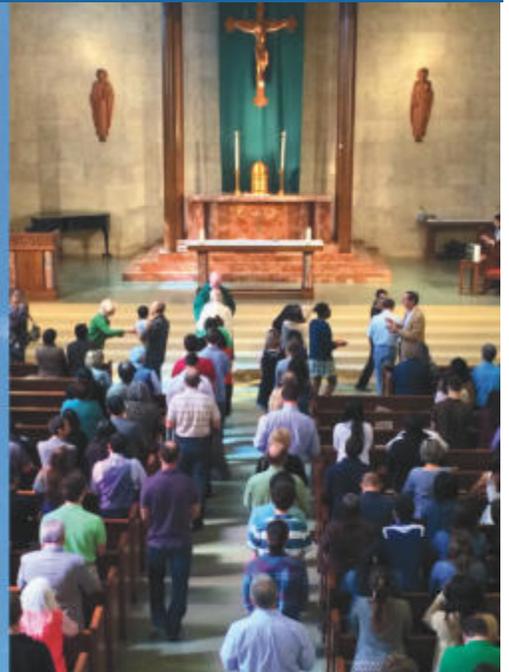




BRINGING THE WORD OF GOD TO LIFE SINCE 1908



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**

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.

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.

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



Happy Third Week of Ordinary Time!! If all goes as planned, and that seems to be a big "IF" these days, we will host our Bishop, Joe Vasquez, this afternoon. He will be here to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with a portion of our high-school confirmandi (those to be confirmed).

In this unusual time the celebration of the Sacrament will be different. First of all it will NOT be a Mass but simply a Liturgy of the Word. Secondly, it will be only a portion, less than half, of the candidates for Confirmation. The other candidates for Confirmation will receive the Sacrament on future Sundays, and I as the Pastor, will be the celebrant.

This rather odd way of doing things is because of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, and the need to continue to socially distance, avoid large crowds, and wash your hands frequently.

Nonetheless, the confirmandi of our parish will still be sealed with the Holy Spirit, and God will confirm God's choice of each of them, that was first made at their Baptism. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit they will be encouraged to live more like Jesus Christ in their daily lives. That, the most important part of the Sacrament of Confirmation, won't change.

For all of us, many things have changed due to the pandemic. Our lives and our routines have been upset. But the love of God for us in Jesus Christ is as firm and solid and real as it has always been. So things continue to look different and odd from what they were before, but the grace and love of God has not changed one iota.

God bless!

Fr. Chuck



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention For January 2021

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation

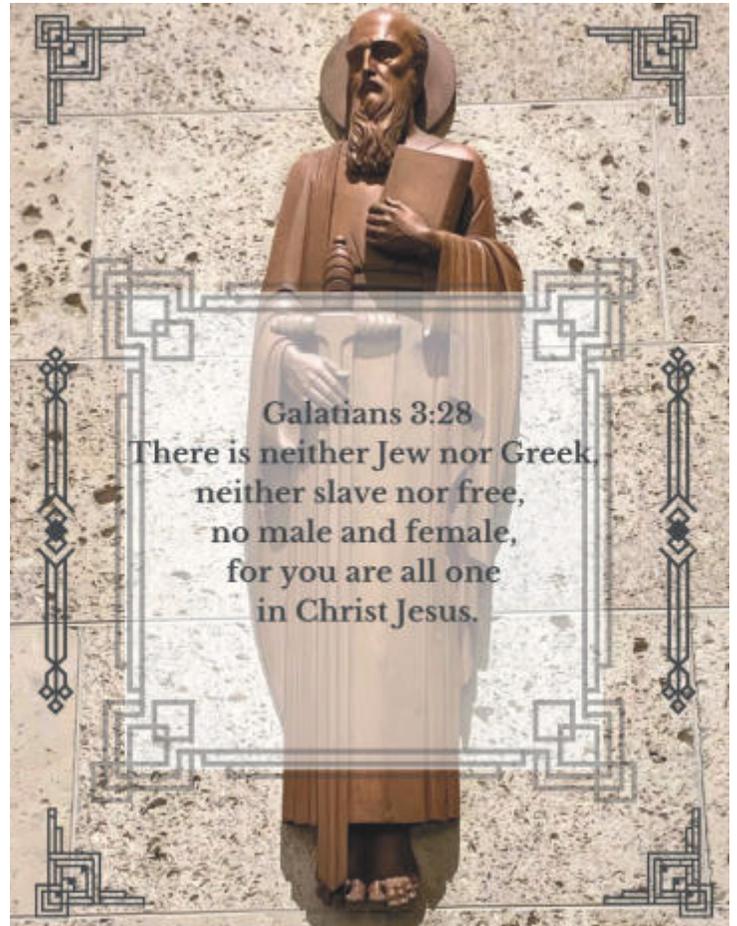
Visit our [Faith Formation webpages](#) for information on our programs for both young people and adults, including registration for catechesis.

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

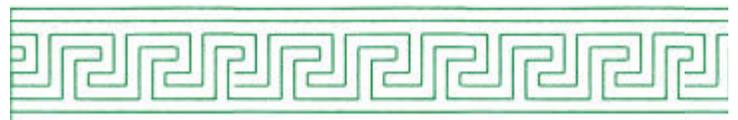
Ordinary Time at Home

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

SERRV & Earn From the 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 any 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.

Texas Catholic Pro-Life Spiritual Bouquet

St. Austin Catholic Parish and our Gabriel Project ministry dedicated a spiritual bouquet of Monthly Masses for Life in 2021. The next Mass for Life offered for the intention of "greater respect for all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death," is **Tues., Feb. 2, at 8 a.m.** Please join us for Mass from your home to pray for life. Prayer is of utmost importance in all we do on behalf of every aspect of life. Thank you and God bless!



Knighly News

If you participated in the virtual K of C Fraternal Benefits Night last week, we hope you found the information beneficial. The Texas State Council and its insurance agencies offer these events periodically. Council 10776 will continue to invite the St. Austin community to additional events.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

How to Report an Incident of Concern

The Diocese of Austin is committed to preventing harm from happening to any of our children or vulnerable adults. To report an incident of concern, go [to our website](#), or call the EIM Office at 512-949-2447.

Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to the Department of Family and Protective Services ([DFPS](#)). Abuse hotline: 1-800-252-5400.

Online EIM Training Extended

Beginning Jan. 1, the Online EIM Training fulfills the EIM 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

This training includes a frank discussion of sexual abuse; if you have experienced sexual abuse and have concerns about viewing this training, please contact Emily Hurlimann at 512-949-2447, to discuss alternative training.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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](#).

Prayer Blanket Blessing and Anointing of the Sick Mon., Feb. 8 at 8 a.m. Mass



Please join us at the 8 a.m. Mass on Mon., Feb. 8 for the monthly Blessing of Prayer Blankets. If you or a loved one would like a prayer blanket, please contact the parish office or Nancy Hrin at 512-837-3658. The Prayer Blanket Ministry members continue to work from home. If you are interested in helping, please contact Nancy at 512-837-3658 or ntejs@aol.com

Are you receiving our Weekly eNews?

Look for them on Friday night or Saturday morning. 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 long out of date. Is your email address current? We can check for you! Keep up with this vibrant community - make sure you receive the weekly eNews.

BEYOND OUR PARISH

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are you looking for a way to create a great start in your relationship for the New Year? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) Experience is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication. From the comfort and security of your home, you'll be guided online by three couples and a priest to help you rediscover your dreams, rekindle your romance and become more aware of God's desire for your marriage. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming WWME Experiences on **Tuesdays in February and March**, and **April 9-11**. Early registration is highly recommended. For more dates, information & to apply, go to this [website](#), or contact wwmeaustin@gmail.com, or call 512-677-WWME (9963).

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