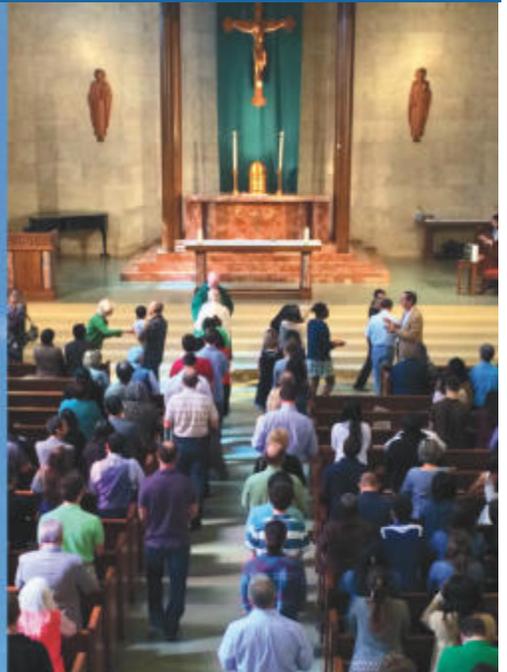




BRINGING THE WORD OF GOD TO LIFE SINCE 1908



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



Since last March, we have been improvising our liturgy to meet the demands of the safety precautions for the pandemic. And we are not yet finished making changes, accommodations, and exceptions. Every week seems to bring a new wrinkle.

This week the challenge is the Feast of St. Blaise and the traditional blessing of throats. Tuesday is Candlemas Day, a traditional day for blessing of candles. The following day is the Feast of St. Blaise, and the candles are used to bless throats.

St. Blaise was both a medical doctor and a bishop. He was bishop of Sebastea, which is now Silvas, and is a city in central Turkey. In the year 316, during a persecution of Christians, Blaise was arrested by the Governor of Lesser Armenia, a man named Agricola. On the way to prison a woman laid her infant, who was choking on a fish bone, before the bishop. Blaise blessed and cured the child. While this amazed the Governor, he still had St. Blaise beaten and killed. At least, so goes the legend.

Since then St. Blaise has become popular among Catholics for healing of diseases of the throat. And traditionally, on his feast day, Catholics receive a blessing of their throats that includes using blessed candles. The priest or minister holds the candles on the person's throat and prays: "*Through the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil.*" And the person responds, "*Amen.*"

But this year, due to the requirements of social distancing and wearing masks, we will not be doing individual blessing of throats. Instead, as instructed by the Vatican and the Diocese, a priest at the altar, without holding candles, will bless everyone in the congregation at once. And those watching virtually will also be prayed for and blessed.

For those who like the familiarity of the old rituals, tying us to our youth and early adulthood, this will certainly be a disappointment. But given the risks involved, especially with the new, more transmissible variants of the virus, this makes very good sense. Hopefully, next year we will go back to the old-fashioned feel of candles on our throats, and will be glad for the normalcy of it all. Meanwhile, we need the blessing and intercession of St. Blaise more than ever.

God bless!

Fr. Chuck

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

LITURGY & MUSIC

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. We will have a special Mardi Gras + St. Valentine's Day parade on **Sun., Feb. 14**. Bring your Valentine and your most colorful mask!



Ash Wednesday

Our Masses on Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 17**, are scheduled to be:

- **8 a.m.** school Mass, all are welcome.
- **12 p.m.**
- **7 p.m.**

We are also working on safe alternatives for Mass to get you your ashes.

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Knightly News

Our Council submitted the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity report to Supreme for calendar year 2020. Relative to previous years, the pandemic limited our activities. Nevertheless, we still made significant contributions of time and talent to the St. Austin community, including 1420 hours of service and \$6,780 in charitable distributions. Please see our [webpage](#) for a full list of our activities. Much of what we do is made possible by your patronage. THANK YOU!

Our Founder is now **Blessed** Fr. Michael Joseph McGivney! In honor of the Beatification of Fr. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is still offering FREE on-line memberships until **June 30**. The Beatification Mass, more information about Our Founder and membership sign-up can be viewed at [The Knights' website](#).

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 "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!

COMMUNITY LIFE

Adventures in the Archives

If I Had it to Do Over Again, I'd Pick More Daisies

If I had it to do over again,
I'd try to make more mistakes next time,
I would relax a little,
I would limber up quite a bit, and be
A little sillier than I have been this trip.
I'd take more chances,
I'd take more nonsense journeys,
I would climb more mountains and swim
More rivers and watch more sunsets.
If I had my life to live again
I would start barefooted earlier in the
Spring
And I would stay that way until later
In the Fall.
I would go more places,
I'd get up and go quickly and travel
Much lighter than I ever have and
I would go places I never dreamed I'd go.
I would ride more merry-go-rounds,
And I'd certainly pick more daisies.

Author Unknown

Published in the January 1987 parish Newsletter, "The Spirit."

Are you receiving our Weekly eNews?

Look for them on Friday nights. We send 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, our address is sacp@staustin.org. Others have found that the email address we have on file for them 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.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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 tnejs@aol.com

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.

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, and to apply, please go to this [website](#), send an email to wwmeaustin@gmail.com, or call 512-677-WWME (9963).

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