



*In the Catholic school, subjects do not
present only knowledge to be attained
but also values to be acquired and
truths to be discovered.*

The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium



© Diocesan

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

10205 N. FM 620, Austin, TX 78726 ~ (512) 258-1161 ~ www.stmaustin.org

January 31, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Mass Readings and Intentions

Monday, February 1st

Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31; Mk 5:1-20

8:30am ✙Ernestina C. Diaz

✙Joyce Greger

Tuesday, February 2nd - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

8:30am ✙Michael McCoy

Wednesday, February 3rd - St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Heb 12:4-15; Ps 103; Mk 6:1-6

8:30am ✙Noreen O'Connor

Thursday, February 4th

Heb 12:18-24; Ps 48; Mk 6:7-13

8:30am ✙Jacqueline Ross

Friday, February 5th - Memorial of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27; Mk 6:14-29

8:30am ✙Maria del Carmen Sanchez-Estrada

Sunday, February 7th - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-7; Ps 147; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mk 1:29-39

Vigil: Saturday

5:00pm ✙Maria Phin

✙Roy Gafford

7:30am Intentions of Lucio Trujillo and Pilar Martinez

9:00am Intentions of all St. Thomas More Parishioners

10:45am ✙Shawn Hebert

✙Judy McMinn

5:00pm ✙Gene Horne, Jr.

✙Adiela Gonzalez

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Jesus begins his public ministry in the city of Capernaum in Galilee. He enters the synagogue on the Sabbath and begins to teach. The scribes cited experts when they explained the scriptures, and so the people are astonished at the authority with which Jesus teaches because he does not quote anyone. His authority is clearly demonstrated when he commands the unclean spirit to come out of the possessed man. Unclean spirits, or demons, are quick to recognize Jesus as "the Holy One of God" and as such, they must obey him. Those who follow Jesus, as well as those who oppose him, are much slower to understand or accept his identity, which is why the people are amazed at his authoritative teaching. This will soon lead to the question of who Jesus is and from where he gets this authority. Readers today know that Jesus's power and authority is greater than any other because he is the Son of God, and it is with God's own power and authority that Jesus is able to cast out unclean spirits. By destroying evil, Jesus reveals God's tremendous love for the world and his people. Let us be open to the ways Jesus seeks to destroy the evil in our lives and reveal God's love for us.

Bulletin Deadline

Submissions for the February 14th bulletin are due no later than 12:00pm on Thursday, February 4th. Please submit all requests to Val Olivas at volivas@stmaustin.org. Thank you!

To Reach a Priest in an Emergency: During Office Hours: (512) 258-1161 or
After Hours: (512) 258-1161, Opt. 1

Prayer Requests:

Tim Anderson

Elizabeth Armes

Emil Balusek

Bob Breeze

Whitney Brun

Mollie Bustos

Laurie Chapman

Jessica Dapper

Frank DiLorenzo

Katie DiLorenzo

Ame Frezza

Marilyn Garcia

Nancy Gilbert

Michael Hanson

Andre Hebert

Lisa Horvath

Kris Kapchinski

Susan Mikla

Jason Mikolajek

Normand Morneau

Virginia Morneau

Ron Muessel

John Nemetz

Jim O'Donnell

Pascal Riccio

Rosemary Roles

Dorothy Thompson

Stan Urban

Bernadette Vogel

Jennifer Wiegand

Kerry Wolf

Please pray for the
well-being of our fellow
parishioners and
nursing home residents.

Prayer for the Sick

Almighty and Everlasting
God, the eternal salvation
of those who believe in
You, hear us on behalf of
Your servants who are
sick, for whom we
humbly beg the help of
your mercy, so that, being
restored to health, they
may render thanks to you
in your Church. Through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

STEWARDSHIP

January Contributions

Week Ending January 24th

Envelope Collection:	\$ 19,259.00
eGiving Collection:	\$ 26,973.28
eGiving Text Collection:	\$ 150.00
Total Weekly Collections:	\$ 46,382.28

THANK YOU for your continuously **OVERWHELMING** generosity! You are truly a blessing to our parish!

Parish Offertory Opportunities

ONLINE GIVING: Please visit our parish website at: www.stmaustin.org, or you may use the QR code below.

TEXT A DONATION: Simply text your donation amount to 855-892-3931.

DROP BOX or MAIL:

A drop box is located at the parish office, or you may mail donations to:
10205 N FM 620
Austin, TX 78726

QR CODE:



Thank you all so much for your continued faithfulness and dedication to our parish now and always!

A Stewardship Moment in Time Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, we hear proclaimed the beginning of Jesus's public ministry. He teaches. He heals. And all are amazed. By their baptism, Christian stewards realize they are called to do the same in their lives. They are called to be the light of Christ each day. As we bring closure to the beginning of this New Year, now is a good time to ask the Lord to fill our hearts with courage and faith, so that we too may publicly minister in his name. Let us ask that we may be liberated from our insecurities and fear so that we can share the Gospel authoritatively and work to heal at least one wounded relationship in the coming months ahead.

Catholic Schools Annual Subsidy

Like many schools and communities, our Catholic schools are facing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19. Now more than ever, they are in need of your support to continue providing tuition assistance opportunities for students and their families. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting our schools by donating to Catholic Schools Subsidies using your envelope, or online at bit.ly/3i8NN9U. Your contribution helps underwrite the annual subsidy St. Thomas More is required to pay to support our parishioners in local Catholic Schools, such as, Holy Family Catholic School and St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School. Thank you!



2020 Tax Substantiation Letters

~ **NEW THIS YEAR** ~

Tax Substantiation Letters for 2020 were emailed to parishioners on January 26th in lieu of mailing them to you. However, if you do not have an email address on file with our parish, a printed copy of the tax was mailed to you via the U.S. Postal Service on January 28th. If you do not receive your email or letter in the mail, please contact Danielle White, at dwhite@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161, ext. 211. Thank you!

Give Back by Grocery Shopping



**Charity Number
13490**

St. Thomas More is a charity of choice for the Randall's Good Neighbor Program. When making purchases at any Randall's location, a portion of your purchase is donated to our parish. Please see the Randall's Business Center to sign up for this program.

Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have. Loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus's name. Amen.

A Dozen Reasons Why to Choose Catholic Schools



To explore a Catholic School near you, please visit <https://csdatx.org/>.

DIOCESE OF AUSTIN - VOCATIONS



Called by Name ~ "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

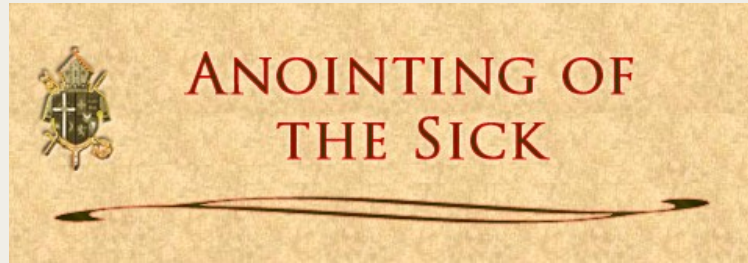
Two weeks ago, we celebrated Called by Name Sunday, but there is still time to participate. Do you know someone who may be called to the priesthood or religious life? God is the one who calls, but he often uses our voice of encouragement and invitation to others to do so. With your help, we can make this Called by Name initiative a great success that will bear fruit in our diocese for generations to come. Help us encourage individuals to consider a vocation by sharing their name at godiscalling.me/called-by-name. Bishop Joe Vásquez and Fr. Greg Gerhart, Director of Vocations, will send them a letter of encouragement along with Fr. Gerhart's contact information should they wish to follow up. Thank you for your openness and generous participation.



St. Thomas More Gift Shop

Come see us on Sundays from 8:30am until 1:00pm!

The Gift Shop's Inventory Reduction Sale ends **TODAY! Enjoy 25% off on Christmas and other select items!** Pick up your calendars, figurines and artwork, rosaries, fonts, crosses, 2021 Sunday Missals and more! We look forward to seeing you!



Our Catholic faith provides a beautiful physical and spiritual healing according to God's will. The Anointing of the Sick offers necessary graces so that a sick person may prepare for death, or a person struggling with a serious medical condition or upcoming surgery may be offered the same healing. This Anointing pours out consolation and hope. It provides an opportunity for the forgiveness of sins even when the sick person is too ill to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Recognizing how important this Sacrament is, we encourage you to contact the parish office whenever you feel that a loved one might benefit from the Anointing of the Sick. A person does not have to be in the last stages of life. You do not have to leave it until the last minute! This enables the priest to prepare the sick person and their loved ones to receive this beautiful Sacrament. By contacting us early, we are also able to keep the sick person in our prayers and add them to our Prayer Requests in the bulletin should they so desire.

Parish Office phone number - (512) 258-1161.



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord ~ February 2nd



The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in France with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2nd falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church." — From *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*

PRESCHOOL

Director: Cindy Acosta

512-258-1721

cindy1@stmaustin.org

Preschool Registration

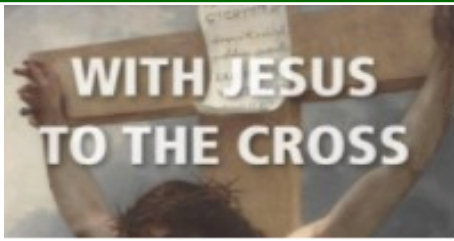
Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on Monday, February 1st. If you are interested in reserving a place for your child, please contact Cindy Acosta at cindy1@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1721. We hope you'll join us!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Director: Dawn Rouen

512-258-1944 x235

dawn@stmaustin.org



Sundays - Begins February 21st Mornings: 10:30am-11:45am

Dive deeper into scripture and a personal relationship with Jesus this Lent through these discussions of the Sunday Mass readings.



Sundays - Began January 24th Mornings: 10:30am-11:45am

Explore the stories of three saints whose lives reveal practical ways to evangelize that we can put to use in our own life.

For additional information, or to sign up for either study, please visit: stmaustin.org/adult-faith.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Do you have questions about what Catholics believe and how we live our faith? Are you feeling called to be baptized or share in Eucharist and Confirmation? If so, join us for RCIA! We would love to help you explore our faith!

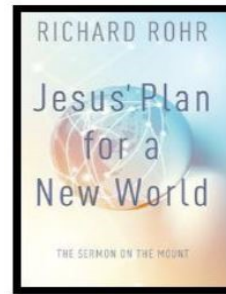
For questions, contact Dawn at (512) 258-1944, ext. 235.

February Online Gathering



Join Young at Heart for the next online gathering on Tuesday, February 9th at 11:00am. The topic is "Happy Valentine and the Meaning of Love!" Please check your email for Zoom login credentials.

New to Young at Heart? Please contact Dawn for more information at (512) 258-1944, ext. 235.



Read, Reflect, Rejoice!

Online Book Discussion

Monday, February 15th

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Register online at stmaustin.org/book-discussions

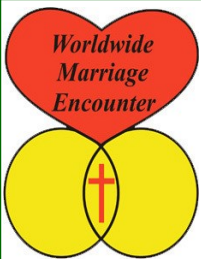
Welcome even if you haven't read the book!

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

Director: Denise Abele

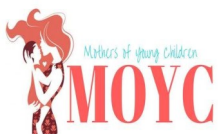
512-258-1161 x223

dabele@stmaustin.org



Are you looking for a way to create a great start in your relationship for the New Year? The **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience** is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication. From the comfort and security of your home, you'll be guided online by three couples and a priest to help you rediscover your dreams, rekindle your romance and become more aware of God's desire for your marriage. Sign up to attend one of the Experiences on Tuesdays throughout February and March, or the weekend of April 9th-11th, at austinme.org. You may also email wwmeaustin@gmail.com or call (512) 677-9963.

Mothers of Young Children



We are currently meeting in small groups each month, offering both in-person and online formats. Since the meetings are in small groups, there are multiple opportunities to gather throughout the week. Please join us for fellowship and community on our motherhood journey. For more information, please contact Catie Kline at catiekline21@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Director: Jennifer Bibbo

512-258-1161, x256

jbibbo@stmaustin.org

Catholic Social Teaching Corner ~ January 30th and 31st ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gospel today tells us that the crowds were spellbound by Jesus's teaching, "...because he taught with authority..." As a church, we share the privilege and responsibility of living God's truth with authority so that the whole world might hear and believe. Under the leadership of Pope Francis and Bishop Vásquez, we call all to protect and defend every person throughout their lives; to promote the dignity of every person by ensuring they have what they need to live with dignity; to grow in solidarity by recognizing our common humanity with everyone. These authoritative teachings are challenging. How are you called to grow in understanding and proclaiming them?

Drive a Senior Northwest Increase in Need



As many as 300 independent living, non-driving seniors in the Drive a Senior Northwest Program will soon be planning to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Many volunteer drivers will be needed to transport these senior neighbors to and from their choice of locations. If you are willing to volunteer in this effort,

please visit www.driveaseniornorthwest.org or call (512) 250-5021.

Senior Day Out Luncheon



Another wonderful service opportunity to help our seniors is to volunteer for our Senior Day Out Luncheon! We will prepare, assemble and deliver homemade lunches to the regular attendees of Senior Day Out on **Thursday, February 11th**. This event is taking place at Anderson

Mill Baptist Church. To select a task and see the available volunteer opportunities of helping to prepare lunches, assembling the boxes or delivering food to the seniors, please visit bit.ly/3bIIJfe.

Please consider how you can help our awesome senior community!



Habitat for Humanity

In Memorial of Bishop John E. McCarthy 2021 Catholic Build



This spring, Austin Habitat for Humanity is providing an opportunity for you to put your faith into action! Join Catholics all around Austin as we build the 25th Catholic Build dream home for another hard-working, deserving family in our community. Bishop McCarthy

started this themed-build in 1999, and we need you to help us continue with his legacy of partnering with Habitat in providing a hand up, not a hand out for a family in need. **This build will begin Saturday, March 6th (new date!) at 8:00am at 7017 Zachary Drive, Austin 78724.** Builds take place every Saturday, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, are limited to only 10 volunteers per build day. Volunteer, build, pray or contribute financially to the 2021 Catholic Build today! For more information, please contact Becca Halbert at bhalbert@ahfh.org or (512) 472-8788, ext. 124.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with the loss of a loved one, please prayerfully consider attending (or inviting them to attend) the St. Thomas More Grief and Loss Support Group. This is a Catholic eight-week guided and collaborative support group. Our goal is to find God, the Divine Healer in our suffering and together seek His healing.

Dates: Mondays, February 1st - March 22nd

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Location: St. Thomas More Life House

To register, please contact Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161, ext. 256. Space is limited to the first 10 registrants. Thank you.



All Parish Service Day Spring 2021
Saturday, March 6th, 9:00am - 4:00pm

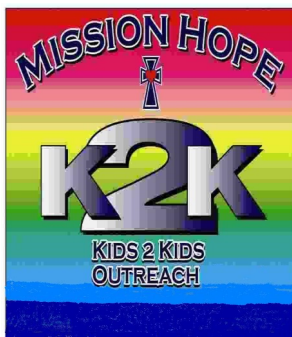
St. Thomas More's All Service Parish Day "Spring into Service" is being held on Saturday, March 6th. We are again selling the volunteer t-shirts for all parishioners to wear the day of the event or at any other St. Thomas More events throughout the year! Order one for you, your friends or family. T-shirt cost is \$10.00 each. **The deadline to order is Friday, February 12th at noon.**



To order a t-shirt, visit stmaustin.org/all-parish-service-day. T-shirts will be delivered after all Masses the weekend of February 27th and 28th. To volunteer for the service day or for more information, please contact Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161, ext. 256.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

K2K Mission Appeal ~ Guatemala



One of the goals of K2K's mission work is to promote education. In Guatemala, we are blessed to have young people studying to become doctors, lawyers and nurses. We also have one young man studying engineering. Our nutrition program in Guatemala is very important in supporting this

goal because parents of these children may not be able to work, leaving them without basic necessities. K2K's Mission is to raise \$36,000 to contribute towards nutritious meals for these children. We can help them become leaders in their communities. Your thoughtful prayers and donations are deeply appreciated. Please visit www.k2kmissionhope.org for more information.

Schoenstatt Shrine Rosary Project



The Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt is a place of pilgrimage and grace dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. It is the spiritual home and center of the Schoenstatt Movement. A large, outdoor trail in the form of a Rosary, including all 20 decades, is being constructed which will surround the outside of the Shrine. Decades cost between \$500 and \$5,000 each. St. Thomas More Parish is sponsoring the building of one decade - The Crucifixion. To date, we have raised \$1,150 for the project. **If you would like to contribute to the decade, please call Mary Mallinger at (512) 826-0005.**

Ninth Annual Catholic Men's Conference
Saturday, February 20th
7:00am-3:30pm
St. William Catholic Church
in Round Rock



DR. TIM GRAY **MATT BIRK** **JOHN SABLAN**

BISHOP JOE VASQUEZ **FR. BASIL AGUIE** **CHRIS ALMENDAREZ**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2021 7AM-3:30PM
ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH 620 ROUND ROCK W DR, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681
TICKETS - \$50 THRU 12/31, \$55 AFTER 12/31, \$60 DAY OF, \$25 VIRTUAL, \$25 STUDENT, CLERGY FREE

LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE!
GET YOUR TICKETS AT
CENTEXCATHOLIC.COM



ADORATION

Monday - Friday

from 9:00am - 10:00pm

**To sign up for Adoration, please visit
stm.weadorehim.com.**



CONFESSION

Wednesday

from 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday

from 3:00pm - 4:30pm



Campus-Wide COVID-19 Protocols

All persons visiting the St. Thomas More campus must adhere to campus-wide COVID-19 protection protocols which are found in poster form at each public building entrance and on our website at bit.ly/343MTG9. Face masks are required to be worn at all times.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in practicing these safety measures together!

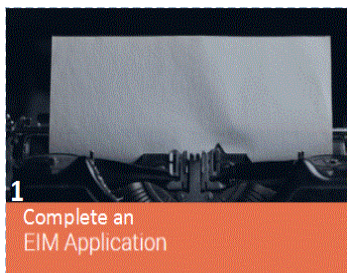
Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

Keeping current with EIM training is required for all who serve in ministry at STM. We are a no tolerance parish.

What is Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)? EIM is a diocesan training and screening process focused on helping our community prevent and respond to abuse. It includes required workshops and background checks for all who work or volunteer in ministry as well as policies for reporting abuse.

Why is EIM required for all who serve in ministry at St. Thomas More? We have a shared commitment to ensuring our parish is a safe place for everyone, especially children and vulnerable adults. The more people who are aware of abuse warning signs the more effective we can be in keeping our communities safe (parish, neighborhood, family, schools). With this in mind, our parish community is committed to following the Diocese of Austin's Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) policies.

Follow these 3 steps to stay current with EIM:



NEW UPDATE

Visit www.stmaustin.org/eim to get started or log in to eappsdb.com/austin to check on when your EIM Compliance certification expires.

Effective January 1, 2021, the Online EIM Training Course will fulfill the EIM Compliance requirement only for applicants who have an existing EIM account **and** have previously attended an in-person EIM Workshop. Additionally, new and existing applicants who have

never attended an EIM Workshop in person, must attend an in-person EIM Workshop to fulfill their initial EIM Compliance requirement.

If you are a new or existing applicant who has submitted an EIM application and need to attend an in-person EIM Workshop, please contact our EIM site administrator for Workshop information. Danielle White at dwhite@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161.

STM Staff Contacts

Parish Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-12pm and 1pm-5pm
Fridays, 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm

Main Phone (512) 258-1161			Fax (512) 258-8812		
Pastor	Very Rev. Michael J. O'Connor	frmichael@stmaustin.org	Office Administrator	Debra Lohrstorfer	debra@stmaustin.org
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Anthony Xavier Velpula	franthony@stmaustin.org	Reception	Liz Franklin	efranklin@stmaustin.org
Deacon	Mike Gesch	deaconmike@stmaustin.org	Social Outreach	Jennifer Bibbo	jbibbo@stmaustin.org
Deacon	Dan Lupo	deacondan@stmaustin.org	STM Gift Shop	Rosalie Killian	giftshop@stmaustin.org
Deacon	Tom Mallinger	deacontomm@stmaustin.org	Faith Formation Staff:		512-258-1944
Deacon	Pat O'Beirne	deaconpat@stmaustin.org	Director	Chris Scroggin	cscroggin@stmaustin.org
Deacon	Pete A. Schwab	deaconpete@stmaustin.org	Asst. Director	Johanna Isburgh	johanna@stmaustin.org
Deacon	Thomas Suniga	deaconthomas@stmaustin.org	Elementary School	Jill Goeters	jill1@stmaustin.org
Accounting	Lori White	lwhite@stmaustin.org	Middle School	Andrea Cochran	andrea@stmaustin.org
Bridal Coordinator	Terry Wilkes	terry@stmaustin.org	Life Teen	Logan Mayes	logan@stmaustin.org
Business Administrator	Andy DeHart	andy1@stmaustin.org	Adult Faith	Dawn Rouen	drouen@stmaustin.org
Communications	Val Olivas	volivas@stmaustin.org	Preschool Staff:		512-258-1721
Facilities	J.W. Green	jw1@stmaustin.org	Director	Cindy Acosta	cindy1@stmaustin.org
Liturgy	Jennifer Fangman	jfangman@stmaustin.org	Asst. Director	Julie Olesen	jolesen@stmaustin.org
Marriage & Family Life	Denise Abele	dabele@stmaustin.org	Parish Council Chairpersons:		
Membership	Danielle White	dwhite@stmaustin.org	Finance	Ione Voor	954-325-2327
Music	Ren MacNary	ren@stmaustin.org	Pastoral Council	Jim Lonergan	512-940-0924
	Karen Lawson	karen@stmaustin.org	Stewardship	Dan Price	512-970-5710
Nursery	Cindy Acosta	cindy1@stmaustin.org			

STM CARES	Caregiver for a person with dementia?	Struggling with bills?	Want to talk about a difficult time?	Need help with meals?
	New Adventures Respite Group	Society of St. Vincent de Paul		Good Samaritan
	Chantelle Morris	STM Offices	Stephen Ministry	Meal Ministry
	(512) 771-1899	(512) 258-1161	Eileen (512) 507-9563	(480) 788-6325
	In need of spiritual healing?	Mercy of God Prayer Center (formerly, Chelsea House)		Theresa Stephens (512) 834-6401

Thank you to these advertisers that support our bulletin!