair, and Mario Espinoza, our Parish Finance Council Chair. There you can see our full Annual Report.

Looking Forward

At the end of the fiscal year, our Development Plans were on hold as our partner, GreyStar, asked for additional time. Recently, activity on the project is back on the move. We hope you'll take time to catch up on all the latest developments at [Our Property Development Journey](#).

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

Online EIM Training Extended

Beginning **Jan. 1**, the Online EIM Training fulfills the compliance/training requirement **only** for applicants who have an existing EIM account and have previously attended an EIM Workshop.

As of Jan. 1, new applicants, and existing applicants who have never attended an EIM Workshop, must attend an in-person EIM Workshop to fulfill their initial EIM compliance requirement.

For more information, contact your Site Administrator St. Austin Catholic Parish, Sharon Jones, sjones@staustin.org
St. Austin Catholic School, Elizabeth Rogers, erogers@staustinschool.org

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JENNIFER KORBA
512.784.7343

SUSIE LEE
512.789.8300

jenniferkorba.com

jenniferkorba@realtyaustin.com



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