

ST. CATHERINE of SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Weekend Presider Schedules:

(subject to change)

Saturday, December 13:

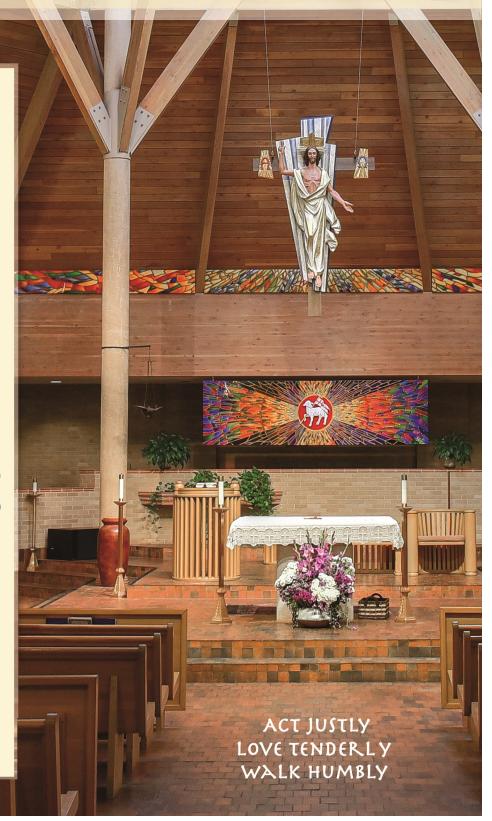
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reconciliation,

5:00 p.m. MassFr. Johannes

Sunday, December 14:

7:30 a.m. MassFr. Johannes 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. MassFr. Pat 1:15 p.m. & 5 p.m. MassFr. Lou

Welcome ...



From the Pastor's Office

3rd Sunday of Advent

The first lesson from Isaiah today gives us images from the desert. The desert is a hostile place and it is hard to live in it and it is hard to survive there. We realize that in order to live we must have a constant supply of water or else we die. All that talk about climate change is making us pay attention to the supply of water. I heard recently that South Africa is in trouble. Last year their water supply dried up. This year they are worse off than ever. The climate is changing and we better pay attention. We hear all about the city of Austin protecting the Aquifer. We are vulnerable as well. In the world of gardening, experts tell us in Texas to move away from our lovely green lawns and begin to look like homes in Arizona. We should replace our green lawns with

desert foliage, lovely cacti, and pretty boulders. When the rains come there is huge rejoicing. The parched places become fully alive again. Within a couple of days the desert bursts into bloom. The animals come back to the watering hole. Unconsciously we breathe a sigh of relief. We can survive for another while. This climate change business is all getting very serious. Isaiah says it like this: "The desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with joyful song." The idea is that with the coming of the Messiah, the parched desert of our lives will bloom once again. The tremendous change that comes is articulated in the words of Jesus as well. "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the

good news proclaimed to them." That is all good news. Lots of us don't know it and lots of us don't



see it either. We go about in our daze every day blending into another. Proof of that is that this time every year you say, "I can't believe it is Christmas already." You have aged another year. Time passes and you have no idea what is going on. You live in a desert. You don't know that you thirst for water. My gaze is so focused on the things of the earth that I don't actually see what is going on. Lift up your eyes to the Heavens and see the joy that comes to you from God. Rise and show yourself. Show your splendor to the world. For the Lord has comforted His people.

With love, Fr. Pat



Wednesday, December 24, Vigil Masses 4:00 PM*, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, Midnight (4 PM Mass - Christmas Carols begin at 3:30 PM) (Midnight Mass - Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 PM)

Thursday, December 25 - Holy Day Mass at 10:00 AM*

* denotes live-stream Christmas Masses

Church offices will be closed December 22 through January 4, 2026. Click here to see a full schedule of Masses for the Christmas season.

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN NEEDED

FULL TIME JOB!

We are looking for a FULL-TIME
CUSTODIAN to work 40 hours per week.
This job may require evening and weekend hours. Must be able to lift tables and chairs exceeding 50 pounds. Interested parties should contact Sue in the Administration Office.

(512) 892-2420



Heart of Jesus: A Discernment Retreat for Men



Men of the parish, have you considered whether God might be calling you to the priesthood?

Join Fr. Greg Gerhart, the Vocation Director of the diocese, for <u>Heart of Jesus: A Discernment Retreat for Men</u>. The retreat will include time for prayer, spiritual conferences on discernment and vocations, and opportunities to speak with priests, seminarians, and other men discerning their vocation.

The retreat will take place on **December 17-19 at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton, TX**, and is open to single men who are 18-49 years old. Click here to register online.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13

5:00 pm Larry Juergens †

Sunday, December 14

7:30 am Priest Intention
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am Guadalupe Silva †
1:15 pm Zachary Ochoa †
5:00 pm Dotty White †

Monday, December 15

12:00 pm Santimuthu Family (SI)

Tuesday, December 16

12:00 pm Flor Maria Chavez Gamboa †

7:00 pm Ray Hernandez †

Wednesday, December 17

12:00 pm Gary Smith †

Thursday, December 18

12:00 pm Mirtha Renfro (SI)

Friday, December 19

12:00 pm Denis Cowhig †

† = Deceased

SI = Special Intention

Sanctuary Lamp & Adoration Candles

Week of December 14

- Adoration Chapel donated by Rose and Jeff Ring for a special intention
- St. Joseph Shrine donated by Rose Eklund in loving memory of Richard Parsons

Sanctuary Lamps: Click here to make a donation for sanctuary lamps and adoration candles, which will be lit for a week for your special intention. Dates for 2026 are now available. Donations and intentions will be published in the weekly digital bulletin, on our announcement monitors in the various buildings at St. Catherine's, and in our weekly email to parishioners. Suggested donation is \$10.

Now Open: Sign Ups for 2026 Altar/Ambo Flowers

Donate flowers in memory of a loved one or special occasion for a specific weekend in 2026. We ask for a donation of \$175 for the altar flowers, \$125 for the ambo flowers, or \$250 for



both. Your name and occasion will be printed in the weekly bulletin, posted on our announcement monitors in the various buildings at St. Catherine's, and in our weekly email to parishioners. <u>Click here</u> for more information and to sign up for a date in 2026.

Please pray for

The Sick Connor Hull Mindy Cavazos Philomena Leinen **Kyle Cravens** Tracy Leinen Frank Dworaczyk **Sharon Lufftus** Jane Dworaczyk Carolyn Massey Caroline Garcia Yoli Muniz David Guzman John Naftanel Mary Hamad Ken Otte

Olas Massis

Alma Hughes Olga Marie Prieto

Carol Ramirez
Nicolas J. Salas
Betty Stone
Christina M. Tovar
Frank Yorke
Kathleen Walschlager

Jack Wolford

Our Service Members

Randall Davis Michael Mazurek Kevin Goodlett Corey Leinen

The Repose of the Souls of Loved Ones recently called home by our Savior.

Collection Amounts

Thank you for your continued support! We are grateful to this community for giving so greatly and regularly at Mass and at home through online and mail contributions.

Second Collection This Weekend

This week's second collection will be for the <u>St. Vincent de Paul Conference at our parish</u>. Every dollar collected goes directly to our neighbors in need, and we once more thank you for your kindness and generosity. Please see <u>page 9</u> of this bulletin for information about the families assisted through The Giving Tree project.







Two St. Catherine's Ministries Featured in *Catholic Spirit*

In case you missed it, two articles in the December 2025/January 2026 issue of *Catholic Spirit* feature ministries from St. Catherine's (click to read):

St. Catherine's Blood Drive (Knights of Columbus)
St. Catherine's Mobile Loaves and Fishes Team

Liturgy

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday (Joy)

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent! This Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday and we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath to symbolize our joy at the impending incarnation of our savior, Jesus Christ. In our first reading today, we hear the prophet Isaiah tell us that "Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return... crowned with everlasting joy." Let us rejoice that the Prince of Peace soon will be born!

As we come to the end of the Jubilee Year of 2025, the theme for which Pope Francis gave us as "Pilgrims of Hope," we are offering the following opportunities to celebrate a hope-filled Advent at St. Catherine's:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be on Saturday,
 December 13 at the 5 p.m. Mass. Our annual Mass for
 the Feast of Our Lady will once again feature a
 dramatization by our Amigos Club of the appearance of
 the Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego.
- The Telling of the Christmas Story, Sunday, December 14
 at 3 p.m. in the Church. Come listen and participate in
 the telling of the Christmas story. Children can come
 dressed in simple costumes like angels, shepherds and
 kings so they can be part of the story. Everyone is invited
 to this annual event.

Advent Penance Services at Area Churches

If you missed our Advent Penance Service, here are other services in our area:

Monday, December 15 St. Austin Parish - 7 pm Monday, December 15 Cristo Rey Parish - 7 pm Tuesday, December 16 St. John Neumann Parish - 6 pm Wednesday, December 17 Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish - 6 pm

Visit <u>austindiocese.org/advent-penance-services</u> for a full list of Advent Penance Services in the Diocese of Austin.

Christmas Delivery of 111 Lap Blankets!



Sandra Graham,
Cecilia Avila, Rhonda
Smith and Jo Ann
Campbell visited
Southpark Meadows
Nursing and
Rehabilitation Center
on Wednesday,
December 10, to
deliver 111 lap
blankets for
residents.

Community Ministries

THE GIVING TREE PROJECT

Through your incredible generosity, we delivered 748 gifts to children in need this Christmas! What an amazing outpouring of love and kindness. Those who helped deliver the gifts last Saturday witnessed the joy firsthand – the smiles on the children's faces said it all. In addition to the gifts, each family received 5-6 bags of groceries, and we still had many bags left to share. Thanks to your generosity, we've continued distributing food to those who come to us for assistance. What a blessing it is to be able to offer food and hope to our neighbors, especially during this holy season. We also were able to help Carrying Hope, St. Louise House, The Gabriel Project, Casa Marianella, and Posada Esperanza with thirty \$30 gift cards each. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way – through donations, time, prayer, or helping hands. You have truly made a difference. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

Donations Needed

Gently used winter coats and clothing, white tube socks, and small toiletries. Thank you!

Mobile Loaves and Fishes

Would you like to volunteer for Mobile Loaves & Fishes? We go out every 3rd and 4th Saturday mornings of the month. EIM Certification is required for any ministry work. Please contact Evelyn Amador in the main office for EIM information. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Rhonda Smith at Rhonda.smith@stcatherine-austin.org. Note: There is a write-up in the December issue of Catholic Spirit about St. Catherine's Mobile Loaves & Fishes Team. Click here to check it out!

Congratulations Fr. Lou!

We will celebrate Fr. Lou's 50th Anniversary to the priesthood on Saturday, January 17, 2026. We will have a Mass of Thanksgiving at 5 p.m. and then a reception and dinner in the Parish Center. <u>Please</u> RSVP on the parish website by clicking here.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the kind parishioners who have donated cotton fabric to Community Ministries! Your generosity helps some wonderful, hard-working women create beautiful handmade lap blankets and baby blankets to share with those in need. This week, we delivered 111 lap blankets to a local nursing home – one for each resident – as a Christmas gift from St. Catherine's. The residents were overjoyed, many even moved to tears. It was truly a touching experience. We also recently provided over 100 baby blankets to Carrying Hope, an organization that helps foster children transition into new homes. Each child receives a backpack or a baby bag filled with essentials and comfort items. Many of these babies go straight from the hospital info foster care. The blankets are made with love and prayer for these children. Thank you again for your continued support and fabric donations. We can always use more fabric, as the need – especially among foster children – remains great. Your kindness truly makes a difference. Please contact **Rhonda Smith** for more information.

Adult Faith Formation

OCIA Hospitality: This week's refreshments and Ministry Minute will be provided by the Arts and Environment Committee. St. Catherine's Music Ministry will provide refreshments when OCIA resumes January 12, 2026. God bless you for your kindness!

Centering Prayer Group

This group meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Cenacle and on Mondays via Zoom at 3 p.m. For information, contact Marianne Metzner at MarianneMetznerLPC@gmail.com or (512) 203-5460.

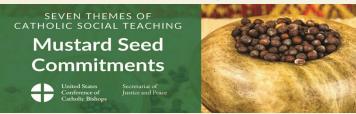
Breaking Open the Word (Tuesdays Online)

Study the Sunday readings with this online resource that is <u>shared</u> <u>weekly on the website</u>. Join our online group on Tuesdays from 1 - 2:30 p.m. or study alone. To join, email <u>Jennifer Gamblin</u>.

Lay Missionaries of Charity

Lay Missionaries of Charity welcome you to "Come and See" any Tuesday for Adoration at 10 a.m., followed by our general meeting with a Rosary in the Ignite Room and Daily Mass at noon. For more information, contact Alison Manzer at (512) 746-7206 or Stephanie Nelson at (512) 730-3920.

Catholic Social Teaching



Advent Activity: Mustard Seed Commitments

What are you doing for Advent? Advent is a time when we deepen our prayer lives and prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Advent is also a time when our Sunday readings talk about a new heaven and a new earth, a time of God's justice and right-relationships, and we are called by God to help bring about the Reign of God on earth. So, what are you doing for Advent? The Catholic Social Teaching ministry here at St. Catherine's invites all parishioners, families and ministries to participate in the Mustard Seed Commitments. This is an initiative of the U.S. Bishops and is a list of small, "concrete actions such as changes in lifestyle or habits, that someone can easily adopt." The Mustard Seed Commitments are based on the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Visit our parish website or pick up a copy of the Mustard Seed Commitments from our parish Information Tables in the narthex. Share your Mustard Seed Commitments using the form on our website or email them to marti.salas@stcatherine-austin.org. We will post them on our parish social media (anonymously, if you prefer) to inspire our parish community to plant the seeds of justice in our world. We invite all parishioners to participate as individuals, families or ministry groups and to send in photos of themselves acting on or living their Mustard Seed Commitment. Committing to one small action for each week of Advent or to all of them for the season of Advent. Let's come together as a parish community and work to build the City of God among us!

No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion Wednesdays - January 14 to February 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center, Room 233/234 (2nd Floor)

Dieu Van Dinh will facilitate this beautiful five-session study from Ascension Press. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before. Click here to register.



Will You Follow Jesus to Calvary?

No Greater Love is a Biblical Pilgrimage that Reveals Christ's Amazing Love for Us

This Beautiful Five-Session Bible Study will be Facilitated by Dieu Van Dinh Wednesdays Beginning January 14 to February 11

Meetings Begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center, Rm. 233/234 (2nd floor)

Click Here for More Information and to Register Online



The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church during the Christmas season.



<u>Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events</u> Bridge Club (Mondays)

Experienced bridge players are welcome to join the Bridge Club every Monday from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Parish Center, Room 222 (next to Siena Hall on the second floor). Questions? Contact nancydobs@yahoo.com.



Senior Ministry Christmas Celebration Brunch with Fr. Lou - December 18, 10 a.m. in the Cenacle

Join Fr. Lou as he leads us in Christmas traditions and the singing of Christmas carols. We welcome any Christmas cookies or traditional holiday foods you would like to share. Click here for more information about Senior Ministry.



Prayer Shawl Ministry - December 18 at 1 p.m.

If you know of someone in need of prayer, (grieving, illness, new baby, etc.), please contact Heidi Langan at scprayershawl@stcatherine-austin.org or (512) 497-1082 for a complimentary prayer shawl. Our next meeting is on Thursday,



December 18, 1 - 2 p.m. in the Parish Center, room 231/232. Experienced crocheters and knitters are always welcome.

Knights of Columbus Monthly BBQ - December 21

On Sunday, December 21, the Knights of Columbus Council 8156 will hold its monthly BBQ of Chicken, Pork Tenderloin, Ribs and Sausage in support of Patriots Hall. Knights will be in the St. Catherine's Courtyard beginning at 7:30 a.m. Mass to serve



your meal needs. Learn how the Knights of Columbus lead with our faith to protect the family, serve others and defend our values. The benefits of being a Knight are numerous. Contact the Membership Director at 512-576-4675!

Six Week Grief Support Group - Wednesdays Beginning January 7 Through February 11, 2026

If you have lost a loved one, you are invited to join a Six Week Grief Support Group that will meet on Wednesdays beginning January 7, 2026. Sessions will include a time to learn about grief, share your sorrow, and recognize and pray for healing. The group will be led by Lori Kruczek, founding member of St. Catherine of Siena, who has participated in our Grief Ministry since 2014. Click here to register online, or contact Evelyn Amador at evelyn.amador@stcatherine-austin.org, or (512) 892-2420 ext. 315.

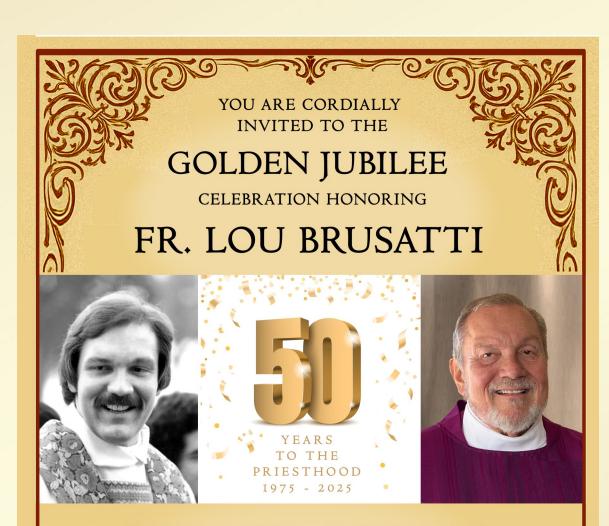
Cradle of Prayer: A Special Prayer Service for Expecting Mothers - Friday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Cenacle

You are invited to a special prayer service for expecting mothers, Cradle of Prayer. Expecting a child is a blessing, but also a time of uncertainty. We're here to pray with you as you prepare for this special gift. We will meet on Friday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cenacle (second floor of the Parish Center). All are welcome: expecting mothers, families, friends and anyone who wishes to pray for life. Join us for a 45-minute prayer, music and reflection service. A free meal will immediately follow the service. Registration is optional but appreciated. Please click here to register.









WITH JOYFUL HEARTS & GRATITUDE TO GOD,
WE WILL CELEBRATE A HOLY MASS OF THANKSGIVING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026 5:00 P.M.

RECEPTION AND DINNER TO FOLLOW PARISH CENTER, JOHNSON HALL

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH 4800 CONVICT HILL ROAD AUSTIN, TEXAS 78749

PLEASE RSVP ON THE PARISH WEBSITE STCATHERINE-AUSTIN.ORG





Please RSVP by Monday, January 12, by CLICKING HERE.

MUSICIANS!

Join us this Christmas!

We're looking for guest musicians and singers to help make our Christmas Masses even more beautiful.

Vocalists and Instrumentalists in all categories (Brass, Strings, Percussion, Woodwinds and more) are invited to participate.

High School Students can earn Service Hours.

Use this QR code with your smart phone camera to go to the website and learn more or volunteer:



https://stcatherine-austin.org/music-ministry-christmas-info-and-signup-page

Or for more information, visit Eric Carreiro (Music Director) after Mass, email eric.carreiro@stcatherine-austin.org or call Eric at (512) 892-2420 x342.



Society of

St. Vincent de Paul CENTRAL TEXAS











The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Catherine's would like to express heartfelt thanks to our generous parishioners for their contributions to our very successful Christmas project.

The SVDP "Christmas Project" begins in September, when invitation to participate letters are sent out to families in our database. Over the subsequent months, gifts for children and seniors are recorded and tags are created on the Giving Tree. This year we served **96 families**, **283 children** and **18 Seniors**, each of whom received gifts and bags of groceries. None of these efforts would have been possible without the help of our kind volunteers in both the planning and distribution. We are also especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their donation and support.

During these hard times you answered Jesus' call in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Your kindness and generosity have overwhelmed us, and we are so blessed!

















Pictures from the Parish

A glimpse into activities at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.





















4800 Convict Hill Rd Austin, TX 78749 www.stcatherine-austin.org

Administration Office (512) 892-2420 Community Ministry Office .. (512) 892-2433 RE Office (Children & Youth) (512) 892-2426 Fax....... (512) 892-0488

After Hours Emergency:(512) 731-2294 or (979) 451-5821 Staff Email:

first name.last name@stcatherine-austin.org

Staff Directory

Senior PriestFr. Louis Brusatti <u>louisb@stedwards.edu</u>

Deacons

Administration:

Evelyn Amador, Rossana Barrios, Erin Hummel, Monica Sanchez, Danielle Nepustil Community Ministries:Rhonda Smith, Jo Ann Campbell

Preschool Ministries: Heather Riley Religious Education (Adult):

...... Marti Salas, Jennifer Gamblin

Religious Education (Children & Youth):

Marti Salas, Sarah Pedrozo, Laura Bristow, Cynthia Rodriguez, Livia Telles-Rodriguez

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am, 9:30 am*
11:3	30 am, 1:15 pm, 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday	12:00 pm*
Tuesday	7:00 pm
* Denotes	online livestream Masses

Confession

Saturday	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Tuesday	6:00 pm – 6:45 pm
By Appointment	(512) 892-2420

Adoration (Day Chapel)

Monday - Friday	9:00 am – 11:30 am
Thursday	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Daily Rosary (Day Chapel)

Monday - Friday......11:20 am – 11:45 am

Organizations

ACTS

Rod Whisnant, Actscoreteam@gmail.com				
Amigos	Sandra Soto	921-2740		
Bridge Club	Nancy Dobrinski	796-6688		
K of C Auxiliary	Pamela White	785-4086		
K of C Council #8156				
	Arnold Auzenne	299-3527		
Krafty Ladies	Rachel Lopez	565-1890		
Ladies Club	Brenda Mayes	791-8405		
Lay Missionaries of Charity				
	Alison Manzer	745-7206		
Prayer Shawl Ministry				
	Heidi Langan	497-1082		
Prime Timers	Juanita Josel	394-1254		
St. Vincent de Pa	aul Cathi Brown	826-7035		
St. Vincent de Paul Assistance 550-5160				
Scouts	David Pesek	970-1218		

Marriage: Contact Monica Sanchez at monica.sanchez@stcatherine-austin.org or (512) 892-2420 at least nine months prior to the wedding date.

Baptism: Contact Jennifer Gamblin at <u>jennifer.gamblin@stcatherine-austin.org</u> or (512) 892-2420.

Bulletin: Send email to Danielle Nepustil at danielle.nepustil@stcatherine-austin.org.

Updated EIM Compliance Information

The mission of the Diocese of Austin's Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) program is to help protect people from abuse and unethical behavior through education, action, and reporting, and to listen to and learn from those who have experienced abuse in order to provide healing. EIM compliance is required for persons active in most ministries in the diocese. Looking for resources and information about safeguarding children and other vulnerable people? Do you want to volunteer and are new to the EIM process? Are you returning to ministry and already have an EIM account? Visit austindiocese.org/eim to learn more about EIM policies and procedures and how they keep our parishes and schools safer for everyone. Contact your parish or school's EIM site administrator, Evelyn.Amador at evelyn.amador@stcatherine-austin.org, or eim@austindiocese.org for additional assistance. Report Abuse: Report abuse of a minor, elderly adult, or an adult with a disability to local law enforcement or the Texas Abuse Hotline at www.txabusehotline.org or (800) 252-5400 and the diocese at www.austindiocese.org/report-abuse or (512) 949-2447.

Stay Connected!

We want to communicate more effectively with you and make it easy for you to control the announcements you receive and how you are notified. We are now using a service called *CONNECT*. You can subscribe to regular e-mails from St. Catherine of Siena by <u>clicking here</u>. It is totally free to use and it makes it easy for you to stay plugged in to the ministries or groups that you care about, as well as receive weekly updates with a direct link to our digital bulletin. Your information will be completely safe and secure. You can unsubscribe from any updates at any time! Thank you for being a part of our parish community!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We are grateful to this community for giving so greatly and regularly at home through online and mail contributions.

Please also try to include

St. Vincent de Paul in your giving.

WAYS TO GIVE



Donate Online at stcatherine-austin.org/ give-from-home



PayPal



venmo



(Parish website)



Call Erin Hummel (512) 892-2420 to set up online giving