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For the safety of our youngest parishioners, please accompany your children at all times while on campus, including trips to the restroom during mass and to and from the nursery, faith formation classes and other parish events.

The Master said "all who take the sword shall perish by the sword" (Mt 26:52). It is the policy of St. Austin Catholic Parish, therefore, to not allow open carry of weapons of any kind on parish or school grounds, with the exception of those carried by on-duty law enforcement officers. Thank you for your understanding.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

That those who have material, political, or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

THE UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CENTER



2010 University Ave.
512-476-7351
www.utcatholic.org

Masses

Mon., Wed., Fri., 12:05 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m.
Sun., 9 & 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Reconciliation

Mon. and Tues., 12:35 p.m. or by appointment

Business Hours

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Building Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. for Masses

Follow us on Facebook @UniversityCatholicCenter

PLEASE PRAY

For the deceased...

Howard Doerr

For those in need of healing...

Mark Harrison, Bobbie Guzman, Magdalene Gonzalez, Kathleen Dillon-Narko, David Carpenter, Becca Brennen, Therese Russell, Michael Stevens, Joel Rivera, Diane McCullough, Patricia Carrillo, Lambert Labay, Helen Debner, David Gerling, Julie Lyons, Andrea Buckley, Anne Neubauer, John Key, Rhoda Kriesel, Yolanda Martinez, Kevin Lara, Stephen Hatfield, Nick Hatfield, Collin Hatfield, Henry J. Alvarez, Kathy Owen, Elaine Stevens, Eric Allmon, Lauren Lehtonen, Joyce Duffy, Rebecca Macy, Andy Aguirre, Fr. Bob Michele, and all those on our prayer blanket list



For those serving in the military and in relief and peace-making activities...

Shane Caffery, Brandon Miles Klingemann, James Cimino, David J. Rodriguez, Nicholas Krepp, Zachary Bybee, Steven Metze, Walter R. Yosin III, Philip Huber, Javier Segovia, Chad Zinnecker, Michael K. Burgess

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayers, please contact the parish office. Names are kept on our list for approx. 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you have updates on the health of those who need healing or on the activities of those employed by military and relief and peacemaking agencies, please send that info to bulletin@staustin.org so we can keep our lists up to date. Thank you!

THIS WEEK

To see our upcoming events, please visit our website at www.staustin.org and click on the link in the upper right hand corner that says **Calendar**.

Visit www.staustin.org/bulletin to read our bulletin online. Mass Intentions and some additional items are available online only.

FR. CHUCK'S COLUMN



During this Lenten season it is a good practice to go to confession. However, we now like to call this Sacrament “**reconciliation**.” Is this just a fad thing and so we have a new name? Not really. There is a theological reason behind changing the name for this Sacrament from “confession” to “reconciliation.” It has to do with who is the primary actor in the Sacrament. You see, we confess our sins. So calling it confession puts the emphasis on what we do. However, it is God who reconciles us to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. Calling the Sacrament “reconciliation” therefore puts the emphasis on what God does. And that is, frankly, the most important part of the Sacrament.

On Sunday, April 22, Bishop Joe Vasquez is scheduled to be here to celebrate Confirmation with our teenagers, most of whom are sophomores in high school. I interview each of them individually, and begin by asking them what Confirmation is all about. Invariably they tell me that they are confirming the faith that was chosen for them as infants at their Baptism. It is a common understanding, but that is wrong.

We do, of course, want them to confirm the faith in which they have been raised, but the Sacrament of Confirmation is something they get, something they receive, NOT something they do. God is confirming, or guaranteeing, God's choice of them. Bishop Joe will anoint the confirmation candidate with olive oil and say “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” It is something they receive, not something they do. They get the Holy Spirit, not give it. Again, the sacrament is more about what God does than what we do.

In each of the sacraments it is God who is the primary actor. It is not what we do that is most important. Of course, our cooperation with God's grace is important, and we must strive to put into practice the grace we receive. But grace is always **free** and always a **gift**. That means we do not earn it. We do not have a just claim in it. We do not receive it by rights. It is always a **gift**.

The heresy that we can somehow earn grace or salvation is called Pelagianism. I think it is easy for us who value hard workers, self-starters, achievers, independent people who don't rely on others, to slip unconsciously into a sort of semi-Pelagianism that mistakenly believes we can and should “earn” our way into heaven. But we can't do that. Grace is always free. As St Paul tell us, all we have and all we become is gift.

So, as you celebrate the sacraments this Lent, and at any time, remember that the major player is God. We receive God's gifts, not earned, free and undeserved. Our proper response therefore is gratitude. It is all gift. Blessed Lent!

God bless!

Fr. Chuck

RICH THOUGHTS



Did you know that all of Fr. Rich's homilies are available online in both text and audio format? Check it out at bit.ly/RichThoughts.com

GRADUATES & PROFESSIONALS

Join GAP for Weekly Discussions!

GAP, graduates and professionals in their 20s and 30s from St. Austin and the University Catholic Center, hosts social, service, and study events. Graduates and professionals in their 20s and 30s from St. Austin and the University Catholic Center – meets on **Sundays at 7:15 p.m.** in **Paulist Hall**. Most weeks, we have a lively discussion on a topic, plus a study of a Scripture passage from the following Sunday Mass. Please join us whenever you are available, and come early for dinner after the 5:30 p.m. Mass!

Feb. 25: Classism. John 2:13-25.

March 4: Sacrifice. John 3:14-21.

March 11: Racial Issues in the Church. John 12:20-33. Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, suggested articles and lectures are offered on our Facebook page for preparation before the discussion.

Learn more by joining our open Facebook group, Graduates and Professionals of St. Austin's and the UCC.

PAULIST FATHERS



A Word from Servant of God Isaac Hecker, Founder of the Paulist Fathers

“In to Thy hands oh Lord I commend my spirit. Oh may I be a brave & valiant soldier in thy cause. Oh Jesus take pity on me. Thou knowest our human frailties. Forgive and bless me oh Jesus. The enemy lies always in watch of us. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.”

Diary, January 30, 1845

If you have asked Father Hecker to pray for you or another person who is ill, and you believe something miraculous has happened, please phone Fr. Paul Robichaud, CSP, at 202-269-2519 and tell him your story.

The Paulist Associates Need You

The Paulist Associates are lay people drawn to the spirituality of the Paulist Fathers (reconciliation, evangelization and ecumenism). They seek to live the mission and spirit of the Paulist Fathers in their lives and vocations.

Paulist Associates explore the implications of Paulist spirituality through prayer, study, discussion, sharing and fellowship. They meet once a month on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. here at St. Austin's in Paulist Hall, where they explore how the Paulist spirit and charism can be exercised in their own personal and professional lives. Contact Kathleen Lossau at klossau@austin.rr.com for more information, visit www.paulist.org and click on Who We Are, then Paulist Associates, or talk to Fr. Chuck, Fr. Rich or Fr. Dick about the organization.

STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Offertory Collection

Feb. 17-Feb.18, 2018

Total Received	\$27,917.32
Cash & Checks	\$19,700.69
Direct Debit & Credit Cards	\$8,216.63
Ash Wednesday Offertory	\$3,707.04
Special Collection, World and Home Missions	\$1,278.62

Annual Offertory Pledges May 1, 2017-April 30, 2018

As of Mon., Feb. 19, 2018

Total Pledged	\$1,184,485.00
Total Received	\$943,683.01
Number of Families Pledging	454
Total Gifts without Pledges	\$277,756.05
Number of Families Giving	370
Total Loose Cash	\$75,787.14

Faithful to Our Mission Capital Campaign

As of Mon., Feb. 19, 2018

Total Pledges & Gifts	\$4,986,900.52
Total Received	\$4,793,493.94
Number of Families Participating	676



BEYOND OUR PARISH

Marriage Encounter weekends for 2018

Married couples are invited to strengthen, renew and rekindle their marriage sacrament by attending one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends: April 20-22 and Nov. 2-4. The emphasis of Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. For more information, visit www.austinme.org, call 512-667-9963 or e-mail wwmeaustin@gmail.com.

Follow the Diocese of Austin on social media

For up-to-date information from the Diocese of Austin, visit us online at www.austindiocese.org (in English). Find us on Facebook at "Diocese of Austin." Find us on Twitter at [@AustinDiocese](https://twitter.com/AustinDiocese)

Stewardship Reflection

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) posts notes regarding all the Books of the Bible. In its introduction to Paul's Letter to the Romans (our Second Reading), the USCCB says, "Of all the letters of Paul, that to the Christians at Rome has long held pride of place. It is the longest and most systematic unfolding of the apostle's thought, expounding the gospel of God's righteousness that saves all who believe; it reflects a universal outlook."

Paul's Letter to the Romans is in fact the longest of his letters in the New Testament (Romans is more than 7,000 words; that is much shorter, of course, than the shortest Gospel, Mark, which is still more than 11,000 words.) However, as stated by the Bishops, the Letter to the Romans explained in a more detailed way Paul's theology and spirituality than any other letter.

Regardless the length, today's reading contains a statement with which many of us are familiar, but which has great meaning: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" The significance of that is that if we are on the side of righteousness, which should be a major goal of our Lenten experience, there should be nothing to threaten us.

We understand that we will be judged. Paul's point is if we are judged "not guilty" by God, who can bring an additional charge with any merit? Or, if Jesus is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us? This is the time to place our trust in God, and in His love.

ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Centennial Grand Tour

Please support St. Austin Catholic School in our Centennial Grand Tour bike-a-thon. This year's event will be held **April 21** at the Veloway. Students in pre-kindergarten 3 through eighth grades collect pledges and donations to bike as far as they are able. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000 in celebration of the School's 100th birthday. Grand Tour funds allow us to enhance our educational programs and continue to ensure the socioeconomic diversity of our school community.



Please email Bedina O'Neill at boneil@staustinschool.org, Tiffany Sims at tsims@staustinschool.org, or call (512)477-3751 for more information on sponsorships or underwriting.

Substitute Teaching Positions Available

St. Austin Catholic School is looking for substitute teachers to work in our parish school. Ideal candidates will have experience teaching or working with children. Substitute teachers are responsible for executing teachers' lesson plans, classroom management, and confidentiality and professionalism in working with children and school personnel. Compensation is per diem. **MUST** complete Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) training and background check. To apply please submit cover letter and resume to Tiffany Sims tsims@staustinschool.org.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Stations of the Cross and Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us each Friday of Lent for Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers. Stations begin in the Church at 6 p.m., and Soup Supper follows around 6:30 p.m. in Hecker Hall. Thank you to our parish ministries who sponsor our Stations and Soup each week!

Feb. 16: Masculine Spirituality, GAP, and parishioners

Feb. 23: St. Vincent de Paul Society & Social Justice Ministries

Mar. 2: *No Stations or Soup at St. Austin. Join us at the University Catholic Center for Stations and their Knights of Columbus Fish Fry!*

Mar. 9: Prayer Blanket Ministry & Martha Ministry

Mar. 16: St. Austin Knights of Columbus

Mar. 23: Women's Christ Renews His Parish

Lenten Book Discussion with Fr. Chuck

Join Fr. Chuck on Mondays, **Feb. 26, March 5, and 12 at 12 p.m.** and at **7 p.m.** for his Lenten Book Discussion on *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week* by eminent Catholic Biblical scholar Fr. Ray Brown, S.S. Books are now available for purchase for \$10 each in the church office. The Feb. 19 discussion covered "General Observations" and "The Passion According to Mark." Please read "The Passion According to Matthew" for Feb. 26.

Pray the Rosary with CRHP

The women of St. Austin Parish CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) invite you to join us in Our Blessed Mother's Special Prayer, the Rosary. We pray the Rosary and visit with Our Lady on the **first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary Chapel of the Church.** Our next Rosary will be **Thurs., March 1.** While we hope you can join us, if you can't, please know that we'll hold your intentions up to Our Lady for Her intercession.

Women's CRHP Retreat



Ladies of St. Austin, You're Invited!

Please join us for two days of spiritual pampering during St. Austin's **16th annual CRHP Renewal Retreat, Sat., March 3, through Sun., March 4.** Registration is **FREE** and **NOW OPEN!**

Register at: www.staustin.org/crhp.

Questions: CRHP@staustin.org. Deadline to register: **Feb 26.**

Don't Get Towed!

- **NO PARKING under the gym, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. You will be towed.**
- **NO PARKING in Priests spots (marked) under the gym. You will be towed.**
- **DO NOT BLOCK the fire lanes or park along the buildings in the alley at any time. You will be towed.**
- Monday-Friday visitors may park around the blacktop fence or in our garage at 500 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
- On week days, parking under the gym is available to parishioners and guests **ONLY AFTER 6 p.m.**
- Saturdays, Sundays and on some Holy Days, all parking spaces in our parking garage at 500 W. MLK, Jr. Blvd. are available for parishioners regardless of the "Reserved for..." signs posted.



Good News!

Congratulations to **Phoebe Anderson, Ben Frey** and **Sophia Frey** for receiving High Honors at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School for the 2nd marking period! To attain High Honors, a student must have earned an average GPA of 94 for higher. Way to go!

Would You Like to Receive Communion?

Communion Outreach to the Sick and Homebound

If you or someone you know is homebound due to age or chronic health issues, we'd like to be of service. Do you want to receive communion on a regular basis? We have a sizable volunteer corps of outreach communion ministers. If we can serve you, we'd be happy to arrange for home delivery of the Eucharist. If so, please contact Fr. Dick Sparks at rsparks@staustin.org or ext. 319.

Also, if you or someone you know is headed to the hospital or to a nearby nursing home, please contact Fr. Dick or any of the priests on our staff. We would be happy to stop by to visit and offer confession, anointing, communion or simply a prayer for good health.

Adult Volleyball

Join us every **Thursday at 7:45 p.m.** in the **Parish Center/Gym** for pick-up volleyball! We welcome any parishioners 18 years or older, regardless of skill level. No commitment is necessary we form teams with whoever shows up, and we typically stay and play for a few hours. Come and go as you please! Join this fun-loving community! For more information, please contact Mark Landers at 512-472-9663 or mark@landersstudio.com.



DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation

Information on the Sacraments for the 2018-2019 School Year:

Requirements for First Holy Communion

If you have a child who will be in 2nd grade next year, here are the requirements for First Holy Communion:

- Child must have been baptized in the Catholic Church and be in 2nd grade during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Child must have attended a Faith Formation program or Catholic school during all of 2017-2018.

Requirements for Confirmation

- Preparation for Confirmation at St. Austin is done in the 10th grade class
- Child must have attended a Faith Formation program or Catholic School during all of the 2017-2018 school year.
- Have attended two consecutive years of Faith Formation in a Catholic parish or school with 80% attendance. Tenth Grade counts as one of the two years.
- Be 14 to 16 and typically in 10th grade.

Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children

This is a minimum **two-year** spiritual journey of formation in which children become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. The journey follows the four stages of Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) in a manner adapted for the understanding and maturity level of children ages 7 or older. Children who qualify for participating in the journey are those who:

- Have not been baptized OR;
- Have received the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Baptism as infants but have never regularly participated in a Catholic faith formation program OR;
- Were validly baptized, but into a non-Catholic Christian faith community.

Requirements:

1. Children must be enrolled consecutively for at least two years of Roman Catholic Faith Formation at their grade level.
2. Children must participate in additional classes and retreats the year that they are to receive the Sacraments.
3. Before the reception of Sacraments, children should exhibit a conversion that is personal and somewhat developed, in proportion to their age, that has been assisted by their participation in Faith Formation as well as the example of their sponsor/Godparent and the influence of their parents.
4. At least one parent/guardian will enroll in and attend the 8-week parent formation class, **Building a Firm Foundation**, offered in the fall of each year. (Fall of 2018)

Class for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This is a unique class for children with special needs. It is taught by Deacon Dan Wright and his wife Joanne. This class helps the children be formed in their faith and prepare for the Sacraments.

If you have any questions about the above classes, please contact Tricia Salcher at psalcher@staustin.org.

God's Covenant Love in Scripture

Feb. 25, March 4, and March 11

Covenant is the master concept that unlocks the meaning of the Bible. The Scriptures tell the story of God the Father's love for His children and His plan to fashion all people into one holy family. Over **three Sunday nights at 7 p.m.**, we will meet in the **Our Lady of Guadalupe Room** to look at how God unfolds His plan of salvation through a series of covenants, culminating in the New Covenant He makes in Jesus. Immediately after 5:30 p.m. Mass, join other parishioners in Hecker Hall for hospitality before the presentation. For more information please contact Marylynn Wesson at mwesson@staustin.org.

Adult RCIA Topic Schedule

Our parish tradition is to invite parishioners to visit any or all RCIA sessions, held 10-11:45 a.m. in Hecker Hall. The topics covered the next 3 weeks are:

Sun., Feb. 25: Prayer and Spirituality.

Sun., March 4: Sacrament of the Eucharist.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

EIM Workshops and Compliance

EIM compliance is required of all clergy, religious, seminarians, diocesan employees, parish and Catholic school employees, and adult lay persons who volunteer in ministry with minors or vulnerable adults; or in any ministry, program or organization that serves youth or vulnerable adults in any manner, or functions at a time and place where they are typically present. To be compliant, one submits an EIM Application for Ministry (one time only) and attends an EIM Workshop every three years. Contact your parish/school EIM site administrator or go to www.austindioocese.org/eim-compliance to learn more about the EIM Application and EIM Workshop.

If you are a victim of sexual abuse and have concerns regarding your attendance at a workshop, please contact Emily Hurlimann at 512-949-2447 to discuss an alternative workshop arrangement.

MUSIC AND LITURGY

To All Liturgical Ministers

The schedule for February is posted on the website at <http://staustin.org/liturgical-ministries>, under the Documents section on the right-hand side. The schedule for March to August will be posted and emailed out by the end of February. (The Altar Server schedule will be emailed out separately.) Contact Kristen at kdempseypasyk@staustin.org with any questions or if you have not been receiving her emails.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Second Week in Lent

This week's gospel speaks of the transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James and John. Then Moses and Elijah appeared and were conversing with Jesus. Peter then said to Jesus "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us build 3 tents one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."



A cloud overshadowed them and then from the cloud came a voice saying "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Looking around they only saw Jesus and on the way down the mountain Jesus instructed them not to say anything about this to anyone until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

On the recent pilgrimage we went to the top of Mount Tabor. Before we entered the church we climbed a few stairs to an overlook where we could see the terrain below where many battles were fought and from the top you can view the plain of Jezreel, bounded by the Carmel range and the mountains of Samaria. It is a breath-taking view. We could also see the backside of Nazareth and Cana.

A church has been erected there honoring the Transfiguration. Upon entering the church there are 2 side chapels, one honoring Moses and the other honoring Elijah in mosaic tile. Over the altar is a mosaic depicting the Transfiguration, where we celebrated Mass with Fr. Rich. It was truly a mass of celebration and a sense of awe!

Reflection: Imagine yourself as one of the disciples that Jesus took with him to the top of the mount.

Did Jesus tell you anything about why he was making this trek and bringing you along?

What were your feelings when you saw Jesus transfigured in a bright white light? What was it like when you witnessed Jesus speaking to Moses and Elijah?

What was your reaction when God the Father spoke, saying that Jesus was his beloved Son, listen to him?

Did you realize that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah?

How hard was it to not speak to the other disciples and to friends about what happened that day on the mount?

Were you transformed yourself? If so, how?

Lenten Mite Boxes

Please pick up your Lenten Mite Box and take it home. Fill the box daily with the money that you have saved by eating lighter and fasting during Lent. Eat your meals in solidarity with people living in poverty around the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has recipes that you can make at home. Go to www.CRS.org and look at the recipes for 2018. All money collected throughout Lent from these boxes will go to CRS and the Diocesan Missions. Please be generous in your alms giving.

Please Support our St. Vincent de Paul Society

Did you know? A greater network of dedicated Vincentian workers supports the St. Austin's St. Vincent de Paul Society, too! The Vincentian Family Center, (VFC), located on Braker Lane, is the site of a weekly food pantry, walk-in client help (bus passes, clothing vouchers, and referrals), computer use for job searches, etc. and, of course, the SVDP store. On **March 1-2**, AMPLIFY AUSTIN will be taking place to raise money for so many worthy causes in this city. Please keep the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society on your list of places to support. Our local conference will be taking part in raising funds for the VFC, so please help us by being generous supporters to those battling poverty and homelessness. Thank you!

Texas Catholic Pro-Life Spiritual Bouquet

St. Austin Catholic Parish and the parish Gabriel Project ministry dedicated a spiritual bouquet of Monthly Masses for Life to Bishop Joe Vásquez at the Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day Mass. Every month, an 8 a.m. Mass will be offered for the intention of "greater respect for all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death." The next Mass for Life is **Tues., March 6**.

Please join us at Mass 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!

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

This Sunday we are challenged by this question: Are we willing to make the whole journey through temptation, suffering, death and resurrection as participants with Christ or will we become observers only? Being a disciple of Jesus involves risk. It might mean we have to leave the comfort and security of "home" to go to a new place of God's choosing. This Sunday's readings ask us to realize that the Christian journey is one of risk, suffering and death, but one that ends in glory for those who walk with Christ. Are you willing to take the risk?