

**ST. THERESA**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
Worship Aid and Bulletin / January 24, 2021



**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional Hymn - *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

*Please stand*



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
2. Come, lift your hearts on high:      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain:      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King,      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
Let prais - es fill the sky:      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
Life shall not end the strain:      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice,      Be - fore his throne re-joice;  
He is our guide and friend;      Our needs he will at-tend;  
On heav-en's bliss - ful shore      His good-ness we'll a - dore,



Praise is his gra-cious choice.      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
His love shall nev - er end.      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!  
Sing - ing for - ev - er - more:      Al - le - lu - ia!      A - men!

Text: Christian H. Bateman, 1813-1889

Tune: MADRID, 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6; Spanish melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1768-1831; harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



Invocation

Penitential Act - *Lord Have Mercy*, Palestrina, arr. Covington

Sung:            **Kyrie Eleison,  
Christe Eleison,  
Kyrie Eleison**



Glory to God—Mass of St Theresa, Covington

(Organ) Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace on earth to  
peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we  
give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God hea-ven-ly King, O God, al -  
migh-ty Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God  
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -  
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;  
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on  
us. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men,  
a - men.

Collect

*Please sit*

# THE LITURGY *of the* WORD

## First Reading – *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying: “Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.”

So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD’S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day’s walk announcing, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,” when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

## Responsorial Psalm – *Psalm 25:4-9*



O LORD, make me know your ways.  
Teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;  
for you are the God of my salvation. R.

In your merciful love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O  
LORD. R.

Remember your compassion, O LORD,  
and your merciful love,  
for they are from of old.

Good and upright is the LORD;  
he shows the way to sinners.  
He guides the humble in right judgment;  
to the humble he teaches his way. R.

Text: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.;  
Refrain, *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL  
Music: Richard Proulx, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Second Reading – *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

## Gospel Alleluia – *Mark 1:15*

*Please stand*

The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent and believe in the Gospel.

## Gospel – *Mark 1:14-20*

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

## Homily

*Please sit*

## Nicene Creed

*Please stand*

I believe in one God, the Father  
almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven,

*(All bow for the following words)*

**and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful

### Announcements

*Please sit*

## THE LITURGY *of the* EUCHARIST

### Preparation of the Gifts

#### Offertory Anthem

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, Thomas Tallis (Sat, 5 PM and Sun, 11 AM)

*Come Follow Me Forever*, Johann Michael Haydn (Sun, 9 AM)

#### Invitation to Prayer

*Please stand*

*Priest:* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable  
to God, the almighty Father.

**Assembly:** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory  
of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

**Holy, Holy, Holy** – *Mass of St Theresa, Covington*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord  
God of hosts. Hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est.

*Please kneel or be seated*

**Mystery of Faith** – *Mass of St Theresa, Covington*

We pro - claim your death, O Lord, and pro - fess your  
Re - sur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

**Great Amen** – *chant*

*Please stand*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

**Lord's Prayer**

**Sign of Peace**

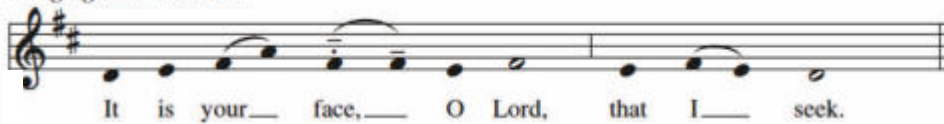
**Lamb of God** *from Mass for St. Theresa, Covington*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,  
grant us peace. Grant us peace.

*Please kneel as you are able*

Communion Antiphon - *St. Meinrad Communion Antiphon*, Columba Kelly, OSB

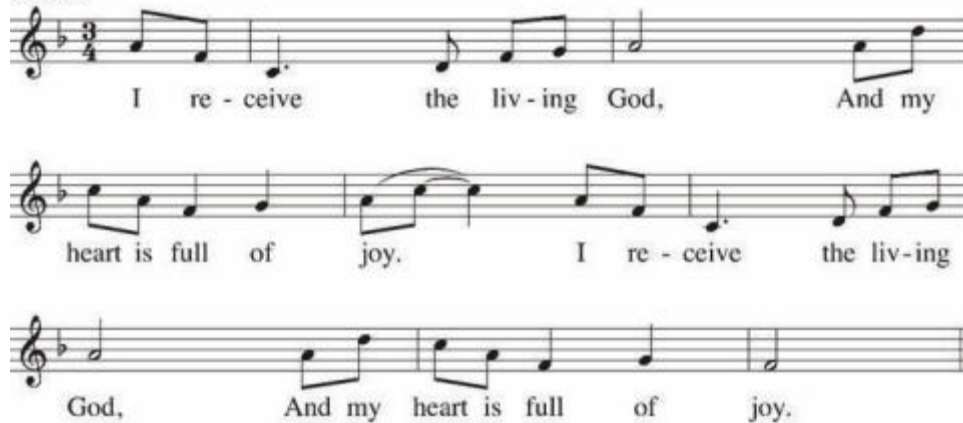
Congregational Refrain



It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

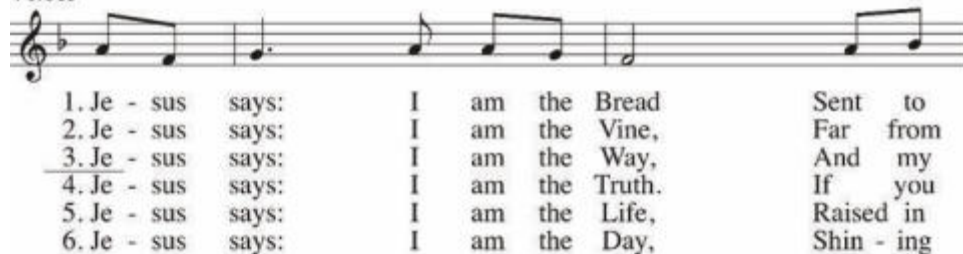
Communion Hymn—*I Receive the Living God*

Refrain

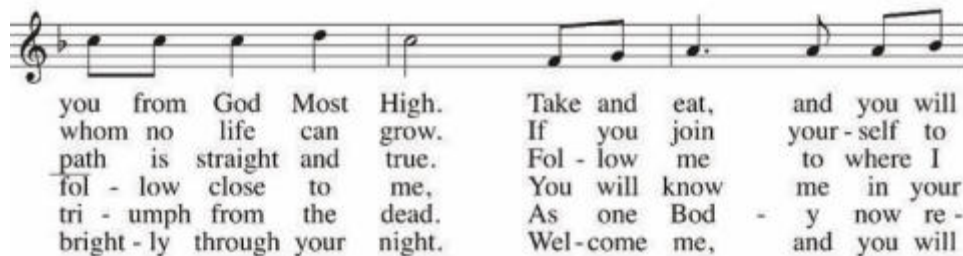


I re - ceive the liv - ing God, And my  
heart is full of joy. I re - ceive the liv - ing  
God, And my heart is full of joy.

Verses



1. Je - sus says: I am the Bread Sent to  
2. Je - sus says: I am the Vine, Far from  
3. Je - sus says: I am the Way, And my  
4. Je - sus says: I am the Truth. If you  
5. Je - sus says: I am the Life, Raised in  
6. Je - sus says: I am the Day, Shin - ing



you from God Most High. Take and eat, and you will  
whom no life can grow. If you join your - self to  
path is straight and true. Fol - low me to where I  
fol - low close to me, You will know me in your  
tri - umph from the dead. As one Bod - y now re -  
bright - ly through your night. Wel - come me, and you will



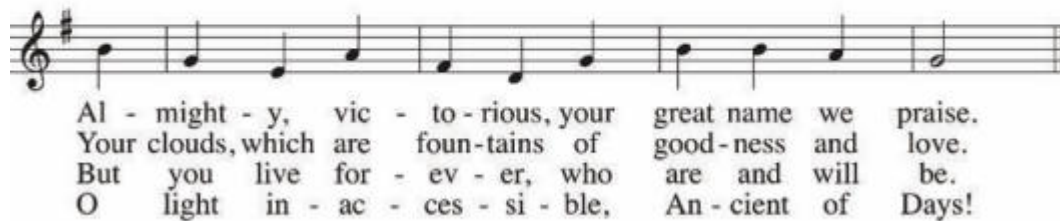
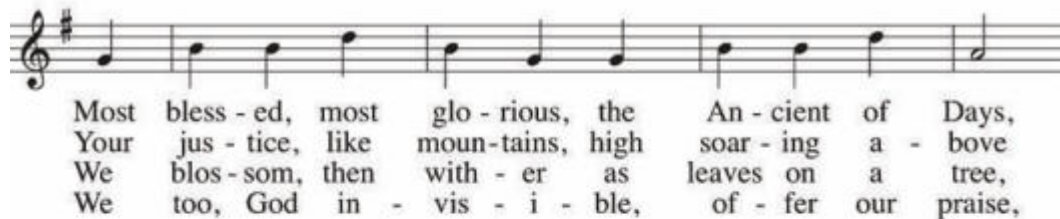
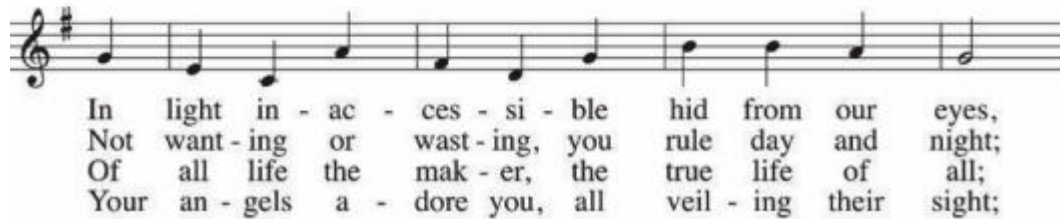
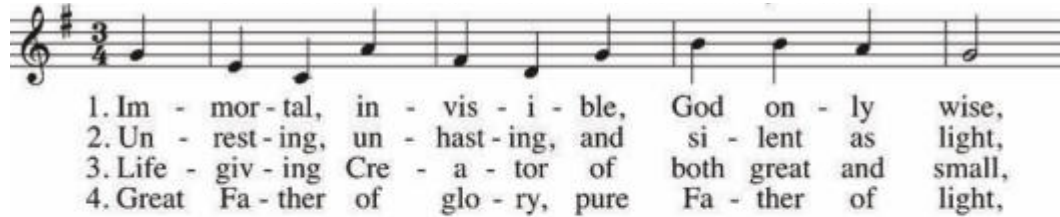
live; You need nev - er fear to die.  
me, A rich har - vest you will know.  
lead; There my Fa - ther waits for you.  
heart, And my word will make you free.  
main, Mem - bers joined to me, the Head.  
walk By the Spir - it's guid - ing light.

7. Jesus says: I am the Love  
Which can bind you close to me.  
Those who know this gift I bring  
Will find true community.
8. Jesus says: I am the Peace  
Which the world cannot bestow.  
Learn to love and live in me,  
And in you my Reign will grow.
9. Jesus says: I am the Lamb,  
And my death set sinners free.  
Those who drink the cup I drink  
Must take up this work with me.



## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### Hymn of Thanksgiving - *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*



Text: 1 Timothy 1:17; Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.  
Tune: ST. DENIO, 11 11 11 11; adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Robert's *Hymns of the Sanctuary*, 1839

### Blessing and Dismissal

### Organ Postlude - *St. Denio*, Gerald Near





# THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

**WELCOME** to St. Theresa Parish! We are glad you are here and want to walk with you no matter where you are on your journey of faith.

**Rev. Larry Covington, Pastor**  
**Rev. Moses Iyogwoya MSP, Parochial Vicar**

### MASS TIMES

**Monday—Friday** | 11:30 AM

**Saturday** | 5:00 PM

**Sunday** | 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM\*, 11:00 AM

\*This mass will be livestreamed.

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00—4:45 p.m. or by appointment

### OFFICE HOURS

**Mon—Friday** | 9 AM—5 PM | 512-451-5121

**BAPTISM**—Contact Donna Henderson, parish secretary.

**MARRIAGE**— Contact Kari Cruz (x1006) at least six months in advance of the wedding.

**FUNERALS**—Contact Kari Cruz (x1006) for arrangements.

**BECOMING CATHOLIC**— Contact Amy Allert (x1008).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 1/24 Children's Gospel Reflection, YouTube video  
Children's Catechesis, self paced, online  
RCIA, 11:30 a.m., Elmer Hall, Rm. 202

Mon, 1/25 Adult Confirmation Class, 7 p.m., Rm. 202

Tues, 1/26 Finance Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Connections, 7 p.m., Family Center & Zoom  
St. Theresa Moms, Endow study, 8:30 p.m.

Wed, 1/27 Catalyst Men, 6:15-7:20 a.m., via Zoom  
**Joshua Bible Study**, 7 p.m., via Zoom  
St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

Thur, 1/28 **Joshua Bible Study**, 9:15 am, Elmer, #202  
Grief Support, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

Sat, 1/30 Reconciliation, 4:00-4:45 p.m., church

Sun, 1/31 Children's Gospel Reflection, YouTube video  
Children's Catechesis, self paced, online  
RCIA, 11:30 a.m., Elmer Hall, Rm. 202  
M.S. Youth Group, 6 pm, bi-weekly via zoom  
H.S. Youth Group, 6 p.m. hybrid

More information at [www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org).

## DAILY READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 23**

**Saint Vincent, Deacon, Martyr; Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin**

Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Mk 3:20-21

5:00 p.m.....Claudia Johnson

**Sunday, January 24**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jon 3:1-5, 10 Ps 25:4-9 I Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

7:30 a.m.....James Harris

9:00 a.m.....William DeBoer †

11:00 a.m.....Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

**Monday, January 25**

**THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, THE APOSTLE**

Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1-2 Mk 16:15-18

11:30 a.m.....Kathie Tacquard

**Tuesday, January 26**

**Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops**

2 Tm 1:1-8 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 Lk 10:1-9

11:30 a.m.....Ashley Paige Scott †

**Wednesday, January 27**

**Saint Angela Merici, Virgin**

Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 4:1-20

11:30 a.m.....Vincent Keane †

**Thursday, January 28**

**Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church**

Wis 7:7-10, 15-16 Ps 119:9-14 Mt 23:8-12

11:30 a.m.....Audrey Messer

**Friday, January 29**

Heb 10:32-29 Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40 Mk 4:26-34

11:30 a.m.....Dan Johnson

**Saturday, January 30**

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Mk 4:35-41

5:00 p.m.....Dora and Chuck Gembinski

**Sunday, January 31**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 I Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

7:30 a.m.....Shirley McGinn

9:00 a.m.....Craig Jorissen †

11:00 a.m.....Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

## ST. THERESA MOMS GROUP STARTS NEW STUDY

Any mother of the parish is invited to join the St. Theresa Mom's group, and now is a good time to do so as they begin a new study on Tuesday, February 9th. The study is on *Deus Caritas Est/God is Love*, about Pope Benedict XVI's first Encyclical. For now, the group meets via Zoom on Tuesday nights from 8:30 - 10:00. If you are interested, Contact Theresa Dickinson for the Zoom link at [Theresa.rose.k@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.rose.k@gmail.com)



## CATALYST MEN'S GROUP RESUMES

Men of the parish, you can deepen your faith and strengthen your fellowship with other Catholic men during 2021 by joining Catalyst by Zoom on Wednesday mornings, 6:15 —7:20 a.m. as they explore how to become better disciples of Christ in a world that sometimes seems turned upside down. This week we begin the video series *Humanem: Meaning of Marriage*. Learn more at [sttaustin.org/catalystmens-ministry](http://sttaustin.org/catalystmens-ministry). Email [menofcatalyst@gmail.com](mailto:menofcatalyst@gmail.com) to receive session video content and a Zoom link for group discussions. Roll out of bed, grab some java, and join us when you can!

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

We wish to congratulate a number of couples in the parish who have told us about the milestone wedding anniversaries they will be celebrating in 2021. Congratulations to:



- 20 Years: Stan and Cheryl Orth, Eric and Martha Garcia, Alejandro Suarez and Claudia Gonzalez  
25 Years: Keith and Nancy Douglas, Don and Kathleen Woodhouse, Frankie and Mila Dinglason, Dan and Linda Gockel, Lea Anne Porter and Michael Gianotti  
35 Years: Clarke and Rosemary Howard, Don and Lisa McPhee, Don and Helen Oelrich  
40 Years: Deacon Keith and Maureen Carter, Michael and Nancy Dillingham  
50 Years: Charles and Dora Gembinski (today! 1-30-70), Larry and Linda Boenig, Terry and Patty Gordon  
55 Years: David and Joyce Birkel  
56 Years: Raymond and Dorothy Tichavsky  
59 Years: Curtis and Annette Felfe  
60 Years: Harvey and Rosie Sab  
62 Years: Louis and JoAnn Hornung  
65 Years: Jack and Paula Campbell, Jesse and Patsy Eckelkamp  
69 Years: Joe and Charlene Trochta

Please join us in wishing them all much continued happiness!

## RESUME CORRECTION FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR

The bulletin editor goofed. It happens. Morris Stevens, our new Director of Music Ministry at St. Theresa, served 13 years as *Director* of Music at St. Edward's University, not as Assistant Director as was incorrectly stated. Morris would never ask for such a correction, but these kinds of things are important, and we regret the error.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Contributions:

Weekly—Jan 4-10.....\$36,692  
Month of January to date.....\$50,795  
Fiscal Year '21 to date.....\$1,094,523

### Budgeted Offertory:

January Budget.....\$153,467  
FY21 Budget.....\$1,990,856

For more information visit [sttaustin.org/ways-to-give](http://sttaustin.org/ways-to-give). Please contact Geneva in the parish office if you need assistance. Thank you! your support!

### Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the Altar this weekend are donated in celebration of the wedding of  
**Nick Burns & Christina Scanlon.**

Donating flowers on the altar is a wonderful way to remember a loved one who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or who has passed. Contact the parish office for information.

Please Welcome

### Our New Members

**Jodi Rickel**

**Joseph and Jamie McCaul  
Ava**

**Mercedes Guzman**

**James and Penelope Andrews  
Genevieve**

**Christon and Geneva Valdivieso  
Michael and Christon**

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## GOOD NEWS FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

Attention all high school students! We are excited to announce that Lifeteen has opened up Camp Wild Sky for one week only this summer and we have 10 spots reserved just for us! We still don't quite know what the summer will look like, but Lifeteen is opening up camp with social distancing guidelines in place at the end of July. The hope is that most people will be vaccinated by then and able to enjoy a week of fun, fellowship and faith! Contact Chase Crouse for registration and info [chase-crouse@sttaustin.org](mailto:chase-crouse@sttaustin.org)



**Who Can Come:** Incoming freshmen to current seniors

**When:** July 26-31

**Cost:** \$650 per student (fundraising available)

**Registration Fee:** \$50 (to be applied to total)

**M.S. Youth Group Resumes January 3 1st online at a NEW Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m. Sundays.** Contact director Austin Choate at [Austin-choate@sttaustin.org](mailto:Austin-choate@sttaustin.org) with questions.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please remember in your prayers the children of the parish and school who will be celebrating their first Reconciliation on Tuesday, February 9th.

## STCS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 31—Feb 5 Catholic Schools Week  
February 13 School Gala  
February 17 Ash Wednesday School Masses



**Catholic Schools**  
**Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**

Enrollment is now open for the 2021-22 school year at STCS. Learn more at [st-theresa.org](http://st-theresa.org).

## SENIOR ADULTS CORNER

This begins the last week at St. Theresa for our Director of Senior Adult Ministry, Sr. Ann Pennington, who will be moving to an independent living apartment in Waco where she will continue ministry part-time. If you would like to show your appreciation for Sr. Ann you may post an online message for her or send a retirement gift. See the News section on the website for details, [sttaustin.org/news](http://sttaustin.org/news).



**The Senior Adult Friendship Group** is taking a break during the month of January. They normally meet at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays on the outdoor terrace of Elmer Hall or in the Great Room, depending on the weather. All are welcome!

**Grief Support Group** will have its final meeting Thursday, Jan. 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For information about other grief support groups and resources nearby please see our [sttaustin.org/resource-page](http://sttaustin.org/resource-page).



**JANUARY 21-29, 2021**

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!



**3 WAYS TO JOIN**



[9DaysforLife.com](http://9DaysforLife.com)

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# PARISH and DIOCESE

## STAY-AT-HOME PRIVATE RETREAT

Would you like to make a private retreat with Fr. Albert Haase OFM in the privacy of your own home? Are you willing to commit to 20 minutes of prayer for 5 days? Cedarbrake Retreat Center is now offering *My Private Retreat*. Every day you will have a 30-minute private Skype conversation with Fr. Albert OFM, chaplain of Cedarbrake. He'll give you a Scripture passage or two to reflect upon and report back the following day. This retreat can be helpful for those who are discerning the next step in life, who might be struggling with a personal issue, or who simply want to deepen their relationship with Jesus. Monday to Friday, 30 minutes each day. Diocesan Rate is \$150, Non-Diocesan \$200. Register online at [www.cedarbrake.org](http://www.cedarbrake.org), and then call the office to set up a time.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR CATHOLICS ABOUT HOSPICE

Many people who are considering hospice care for a loved one have questions about how it is viewed by the Catholic Church. Our own Sr. Ann Pennington, who has worked as a hospice chaplain, has reassuring information and many tips to share on the subject. Find them in the News section of the homepage of the parish website [sttaustin.org](http://sttaustin.org).

## FOR MARRIED COUPLES:

Are you looking for a way to create a great start in your relationship for the New Year? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience offers 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 March—April experiences at [austinme.org](http://austinme.org) or contact [wwmeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:wwmeaustin@gmail.com) or call 512-677-9963.



## THANK YOU BULLETIN SPONSORS!



Tina Watson has been working with our parish for four years now in partnership with LPI for the publication of our bulletin-worship aid each week. This publication has become increasingly important as it allows for greater participation by those worshipping from home. We are in need of more sponsors/advertisers. If you have a small or large business, or would like to purchase a personal message as a donation, such as "In Loving Memory" or "Pray for Our Parish," please get in touch with Tina at [twatson@4lpi.com](mailto:twatson@4lpi.com) or 512-431-9413. And please check out the ads in the bulletin and patronize our bulletin sponsors when you can. Thank you!

## PARISH OFFICE

4311 Small Dr., Austin, TX 78731  
512-451-5121 [www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org)

### Pastor:

Reverend Larry Covington  
[larry-covington@sttaustin.org](mailto:larry-covington@sttaustin.org)

### Associate Pastor:

Reverend Moses Iyogwoya, MSP  
[moses-iyogwoya@sttaustin.org](mailto:moses-iyogwoya@sttaustin.org)

### Deacons:

- Tony Pynes, [deaconpynes@gmail.com](mailto:deaconpynes@gmail.com)
- Keith Carter, [keith-carter@sttaustin.org](mailto:keith-carter@sttaustin.org)
- Peter Barger, [Peter-barger@sttaustin.org](mailto:Peter-barger@sttaustin.org)

### Chief Operating Officer:

Chad Nusbaum, ext. 1071  
[chad-nusbaum@sttaustin.org](mailto:chad-nusbaum@sttaustin.org)

### Financial Officer:

Lisa McAdams, x 1014  
[Lisa-mcadams@sttaustin.org](mailto:Lisa-mcadams@sttaustin.org)

### Business Office Assistant:

Geneva Moore, x 1003  
[geneva@sttaustin.org](mailto:geneva@sttaustin.org)

### Parish Secretary/Scheduling

Donna Henderson, ext. 1002  
[donna-henderson@sttaustin.org](mailto:donna-henderson@sttaustin.org)

### Pastor Administrative Assistant

Kari Cruz, ext. 1006  
[kari-cruz@sttaustin.org](mailto:kari-cruz@sttaustin.org)

### Maintenance and Grounds:

John Lawrence  
[John-Lawrence@sttaustin.org](mailto:John-Lawrence@sttaustin.org)

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## SERVING THOSE IN NEED IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) volunteers from St. Theresa are used to seeing people down on their luck and in dire need of financial help. But Covid-19 has brought on an escalation of need. The 24 members of the St. Theresa conference of St. Vincent de Paul want you to know how grateful they are for the generosity of the parishioners of St. Theresa year after year. More than \$200,000 donated last year helped 1,187 people with rent, utility bills and food expenses among other emergency needs. “We just want to say a big thank you,” says Ned Ahearn, the new president this year, “Our parish is so generous, and we are so grateful.”



The St. Theresa conference shares territory with St. Louis. Those eligible for help live within boundaries that stretch from just east of I-35 to the Arboretum area on the west, and north and south from Braker Lane to 2222. It's not a perfect square; Steiner Ranch is in there too. “Our territory includes a number of zip codes where Covid, deaths from Covid, and unemployment are the highest,” says Ned. “Many of our neighbors were already living day to day. Now, with unemployment, reduced hours of employment and sickness, people who in the past needed help with one month's rent, now need two months or more. Food is a constant need.”



The SVDP volunteers at St. Theresa would normally go out in teams of two, making in-home visits to learn about a neighbor's needs in person. Depending on the religious affiliation of the neighbor, they may also read scripture and pray with them. Since the pandemic began, the assessments are done by phone. While help can be administered via grocery gift cards, financial assistance with bills or rent, securing a much-needed piece of furniture and contacting utility companies to work out a solution for a delinquent bill, the real help is connecting with our neighbors—respecting them, listening to them, praying with them and assisting them in finding a new direction if needed.

Volunteers meet every Wednesday night to discuss their cases from the week, share ideas for helping a neighbor and support each other as may be needed. Each Zoom meeting starts and ends with a prayer led by Spiritual Advisor Tony Cristofich. He reminds them that “we see Jesus in every neighbor we meet.”

Here is a special note from SVDP volunteers to the St. Theresa family.

# Thank You!

## A special note from SVDP volunteers to the St. Theresa family:

*On behalf of all the St. Vincent de Paul team, thank you for your continuing generosity.*

*Because you donated, our team was able to help 1,187 people in 2020.*

*In 2020, we saw the level of need significantly increase as the months passed. People needed more help—more month's of rent, more help with utilities, more food, more diapers and sometimes a job. While we routinely involve other state agencies and non-profits in our assistance recommendations, the amount we contribute per neighbor increased as the year progressed.*

*So, while we thank you for all you have done in 2020, we ask that as you pray about what needs to be done in 2021, as you continue to support St Vincent de Paul. God bless you all.*

*Sincerely;*

*The St Vincent de Paul Team*

Mike Hart, Gil Koss, Judith Arrow, Zach Zivkovich, Linda Hart, Ned Ahearn, Tony Cristofich, Carmen Andreu, Elaine Byers, Tom Barch, Jim Hall, Marie Johnston, Huong Hall, Pam Koss, Dory Hughes, Andrea Ramirez Cristoforo, Joe Temborius, Maureen Carter, Jean Canzano, Johanne Ibsen, Keith Carter, Adrienne Sudolsky, Ed Parma, Lori Parma



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn't feeling himself. He was a little lightheaded and out of sorts. Later in the afternoon, he experienced a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the emergency department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack. Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist, having an honest conversation about things that needed to change. "I came close to death," John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that force us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our needs to lure us



into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can't quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels, naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don't. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? "Come after me," are words that Jesus says to all of

us. In order to heed his invitation, we must leave our ego-self behind and follow.

When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.

*He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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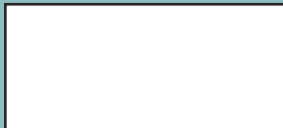
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