

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

October 3, 2021—Respect Life Sunday

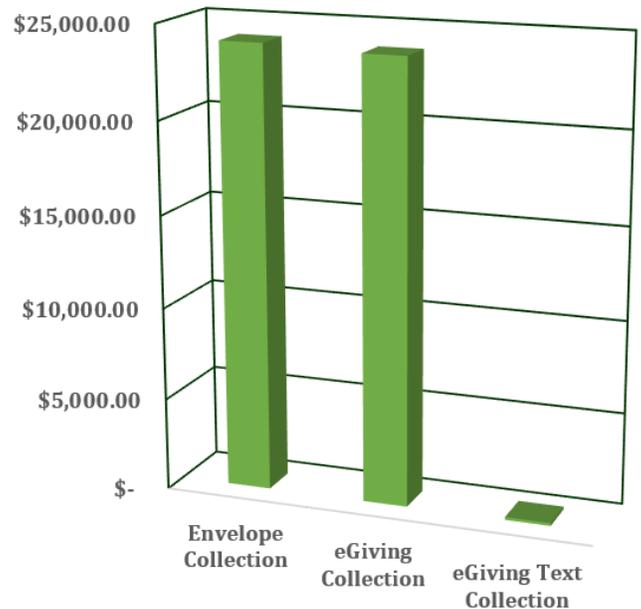
LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

In today's gospel, the Pharisees question Jesus on the lawfulness of divorce. He does not answer them but asks what did Moses command? After they say that Moses allowed a man to give his wife a bill of divorce and dismiss her, Jesus shifts the discussion away from this law to God's plan for relationships between men and women. The focus then becomes marriage, not divorce. Jesus says that Moses allowed for divorce because of the hardness of their hearts, but in the divine plan for whole and healthy human relations in marriage, God did not intend divorce. Jesus' teaching criticizes the easy ending of a marriage in his society, and it also protects women. The law states that a woman who has been divorced by her husband and marries another man commits adultery, but it also works the other way. A man who divorces his wife and marries another woman also commits adultery, a teaching that probably offended the men who had not considered that perspective. Both men and women have equal rights and responsibilities to God's plan for their unity in "one flesh." Most importantly, Jesus focuses on the sanctity of marriage, rather than the lawfulness of divorce. He raises the understanding of marriage from a civil institution to a state of life blessed by God.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

September Contributions Week Ending September 26th

Envelope Collection:	\$ 24,023.02
eGiving Collection:	\$ 23,781.53
eGiving Text Collection:	\$ 150.00
Total Weekly Collections Actual:	\$ 47,954.55
Total Weekly Collections Goal:	\$ 48,100.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	(\$ 145.45)
Disaster Relief for Haiti and Louisiana	\$ 11,171.39



Stewardship Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us about the sacredness of marriage; a covenant that is a gift from God. Our relationships with our spouses, family, friends, coworkers, and those in our community of faith are all gifts from God. Jesus reminds us today that it is the hardened heart that damages or breaks up relationships. Good stewards understand the holiness of relationships and pray for the love, patience, understanding and kindness necessary to sustain those relationships. Take time out to prayerfully reflect on your relationships this week. Is your stewardship of these relationships as God intended? What relationships need to be healed and reconciled?

IN-PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE COUNTS

	Saturday, 5:00pm	Sunday, 7:30am	Sunday, 9:00am	Sunday, 10:45am	Sunday 5:00pm	TOTAL
September 4th and 5th	220	197	372	486	259	1,534
September 11th and 12th	336	204	332	484	292	1,648
September 18th and 19th	300	188	304	557	312	1,661
September 25th and 26th	253	210	273	556	568	1,860

Our Sacraments ~ Our Faith ~ September 2021

“The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1123)

Baptisms

Benjamin Limon-Amaya
Ellie Josephine Blair

Marriages

Angelo Cioffi to Brennan Upchurch
Ryan Doyle to Shana Norris

Recently Deceased

Luis Centeno Marcie Higdon
Theresa Srisen Shaune Stark
Diana Wise



YEAR OF THE

DOMESTIC CHURCH

October 2021

The witness of marriage is a witness of the love that Christ has for his bride, the Church. From the beginning to the end of scripture, we see the importance of marriage. We see the marriage, the union of God and his people throughout the Old Testament. In Christ, we see the sacrificial love of God who lays down his life for his bride. And in the Eucharist, we participate in the wedding feast of the lamb; the eternal wedding banquet of heaven. Christ's death on the cross demonstrates the self sacrifice that unifies God with his people and husbands with their wives. We see love outpoured and new life given. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us “It is by following Christ, renouncing themselves, and taking up their crosses that spouses will

be able to ‘receive’ the original meaning of marriage and live it with the help of Christ.” (CCC 1615) The witness of marriage is an outward sign of the eternal love of God, and our journey toward eternal life with him. If you are married, in what way do you and your spouse demonstrate God's love to each other? If you are not married, in what ways do you demonstrate God's love to your neighbor?

WELCOME BACK, ST. THOMAS MORE! PARISH SPONSORED COMEDY CLUB DINNER

Meet our Comedienne



St. Thomas More Parish is proud to present Ms. Kristin Lindner to entertain us at this event! Kristin is not just a successful standup comedienne, but she is also a successful wife and a mother of three. Her cleverness and quick wit provide an amusing outlook to life and the joys of marriage and motherhood, making audiences laugh until their sides split. A veteran in the comedy

scene, Kristin was a recent winner of Houston's Funniest Person contest. She tells it the way it is, the way it was and the way it should be!

OCTOBER 29, 2021 ~ 6:30PM

PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER

CATERED DINNER * DRINKS * COMEDY

\$50 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

<https://secure.myvanco.comYGJF/home>

OR AT THE PARISH OFFICE

Let's put some laughter back into our lives!

ST. THOMAS MORE NEWS



Rosary in the Park

October is the month traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 9th at noon** when the Knights of Columbus will gather at the pavilion in Harper Park off of Lake Creek Parkway to pray the Rosary. One way we may grow closer to Christ is by praying the Rosary, “Through the Rosary, the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” *Pope John Paul II* ~ Please join the Knights for this annual event.

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

October Sale!

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary! Reciting the Rosary allows us to obtain graces through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. The word "Rosary" is derived from "crown of roses," and the rose is the symbolic flower of Mary. The practice of adorning statues of Mary with rose crowns, as a sign of love and devotion, began in the Middle Ages and continues to this day.



**Visit the Gift Shop to obtain
15% off of all items
related to the Rosary
through the end of October!**

Opportunity!



The Gift Shop is an endearing part of our St. Thomas More community. It is also one of the best Catholic stores in the north Austin area. We are looking for a new individual to oversee its operation. Routine responsibilities include inventory management, volunteer scheduling and monthly reporting. If you are interested, please contact Andy DeHart at andy1@stmaustin.org for more information.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY

**PET BLESSING
OCT. 3RD 2PM**

IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

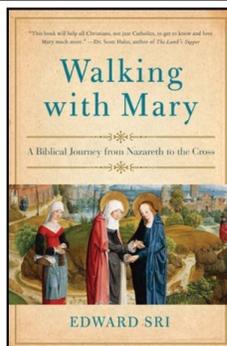


Read, Reflect, Rejoice!

Monday October 25

7:00 to 8:30 PM

Join us in the Library or Online to discuss
***Walking with Mary, a Biblical Journey
from Nazareth to the Cross***
by Edward Sri



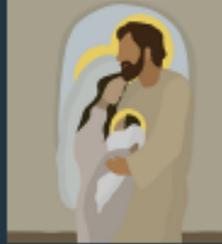
Register at stmaustin.org/book-discussions

Edward Sri looks at the key passages in the Bible concerning Mary and offers insight into the Blessed Mother's faith and devotion that we can apply to our daily lives. Follow her step-by-step through the New Testament account of her life, reflecting on what the scriptures tell us about how she responded to the dramatic events unfolding around her.

Welcome even if you haven't read the book!

Books are available in the STM gift shop or from your favorite book vendor.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH



October 2021

St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

Baby Donation Drive -

Supporting St. John Paul II Life Center

Throughout October, which is Respect Life Month, the St Thomas More Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to donate the following items to support the St. John Paul II Life Center.

- Diapers – newborn to size 6
- Baby wipes
- New car seats (sorry, we cannot accept used items)
- New Pack & Play portable sleepers (sorry, we cannot accept used items)

Monetary donations can be made via the following link:

<https://stmknights.org/diaper/>

Donations may be placed in the bassinet located outside the church doors beginning Friday, October 1st through Sunday, October 31st and can be dropped off 24/7 at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The St. John Paul II Life Center provides holistic OB_GYN healthcare and life-affirming education programs for young teens and adults. To learn more, please visit www.jpilifecenter.org

Interested in joining or learning more about the Knights of Columbus? Please visit <https://www.stmaustin.org/knights-of-columbus>

40 Days for Life -

Central Texas Coalition for Life

Please consider praying in front of a woman's clinic from September 22nd to October 31st. The clinic is located off Duval Road. Parishioners can sign up for an hourly slot to pray at:

<https://www.centraltexascoalition.com/signup/>

We hope you consider giving an hour of your time to stand in solidarity and pray for the unborn baby and the mothers who are struggling during this time of need. "Everyone Deserves a Birthday!"

"Just Mercy" Movie Showing

Sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry

Join the Social Justice Ministry as they view the movie "Just Mercy." The movie is about a World-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson who works to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner. Individual snacks and bottled water will be served.

Saturday, October 30th

Life House

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Please RSVP at <https://www.stmaustin.org/social-justice-ministry>

Baby Banks

Keep filling those Baby Banks and show your children how important it is to be involved in efforts to help unborn babies, women, and families in need by sparing their extra change. Each time you add to your bank, your contribution helps the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line and much more! **You can also donate online on our website page** <https://stmaustin.org/respect-life>

Hospice Education Workshop

The word "hospice" can raise a lot of scary and confusing questions. Please join us for a workshop on what hospice care is all about. Learn how it is in the keeping with Catholic Church teachings on dying with dignity and how it can be a life-giving experience for patient and family alike. The workshop will be held Monday, October 25th at 9:30 am in Room 213 and repeated in the same location at 6:30 pm. This workshop will be facilitated by our own STM parishioner, Judy Rupprecht, RN.

Respect Life

EVENTS AT ST THOMAS MORE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JENNIFER BIBBO AT JBIBBO@STMAUSTIN.ORG

FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation classes have begun! Welcome back!

You can still register at stmaustin.org/ff-registration. Here are some upcoming important dates. Mark your calendars!

October 5th - 6th: Pick up materials for the Home Study Program in Brennan Auditorium from 6:30pm until 7:00pm.

October 6th: Middle School Bible Study begins. The study will be held in Room 207 from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. Check the schedule for specific dates.

October 10th -12th: No Faith Formation classes.

October 23th - 24th: Middle School Retreat at Camp Champions. Register at bit.ly/2Y3fyeE.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Returns THIS WEEKEND!

Come Share in *The 99 Experience* this Fall. This powerful retreat and small group experience kicks off **Saturday, October 2nd** and is for all adults, whether you are active in your faith or just getting connected. Deepen your relationship with Jesus as we grow in identity, purpose and community together. Prayerfully, consider who you know that would benefit from *The 99 Experience* and invite them to join you. For more details or to register, please visit www.stmaustin.org/the-99. If you have any questions and would like more information, please email Molly Cloran at molly@cloran.com or call (512) 560-5522. We hope to see you there!



Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 12th
11:00am in
Brennan Auditorium

Please join us at this month's meeting. Our theme is "Oktoberfest and Laughter." Bring your own lunch. Masks are recommended.

If you are interested in either of these ministries, please email Dawn Rouen at dawn@stmaustin.org or call (512) 258 1944, ext. 235.

Have YOU
Thought About
BECOMING
CATHOLIC?

Are you searching for:

- ✝ A deeper relationship with God?
- ✝ Are you looking to belong to a community?
- ✝ A greater awareness of how God is at work in your life?
- ✝ A deeper look into what Catholics believe and how we live our faith?

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Catholic Social Teaching ~ Respect Life Sunday

Fundamental values for the Christian faithful are relationship and solidarity with others. Living a life in and of Jesus Christ means we have an obligation to manifest human solidarity through the work of our hands and our actions. Living in right relationship with others brings peace.

Advent Giving Tree Form



The first Sunday of Advent is only a few weeks away, and volunteers are gearing up for St. Thomas More's 2021 Advent Giving Tree Season! As we do each year during Advent, we will encourage parishioners to take gift tags from our trees to help us provide Christmas gifts and gift cards to Central Texas individuals and families in need. We have begun gathering information from non-profit organizations. We also encourage you to let us know of anyone at St. Thomas More who needs assistance in making Christmas 2021 a little brighter. **Please submit the Advent Giving Tree Form to provide us with information about members of the community who need help with Christmas gifts for themselves,**

or their family members, because of their current financial situation. Forms are available from Liz Franklin in the parish front office. **All Advent Giving Tree forms must be returned no later than Monday, October 25th.** For additional information, please contact Laura Lavergne at (512) 771-3138 or lauraclavergne@yahoo.com. Thank you for your prayers and assistance in support of this joyous ministry!

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Schoenstatt Celebration Sunday, October 10th

The Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin will celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Schoenstatt on Sunday, October 10th. Bishop Joe Vásquez will **celebrate Mass at 11:00am**. All are invited to stay for lunch, games and family fun! To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit schoenstatt-austin.us. You may also purchase tickets after Sunday Mass at the shrine.

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School Golf Tournament



Interested in playing golf? How about supporting High School Athletics? SDSCHS, along with the Booster Club and Savio Athletics, is hosting their Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on **Monday, October 25th** at the Crystal Falls Golf Club. To register to

play golf, register your team and receive a \$100 price break, and/or purchase your sponsorship, please visit saviochs.ejoinme.org/eagleclassic21. As auction items become available, they will be posted to the site, so please continue to check for updates! If you are unable to participate in the Golf Tournament this year, please prayerfully consider donating to make this year's endeavor a success! For more information, please contact boosterpresident@saviochs.org.

SADDLE ON UP

ST. JOSEPH'S

1ST ANNUAL COWBOY GALA

Benefitting the building fund of our new Sanctuary
Courtyard Marriott
16100 Impact Way, Pflugerville, TX 78660

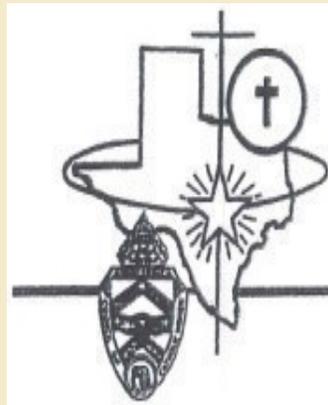
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2021
EVENT FOR AGE 21 AND OVER

Happy Hour 6-7 | Silent Auction - 6-9 | Dinner 7-8
Dancing 8-12 | Silent Auction Winners - 9:30

TICKETS	SPONSORSHIP
\$600 for a table for 10	Gold for \$5000 = receive 3 tables (30 seats)
\$120 per couple	Silver for \$3000 = receive 2 tables (20 seats)
\$75.00 for single ticket	Bronze for \$1000 = receive 1 table (10 seats)

For additional information, or to purchase tickets, please call (512) 272-4004 or visit www.sjmanor.org/cowboy-gala.

Council of Catholic Women Meeting



The Austin North, Central and South Deaneries Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies of the parish to its fall meeting on **Saturday, October 16th** at Holy Cross Church, 1610 E. 11th St. Austin. There is no pre-registration or fee required. The meeting begins with Mass at

9:00am, followed by a memorial service for deceased women, a brief business meeting and a silent auction. The theme is "Your Choice, Bring What You Want." New items valued at \$15 or more are requested. For more information, please email Eleanor Langsdorf at elangsdo@yahoo.com or call (512) 873-0480 (land line).



Life is Beautiful **GALA**

A night filled with fun & fellowship while honoring life

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

6 PM

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Scan to register now
& for more info!



jpiilifecenter.org/events

68% of Americans Don't Have a Will. Are You One of Them?

FREEWILL

Over the past year, we have all learned that life can change quickly. Are you prepared for your family? If you are in the majority of people who do not have an up-to-date legal will in place, the Diocese of Austin has partnered with FreeWill to provide you a free, online resource that guides you through the process of creating a legally valid will which can be updated at any time, as life events change.

Take care of all the changes in your life and write or update your will at <https://bit.ly/2YciG7x>. By taking this first step, you are providing peace of mind to your family as well as yourself.



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 or a new 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. **Beginning in January 2022, the online renewal option will no longer be available.**

STM Staff Contacts

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

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

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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