



# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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ST. THERESA

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Worship Aid and Bulletin / December 20, 2020

# INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional Hymn - *When the King Shall Come Again*

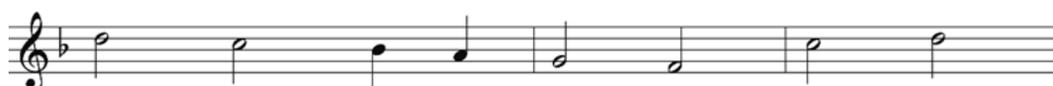
*Please stand*



1. When the King shall come a - gain, All his pow'r re -  
2. In the des - ert trees take root Fresh from his cre -  
3. Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, Faint - ing hearts, be  
4. There God's high - way shall be seen Where no roar - ing



veal - ing, Splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign,  
a - tion; Plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit  
cheer - ful! God, who comes for such as these,  
li - on, Noth - ing e - vil or un - clean,



Life and joy and heal - ing: Earth no  
Join the cel - e - bra - tion; Riv - ers  
Seeks and saves the fear - ful. Deaf ears  
Walks the road to Zi - on. Ran - somed



long - er in de - cay, Hope no more frus - trat - ed;  
spring up from the earth, Bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing;  
hear the si - lent tongues Sing a - way their weep - ing;  
peo - ple home - ward bound, All your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day  
Val - leys, this is your new birth,  
Blind eyes see the life - less ones  
See your Lord with glo - ry crowned,



Long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.  
Moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!  
Walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.  
Share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Isaiah 35; Christopher M. Idle, b.1938, alt., © 1982, The Jubilate Group (admin. by Hope Publishing Company)  
Tune: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, 7 6 7 6 D; Johann Horn, c. 1495-1547

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

## Lord Have Mercy – Advent Penitential Rite, Covington

Musical score for 'Lord Have Mercy' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score is divided into two systems. The first system has four parts: Cantor Trope, All voices, Cantor, and All. The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer-cy.\_\_\_\_ Christ, have mer-cy,\_\_\_\_'. The second system has two parts: Cantor and All. The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer - cy.\_\_\_\_\_'. The music is written on a single treble clef staff.

### Collect

*Please sit*

## THE LITURGY *of the* WORD

### First Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

### Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29

Musical score for the Responsorial Psalm in 2/4 time, key of D major. The lyrics are 'For ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the Lord.' The music is written on a single treble clef staff.

I will sing forever of your mercies,  
O LORD;

through all ages my mouth will  
proclaim your fidelity.

I have declared your mercy is  
established forever;  
your fidelity stands firm as the  
heavens. R̄.

"With my chosen one I have made a  
covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your descendants  
forever,

and set up your throne through all  
ages." R̄.

"He will call out to me, 'You are my  
father,  
my God, the rock of my salvation.'  
I will keep my faithful love for him  
always;  
with him my covenant shall last." R̄.

## Second Reading – Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel Alleluia – Luke 1:38

*Please stand*

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.

## Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Homily

*Please sit*

## Apostles Creed

*Please stand*

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,  
*All bow up to "the Virgin Mary"*  
*Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,*  
*born of the Virgin Mary,*  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into Hell;  
on the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,

and is seated at the right hand  
of God, the Father almighty;  
from there He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful

## Announcements

*Please sit*

# THE LITURGY *of the* EUCHARIST

## Preparation of the Gifts

### Offertory Anthem

*Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountains, Jennings (Sun, 9 AM)*

*Ave Maria, Biebl (Sat. 5:00 PM, Sun, 11 AM)*

### Invitation to Prayer

*Please stand*

### Prayer over the Offerings

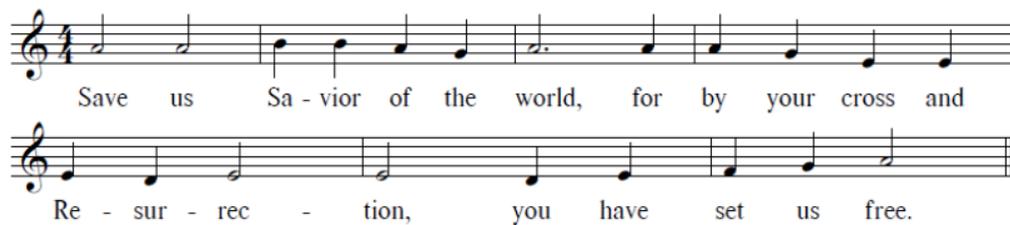
### Holy, Holy, Holy – *Mass of St Theresa, Covington*



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*



Save us Sa - vior of the world, for by your cross and  
Re - sur - rec - tion, you have set us free.

### Great Amen – *chant*

*Please stand*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### Lord's Prayer

### Sign of Peace

## Lamb of God—*Agnus Dei*, chant

*Cantor:* *All:*



A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

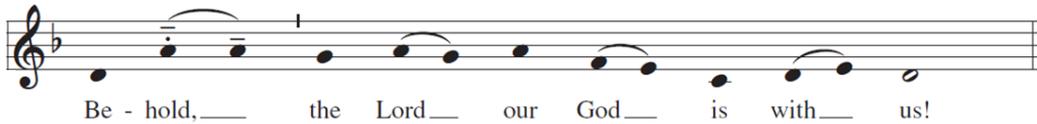
A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

*Please kneel as you are able*

## Communion Antiphon – *St. Meinrad Communion Antiphon*, Columba Kelly, OSB

### Congregational Refrain



Be - hold, \_\_\_ the Lord \_\_\_ our God \_\_\_ is with \_\_\_ us!

## Communion Hymn—*Holy Is Your Name*

### Antiphon



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -  
a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the  
peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name.

1. My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior:  
you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.
2. I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward  
that my name will be remembered, for all will call me blessed.
3. I proclaim the pow'r of God, you do marvels for your servants;  
though you scatter the proud hearted, and destroy the might of princes.
4. To the hungry you give food, send the rich away empty.  
In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen.
5. In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.  
I will praise you Lord, my savior, everlasting is your mercy.

Text: Luke 1:46-55, David Haas  
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irregular; Irish traditional; arr. by David Haas  
© 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Prayer after Communion

*Please stand*

# THE CONCLUDING RITES

## Hymn of Thanksgiving – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
That into exile drear is gone  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

### Refrain



### Men

2. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From the dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save. [Refrain]

### Women

3. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb [Refrain]
4. O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode. [Refrain]
5. O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed with awe  
Gavest thy folk the elder law. [Refrain]

Text: *Veni, Veni, Emanuel*; Latin 9th C.; tr. © Oxford University Press 1970, from *The English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.  
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain; Moe 1, 15th C. French; adapted and arr. David Willcocks © Oxford University Press, by permission of Oxford University Press,

## Blessing and Dismissal



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Waiting

God of wisdom and strength,  
we await you.

Like David, we await your prophetic guidance  
and the peace you promise.

Like Mary, we await the liberation  
of all people

and the fullness of your kingdom.

Do not keep us waiting.

Deliver us from hatred, ignorance,  
and apathy.

Bring us your justice and your healing.

Give us your wisdom, compassion,  
and courage.

Show us your light.

We await you, for you alone can save us.

Come quickly, Lord! Do not delay.

We await you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**Favored Ones**



*Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38.* God chose David, the youngest son in his family and a mere shepherd, to be king. David was a skilled and competent leader, but he was also devout. As he acknowledges all that God has done for him, he expresses his wish to do something for God, namely, to build God a temple. God replies that he needs no such favors from David. God then elevates the king still further by promising that David's descendants would rule over Israel forever.

Mary, an insignificant woman from a Galilean village, would never have imagined how much God would favor her. She does not think there is anything important she could do

for God, but the angel assures her that there is. Though startled and hesitant, Mary accepts God's will. She is ultimately elevated even above King David. She both bears God's Son and becomes part of the new era that this long-awaited descendant of David brings about.

We are God's favored ones, too. God strengthens us to live devoutly. He speaks to us in the law and the prophets and now also in the letters of the Apostles and in the Gospels. He sent his Son to reveal his extraordinary love. The love of God is a mystery that broadens and deepens the more we enter into it. We are surrounded and uplifted by this endless love. God invites us to bear that love in the world so that all will know his grace and favor.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 21

#### Leaping for Joy

Today's readings urge us to rejoice, even to leap for joy. Such joy is not a mere emotion but a state of being. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we simultaneously look further ahead to his return in glory. God came into our world, and we know that God will come again. Even now, God is with us. God will never leave us. Play music such as Handel's "Messiah" and sing or dance for joy. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

### Tuesday, December 22

#### Reversals

Hannah at last bears a child through the power of God. In thanksgiving, she dedicates her son for service to the Lord. Having just had her own experience of reversal, Hannah then prophesies about the changes of fortune that await Israel. Centuries later, Mary echoes Hannah's words as she voices her prophetic hymn. Use Hannah's song or Mary's Magnificat to pray for all those who need God to lift them up. *Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

### Wednesday, December 23

#### Purification

Like other prophets, Elijah helped cleanse God's people by stopping their worship of foreign gods. In the First Reading, we hear that Elijah will return to purify another generation of God's people. John the Baptist was Elijah for the people of his day. In every age, we need prophets to help us purify our hearts and prepare for the fullness of God's presence. Pray with an image of John the Baptist. In what ways should you purify yourself to prepare for the day of the Lord? *Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

### Thursday, December 24

#### Rest from Our Enemies

God has granted King David and all Israel safety from their enemies. This time of peace was a glimpse of the peace that God would one day bring to the whole world. Zechariah prophesies that this new era is about to begin. God will vanquish violence, pain, greed, hatred, injustice—all of the evil that endangers us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, pray for those people and places that especially need God's peace. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

### Friday, December 25

#### Among Shepherds

We don't know what Mary expected when she became the mother of God's Son. Probably, she didn't expect to lay this divine child in a feeding trough nor to be visited by shepherds. She must have been baffled, but she calmly accepted and reflected on all of it. The surprising way in which God chose to free us from evil and death is something for us to ponder, too. In the midst of what might be a full and busy day, take some time to sit before a nativity scene and reflect on its meaning. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20.*

### Saturday, December 26

#### St. Stephen, the First Martyr

The harrowing story of the stoning of Stephen is an abrupt change from the joy and peace of Christmas day. St. Stephen's witness, however, is not one of fear and pain but of devotion to Christ. St. Stephen not only fulfills Jesus' words about persecution, he also dies like Jesus: he entrusts himself to God and forgives his persecutors. Is there someone you should forgive this Christmas season? *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:8–10; 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.*



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 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, 12/20   | Children's Gospel Reflection, 9 a.m., virtual<br>Children's Catechesis virtual, self-paced<br>H.S. Youth Group, 6 p.m., hybrid |
| Tues, 12/22  | CHURCH DECORATING PARTY, 6:30 p.m.<br>Theresa Moms, Endow, 8:30 p.m., Zoom   |
| Wed, 12/23   | Catalyst Men, 6:20 a.m., via Zoom<br>Sr. Adult Friends, 1:30 p.m., Elmer Hall  |
| Thurs, 12/24 | CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES (tickets required)<br>4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Midnight  |
| Fri, 12/25   | CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES<br>8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (tickets required)   |
| Sat, 12/26   | Dr. Dan Girardot Farewell, 6 p.m., parish<br>courtyard, following 5 p.m. Mass  |
| Sun, 12/27   | Dr. Dan Girardot Farewell, parish<br>courtyard, after 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses  |

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

## DAILY READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

5:00 p.m..... Martha Holub †

### Sunday, December 20

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

7:30 a.m..... Camella Falsone Scarmardo

9:00 a.m..... Deacon Tony Pynes

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

### Monday, December 21

*Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

5g 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

11:30 a.m..... Anna Thompson †

### Tuesday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

11:30 a.m..... T.J. O'Neill †

### Wednesday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

11:30 a.m..... Donald Streetman †

### Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25th VIGIL and MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

4:00 p.m..... Ann and Dan Girardot

6:30 p.m..... Ann Marie Thompson

12 Midnight..... T.J. O'Neill †

8:00 a.m..... Genevieve Kennedy Rafferty †

10:00 a.m..... John Dohanich †

### Saturday, December 26

#### SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17

Mt 10:17-22

5:00 p.m..... George and Anna Marie Quimby

### Sunday, December 27

#### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40

7:30 a.m..... Kathie Tacquard

9:00 a.m..... Andrew Flynn

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

# Parish News

## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MASS LIVESTREAM

We are excited to welcome all for our Christmas celebrations. We will be livestreaming three Masses: 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day on the parish YouTube and Facebook. If you plan to attend Christmas Mass in-person, you will need to present tickets for entry. This is to allow for the required social distancing during Mass. **At the time of publication, all Masses were full with the exception of the newly added 8:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day.** Reservations can be made on the parish website at [sttaustin.org/mass-reservations](http://sttaustin.org/mass-reservations).

## CHRISTMAS MASS (tickets required to enter)

### Christmas Eve

4:00 PM—Church and gym (also livestreamed)

6:30 PM—Church and gym (also livestreamed)

Midnight Mass—Church

### Christmas Day

8:00 AM—Church *tickets available at press time on 12/14, sale ends 12/20*

10:00 AM—Church (this Mass will also be livestreamed)



Please be sure that you and your guests are familiar with the parish Mass protocols for COVID-19. These can be found on the parish website.

## SAYING FAREWELL TO DR. DAN, DEC. 26-27

After 37 years of ministry at St. Theresa, Dr. Dan Girardot will be celebrating his last weekend with us as music director the weekend of December 26-27. You are invited to come say farewell to Dr. Dan at a safe distance in the courtyard outside church following the 5 p.m. Vigil, 9 a.m., or 11 a.m. Masses that weekend. Also, or if you are unable to attend, you are welcome to send a card or gift to Dan through the parish office or to [DrDanMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:DrDanMinistry@gmail.com).



## CHURCH DECORATING PARTY DECEMBER 22ND

You may have already decorated your home, but how about the sanctuary where the reason for the season is celebrated and proclaimed? Come help make our church beautiful at our annual Christmas decorating party at 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 22nd. Bring the whole family. We will be wearing masks and social distancing. Unfortunately we cannot safely provide food or drinks this year. Many hands make light work!

## PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 24th and 25th	Closed
December 28th—31st	Open 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
January 1st	Closed



## STEWARDSHIP

### Contributions:

Weekly—Nov 30-Dec 6.....	\$40,774
Month of November .....	\$143,676
December to date.....	\$36,409
Fiscal Year '21 to date.....	\$822,672

### Budgeted Offertory:

November Budget.....	\$154,032
December Budget.....	\$274,196
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!



During the month of November, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Theresa Conference helped:

**42 Families**  
**121 Individuals**

## Welcome New Parishioners

**Mikiel and Laura Featherston**

Welcome through Baptism:

**Olivia Rodarte Villarreal**

## Flowers on the Altar

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.

# PARISH NEWS

## RCIA STARTING NEW SESSION, JANUARY 10TH

- ◇ Do you have questions about the Catholic faith?
- ◇ Are you considering becoming Catholic?
- ◇ Are you an adult Catholic needing to celebrate any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation)?



If you have answered yes to any of these questions or if you know someone who might be interested, please reach out! Contact Amy Allert to discuss the various options available, 512-451-2940 or [amy-allert@sttaustin.org](mailto:amy-allert@sttaustin.org). New adult sessions will begin in mid-January.

## FEAST OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. The feast day begins the new year with a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus Christ and her faith in trust in God alone.

**Mass times are: (Vigil) 6 p.m. December 31st, and 10 a.m. January 1st.**



## CONNECTIONS—START 2021 WITH THE SACRAMENTS



Connections invites all women of the parish to start the new year deepening your understanding of the Sacraments. On Tuesday evenings, starting January 5th at 7:00 p.m., Bishop Robert Barron reveals how the Sacraments are signs and channels of the presence of Jesus Christ.

Connections is offered in-person in the Family Center with face masks encouraged and other safety protocols. The meetings are also held on Zoom. Once you register on the parish website, you will receive weekly emails including the Zoom link. Come experience the blessing of Connections fellowship and study! Contact Terry France at [tjfrance@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjfrance@sbcglobal.net) with questions or for more information.

## ARE YOU CELEBRATING A MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?



If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary for your Sacrament of Marriage in 2021, we'd like to honor you with a certificate from the Bishop. If you are celebrating your 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or above, you may send the following information, **by Jan. 18**, to

Linda Gockel at [linda-gockel@sttaustin.org](mailto:linda-gockel@sttaustin.org):

- ◇ Name of the couple as you would like it to appear
- ◇ Number of years of marriage you will be celebrating
- ◇ Your mailing address
- ◇ Your email address

We regret that we will not be able to celebrate milestone anniversaries in person this year due to the pandemic and limits on capacity at Mass.

## GRIEF SUPPORT OFFERED EACH WEEK

Our Grief Support group meets each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and/or to be put on the Zoom invitation list, please contact Sr. Ann at [ann@sttaustin.org](mailto:ann@sttaustin.org).

## 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:

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- Keith Carter, [keith-carter@sttaustin.org](mailto:keith-carter@sttaustin.org)
- Peter Barger, [Peter-barger@sttaustin.org](mailto:Peter-barger@sttaustin.org)

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### Senior Ministry/Social Outreach, Dir.:

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### Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

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### Director of Children's Ministry:

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**SCHOOL OFFICE: 512-451-7105**

**Principal:** Brian Wheeler - [bwheeler@st-theresa.org](mailto:bwheeler@st-theresa.org)

**Admissions:** Susie Thompson—[sthompson@st-theresa.org](mailto:sthompson@st-theresa.org)

*Finding*

*JOY and HOPE this Advent Season*

ADVENT PARISH MISSION

December 14 & 15 6:30-8:30 pm

Speaker, Adoration, Confession  
this replaces our parish Advent Reconciliation Service

CHURCH DECORATING PARTY

December 22 6:30-8:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm, & 6:30 pm (church, gym, livestream)

Midnight Mass (church)

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am (church), 10 am (+livestream)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD, JAN. 1ST

6:00 pm Vigil, 10 a.m. Feast Day



# Welcome Home!

## *A few things you need to know about attending Mass*

*Revised July 10, 2020*

Face masks are highly encouraged by order of the bishop.

Any who are 65 or older, those who have pre-existing conditions or those who are immunity compromised should remain home. Any person who is ill should remain at home.

The Bishop continues to waive the obligation to attend weekend Mass.

Please allow the hospitality ministers to find you a seat when you arrive, and please wait for them to usher you out of the building at the end of worship.

Late comers will be asked to remain in the narthex until the hospitality minister can seat them. This will be done only during the Responsorial Psalm.

The pews in the narthex are reserved for families with infants and small children. Please respect their needs.

At Holy Communion everyone must come forward to receive the Eucharist or a blessing. This prevents having to pass in front of other parishioners in the pews.

Please remember not to gather in the narthex either before or after Mass.

Those who are looking for greater distancing are encouraged to attend the 5:00 vigil on Saturday or the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

While we do sing at Mass, we have not yet resumed full congregational music participation at the direction of the Diocese.

Once seated, please remain in that designated space in order to maintain social distance. Moving about in the sanctuary should be avoided if possible.

Out of respect for the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, it is not permitted to receive Holy Communion in the hand while wearing gloves. It is also not permitted to rest anything, such as a tissue, on the hand to use as a barrier.

We regret that the church cannot remain open for private prayer following Mass, but it needs to be vacated so that we can begin sanitizing and preparing for the next Mass.

