

The Assumption



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

August 15, 2021

MASS READINGS AND INTENTIONS

ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday from 9:00am to 10:00pm.

To sign up, please visit stm.weadorehim.com.

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|--------------------|---------|---|
| MON 16 | 8:30am | St. Stephen of Hungary Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106; Mt 19:16-22 Intentions of Jennifer Duplantier |
| TUES 17 | 8:30am | Jgs 6:11-24; Ps 85; Mt 19:23-30 Intentions of Gloria and Leticia Garcia |
| WED 18 | 8:30am | Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21; Mt 20:1-16 Intentions of Josh Hernandez Confessions - 6:00pm until 7:00pm |
| THUR 19 | 8:30am | St. John Eudes, Priest Jgs 11:29-39 Ps 40; Mt 22:1-14 Judy McMinn † |
| FRI 20 | 8:30am | Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church Ru 1:1-22; Ps 146; Mt 22:34-40 Victor Linan † Angel Zavala † |
| SAT 21 | 5:00pm | Jos 24:1-18; Ps 34; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69 Joseph C. Flynn † Alfonso and Esperanza Hajar † Confessions - 3:00pm - 4:30pm |
| SUN 22 | 7:30am | Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Jos 24:1-18; Ps 34; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69 Intentions of all St. Thomas More Parishioners |
| | 9:00am | Sal and Marion Marrongelli † Gerry Schneider † |
| | 10:45am | Intentions of Ismael and Ruben Quidato |
| | 5:00pm | Sam Livingston † Ada Anderson † |

PRAYER REQUESTS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Tim Anderson | Andre Hebert |
| Elizabeth Armes | Kris Kapchinski |
| Whitney Brun | Jason Mikolajek |
| Mollie Bustos | Cindy Molina |
| Jean Collins | Ron Muessel |
| Jessica Dapper | John Nemetz |
| Frank DiLorenzo | Trent Overall |
| Katie DiLorenzo | Kevin Sutherland |
| Jo Falkenstein | Dorothy Thompson |
| Ame Frezza | Jennifer Wiegand |
| Nancy Gilbert | Dave Wilkes |
| Judi Gilliam | Terry Wilkes |
| Michael Hanson | Kerry Wolf |

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



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

Bulletin Deadline

Submissions for the August 29th bulletin are due by noon on Thursday, August 19th. 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



Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ August 15th

The Feast of the Assumption is one of the oldest holy days in the Church, with accounts of celebrations going back to the 6th century. The earliest printed reference to the belief that Mary's body was assumed into Heaven dates from the 4th century, in a document entitled "The Falling Asleep of the Holy Mother of God." The document is written in the voice of the Apostle John, to whom Christ on the Cross had entrusted the care of His mother, and it recounts the death, laying in the tomb, and assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition places Mary's death at either Jerusalem or at Ephesus, where John was living. -Photo Credit - Scott P. Richert

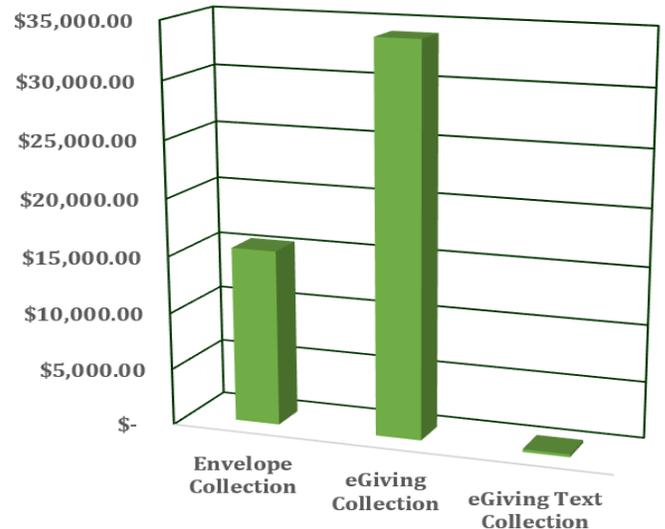
LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

For the past three Sundays, the gospel readings have focused on the Bread of Life discourse from John. Today we take a detour to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The assumption of Mary into heaven is not recorded in the scriptures but nevertheless has been a part of the church's tradition since the early centuries. It emerged out of reflection among the faithful on the profound role Mary had in the salvation of all humanity, especially in her openness and faithfulness to God, which were most profoundly witnessed in her bearing and giving birth to the Son of God, her son, Jesus. For her discipleship, God blessed Mary during her life, and at her death, God assumed her bodily into heaven, where she now enjoys full union with her Lord. Mary, as one of us, points to what awaits the Church and all disciples who wait in hope for full union with God. This solemnity not only celebrates Mary's assumption into heaven, but as she is the model of discipleship, it also points to the fullness of salvation that will be given to the entire Church with the Lord's Second Coming.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

August Contributions Week Ending August 8th

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Envelope Collection: | \$ 15,472.00 |
| eGiving Collection: | \$ 34,029.60 |
| eGiving Text Collection: | \$ 250.00 |
| Total Weekly Collections Actual: | \$ 49,751.60 |
| Total Weekly Collections Goal: | \$ 48,100.00 |
| Above/(Below) Weekly Goal: | \$ 1,651.60 |



Online Giving Opportunities

Visit our parish website at www.stmaustin.org or use this QR code to donate online:

You may also text your donation to (855) 892-3931.

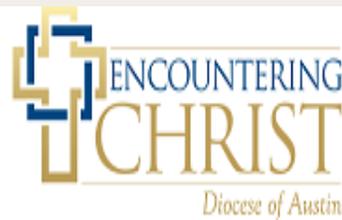


THANK YOU!

Stewardship Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, bestow the gift of two blessings on Mary when she greets her. Elizabeth blesses Mary not only because she believes that Mary is the mother of the Lord, but also because she recognizes that Mary has complete faith in God's promise. When Elizabeth prophetically pronounces Mary "blessed among women" and proclaims that the fruit of Mary's womb is blessed, she uses the same term that Jesus uses to bless people in the Beatitudes. Good stewards recognize the Spirit-driven love and courage that inspired Elizabeth's hospitality toward a young, unmarried, pregnant woman and the honor Elizabeth bestowed upon Mary who would ordinarily be shamed for bearing this child. In what ways can we extend the blessings we receive in the Eucharistic celebration to others in order to honor them and offer them God's hospitality?

Encountering Christ Campaign Update



Encountering Christ is a capital and endowment campaign to raise \$85 million in gifts and pledges for local parish needs while strengthening ministries, Catholic education and faith formation, supporting our clergy and enhancing growth across the diocese. Our St. Thomas More parish goal is to achieve \$3,525,000 in donations. **EVERY time a contribution is made from you toward this campaign, 30% of our Encountering Christ donations return directly to our parish, making it possible to continue improvements and updates on an ongoing basis.** As of 5/31/21, the 30% contributions received back to our parish was **\$259,890.41!** Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you!



The Gift Shop is looking for new volunteers to serve our parishioners! More volunteers lightens the workload and provides more opportunities for the Gift Shop to be open. If you are interested in working in the Gift Shop, please call Rosalie Killian at (203) 435-7731 or email giftshop@stmaustin.org. You may also visit the Gift Shop during open hours to leave your name and contact information! EIM Certification is required (see Page 9).



Prayers for Students Returning to School

Father, we ask you to help our children become versed in every branch of learning, gifted with knowledge and good sense, and to be quick to understand.

We pray that You help our children to grasp hold of what they need to know and learn. I ask You to give them the aptitude for understanding and wisdom. That they may have the mind of Christ and that their memory is blessed.

We pray Your emotional, physical and spiritual protection over our children. We pray You will guard their minds from harmful instruction and grant them discernment to recognize truth.

We pray that our children will realize and understand that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them.

Help them to find rest in Your shadow, as they live in the spiritual shelter You provide for them. Let them know that the only safe place is in Jesus and that their home on earth is only temporary. We ask for all of these prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.

Back to School Shopping?



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. **Our charity number is 13490.**



Also, if you make purchases online from Amazon, please visit smile.amazon.com to log in to your account. From there, you can search for your preferred charity. Select **St. Thomas More, Austin** as the charity that you would like to support. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to our parish!

Thank you for your CONTINUOUS overwhelming generosity!



The St. Thomas More Library is online!

Visit

<https://stmaustin.org/parish-library>

Explore the library catalog on any platform, anytime, anywhere.

Start checking out resources by completing a Patron Registration Form.

Contact the Library Ministry:
library@stmaustin.org

The Pancake Breakfast is Back!

Following all morning Masses **THIS SUNDAY** in the PAC!



\$5.00 per person (children 3 years and under are free)

Please join Scout Troop 159 to enjoy a great breakfast and to reconnect with your parish community!

The Troop has been active at St. Thomas More for over 40 years. We are excited to bring this fun tradition back to the community! If you have any questions, or are interested in joining the Troop, please reach out to our Scoutmaster at neilswoyer@hotmail.com.



St. Thomas More Men's Club Resuming!



The Men's Club would like to invite men of the parish, 21 years old and older, to join us for socializing and volunteering. The Men's Club is primarily a social club which meets monthly to chat, tell stories, laugh and enjoy each other's company. We also volunteer for parish projects and fundraising events. You might know us from our Easter pork loin roasts and Thanksgiving turkey smoking. If you are looking for a way to connect more personally with your fellow men of the parish, we are here for you. Monthly meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in or around the PAC. For more information, please visit stmaustin.org/mens-club or contact Paul Gelencser at paulgel@yahoo.com or call (512) 832-4146.

PRESCHOOL



Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year

Registration is open! Preschool begins on Tuesday, September 7th! If you are interested in reserving a place for your child in our award winning "Excellence in Education" preschool, please contact Cindy Acosta at cindy1@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1721. We hope you'll join us!



FAITH FORMATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Year

Faith Formation at St. Thomas More will begin a new year soon! We are excited to return to teaching your children about our wonderful Catholic faith!

ONLINE registration for ALL GRADES will begin Tuesday, August 24th at 8:00am at

<http://stmaustin.org/ff-registration>

For general information about the upcoming formation year, please visit

<http://stmaustin.org/faith-formation-home>

ALL CLASSES will begin the week of Sunday, September 26th

Elementary Education - Kindergarten through Grade 5

Middle School Education - Grades 6 through 8

High School/Life Teen Education - Grades 9 through 12

HELP IS NEEDED! Each level of Faith Formation is in great need of volunteers to help teach all classes. Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Guidelines require two EIM-certified adults in each classroom. For information on EIM certification, please see Page 9 of the bulletin. Thank you for sharing the gift of your time!

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Catholic Social Teaching ~ The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May we turn often to our Blessed Mother who also leads us closer to her son, Jesus Christ. Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Back-to-School Food Drive ~ Running Now through September 5th

Hope Austin is a non-profit organization **creating opportunities for the youngest** members of our community through food security. By providing weekend meals to students who lose their subsidized meals offered during the school week, Hope Austin ensures the brightest future for our children and the broader community by ensuring children have every opportunity to learn and thrive without hunger. St. Thomas More's Social Justice Ministry is sponsoring a drive to restock their inventory, helping these kids returning to school! Our parish is being asked to provide these items for the drive:

- **Mac 'n Cheese - individual serving-sized, microwavable or Easy Mac are great options**
- **Cans of pasta dishes - Ravioli, SpaghettiO's, Spaghetti and Meatballs, etc.**
- **Applesauce - in squeezable pouches**

Collections barrels will be placed outside of the church through September 5th. If you would prefer to offer a monetary donation, please visit www.hope4austin.org or mail a check to Hope Austin, 13809 Research Blvd., Ste. 810 Austin, TX 78750. Thank you for your generosity!



CHRIST OUR HOPE



Cristo
NUESTRA ESPERANZA

SAVE THE DATE

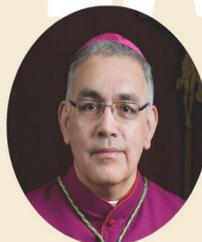
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Pflugerville
August 28, 2021 | 8 AM to 12 PM

Join us for a gathering that will bring together parish leaders and volunteers whose faith inspires them to respond to current challenges relating to evangelization in contemporary society, lay leadership, poverty, injustice, and the promotion of human life and dignity.

www.austindiocese.org/christ-our-hope



SPEAKERS



Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



Rev. Jim Olnhausen
Priestly Life and Formation



DeAnn Stuart
Austin Institute
for the Study of Family & Culture



Luisa de Poo
Director of Life, Marriage
and Family Life



Deacon Tim Hayden
Associate Director
of Restorative Justice



Lauren Warner
Coordinator
of Black Ministry

Catholic Charities Weekend

Catholic Charities of Central Texas is thrilled to host their 3rd Annual Catholic Charities Weekend on **August 28th and 29th**. This awareness campaign will take place in partnership with parishes throughout the Diocese of Austin to spread the word to our faith community about their mission and services. During Catholic Charities Weekend, parishes across their 25-county service region will have the opportunity to share information about what they do and how parishioners can get involved in our mission, whether they need help or want to help others. For more information, please visit www.ccctx.org.



CCCT works to eliminate poverty in our community. They offer financial stability services to help prevent homelessness and achieve financial security through case management, education and emergency financial assistance. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call (512) 651-6100.



Thank You!

We've received another grateful message from a recipient of St. Thomas More's generous donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. "I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your recent donation to assist me with rent. I recently moved into

the Versailles Oxford House. They took me in, broke and beaten down, but I didn't have the money to pay rent. You've helped me get caught up and then some. God has blessed me with so many miracles since I moved in here and I'm on the road to recovery. My faith is even stronger today and I will pass along the good deed to the next person. I'll follow God's lead. God bless you. I appreciate what your church has done for me. I have so much hope today for a brighter future." -Michele If you need more information, contact the parish office at (512) 258-1161 or email presidentsvdpstm@gmail.com. **Thank you for your continued generosity to this worthy cause!**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry "When We Need God's Love Most"

When do we need God's love most? Of course we need that love every second of our lives. But, at times, God's love is especially precious to us, times when:

- ✝ We lose a loved one,
- ✝ Life becomes so confusing that we do not know where to turn, or
- ✝ Life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in.

At times like these, it is very important to have someone who cares. Our congregation has trained lay people, Stephen Ministers, who offer a ministry of Christian caring here at St. Thomas More. For more information, please call Eileen at (512) 507-9563. All calls are confidential.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

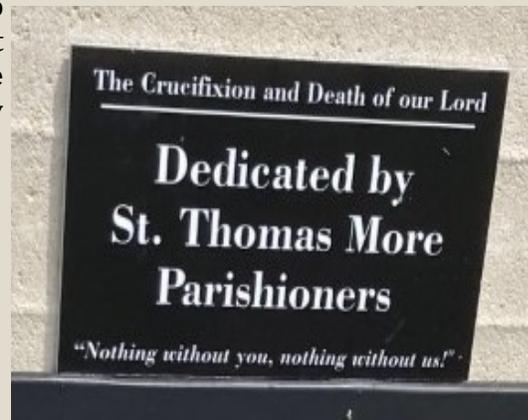
Casino Night!



Join the St. Williams' Knights of Columbus for their Casino Night on **Saturday, August 21st from 5:45pm to 10:30pm** at the St. William Parish Evangelization Center, 620 Round Rock West in Round Rock. Tickets are \$30 per person and include dinner, bar drinks and \$10,000 gaming chips for entertainment. Social hour and dinner are between 5:45pm and 6:45pm. Ages 18 years and over are welcome. For tickets, contact the church office at (512) 255-4473 or Greg Castro at (512) 217-4717. You may also purchase tickets online at www.kofc9368.org.

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. St. Thomas More Parish is sponsoring the building of one decade - The Crucifixion. **To date, we have raised \$3,755 for the project!** The priests at the Shrine are appreciative of all of the money donated to the project and have noted that our parish's contributions have also helped other pieces of this project get funded! **If you would like to contribute to the Rosary Project, please call Mary Mallinger at (512) 826-0005.**





Cedarbrake Retreat

Greater than a Mother's Love: The Maternal-Fraternal Tension of Francis's and Clare's Spirituality will be held Friday - **Sunday, August 20th - 22nd** at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Temple. Sts. Francis and Clare both invited the Franciscan family to live as mothers, brothers, sisters and spouses of Jesus in the household of the ONE father who is God. This retreat will consider the family life of both Francis and Clare and how their experience of their parents and siblings challenges the Franciscan family to live as brothers, sisters and mothers to each other under the care of only ONE Father modeled by Mary, Mother of God. Prof. Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM is a Friar Minor with a doctorate in spirituality from the Pontifical University Antonianum (Rome). Because of the pandemic, he will give his talks virtually from Rome. Franciscan Father Albert Haase will be present to facilitate the weekend, guide the discussion and celebrate Mass.

Cost for the weekend retreat is \$265 for a private room, \$215 for a double and \$125 commuter rate. Price includes meals and linens. Register by calling (254) 780-2436 or at www.cedarbrake.org.

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:



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

Main Phone (512) 258-1161

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor | Very Rev. Michael J. O'Connor | frmichael@stmaustin.org |
| Parochial Vicar | Rev. Callan Sweeney | frcallan@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Mike Gesch | deaconmike@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Dan Lupo | deacondan@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Tom Mallinger | deacontomm@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Pat O'Beirne | deaconpat@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Pete A. Schwab | deaconpete@stmaustin.org |
| Deacon | Thomas Suniga | deaconthomas@stmaustin.org |
| Accounting | Lori White | lwhite@stmaustin.org |
| Bridal Coordinator | Terry Wilkes | terry@stmaustin.org |
| Business Administrator | Andy DeHart | andy1@stmaustin.org |
| Communications | Val Olivas | volivas@stmaustin.org |
| Facilities | J.W. Green | jw1@stmaustin.org |
| Liturgy | Jennifer Fangman | jfangman@stmaustin.org |
| Marriage & Family Life | Denise Abele | dabele@stmaustin.org |
| Membership | Danielle White | dwhite@stmaustin.org |
| Music | Stephanie Mire | smire@stmaustin.org |
| | Karen Lawson | karen@stmaustin.org |
| Nursery | Cindy Acosta | cindy1@stmaustin.org |

Fax (512) 258-8812

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|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Administrator | Debra Lohrstorfer | debra@stmaustin.org |
| Reception | Liz Franklin | efranklin@stmaustin.org |
| Social Outreach | Jennifer Bibbo | jbibbo@stmaustin.org |
| STM Gift Shop | Rosalie Killian | giftshop@stmaustin.org |

Faith Formation Staff: 512-258-1944

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Asst. Director | Johanna Isburgh | johanna@stmaustin.org |
| Elementary School | Jill Goeters | jill1@stmaustin.org |
| Middle School | Andrea Cochran | andrea@stmaustin.org |
| Life Teen | Logan Mayes | logan@stmaustin.org |
| Adult Faith | Dawn Rouen | drouen@stmaustin.org |

Preschool Staff: 512-258-1721

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Director | Cindy Acosta | cindy1@stmaustin.org |
| Asst. Director | Julie Olesen | jolesen@stmaustin.org |

Parish Council Chairpersons:

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Finance | Ione Voor | 954-325-2327 |
| Pastoral Council | Jim Lonergan | 512-940-0924 |
| Stewardship | Dan Price | 512-970-5710 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 healing prayer? | Mercy of God Prayer Center (formerly, Chelsea House) | | Theresa Stephens (512) 834-6401 | |

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