



Austin Prep

Dear Members of the Austin Prep Family,

Cardinal Seán O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, announced on Friday that there would be no public masses celebrated in the churches of the Archdiocese until further notice. Cardinal Seán made this difficult decision out of concern for the people in his flock and to help keep us all safe.

As much as I believe Cardinal Seán's decision was the right decision, it also is distressing given that the decision impacts the celebration of the Eucharist, including here at Austin Prep. As Chaplain and Pastor of Austin Prep, I feel a sense of responsibility to pray for the Austin Prep Family in this uncertain and challenging time.

I write to let you know I will celebrate the Eucharist for you and your loved ones in the Chapel of St. Augustine here on campus. The Chapel of St. Augustine holds a special place in our heritage. From the first mass ever celebrated on the altar by an Augustinian Friar, our chapel has been the focal point of faith and fellowship where so many have found strength and joy since our founding in 1961. It's the place where we begin every academic year, where countless students stop in asking for guidance, where we ask God's blessing on our athletes at the start of every season, where we gather for solace, and where we give thanks.

The God of all consolation walks with us through troubling times. St. Paul tells us so in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

As we go forward, I ask that we treat each other with charity, patience, and kindness as we navigate this crisis. I'll be praying for you.

In the spirit of *veritas, unitas, and caritas*,

Father Patrick Armano
School Chaplain