

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

February 28, 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Lent



LENTEN SCHEDULE 2021

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at 12:00pm and 6:00pm

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Every Sunday on our website at stmaustin.org/kids-corner

Parish Mission

March 1st - 3rd in the church or via livestream

Mornings - 9:00am until 10:00am

Evenings - 7:00pm until 8:00pm

Evenings also livestreamed at facebook.com/stmaustin

All Parish Service Day

Saturday, March 6th from 9:00am until 4:00pm

Sign up at signup.com/go/yUERLvz

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (Change in Mass times)

March 27th at 5:00pm

March 28th at 6:30am, 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm

Holy Thursday

April 1st - Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm

Good Friday

April 2nd

Stations of the Cross at 12:00pm (No Stations at 6:00pm)

Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper at 3:00pm

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

April 3rd - Solemn Easter Vigil at 8:30pm

Easter Sunday

April 4th (Change in Mass Times)

6:30am, 8:30am and 10:30am

No 5:00pm Mass

Easter Monday

April 5th

Mass at 9:00am

Parish Offices closed

Adoration will continue with the normal schedule during Lent.
For Adoration hours during Holy Week, please see the bulletin or website.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Mass Readings and Intentions

Monday, March 1st

Dn 9:4-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38

8:30am †Rosvias Corteza

Tuesday, March 2nd

Is 1:10-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12

8:30am †Seth Wilbert

†Peter DeRose

Wednesday, March 3rd - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31; Mt 20:17-28

8:30am Intentions of Elizabeth Franklin

†Joyce Gregor

Thursday, March 4th - St. Casimir

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; Lk 16:19-31

8:30am †Guadalupe Zavala

Friday, March 5th

Gn 37:3-28; Ps 105; Mt 21:33-46

8:30am †Gloria Eyler

†Mario Molina

Sunday, March 7th - Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Vigil: Saturday

5:00pm Intentions of Dylan Lohrstorfer

7:30am †Frank Murphy

†Thomas J. Flynn

9:00am Intentions of Georgia James

†Willie Hardy

10:45am †Victor Linan

†Robert Francis Mijaves

5:00pm Intentions of all St. Thomas More Parishioners

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Two important symbols to note in this passage are the light and the mountain. Jesus leads his disciples up a "high mountain" and as he was transfigured, his clothes became dazzling white. Luke's gospel adds that his face shone brightly like the sun. Light, considered together with darkness, is an ever-present sign and symbol of our faith. The divine light is always piercing the darkness, making it impossible for the darkness to ever achieve final victory. There is no darkness that the light cannot overcome. Throughout Scripture, mountains are sacred sites that provide a worthy setting for divine revelation, and God's revelation could not be more clear than when the voice from the cloud says, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." This story follows the first of Jesus' predictions that he will suffer crucifixion and death, and the same three disciples who witness his transformation on the mountain fail to watch him during his agony in the garden. The deeper meaning of this narrative for us during Lent, however, is that even after moments of transcendence and transformation, we must come back to earth, continue to hear the voice of Jesus, and follow him on the way to the cross.

Bulletin Deadline

Submissions for the March 14th bulletin are due no later than 12:00pm on Thursday, March 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
Jose Garcia
Marilyn Garcia
Nancy Gilbert
Michael Hanson
Andre Hebert
Lisa Horvath
Kris Kapchinski
Jason Mikolajek
Cindy Molina
Normand Morneau
Virginia Morneau
Ron Muessel
John Nemetz
Jim O'Donnell
Pascal Riccio
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

February Contributions

Week Ending February 14th

Envelope Collection:	\$ 16,882.99
eGiving Collection:	\$ 14,643.55
eGiving Text Collection:	\$ 150.00
Total Weekly Collections:	\$31,676.54

Week Ending February 21st

Envelope Collection:	\$ 7,932.00
eGiving Collection:	\$ 27,239.93
eGiving Text Collection:	\$ 150.00
Total Weekly Collections:	\$35,321.93
Catholic Higher Education:	\$ 2,011.35
World and Home Missions:	\$ 1,410.60

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 Second Sunday of Lent

The Gospel story of the transfiguration of Jesus holds many lessons; the most prominent being the transformation of Jesus from simply being perceived as a wise and gifted prophet to the one who has fulfilled the sacred traditions of the Mosaic law and the hope of the prophets, the Messiah, the Christ. The Lord calls his stewards to participate in His redemptive activity. Heeding this call requires transformation, being willing to renounce patterns of behavior that draw us away from God. In this coming week of Lent, let us pray for the grace to be transformed, so that by our goodness and generosity, we may walk more authentically in the footsteps of Jesus.



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

The church's third annual All Parish Service Day, "Spring into Service," is next month on Saturday, March 6th. There are several volunteer sites around the Austin and surrounding community at which our parishioners and families are invited to volunteer. This is an amazing event knowing that, on this special day, over 350 St. Thomas More Parishioners will be serving together - putting our faith into action! All non-profits will have safe COVID-19 protocols in place. **Please plan on wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.** Together we can serve our community safely and stay healthy!

There are two ways in which to sign up for participation:

Sign up electronically at <https://signup.com/go/yUERLvz>

Register by contacting Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161, ext. 256

LENTEN PRAYERS

A Lenten Prayer

Look with favor, Lord, on your household.
Grant that, though our flesh be humbled by
abstinence from food, our souls, hungering
after you, may be resplendent in your sight.

- Pope Pius V

From the Beginning of Time

Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of
time, you have known us in the depths of our
dreams and in the darkness of our shame, you
know us as your beloved. Help us to own that core
identity more and more in this season of
repentance and mercy. Give us the rock-solid
assurance of your unwavering faith in us as we
seek the same in you. Amen.

- Author Unknown

Invite Us Deeper

Almighty and ever loving God,
You invite us deeper into your world, your
people, your Lent.

May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us
live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity
and encounter.

Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those
who need what we have to give.

- Author Unknown

The Fast Life

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.

- Author Unknown

Come, My Light

Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come,
my Life, and revive me from death. Come, my
Physician, and heal my wounds. Come, Flame of
Divine Love, and burn up the thorns of my sins,
kindling my heart with the flame of thy love.

- Dimitrii of Rostov



St. Thomas More Gift Shop ~ Open Sundays from 8:30am until 1:00pm

With the Lenten Season here, the Gift Shop is recognizing the month of February as Reflection Month and is offering a **25% discount** on all items encouraging Reflection **through TODAY!** Inquire at the Gift Shop for specifics. We look forward to seeing you!

PRESCHOOL

Director: Cindy Acosta

512-258-1721

cindy1@stmaustin.org

Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is open! If you are interested in reserving a place for your child, please reach out to us! We would love to have you!



If you would like to register your child for Preschool, please contact Cindy Acosta at cindy1@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1721. Join us!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Director: Dawn Rouen

512-258-1944 x235

dawn@stmaustin.org

HEALING & HOPE

A JOURNEY TOWARDS FULFILLMENT

Fr. Bart Landry, CSP

PARISH MISSION

MARCH 1-3

Mornings | Mass 8:30 am | Mission 9-10 am in Church

Evenings | 7-8 pm in Church or Live Stream

www.stmaustin.org/parish-mission

STARTS MONDAY!

In the church

Parish Lenten Mission

Join us in the church on a 3-day Parish Mission led by Fr. Bart Landry entitled, "Healing & Hope, A Journey Towards Fulfillment." Morning or evening opportunities are open to all!

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
March 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Mornings: 9:00am - 10:00am

Evenings: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Livestreaming of the 7:00pm sessions available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaustin



Next Meeting ~ Tuesday, March 9th at 11:00am

Welcome aboard! Young at Heart's next meeting will focus on travel - "Visit the 25 Best Places in Europe" without leaving home. No tickets, passports or jet lag! Please check your email for Zoom login credentials. New to Young at Heart? Contact Dawn Rouen at (512) 258-1944, ext. 235.



Sundays - Began February 21st ~ Not Too Late to Join!

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. Books may be purchased at the parish front office for \$7.00. For additional information, or to sign up for this study, please visit: stmaustin.org/adult-faith.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Director: Jennifer Bibbo

512-258-1161, x256

jbibbo@stmaustin.org

Catholic Social Teaching Corner ~ Second Sunday of Lent

This Sunday, we are challenged by this question: Are we willing to make the whole journey through temptation, suffering, death and resurrection as participants with Christ or will we become observers only? Being a disciple of Jesus involves risk. It might mean we have to leave the comfort and security of "home" to go to a new place of God's choosing. This Sunday's readings ask us to realize that the Christian journey is one of risk, suffering and death, but one that ends in glory for those who walk with Christ. Are you willing to take the risk?



Catholic Relief Services ~ Rice Bowl 2021

Better Meals in Madagascar

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food. Pick up your Rice Bowl box with recipes on the back from the narthex. For more information, please visit crsricebowl.org.



Lenten Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Lenten Food Drive benefitting HopeAustin. HopeAustin offers food security to the school-aged community by providing weekend meals to students who lose their subsidized meals offered during the school week. Each weekend, the organization feeds over 2,500 students across three counties, in six school districts and 81 schools!

ITEMS NEEDED (Individual servings only):

- ⇒ Mac 'n Cheese (microwaveable)
- ⇒ Applesauce (cups or squeeze packets)
- ⇒ Cans of food - ravioli, spaghetti with meatballs, beefaroni, etc. (14 oz. can size)

Collection barrels will remain in front of the church throughout Lent. You may also make a monetary donation at: stmknights.org/food or by using this QR code.



Habitat for Humanity

In Memorial of Bishop John E. McCarthy



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 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. For more information, please contact Becca Halbert at bhalbert@ahfh.org or (512) 472-8788, ext. 124 or Sheila Kuehn at sheila.kuehn@yahoo.com.



Saint Louise House Fundraiser!



Family Dinner
Means
Dinners for Families
at
Saint Louise House



Saint Louise House is a non-profit organization dedicated to the success of women and their children moving from homelessness to healthy independent lives. They strive to empower women and their children to overcome homelessness for generations to come. This proven program provides stable housing and wraparound services with highly-individualized support that fosters education, financial literacy, strong family relationships and healthy living, leading to a lifetime of self-sufficiency. The goal of Saint Louise House is for families to stay together and develop long term stability and self-sufficiency, breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness two generations at a time.

Dream Dinners is offering a curbside fundraiser to benefit Saint Louis House! Use the links to order online to pick up at one of the following three times:

- ⇒ Thursday, March 11th at 6:30pm - link to order: dreamdinners.com/session/875777
- ⇒ Friday, March 12th at 2:00pm - link to order: dreamdinners.com/session/875778
- ⇒ Saturday, March 13th at 2:00pm - link to order: dreamdinners.com/session/875412

Select three medium meals for your family for just \$50.00. Each meal offers three servings, for nine total servings! \$10.00 of this purchase will be donated directly to Saint Louise House.

Pick up your Dream Dinners-prepared package curbside at 12129 N FM 620, Ste. 447, Austin 78750 at your chosen time.

If a full-sized order of at least 36 servings within a week is placed, an additional \$20.00 will be donated to Saint Louise House. To donate your meals directly to Saint Louise House families, order online and then email mkiehn@saintlouishouse.org with your order information.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

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, pictured. To date, we have raised \$1,170 for the project. **If you would like to contribute to the decade, please call Mary Mallinger at (512) 826-0005. Thank you!**



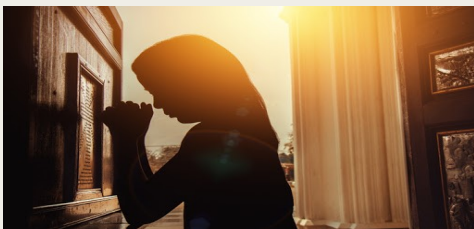


Please refer to the schedule at the front of the bulletin for adjusted times during Lent.

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



Anointing of the Sick

If you or someone you know is seriously ill or awaiting an upcoming surgery, please contact the parish office to schedule an anointing with a priest **as early on as possible** by calling (512) 258-1161.

Thank you.



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!

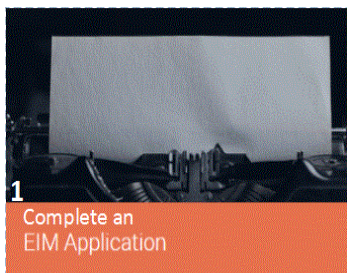
Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

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:



1 Complete an EIM Application



2 Attend an EIM Workshop



3 Renew your EIM Workshop every 3 years

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!