

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**INVEST JUST FIVE MINUTES A DAY, AND YOUR FAITH WILL DEEPEN AND GROW, A DAY AT A TIME."**

### **SUNDAY, FEB 21, 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT DOING THE RITE THING**

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23).* "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

### **MONDAY, FEB 22, 2021 FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE RECOGNIZE THE CHAIR**

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (53S).* "I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."

### **TUESDAY, FEB 23, 2021 MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR WORDS TO LIVE FOREVER BY**

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (22S).* "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

### **WEDNESDAY, FEB 24, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY A GOOD DAY TO MAKE AMENDS**

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226).* "At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

### **THURSDAY, FEB 25, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY HAS PRAYER MOVED YOU?**

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227).* "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."

### **FRIDAY, FEB 26, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE THE LOW RUMBLE WITHIN**

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace.

Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228).* "Go first and be reconciled."

Saturday, Feb 27, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY Agree to disagree There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to like someone to love them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle.  
**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229).* "But I say to you, love your enemies."

### **Next Sunday**

### **SUNDAY, FEB 28, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT GO ALL IN ERIN BECAME A ROMAN CATHOLIC IN MIDLIFE.**

When asked why, she says she tried fiercely to make life work according to her plan. Erin told God many times how it should go, attempting to persuade the powers that be to see it her way. Then one day God replied: My plan for you is so beautiful, wonderful, elegant. Why not try it instead? When Erin celebrated the Rites for Candidates for Full Communion on a Lenten Sunday just like this one, she found the joy she was missing. Pray for this year's candidates—and for candidates for years to come.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** *Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26).* "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

**Website: [www.holycrossaustin.org](http://www.holycrossaustin.org) Email: [holycross@holycrossaustin.org](mailto:holycross@holycrossaustin.org)  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT****

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CORNER**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 8:00AM**

For all Holy Cross Parishioners who are suffering because of inclement weather causing damage to their homes and loss of power and water, may God keep them safe.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 10:00AM**

For all Holy Cross Parishioners who are suffering because of inclement weather causing damage to their homes and loss of power and water, may God keep them safe.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY**

**NOON MASS**

**STATION OF THE CROSS**

**FRIDAY 6:30PM**

**SUNDAY MASSES**

**8:00AM 10:00AM**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

OFFERTORY	\$1110.00
E-GIVING	3086.10
SVDP(E-GIVING)	54.00
MSP(E-GIVING)	29.00
FLC/Debt Retirement	541.00
DR (E-GIVING)	617.00
Needs of the Parish(E-GIV)	124.00
Needs of the Parish	25.00

**HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PARISH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME**

Remember, the Church depends on your weekly donation for paying bills, and maintaining of the Church facilities. Even though Masses and other events are cancelled, the Church is still operating. Your weekly offering and donations are direly needed. If you are not online giver, you can still do so by going to [www.holycrossaustin.org](http://www.holycrossaustin.org) and give your donation. You also can mail it if you are able to. Thank you for your faith and commitment.



**Lent**

Solemn Religious Observance

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Presbyterian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Wednesday, March 24th, 7:00 PM, is a special day and time set aside at Holy Cross to receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as Confession or Penance, is a sacrament of healing and a light that is calling us home. In Scripture, light is frequently associated with Christ and darkness is always associated with sin or the Evil One. The Catholic Church is sometimes accused of being obsessed with sin. It would be more accurate to say the Church is obsessed with forgiveness. The words "forgive" and "forgiveness" appears frequently in our prayers and liturgy, as well as in the Bible.



**ROSARY HOUR**

**Please join us each Sunday at 8:30PM for our Holy Cross Family Rosary.**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Ella Adams	Mary Anthony
Evelyn Battle	Mildred Carter
B.J. Dukes	Jude Ekpc
Vanessa Downey-Little	Bernie Little
Monica Godsey	Lester Johnson
Marion Welch	Sam King, Jr.
Vonnye Rice-Gardner	Bernadette Phifer
Ella Pease	Betty Ridley
Mary Sobers	Mary Waters
Charlene Postell	Gladie Stelly
Cornelius Harris	Jim Castro
Pearl Cox	Brent Brown
Frances Brown	Naomi White

**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

