

SAINT MARY CATHEDRAL

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday.....6:30am, 12:05pm
Saturday.....12:05pm
Sunday.....Vigil: Saturday 5:30pm;
7:30am Extraordinary Form Latin, 9:30am,
12:00pm, 1:45pm Español,
3:30pm Extraordinary Form Latin,
& 5:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are by appointment and can
be scheduled on our website, smcaustin.org
Monday-Friday.....11:00am-11:50am
Saturday.....11:00am-11:50am
& 4:30pm-5:20pm

CLERGY AND STAFF

Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez, STL, DD,
Bishop of Austin

Very Rev. Daniel Liu, Rector
Rev. Will Rooney, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Trahan II, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Héctor Ortiz and
Deacon Guadalupe Rodriguez

Louis Barron.....Director of Development/
Facility Operations

Yvonne Bedell.....Director of Operations/Finance

Jessica Burrola.....Receptionist (church calendar)

Jaeson Drummond

Director of Catholic Faith Formation
Judy Henschen

Administrative Assistant (church bulletin)

Dr. Jeffrey Jones-Ragona...Director, Sacred Music

Robert LeGros.....Cathedral School Principal

Jeremiah Reyna.....Facility Services

Yvonne Saldaña..... Sacrament Coordinator

Dr. Brooks Whitmore.....Cathedral Organist



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

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

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CATHEDRAL SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

910 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 686-6992 • www.smcschoolaustin.org
Enrolling PreK3-Grade 8

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm

(512) 476-6182 Fax (512) 476-8799
203 E. 10th Street, Austin, TX 78701
www.smcaustin.org

AVE MARIA GIFT SHOP

Call or visit the parish office
Monday—Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm,
and the staff will help you.

Saint Mary Cathedral volunteer ministry

BAPTISMS: Parents should visit the Cathedral website: www.smcaustin.org, for Baptism guidelines; then submit completed application with required documents to schedule Baptism.

BAUTIZOS: Si usted desea bautizar a su hijo, lea los requisitos detallados en nuestro sitio web: www.smcaustin.org. Luego, para fijar una fecha para el bautizo, entregue el formulario de solicitud con los documentos necesarios.

MARRIAGE: See Cathedral website: www.smcaustin.org, for detailed information.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Registration forms are available on the table at the entrance of the church; in the Cathedral office, or on our website.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Second Sunday of Advent

Mk 1:1-8

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not? ©LPi

Segundo Domingo de Adviento

Mk 1, 1-8

Una voz clama: "Abran el camino al Señor en el desierto; en la estepa tracen una senda para Dios; todas las quebraduras serán rellenadas y todos los cerros y lomas rebajados; que se aplanen las cuestas y queden las colinas como un llano". (Isaías 40:3-5). El tiempo del Adviento es un tiempo hermoso. La Liturgia nos propone, caminar y avanzar. El camino está trazado, tenemos la confianza de llegar a puerto, llegaremos a un lugar cierto y seguro. Pero, antes debemos de preparar el camino, de enderezar los senderos mal llevados en nuestra vida. Esforzarnos es la respuesta a esta iniciativa del Bautista. Todos estamos expectantes de que algo nuevo surgirá.

El relato de Marcos es breve y conciso, la predicación del Bautista es muy diferente a la del Evangelio de Lucas. Marcos centra el anuncio de la venida del más poderoso, y del bautismo con el Espíritu Santo. "Yo los he bautizado con agua, pero él los bautizará en el Espíritu Santo". (Marcos 1:8). Bueno, entonces, ¿cómo debo preparar el camino del Señor? ¿Cómo pide Dios que viva mi matrimonio? ¿Qué de los vecinos que son de diferente cultura a la mía? La falta de trabajo, de alimento, vivienda y vestido de los demás no es solo su problema. Es también nuestro problema. No hagamos oídos sordos al grito del Bautista, cooperemos con él en su deseo de allanar el camino para que el Señor llegue ahí donde más se necesita su presencia. ¡Ven Señor no tardes en llegar! Especialmente, en este año 2020 tan devastado por el sufrimiento. ©LPi

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30am.. Daily Mass, Cathedral
11:00am-noon...Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Daily Mass, Cathedral
5:30pm...Vigil of Immaculate Conception Mass (English), Cathedral
6:00pm...Austin Students for Life, Library
6:30pm.. Austin Rosary Crusade, Bishops Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Immaculate Conception Holy Day

6:30am.. Holy Day Mass Mass, Cathedral
8:30am...CSSM Holy Day Mass (Cathedral School only), Cathedral
11:00am-noon.Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Holy Day Mass Mass, Cathedral
3:30pm.. Faculty Meeting, DC Cafeteria
5:30pm.. Holy Day Mass (Spanish), Cathedral
6:00pm.. RCIA, DC Cafeteria
7:15pm...Holy Day Mass (EF Latin), Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30am.. Daily Mass, Cathedral
9:00-10:00am..CSSM OLG Rehearsal, Cathedral
11:00am-noon.Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Daily Mass, Cathedral
3:00pm.. Piano Lessons, Sheehan
4:00pm.. Piano Lessons, Bishops Hall
7:30-9:00pm.CYA Women's Study, 7th Grade Classroom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30am...Daily Mass, Cathedral
11:00am-noon...Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Daily Mass, Cathedral
7:30pm.. CYA Adoration, Cathedral

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:30am.. Mass, Cathedral
11:00am-noon.Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Mass, Cathedral
6:30-8:00pm CYA Book Study, Bishops Hall classrooms

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00am...Baptism Preparation Class (Spanish), DC Cafeteria
9:30am...Baptism, Cathedral
11:00am-noon.Confessions by appointment
12:05pm.Daily Mass, Cathedral
3:00pm...Misa de Virgen Guadalupe, Cathedral
4:30-5:20pm.Confessions by appointment
5:30pm.. Vigil Mass, Cathedral

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am...EF Latin Mass, Cathedral
8:30am...Music Rehearsal for 7:30am Mass, Bishops Hall or Sheehan
9:30am...Mass in English, Cathedral
10:00-11:30am.CFF-English, DC Cafeteria
11:00am-1:00pm.Hispanic Ministry Leaders, Library
12:00pm..Mass in English, Cathedral
12:00-1:30pm.CFF-español, DC Cafeteria
1:45pm...Mass in Spanish, Cathedral
2:45pm.. St. Augustine Choir Rehearsal, Sheehan
3:30pm...EF Latin Mass, Cathedral
5:15-5:45pm.CFF-Home School, DC Cafeteria
5:30pm...Mass in English, Cathedral

STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Second Sunday of Advent

Offertory Collection (weeks of 11-22 & 11-29-20)

| | Sunday Coll. 11/22/20 | Last Month Oct. 2020 | Year to Date 6/29-11/23/2020 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Income | \$ 14,977 | \$ 88,217 | \$ 441,449 |
| Expenses | \$ 22,251 | \$ 120,653 | \$ 470,965 |
| Budget Excess/(Deficit) | (\$ 7,274) | (\$ 32,436) | (\$ 29,516) |

| | Sunday Coll. 11/29/20 | Last Month Oct. 2020 | Year to Date 6/29-11/30/2020 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Income | \$ 12,569 | \$ 88,217 | \$ 458,775 |
| Expenses | \$ 23,376 | \$ 120,653 | \$ 514,265 |
| Budget Excess/(Deficit) | (\$ 10,807) | (\$ 32,436) | (\$ 55,490) |

Second Collection-Diocese *Campaign for Human Development* \$ 466

St. Killian's Candles 11/24—\$ 6,589 11/30—\$ 6,823

Attendance 11/22—827 11/29—902

Saint Mary Cathedral Catholic Endowment (9/30/2020) \$ 89,119

Diocese-Encountering Christ Campaign (10/01/2020) \$ 160,015

Our giving platform Pushpay is simple to use and only takes a few minutes to set up a recurring gift or to make a one-time gift. There are three ways to donate: (1) text **smcaustin** to **77977**; (2) navigate to our website at www.smcaustin.org, click on Donation, next click on Give, or (3) enter into your browser <https://pushpay.com/pay/smcaustin> which takes you directly to the portal.

Thank you for your continued stewardship and sacrifice in supporting Saint Mary Cathedral. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Louis Barron or Yvonne Bedell in the parish office, 512-476-6182.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

those who have died:

Eileen Healy, Courtney Erin Shackelford, Inez Burrola

those in need of healing: *

Paul Ancira, Gisela Bernal, Jim Boyles, Juan Burrola, Sr. & Yolanda Burrola, Catarino Castillo, Kenneth Craig, Sr., Carmel & Sam DiCarlo, John Donatucci, Abel Duarte, Normajean Earle, Ronald Erickson, J. C. Ernst, Joshua Escalona, Pedro Flores, Jr., David Gabler, Deyanira Garcia, Rachel Gonzales, John Paul Guajardo, Clara Hernandez, Claire Hernandez, Jesse Hutton, Sonia Irizarry, Jackson family, Chuck & Virginia Jehlen, Hee-Jung Kim, Maria Guadalupe Ledesma & family, Jesús Amaro Lopez, Anyssa M., Elleana M., Clarisa Marcée, Alicia Martinez, Vanessa Matocha, Alejandro Medina, Jody Moncebaiz, Lou Moreno, Mariane Oliver, Marjorie King Parker, Joan Pearsall, Mary Jane Perez, Louise Porfirio, Camille Pridgen, Ruth Resendez, Romo-Bedell family, Santos Romo, Marlene Sato, Bill Scott, Sharon family, Marlene Siering, Tim Sullivan, Jean Valerga, Bernard Vasek, Estella Velasquez, Michael & Josie Velasquez, Lupita Zapata, Vicente Zavala, Fr. Frank Zlotkowski, CSC

and those serving in the military:*

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| HR Shelby D. Aparicio | HN5 Jinuel Jehlen | LCPL Eric E. Muñoz |
| ILT Kyra Barone | 1 LT Patrick Kuiper | Capt. Nicholas Naquin |
| Capt. Mary E. Boyle | Major David McGuire | 1SG Kenneth A. Saffell |
| A1C Paige Derry | Capt. Lawrence McNamara | Capt. Sean Snook |
| PFC Rick German | Christopher Mercado, USAF | Sgt. William Speer |
| 1LT Cory Houck | Capt. Chris Morrow | SFC Phillip Thompson |
| Lt. Sigifredo Homero Huerta, Jr. | Ensign Evan Moses | Spec 4 Chris Trevino |
| | LT Shane Moses | Christopher Ty Trevino |

* We appreciate hearing from you about how your loved ones on the prayer list are doing.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7

6:30am.....Lupita Zapata†
12:05pm.....Brett Cranford
5:30pm.....Francisca & Manuel Perez†

Tuesday, December 8

6:30am.....Cathedral Parishioners
8:30am.....Greg Regalado†
12:05pm.....Jesse Arellano Jr.†
5:30pm.....Martin & Martina Kim
7:15pm.....Madere family

Wednesday, December 9

6:30am.....Jeano Porfirio†
12:05pm.....Ardythe & Bobbie Griffin†

Thursday, December 10

6:30am.....Lillian Vinklarek†
12:05pm.....Efrain Zarate

Friday, December 11

6:30am.....Madere family
12:05pm.....Francis & Florie D'Costa†

Saturday, December 12

12:05pm.....Martinez-Rivera families
3:00pm.....Leonor Tovar
5:30pm.....Angelo Baldovin†

Sunday, December 13

7:30am.....Conversion of Sinners
9:30am.....Greg Regalado†
12:00pm.....Cathedral Parishioners
1:45pm.....Chris Cranford
3:30pm.....Riley Brett
5:30pm.....Ann & Tony Fayad†

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday

December 13, 2020

Retirement Fund for Religious

Retirement Fund for Religious Special Collection, Dec. 13:

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to next Sunday's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous for next Sunday's Special Collection.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

DEDICATION

In Thanksgiving—the Madere family
December 6—December 12, 2020

FAITH FORMATION

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Cathedral School of Saint Mary has the great distinction of being the first school in continuous operation in Austin, established in 1866. The rich history of our school parallels the history of Austin. A history that stretches from the beginning of the state of Texas through the bleak years of the Depression and World War II, to the boom of the late twentieth century, when the Austin metropolitan area reached a population of a million. The unique history of the many generations who have attended Cathedral School of Saint Mary is present on our campus. While the building, curriculum, and faculty have changed over the last 150 years, the values we seek to instill in our students remain the same. The Sisters of the Holy Cross order concentrated on the three R's and Catholic Church's teachings in order to guide young lives on the path to Christ. Today, lay faculty members emphasize the same traditional values in order to accomplish the same goals: Christian formation and academic success.

FAMILIES



CFF Sunday, December 6—The Cardinal and Theological Virtues // Your Catholic Home: Advent // Saint of the Month: St. Lucy

CFF domingo, 6 de diciembre—Las virtudes cardinales y teológicas // Su hogar católico: Adviento // Santo del mes: Santa Lucía.

CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULTS

For updates and questions, contact smcya.org. You can find more information about events and Adoration times on our Facebook page: **Saint Mary Cathedral Young Adults**, and follow us on Instagram at [cya_atx](https://www.instagram.com/cya_atx).

ADULTS

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults welcomes those who want to become Catholic or are seeking full communion in the Catholic faith through the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. **Weekly sessions are on Tuesday evenings, from 6:00-8:30pm.** If you are interested in coming into the Church or would like more information, contact Yvonne Saldana, Sacrament Coordinator, at ysaldana@smcaustin.org or 512-476-6182.

Catholic Scripture Study: Available via Zoom teleconference. We meet Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm, and will begin a study of the book of Revelation to St. John on Thursday, Dec. 17. Email LJSmith78704@yahoo.com for free online access.

Cathedral Book Study: *The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, available from Amazon and other sources. We meet **Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm**, via free zoom teleconferencing. For more information contact L.J. Smith at LJSmith78704@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DECEMBER 8, 2020, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Monday, Dec. 7 —5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass-English

Tuesday, Dec. 8—6:30am, 8:30am-Cathedral School only, 11:00am-noon confessions, 12:05p.m., 5:30pm-Spanish, 7:15pm-EF Latin

All Souls' photos: We are holding framed photos of your deceased loved ones in the parish office. Please call for a time to pick them up. The office is open M-F, 8:30am-5:00p.m, phone 512-476-6182.

Fotos de All Souls: Tenemos fotos enmarcadas de sus seres queridos fallecidos en la oficina parroquial. Por favor llame para pedir una hora para recogerlos. La oficina esta abierta de lunes a viernes de 8:30 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., teléfono 512-476-6182.

Christmas Flowers Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to complete and place in the offering box or parish office mail slot. Honor your living or deceased loved ones with a donation and help our parish offset the cost of flowers for the Christmas liturgies.

Los sobres de flores de Navidad están disponibles en el nártex para que los complete y los coloque en la caja de ofrendas o en la casilla de correo de la oficina parroquial. Honre a sus seres queridos vivos o fallecidos con una donación y ayude a nuestra parroquia a sufragar el costo de las flores para las liturgias navideñas.

Knights of Columbus Food Sale will be set up in the courtyard **after morning and noon Sunday Masses through November and December** to sell frozen tamales by the dozen, and also pecans. **Stop by before 1:30 p.m., to buy some.**



Holiday Schedule

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THE CATHEDRAL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24 TO JANUARY 1, AND WILL REOPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES**Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 (no confessions):**

4:00pm Vigil, 6:00pm Vigil, 8:00pm Vigil,
11:15 Lessons & Carols,
Christmas Mass at Midnight.

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 (no confessions):

7:30am-EF Latin Low Mass, 9:30am-English, 11:30am -
English, 1:30pm-Spanish, 3:30pm-EF Latin Solemn High Mass

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 27: usual Sunday Mass schedule

New Year's Day—Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, Friday, Jan. 1 (no confessions):

5:30pm Vigil (Thursday), 7:30am-EF Latin Low Mass, 9:30am-
English, 11:30am-English, 1:30pm-Spanish, 3:30pm-EF Latin Solemn High Mass

Epiphany—Sunday, Jan. 3, in dioceses of the U.S.: usual Sunday Mass schedule. **Wednesday, Jan. 6:** 6:30pm-EF Latin Solemn High Mass

**TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS**

Sunday, Dec. 13, 7:30am Low Mass, and 3:30pm Sung Mass—Gaudete Sunday Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 20, 7:30am Low Mass and 3:30pm Sung Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Latin Phrase of the Week: *Misericordia et veritas obviaverunt sibi: veritas de terra orta est et justitia de caelo prospexit.* —

Mercy and truth have met each other: justice and peace have kissed. Truth is sprung out of the earth: and justice hath looked down from heaven. Psalm. 84:11,12

To receive news and updates about the TLM, visit our website: AustinLatinMass.org. **Be social, “Like” us on Facebook: St. Joseph Latin Mass Society.**

Wedding monitors needed: Give us a call and see if you may be a good match as a part-time wedding monitor. Our wedding monitors spend time with our brides/grooms during rehearsal and on their wedding day for a few hours, and serve as liaisons with parish staff. You will be fully trained in just a few sessions to assist couples as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in an English, Spanish or Extraordinary Form liturgy. This is a paid position. Requirements: Must be at least 20 years of age, confirmed and in good standing in the Church, and be EIM compliant. Call our parish office at 512-476-6182, ext. 115.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP****Jubilation to Share**

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history

--Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

LA CORRESPONSABILIDAD DIARIA**Jubilo para Compartir**

A veces tienes algo que compartir con las personas que te hace sentir bien por dentro con entusiasmo hasta el punto de volverte loco. Una prueba de embarazo, un aumento de sueldo, una aceptación universitaria, una boda o un compromiso son todos ejemplos de momentos en la vida en los que podríamos estar en ascuas por revelar a alguien las buenas noticias. Cuando finalmente tenemos la oportunidad de contarle a alguien, la alegría parece fluir a través de nosotros con facilidad. Literalmente queremos que todo el mundo comparta nuestro júbilo.

¿Cuándo fue la última vez que compartiste con un amigo o ser querido cuánto significa tu fe en Jesús para ti? ¿No sientes la misma motivación para compartir? ¿No estás abrumado por el deseo de difundir la Buena Nueva?

No te sientas mal. No estas solo. Como cristianos, a menudo fallamos en comprender las poderosas implicaciones de ser un discípulo de Jesucristo. Podemos volvernos complacientes y perder de vista lo que más importa. Eso es cuando compartir con otros acerca de nuestra fe parece incómodo.

La fe es un don. Como corresponsables diarios estamos llamados a compartir con otros lo que Dios nos ha dado. Adviento es un buen momento para crecer en nuestra fe y amor al Señor. Cuanto más cultivemos nuestra fe y más nos acerquemos a Él, más queremos compartir acerca de Él. Es posible que no tengamos el impacto de Juan el Bautista en el curso de la historia humana, pero nuestra proclamación del Evangelio a otro podría ser el regalo que cambia su historia. --Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: Can a divorced Catholic receive Holy Communion?



Answer: Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have “endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life.” (Amoris Laetitia, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, “The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty.” (AL, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is “not a prize for the perfect,” but “a powerful medicine and nourishment” (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

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Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patronal feast day of the United States of America:

On December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. On this feast, we celebrate Mary’s conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary’s life began at the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of conception, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.



Pope Francis’ *Prayer for the Immaculate Conception*: “We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness.”

Pope Francis gives three tips for living Advent Season during the pandemic.
Let us try to bring out the good even from the difficult situation that the pandemic imposes upon us: greater sobriety, discreet and respectful attention to others who may be in need, some prayer also within the family, with simplicity. These three things will help us greatly.
 (from ROMEREPORTS)



READINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 6:
Sun Is 40:1-5,9-11/Ps 85:9-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Mon Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tues Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wed Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4,8,10/Mt 11:28-30
Thurs ... Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1,9-13b/Mt 11:11-15
Fri Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4,6/Mt 11:16-19
Sat Zec 2:14-17/(Ps) Jdt 13:18bc,19/Lk 1:26-38
Sun Is 61:1-2a,10-11/(Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54/1Thes 5:16-24/
 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

OBSERVANCES FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 6:
Sun 2nd Sunday of Advent
Mon St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Tues The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Fri St. Damasus I, Pope
Sat Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sun 3rd Sunday of Advent
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ETHICS & INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY

EIM Workshop
 Persons who already have an EIM account and are due or past due to attend an EIM Workshop should complete the Temporary Online EIM Training at www.austindiocese.org/workshop to fulfill their compliance requirement.

TALLER de EIM
 Las personas que ya tengan una cuenta de EIM y que ya requieren o se hayan pasado de su fecha de requerimiento de asistir a un taller de EIM deberán completar un Entrenamiento de EIM Temporal en Línea en www.austindiocese.org/workshop para llenar el requisito para su cumplimiento.

RESPECT LIFE

“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, www.respectlife.org/reflection

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT

Men’s Discernment Dinner: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:00-10:00pm, Bishops Hall. Evening Prayer for discernment, Cathedral. RSVP to fr.greg.gerhart@austindiocese.org or call 512-949-2430.

Advent Retreat with Sisters of Divine Providence—The Vocation Core Team from the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio is offering a free virtual Advent retreat for Catholic women 18-40 years old who may be discerning religious life. The retreat will be **Dec. 12, 10:00am-4:00pm**, and will include communal gatherings by Zoom, self-paced reflections, and an opportunity for individual Zoom visits with the sisters. The registration form is available at <https://forms.gle/rqm2D4yTKnSGYTrK6>. Email questions to vocationministry@cdptexas.org.

Discernment Retreat for Men is Dec. 16-18—*Heart of Jesus*, a discernment retreat for men, will be offered **Dec. 16-18** at Cedabrake Catholic Retreat Center in Temple. On this men’s discernment retreat, Father Greg Gerhart and the retreat staff will help participants explore how the heart of Jesus is a model of how we are called to love in our vocation. For information, visit godiscalling.me or call 512-949-2430.

Sequi Christum—To follow Christ in the Dominican Way—Virtual Discernment Retreat **Dec. 18-20**, for Catholic single women, ages 17-30. For more information, please contact Sr. Catherine Teresa Duyen Anh, OP, Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province * 832-277-4707 * houstondominicans.org/inquiry



**Pope Francis’
December Prayer
Intention:**
For a life of prayer
We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Bulletin Ads

Thank You, Sponsors! Because of you, we are able to receive our bulletins at no charge to our parish from LPi. Tina from LPi is working to increase our bulletin sponsorship. Feel free to contact Tina @ 512-431-9413 or twatson4@lpi.com. Place a business sponsorship; “In Loving Memory” blessings, or “Thank You” acknowledgements in the bulletin.

¡Agradecemos a nuestros patrocinadores! Gracias a ellos, recibimos nuestros boletines parroquiales sin costo de LPi. Tina, la representante de LPi está trabajando con nuestra parroquia para aumentar patrocinio del boletín. Para poner un anuncio para su negocio o un anuncio "En memoria de" para su sus seres queridos fallecidos, comuníquese con Tina al 512-431-9413 o al twatson4@lpi.com.