



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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in the church on Saturdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (no appointment needed). Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing will be observed. We welcome requests for appointments for other days or times, please visit StAustin.org/Reconciliation.

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. PAOLO'S COLUMN



Nearly four years ago Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented rainfall to Houston. My parents live four blocks from Buffalo Bayou, and as the water was gradually rising with no end in sight, they moved everything they could to the attic, grabbed their most essential documents, and left on foot, wading through the water. They were going to the home of a friend, and a stranger with a tall pick-up truck saw my parents walking and generously offered them a ride. When my parents arrived at the other neighborhood away from the flooding, they saw a homeowner casually mowing his lawn on that late-August day. My mom told me that it was so strange to have just evacuated their home while seeing someone else go about his life completely unaffected by the floods.

Our recent ice storm here in Texas brought us similar experiences. Many lost power, heat, and water for days on end while others didn't suffer any interruptions. The pandemic has likewise been felt unevenly across the country. Some families have seen multiple loved ones die while other families haven't had anyone fall ill.

In his recent book "Let Us Dream" about the ongoing pandemic, Pope Francis writes that "To enter into crisis is to be sifted. Your categories and ways of thinking get shaken up; your priorities and lifestyles are challenged. ... The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same." Pope Francis doesn't presume that crises will always make us more compassionate and selfless, and trauma can naturally make people more defensive, self-centered, or in denial about the reality of the situation. But with faith, hope, and love, crises can make us more intentional about our daily choices and compassionate towards others.

As Catholics, we strive to take a universal perspective beyond our own narrow experiences. I have often thought about my mother's experience of evacuating the house in Houston when I see stories of refugees on the news. The past decade has been a time of strong economic growth and prosperity for many in our city and country, so I want to imagine that everyone is doing well. Yet I know that many people continue struggling both here in Austin and around the world.

I hope that we can all embrace the crises of the past month and year as an opportunity to grow and come out of this with more compassionate and generous hearts. The limitations of the past year have made me very grateful for the countless small blessings that I have received through your ongoing support of us priests and each other. In return, please know that we are praying for everyone who has suffered significant losses during the past month.

Fr. Paolo

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

Online EIM Training Explained

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, including contacts for your Site Administrator and how to report an incident of concern, visit the EIM page on our [website](#).

FROM FR. CHUCK

Your Safety at St. Austin

Consistent with our faith's respect for life, St. Austin's will continue to require face masks on campus. Between now and March 14, we'll review our social distancing and capacity limits. More to follow.

Storage Space Needed

The first steps of our journey to the future from the church offices, the school, and the rectory have been taken. Our "Trash or Treasure" committee is helping us sort through what we must keep, and what has been accumulated over a century that we can now release. There's a LOT of stuff to store over the next two years.

So I have a request. Do you have some space where we could place a storage container (like a big shipping container) where we could store furniture, desks, and other things that do not need climate control? If you have available space on your ranch or homestead, and would let us do this, please let us know. We'd only need to access the container a couple of times a year, if that. THANKS!

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Walking the Lenten Path

As we did for Advent and Christmas, we've curated a selection of Lenten observances, activities, events, music, resources, and more for you. Please chart your journey through this season of 40 days with a visit to [Lent 2021](#).

40 Days for Life Lenten Prayer Vigil

St. Austin Catholic Parish will unite with hundreds of churches across Central Texas from **Feb. 17 – March 28** for a simultaneous 40-day prayer vigil. It is a campaign of prayer & fasting, education and constant peaceful prayer vigil in front of abortion facilities. Prayer volunteers pray 1 hour 1 day a week (any time Sunday thru Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

Sign up today at this [website](#) or call 512-296-2071. Partner with a friend or Gabriel Project Angel. Contact Carmen Adams at 512-417-8309 or at adamsteam@hotmail.com.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation

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

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.

Pray With Us...

for all on our journey of faith, and especially for our confirmandi, elect, and candidates.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Path of Charity

Journey through Lent along "the path of charity towards the weaker" recommended by Pope Francis. Consider sacrificial giving to:

CRS Rice Bowl - Catholic Relief Services fights hunger and malnutrition around the globe.

Ashes to Easter - Ashes to Easter is an annual Lenten mission project that affirms and encourages local missionary groups and other mission activities of the Diocese of Austin. Last year, Ashes benefited three nonprofits: Educate Haiti Inc., Weavers of Hope, and New Hope for Cambodian Children.

Find more online at [Lent 2021](#).

Fall 2020 Outreach Report

Thank you to everyone who donated to Thursday Outreach and the Persons in Need collection over the past several months! We received a number of donations at the end of the year that are helping us give even more to families in need as the current eviction moratorium approaches in April. Read more about what Outreach was up to this fall on our [website](#).



St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

In our mission as the St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Austin, conference members often try to educate themselves about poverty and ways to address it.

One such opportunity came with an online event called "Overcoming Poverty as a Moral Imperative and National Priority." One of the presenters made a statement that really challenged the status quo on how we well-meaning Christians often approach aiding those experiencing poverty. She said "The poor have so much more than their poverty! Those in poverty know how to describe their own problems and solutions. WE need to listen!" Indeed, humbling words.

Another presenter shared, with equal clarity, "Recognize that everyone has dignity and potential; celebrate the first and maximize the latter!"

These wise folks have good company in Pope Francis, who counsels us to stay close to people who need help, and they will not lead us astray. In this extended time of COVID, while SVdP members are still unable to make home visits and eye-to-eye contact, pray that we share this valuable message with God's precious, vulnerable children.

COMMUNITY LIFE



Knights News

NEW FACES – After 20 years in the lead, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson retired. If the K of C were a multi-national corporation, the Supreme Knight would be the CEO. Mr. Patrick Kelly assumed leadership on March 1. A Knight since 1983, he is the 14th Supreme Knight since the founding of the K of C in 1882. Here at home, St. Austin's council welcomes new member James Obute who decided to join after helping the council with our recent Car Parade. Welcome James!

The Knights of Columbus is still offering FREE on-line memberships until June 30. Much more information about the Order and membership sign-up can be viewed at www.kofc.org.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Prayer Blanket Blessing and Anointing of the Sick

Mon., March 8 at 8 a.m. Mass



Please join us for the monthly Blessing of Prayer Blankets. The Prayer Blanket Ministry members continue to work from home. If you are interested in either receiving a prayer blanket or helping this ministry, please contact Nancy at tnejs@aol.com or 512-837-3658.

Adventures in the Archives

Back in 1985, the Boy Scouts of St. Austin's Troop 34 came together for sports, crafts and service activities. The 17 boys of the Scout Troop came from all over Austin. Scoutmaster Tim Graham and Assistant Scoutmaster Steve Stovall directed the troop's many different projects.

Past service projects include cleaning up the area around Town Lake (now Lady Bird Lake) and the school grounds, and ushering at UT football games. The Scout activities were geared to developing leadership skills, with a senior patrol leader guiding each meeting. In the mid 1980s, Troop 34 camped 10 days and nights each year. There were also activities the Scouts could complete for their merit badges. Parents were required to attend one monthly meeting, and they also got a newsletter of scouting activities.

For a time, Pack 34 lay dormant until revived in the 90s through the efforts of Phillip Eastman and Paula Pratte. Fast forward to 2021 with two groups of Scouts that St. Austin's sponsors. Derek Giesler, Cubmaster in 2020, explains they operate separately. Cub Scout Pack 34 is for grades K – 5 and Boy Scout Troop 34 is for grades 6 – 12.

The Cub Scout Pack gathers about once a month. They have done a weekend camping trip, a fishing and swimming trip, and worked with model rockets. In March they will participate in the Pinewood Derby, a long-standing tradition dating back to the Scouts' founding. One big change in this Pack is that girls are accepted, with four girls in the Pack now.

The Boy Scouts meet weekly on the Blacktop. Future activities include a mountain biking trip, a 5-day backpacking trip over spring break, and a week-long campout in Colorado this summer. Last year, two scouts in Troop 34 earned their Eagle Scout rank. Denver Lamberth is 2021 Cubmaster and Keith Zieglerman is Scoutmaster.

ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Eddie's E-mazing Race 2021

Each year our school community joins together for a day of faith, fellowship and fun at our annual Grand Tour fundraiser. On **May 1**, we'll adopt a new format, Eddie's E-Mazing Race, and visit many Austin landmarks. This event helps to raise funds to support the mission of our school and the ongoing needs of our students. Visit our [website](#) to sponsor!

St. Joseph, as we approach your feast day in this year dedicated to you, be with our community as we move forward to an important milestone on our Development Journey.



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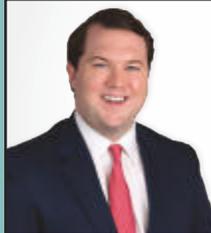
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