

**MARCH 1, 2020 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time*

**Sunday, Mar 01, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
Count me in**

A fresh supply of blood keeps the body nourished, just as children add a new chapter to the story of every family. In the same way, our nation's vitality has always been renewed by the welcoming of immigrants. The church likewise depends on making the way of Jesus attractive to new members. Today we celebrate those entering our church community through the Rite of Election. As they sign their names in the Book of Election, we might ask: What are we doing to keep the Body of Christ alive and well?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 (22).* "How much more did the grace of God . . . overflow for the many."

**Monday, Mar 02, 2020  
LENTEN WEEKDAY  
Heaven all the way**

Today's gospel raises the specter of "eternal punishment," better known as hell. In popular imagination, hell is a fiery place of suffering that a punishing God sends people to. Not so fast, say today's Catholic theologians, including the last three popes. God is not a torturer. Hell is not so much a physical place but a separation from God chosen by humans. "It is heaven all the way to heaven," declared Saint Catherine of Siena. To which Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M. adds, "It's hell all the way to hell." Today choose heaven.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224)* "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

**Tuesday, Mar 03, 2020  
MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL,  
VIRGIN**

**Stand for equality**

The first American-born U.S. saint, Katharine Drexel was exactly what the country needed. Born into wealth and privilege in 1858, she learned about charity from her parents and took an interest in serving Native Americans and African Americans, who she saw were unjustly excluded from the American dream. Of all the great things she did, perhaps her biggest accomplishment was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. Look to her and help everyone get an equal chance.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 "Give us this day our daily bread."

**Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020  
MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR  
Let's be the royal we**

It's that day of the year when you can joke about the date also being a direct order—to "march forth." But under whose authority? And for what purpose? In biblical times, of course, it was at the behest of a powerful king or other sovereign. But what about us? If we were baptized as children in the Catholic rite that anoints us "priest, prophet, and king" along with Jesus, we can look to someone such as Saint Casimir. Like this beloved prince of Poland in the 1400s, we act like a sovereign whenever we use our resources for good and influence those under our direction—be they children, students, coworkers, or fellow citizens—to do the same.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226).* "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne."

**Thursday, Mar 05, 2020  
LENTEN WEEKDAY  
Let the body guide you**

Prayer takes many forms—mental, verbal, visual, and physical. We speak, sing, reflect silently, stand, kneel, clasp our hands together. One time-honored Catholic tradition that is rarely seen—except perhaps on Good Friday or at ordinations and monastic professions—is prostration, the act of lying face down on the ground. It symbolizes profound adoration, humility, or sorrow before God, and also expresses the "earthy" connection between God, humanity, and all creation. We "shorten" this prayer form when we bow our heads. As you enter into your own prayer, consider how bowing your head or lying prostrate might assist you in connecting more fully or in a different way with God.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Esther C12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227).* "Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish, had recourse to the LORD. She lay prostrate upon the ground."

**Friday, Mar 06, 2020  
LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF  
ABSTINENCE**

**Be a little more careful**

Lent invites us to a conversion of heart; any practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can be the means of surrendering anger and loving more deeply. How might we do that? Smile at everyone you encounter today. Pray for ourselves and the people (or leaders) with whom we struggle. Ask each morning for

the grace to imagine a walk in the shoes of a difficult person. Work to remove the judgment from your heart, and find the courage to mend a broken relationship. As the poet E.E. Cummings put it, "be of love (a little) More careful / Than of everything." **TODAY'S READINGS:** *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228).* "Go first to be reconciled with your brother."

**Saturday, Mar 07, 2020  
MEMORIAL OF PERPETUA AND  
FELICITY, MARTYRS  
Courage can be costly**

Questions of conscience tend to get overlooked in the daily demands of work and family. But as totalitarian regimes around the world proliferate, some may face dilemmas similar to that of Perpetua and her servant Felicity. Both martyrs chose fidelity to Christ despite—or because of—their obligations as new mothers. Franz Jagerstatter, centuries later, in fidelity to his Catholic faith and love for his three daughters, refused a loyalty oath to Hitler and was beheaded. The sun rises on evil and good. But death does not have the last word. So risk speaking the truth.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229).* "For [God] makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good."

**Next Sunday  
Sunday, Mar 08, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
Cherish the vision**

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9.* "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CORNER  
Feb. 29- March 1 -- First Sunday of Lent**

We begin the season of Lent with Jesus going into the desert. We need to follow him into the desert of fasting, prayer and self-denial in order to re-learn the covenant way of life which comes with our Baptism. Now is the time to turn from distractions. Now is the time to remember and reverence our own dignity and the life and dignity of each person as God's beloved. Now is the time to set aside anything that diverts us from our true hunger and thirst for God alone. What is the fasting God desires for us this Lent?

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is the first  
Sunday of  
Lent**



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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY Feb 29, VIGIL MASS**

Healing Grace for Charlene Postell and Rosalind Cunningham

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 8:00AM**

In loving memory of Margaret "Maggie" Hendricks on her 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary in Heaven, request by Kim Boston

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 10:00AM**

For God's Protection and Guidance, over our families and to the whole world. Requested by the CWO

Congratulation to Rubyn Carter on your Academic Achievement Award.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, NOON MASS**

Happy 49<sup>th</sup> Birthday to David "Ace" Irving

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, NOON MASS**

All our deceased members, who have gone to be with the Lord.

**THURSDAY MARCH 5, NOON MASS**

For those who have no one to pray for them, requested by the Mullen's

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6, NOON MASS**

Healing graces for all Holy Cross Parishioners

**IGBO MASS**

The next IGBO will be Sunday, March 29, 2020, at 1:30PM. Please tell and invite all your friends.

**NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION**

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

**2020 PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND**

**DATE:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, to 13th, 2020

Please see Jennifer Brooks or Donna Sistrunk-Irving in the office.

More details to follow soon

This shall be the last parish planned Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, sponsored by Holy Cross. Please join us.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Ella Adams	Mary Anthony
Evelyn Battle	Mildred Carter
B.J. Dukes	Josephine Dukes
Vanessa Downey-Little	Monica Godsey
Lester Johnson	Vonnye Rice-Gardner
Doris King	Marie Mason
Bernadette Phifer	Ella Pease
Betty Ridley	Mary Sobers
Mary Waters	Rosalind Cunningham
Charlene Postell	

**PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Church celebrates your presence at Mass and is greatly enriched by families who give glory to God. **As we continue to cultivate an awareness of care and protection of children in the Church, please accompany them when they step out of Mass to use the restroom or get a drink of water. This also applies to the FLC.** Together, we help form our littlest ones in wisdom

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday April 5, 2020**

**Tuesday**

No Noon Mass at Holy Cross  
Chrism Mass at St. Vincent de Paul

**Thursday**

Lord Supper 6:30 PM  
Adoration 7:30 PM

**Good Friday**

Fish Fry 10:30am-1:30pm  
Stations of the Cross 2:30 PM  
Prayer at the Foot of the Cross 8:30 PM

**Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil 9:00 PM

**ANNUAL MINISTRY DAY**

**RECOLLECTION**

Date: Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>

Venue: FLC Hall

By: Fr Bruce Nieli

All ministry members of Holy Cross

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**

Thank you to those families who made a pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. It is not too late. Your gift can make a real difference in the lives of many who are supported by our diocesan programs in education, spirituality and outreach. Pledge envelopes are available on the Usher's table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

**DEBT RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

This collection helps us pay our FLC loan with the diocese and other expenses. Our monthly target is \$4000. This collection is every Second Sunday of the month. Thanks for your generosity.

**FROM ASHES TO EASTER**

The annual diocesan Ashes to Easter Lenten Mission Campaign has begun. Each family is invited to pick up a box. Put in some coins each day during Lent, and pray for missions worldwide. Contributing coins each day is a corporal work of mercy that will help shelter the homeless and spiritual work of mercy that will help comfort the sorrowful. The money collected helps local missionaries and missionary projects from our diocese.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2020**

Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

**FRIDAY 6:30PM**

**Station of the Cross**

**Weekend Feb 22/23, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE**

VIGIL MASS	31	5:30 pm
SUNDAY	38	8:00 am
	359	10:00 am

**Weekend FEB 22/23, 2020**

OFFERTORY	\$3652.00
SVDP	70.00
NEEDS OF PARISH	430.00
ACTS	520.00
FISH FRY	960.00
MSP	20.00
E-GIVING	1029.13
SVDP(E-GIVING)	15.00
DR (E-GIVING)	383.00
DR	195.00
Gift Store	25.00

**Family Life Center Now Available for Renting**

For all your events like:

- Wedding Party
- Birthday Party
- Graduation Party
- Wakes
- Coporate Events
- Ministry Events
- Meetings
- ETC

Contact the Church Office for details  
5124723741

