

# Third Sunday of Advent

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

**Sun, 12/17** Choir Rehearsals, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Music Room 11  
RCIA Classes, 10:20 am., Elmer Hall, Room 202  
Catechesis Classes, 10:20 a.m.

### CORNERSTONE, 10:20 A.M., FAMILY CENTER

Breaking Open the Word, 10:20 a.m.,  
Elmer Hall, Room 205  
Youth Choir Practice, 3 p.m., Church  
Sunday Night Rosary, Beads for Our Teens,  
6:15 p.m., Chapel

**Mon, 12/18** Rosary for Peace, 6 p.m., Church

**Tues, 12/19** Legion of Mary, 5:30 p.m., Elmer Hall, Room 102  
Crossroads (20's-30's Ministry), 7:30 p.m.,  
Elmer Hall, Great Room  
Men's Basketball, 8 p.m., Gymnasium

**Wed, 12/20** Catalyst, 6 a.m., Family Center  
Bridge, 12:30 p.m., Family Center  
Canasta, 1 p.m., Family Center  
Children's Catechesis, 4:20 p.m.  
Angel Choir, 5:30 p.m., Room 1, Education Bldg.  
Children's Choir, 5:30 p.m., Room 11,  
Education Bldg.  
Cantor Rehearsal, 6 p.m., Church  
Hand Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m., Room 11,  
Education Bldg.  
11 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., 7 p.m., Elmer Hall,  
Room 201  
9 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Room 11,  
Education Bldg.  
Choir Sectional Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.,  
Rooms 1 and 12, Education Bldg.

**Thurs, 12/21** Grief's Courageous Journey, 2 p.m.,  
Elmer Hall, Room 102  
Baptism Class, 7 p.m., Family Center

**Sat, 12/23** Brass Cleaning Ministry, 1 p.m., Sacristy  
Music Ministry Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m., Music Room 11

**Sun, 12/24** Choir Rehearsals, 8 a.m., Music Room 11  
10 A.M. MASS Christmas Eve Mass, 4 p.m.,  
Church and Jordan Hall  
Christmas Eve Mass, 6:30 p.m., Church  
Christmas Eve Mass, 12 a.m., Church

[www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org) To schedule events or activities, please email  
[scheduling@sttaustin.org](mailto:scheduling@sttaustin.org). Please include the date and  
time of your event, the facility requested and any special  
set up instructions.

## MASS INTENTIONS & DAILY READINGS

### Saturday, December 16

*Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 / Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13*  
5:00 p.m. .... John Hennessey †

### Sunday, December 17

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 /  
1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

Today's readings can be found on  
page **1008** of the *Worship Hymnal*.

7:30 a.m. .... Helen Atwood †  
9:00 a.m. .... Edward Loeve †  
11:30 a.m. .... Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church  
5:00 p.m. .... Eric Burns

### Monday, December 18

*Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Mt 1:18-25*

11:30 a.m. .... Poor Souls in Purgatory

### Tuesday, December 19

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

11:30 a.m. .... Martha Holub

### Wednesday, December 20

*Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Lk 1:26-38*

11:30 a.m. .... Christopher Schubert †

### Thursday, December 21

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

*Sg 2:8-14 / Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 / Lk 1:39-45*

11:30 a.m. .... Vincent Gordacan †

### Friday, December 22

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

11:30 a.m. .... Donald C. Streetman †

### Saturday, December 23

#### Saint John of Kanty, Priest

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

5:00 p.m. .... Joshua Barta †

### Sunday, December 24

#### 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*

Today's readings can be found  
on page **1011** of the *Worship Hymnal*.

10:00 a.m. .... Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

### CHRISTMAS EVE

*Is 9:1-6 / Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14*

Readings can be found on page **1014** of the *Worship Hymnal*.

4 p.m. .... Ota Bell Clifton †  
Delfino Ortiz †  
6:30 p.m. .... Thomas Manley †  
Midnight ..... Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

**A MESSAGE FROM FR. LARRY**

*My brothers and sisters in Christ,*

Christmas is nearly here and with all of the business of the season I am reminded once again of how grateful I am to be a part of a great church community. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to share with you in this ministry. St. Theresa Church continues to be present to the Catholic Community of central Austin sharing a message of Christ's love, forgiveness, and grace.

Every day the Eucharist is offered as a source of strength and grace.  
 Every day those with spiritual and physical needs come to our doors.  
 Every day clergy and professionally trained lay leaders witness the love of Christ.  
 Every day volunteers work hand in hand in more than 50 ministries.  
 Every day we are church together.

I believe that what we do is vital in our city.  
 I believe that the message of Jesus Christ needs to be heard in our city.  
 I believe that the Catholic Church can transform people.  
 I believe that Christ's message of mercy and love are more needed than ever before.

But we need your help.

As you plan for your giving to all the people you love and cherish would you please include the work of your church?

I am asking for you to consider a gift to your church this Christmas.

Please help us move forward in ministry so that every day we may continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your faithfulness!



Rev. Larry Covington  
 Pastor

**ADVENT SAINTS ~ REFLECTION BY FR. LARRY  
 SAINT STEPHEN**

Related image Most people's association with St. Stephen is the song "Good King Wenceslaus looked out on the feast of Stephen." Our December saint who is celebrated on the day after Christmas was very probably a Hellenistic Jew and one of the "seven men of good repute, full of the spirit and of wisdom" mentioned in Acts 6:3. He was among those chosen by the apostles to relieve them of the administrative burden of "serving tables and caring for the widows." By this appointment to assist the apostles, Stephen, the first named of those the New Testament calls "The Seven," became the first to do what the Church traditionally considers to be the work and ministry of a deacon.



It is apparent that Stephen's activities involved more than simply serving tables, for the Acts of the Apostles speaks of his preaching and performing many miracles. These activities led him into conflict with some of the Jews, who accused him of blasphemy, and brought him before the Sanhedrin. His powerful sermon before the council is recorded in the seventh chapter of Acts. His denunciations of the Sanhedrin so enraged its members that, without a trial, they dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Saul, later called Paul, stood by, consenting to Stephen's death, but Stephen's example of steadfast faith in Jesus, and of intercession for his persecutors, was to find fruit in the mission and witness of Paul after his conversion. The Christian community in Jerusalem, taking fright at the hostility of the Judean authorities, was scattered; so that for the first time the Gospel of Christ began to spread beyond Jerusalem. Stephen is the first martyr for the Christian faith and is referred to as the Protomartyr Stephen in the Orthodox Church.

We give glory and thanks for the example of Stephen the martyr who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Through his example may we also be inspired to "bless those who curse us."

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Contribution Box**

Weekly Contribution Goal ..... \$42,202.30  
 Contributions for December 10.. \$61,6543.24

*For those who would like the convenience of using your American Express, Discover, Visa, MasterCard or Automated Check for contributions, forms are available in the Narthex and Church Office. Please remember to notify the Church Office of any changes.*

**2017 CHRISTMAS SEASON  
 MASS SCHEDULE**



**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:**

Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, Dec. 24th at 10 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:**

Sunday, Dec. 24th at: 4 p.m. in Church  
 4 p.m. in Gymnasium  
 6:30 p.m. in Church  
 12 a.m. Midnight Mass in Church  
 (11:20 p.m. music begins before mass)

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS:**

Monday, Dec. 25th at 10 a.m.  
 \*There is no daily mass from Tuesday,  
 Dec. 26th – Friday, Dec. 29th\*

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
 MASSES:**

Saturday, Dec. 30th at 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, Dec. 31st at 7:30 a.m.,  
 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASSES:  
 (NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
 IN 2018 BECAUSE IT FALLS  
 ON A MONDAY):**

Sunday, Dec. 31st at 5 p.m.  
 Monday, Jan. 1st at 10 a.m.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:**

Jan. 6-7 ~ We Observe Regular  
 Sunday Mass Schedule

Have you added St. Theresa Catholic Church to your social media yet?



"Like" us on Facebook

"Follow" us on Twitter



## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Our Senior Adult Ministry offers many opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and support, service, and fun. Senior Adult social activities include informational speakers, trips and table games. For more information on any of the activities listed below, contact St. Ann Pennington at (512) 451-5121 x1017 or [ann@sttaustin.org](mailto:ann@sttaustin.org).

### UPCOMING SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

#### \* St. Theresa Senior Adult Coffee Group

Would you like to get together with old and new friends for coffee or breakfast? Would you like to meet new parishioners? Consider joining our St. Theresa Senior Coffee Group at Kneaded Pleasures, 2473 Far West Blvd. the last Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and bring a friend.

#### \* Book Club

All book lovers are invited to join our book club which meets the second Monday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in Elmer Hall, Rm. 102. The book to be discussed in January is “The Alice Network” by Kate Quinn.

#### \* Genealogy Club

If you would like to learn more about your ancestry, consider joining our genealogy club which meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in Elmer Hall, Rm. 101. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 5. Please bring your computers.

#### \* Bridge Club

Join us to play bridge any Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Family Center. All levels of experience welcome! We are a social group who enjoys playing bridge and are happy to help those with questions. If you don't wish to come every week, be sure to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays when the most people come to play.

#### \* Canasta Club

Looking for canasta players...no experience necessary! If you like to play cards, come join us on the second and fourth Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Family Center.

#### \* Caregiver Support Group

Caregiver Support Group is expanding to include all caregivers for a loved one who is suffering from chronic illness, not only Alzheimer's. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in Elmer Hall, Rm. 102.

#### Senior Ladies' Travel Group

Are you interested in traveling but do not want to go alone? Consider joining our Senior Ladies' Travel Group which discusses any type of travel; from day trips to cruises. This group meets the last Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in Elmer Hall, Rm. 102.

#### Spiritual Support Visits

Sr. Ann Pennington, Minister of Senior Adults and Social Outreach, is available to visit our senior adult parishioners in their homes, in assisted living, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, or hospitals. To request a visit for yourself or for a loved one, contact Sr. Ann at (512) 451-5121 ext. 1017 or at [ann@sttaustin.org](mailto:ann@sttaustin.org).

## PARISH LIFE

### THANK YOU FROM SEWING MINISTRY

Thank you to all who supported St. Theresa Sewing Ministry by your kind words and generous donations as you chose prayer blankets for loved ones. We hope the blankets bring comfort and hope to those in need.

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT COMING TO ST. THERESA JANUARY 5-8, 2018

“This retreat changed my entire life. If I would not have experienced this myself, I would not have believed the person telling me that such a change could happen in one weekend.” - Doug V. (retreat participant). The Light of the World retreat is an opportunity to renew your faith and connect with your parish community. All adults 18 years and older are welcome. While both men and women can attend, small groups are gender separated and confidential. The retreat takes place on our campus but is not overnight. The cost is \$40 per person, space is limited! Scholarships are available. More information and registration is available at [www.sttaustin.org/lotw](http://www.sttaustin.org/lotw).

### GRIEF'S COURAGEOUS JOURNEY SUPPORT GROUP

If you have lost a loved one or a dear friend you are invited to join us for our Grief's Courageous Journey support group. We meet each Thursday from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Elmer Hall, Rm. 102. For more information, please contact Sr. Ann Pennington at (512) 451 – 5121, ext. 1017 or at [ann@sttaustin.org](mailto:ann@sttaustin.org).

## WORSHIP

### *Gift of Gratitude for the Advent Lessons and Carols and Parish Party!*

We give thanks for all those who participated in our parish Advent Lessons and Carols, Blessing of Lights, and Parish Party last week. Special appreciation goes to the over 100 volunteers, musicians, and leaders who gave their time, creativity and talent to bring this great event to life! You created an amazing and wonderful gift for the whole Austin community! May this season of Advent draw you closer to Christ. If you would like to hear the audio of the Lessons and Carols Service, check the website at [www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org).

### Choir Schedule for Christmas

The choirs have a special rehearsal schedule for the week before Christmas. Please contact the choir directors for the special times and for the special Christmas schedule.

- 11:30 Liturgical Chorale sings: Dec. 23, 5 p.m.; Christmas Eve Midnight; 10 a.m. Christmas Day
- 9:00 Liturgical Choir sings: Dec. 23, 10 a.m.; Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m.; Mass; 10 a.m. Christmas Day
- Choristers, Youth, and Young Adult Choirs: Dec. 23, Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Mass - Church
- Small Ensemble and Angel Choir: Dec. 23, Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Mass – Parish Athletic Gym



**KEEPING THE SEASON OF ADVENT** – In the two weeks we have left in Advent, we have opportunity to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas and reach out to others with care and kindness in the “little way” of St. Theresa. In the busy days to come, we focus on preparing our hearts for the Lord by choosing to be patient when impatient, serving others instead of ourselves, and being kind when difficulties arise. Rejoice!

## WORSHIP

### Advent at Home Observances

- Read Scripture and daily reflections on our website [www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org).
- Advent wreath prayer at home (see prayer below)
- Go to 11:30 daily mass together with family/friends

### ADVENT WREATH AND TABLE PRAYER

Take time during this busy season to pray at your table; privately, with friends, or with your family. The following ritual is from Part I of *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*.

**LEADER:** In this Third Week of Advent we are invited to rejoice in the Lord, for he is near. We light three candles on the Advent wreath in anticipation of the joy of Christmas. Rejoicing is one of the surest signs of God's presence among us.

*(Advent candles may be lighted as the leader says)*

**LEADER:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, in darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you in this food and in our sharing.

Blessed are you as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

**LEADER:** Come, Lord Jesus!

**ALL:** Come quickly!

**ALL:** Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts which we are about to receive, from thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**“How do I find a seat at the Christmas Masses?!”** On Christmas, the 4 p.m. Masses are very crowded so the **second Christmas Eve mass is moved to 6:30PM this year. The BEST masses for available seating are Midnight Mass and 10 a.m. mass Christmas Day.** Experience the amazing beauty of the Sacrament at our special Masses at Christmas. Remember to check the special schedule for this year!

## SOCIAL TEACHING

**Third Sunday of Advent** ~ You might notice that John does not use Jesus' name in this Gospel, but only refers to him as “one whom you do not recognize.” Although they knew the text of Isaiah the Pharisees were not really prepared to find the promised Messiah among the broken- hearted, the lonely, those held in captivity or those lacking justice and peace. Do we know where to look for Jesus? Will we recognize him among those most ignored and forgotten in our world?

## SCHOOL NEWS



**Friday, December 15, 2017 ~ STCS Christmas Holiday's begin.**

**School resumes after the Christmas holiday -  
Wednesday, January 3, 2018**

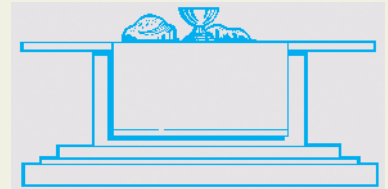
Would you like to serve as a substitute teacher at St. Theresa's Catholic School?  
Teacher certification is not required!

- \* EIM application/background check required - [www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org)
- \* Must attend a Diocesan workshop
- \* Strong classroom management skills desired

Please call Debbie Stapper, (512) 275-7259, or email [dstapper@st-theresa.org](mailto:dstapper@st-theresa.org) if you are interested in being added to the STCS Substitute Teacher list.



## PARISH LIFE



### The Lord's Table

**Altar Linens:** December 17 – 20

Marianne Peek-Sicuro

**Altar Care:** December 17 – 23

Becky Hesson



*Flowers On The Altar:* Donating altar flowers is a nice way of remembering and honoring those we love. If you would like to remember or honor someone in this special way, please call or stop by the Church Office to sign up and bring your donation. Thank you!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Classes will be on Christmas Break from Dec. 20 – Jan. 3. Classes resume Sunday, Jan. 7th and Wednesday Jan. 10th

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### CONFIRMATION UPDATE

High School Confirmation Masses at St. Theresa will be celebrated by Bishop Vasquez on February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 p.m.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

This volunteer program supports Catholic Charities' mission to serve anyone in our community with high-quality compassionate services. Last year their volunteers gave more than \$454,000 in added value to the mission of the caregivers. Information on their current volunteer opportunities can be found on their website at [www.ccctx.org](http://www.ccctx.org).

### RETREAT FOR OLDER TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Together Encounter Christ (TEC), a retreat, will be held Jan. 13-15 at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in Burnet. Older teens and young adults are invited to ignite their relationship with God with this weekend of prayer and witness. The cost is \$100 per person; scholarships are available. For more information, visit [www.tec-ctx.org](http://www.tec-ctx.org).

### BOAR'S HEAD PAGEANT AT ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

St. Albert the Great Parish in Austin will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with its annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Pageant Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. This medieval Christmas celebration will feature music, dance, period costumes and a live Nativity scene. For more information and tickets, visit [www.boarsheadaustin.com](http://www.boarsheadaustin.com) or call (512) 837-4179.

### WATCH SPECIAL EWTN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING

EWTN is proud to present LIVE Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington DC. Also, we will be airing inspiring musical performances, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations that the whole family will enjoy. Watch or listen to EWTN TV and EWTN Radio on your local channel, online, or even on your smartphone using our free EWTN App! For more information, go to [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)

### PERMANENT DIACONATE DISCERNMENT: PROJECT STEPHEN

English and Spanish speaking men wishing to explore the permanent diaconate are invited to Project Stephen – a monthly gathering for men and their wives to pray, listen, and discern in community. Project Stephen meets year-around, on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Austin. Men, before attending, must first discuss their interest in the diaconate with their pastors and receive his consent. When a new formation class begins (every three years), men will be invited to apply. For more information, e-mail [formationdirectors@austindiocese.org](mailto:formationdirectors@austindiocese.org).

### RELEVANT RADIO, 970 AM, IN AUSIN AREA

Grow in your faith and change your life with Relevant Radio 970 AM - Austin's "Talk Radio for Catholic Life." This non-profit, listener-supported Catholic radio station bridges the gap between faith and everyday life - covering topics of the day from a uniquely Catholic perspective. Relevant Radio 970 can be heard on the radio, on the Internet at [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) or on the mobile app, available for Apple or Android devices. Take your faith with you wherever you go - tune in today!

## DIRECTORY

**Parish Office**  
512-451-5121 (voice),  
512-453-6824 (fax)  
[www.sttaustin.org](http://www.sttaustin.org)

### Pastor:

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

### Parochial Vicar:

Reverend Neville Jansze  
[fr-neville@sttaustin.org](mailto:fr-neville@sttaustin.org)

### Deacons:

- Tony Pynes,  
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- George Zacek,  
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### Chief Operating Officer:

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Mary Lou Ancira, ext. 1002  
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### Bulletin Announcements:

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### Maintenance and Grounds:

William Scott, Ray Durden, Reuben Martin, and Howard McDonald

### Director of Liturgy:

JD McQueen, x 1031  
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### Director Music:

Dan Girardot, 512-451-5132 ext. 1004  
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### Senior Ministry/Social Outreach, Dir.:

Sister Ann Pennington, ext. 1017  
[ann@sttaustin.org](mailto:ann@sttaustin.org)

### Communications Director:

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### Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis:

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### Children's Ministry Director:

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### Youth Ministry Director:

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### School Office, 512-451-7105

**President:** Ann Walters, ext 1015  
[awalters@st-theresa.org](mailto:awalters@st-theresa.org)

### Admissions & Development Director:

Suzanne Leggett, ext 1025  
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