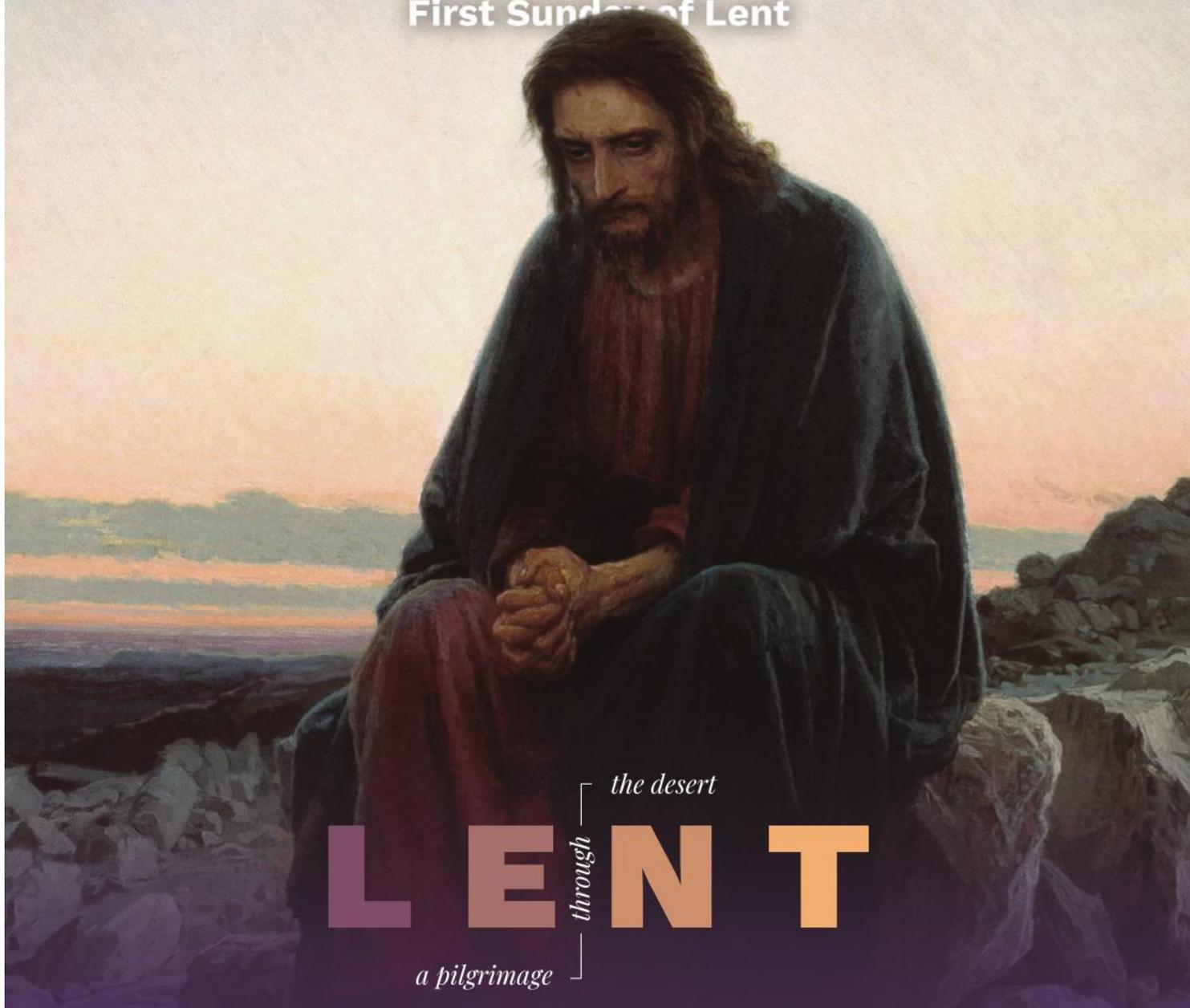


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

March 6th, 2022

The Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent



the desert
LENT
through
a pilgrimage

Sacrament Recap

PAGE 3

Lenten Fish Fry

PAGE 5

Pre-Synodal Meeting

PAGE 8

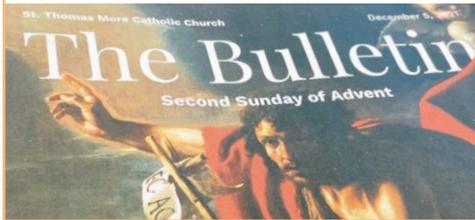
Christ in the Desert, 1872, Ivan Kramskoi

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BULLETIN DEADLINES

Submissions for the March 20th bulletin are due **by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th.** Submissions for the March 27th bulletin are due **by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th.** Email asanchez@stmaustin.org for instructions on submitting content for *The Bulletin*.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Tim Anderson | Jason Mikolajek |
| Elizabeth Armes | Cindy Molina |
| Whitney Brun | Ron Muessel |
| Mollie Bustos | Fr. Michael O'Connor |
| Jean Collins | Barbara Ohradzansky |
| Frank DiLorenzo | Trent Overall |
| Katie DiLorenzo | Kevin Sutherland |
| Dodie Domanski | Dorothy Thompson |
| Jo Falkenstein | Clifford Uher |
| Ame Frezza | Bernadette Vogel |
| Nancy Gilbert | Jennifer Wiegand |
| Judi Gilliam | Dave Wilkes |
| Michael Hanson | Terry Wilkes |
| Andre Hebert | Kerry Wolf |
| Kris Kapchinski | |

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

Spiritual Life

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE, READINGS AND INTENTIONS

- MON 7** Memorial of Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 | Ps 19 | Mt 25:31-46
8:30 a.m. Thomas J. Flynn † Robert Francis Mijares †
- TUES 8** Memorial of St. John of God, Religious
Is 55:10-11 | Ps 34 | Mt 6:7-15
8:30 a.m. Dorothy Kuenzi †
- WED 9** Memorial of St. Frances of Rome, Religious
Jon 3:1-10 | Ps 51 | Lk 11:29-32
8:30 a.m. James & Kathleen Allen †
Confessions: 9-9:30 a.m. and 6-7 p.m.
- THUR 10** Est 4:12, 14-16, 23-25 | Ps 138 | Mt 7:7-12
8:30 a.m. Intentions of Kathleen Regan
- FRI 11** Ez 18:21-28 | Ps 130 | Mt 5:20-26
8:30 a.m. Joseph Giau Minh Quan †
Stations of the Cross: 12 noon and 6 p.m.
- SAT 12** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Ps 27 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36
5 p.m. Virginia & Tom Stanton †
Confessions: 3-4:30 p.m.
- SUN 13** Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Ps 27 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36
7:30 a.m. Joseph Saathoff †
9 a.m. Intentions of James Edward Snyder, Jr
Cheryl Garihan †
10:45 a.m. Domenico Fazzzone †
5 p.m. Intentions of St. Thomas More Parishioners

TO REACH A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY

During Office Hours:
(512) 258-1161
After Hours:
(512) 258-1161, Opt. 1



ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
To sign up, please visit stm.weadorehim.com.



LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent is always Jesus' temptation in the desert. After his baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There, he encounters Satan who tempts him three times, and each time Jesus rebukes him. These extraordinary temptations are specific for Jesus, who the devil knows is the Son of God. It would be easy for the Son of God to turn stones to bread or throw himself off a cliff fully confident that angels will catch him. However, Jesus makes it clear that he will not take the easy way out. Rather than succumbing to the temptations of comfort, convenience and power, Jesus knows the path to life is through the cross. It will be a difficult journey, but Jesus chooses the way of suffering and death. After the temptations fail to lure Jesus, the devil departs from him "for a time." Satan will return, and there will be more obstacles Jesus will face before the end of his ministry. **For us, Lent is our "40 days in the desert." It is a time to examine what tempts us to turn away from God and how we might choose differently to make God the center of our lives.** (Painting: *Temptations of Christ* by Sandro Botticelli)

SIGNED AND SEALED WITH THE CROSS

LENT MISSION

with Fr. Albert Haase
*award winning author
and popular preacher*

March 28th-30th
7-8 p.m.

In-person in the church and
livestreamed on our
website and Facebook page.



Scan the QR code with your
phone's camera or visit
stmaustin.org/parish-mission
for more info!



CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

"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 -

Please join us in a prayer of thanksgiving for the following sacrament celebrated in February:

Wedding

James Martin to Michelle Bellovin



RECENTLY DECEASED

All the sacraments, and principally those of Christian initiation, have as their goal the last Passover of the child of God which, through death, leads him into the life of the Kingdom. Then what he confessed in faith and hope will be fulfilled: "I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come."

- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1680 -

Please join us in praying for the soul of the following parishioner:

Beverly Hammel



MAR 13 10:45 a.m.
LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN
 Church

All children ages four to eleven years old are invited to process to Brennan Auditorium for the readings and a kid-friendly homily that will help them better

understand the Lenten season as well as the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

MAR 26 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
DAY OF REFLECTION: FINDING YOUR INNER STRENGTH
 Life House

All women of the parish are invited to join Thesians International and special guest, Patti McCabe (Program Director at Posada Esperanza), for this opportunity for reflection. The \$25 registration donation covers the cost of the program, a light breakfast as well as lunch. Thesians provide a prayerful environment where women are nurtured, affirmed and challenged

to reach their full potential. Visit stmaustin.org/theresians to find more info and register by March 15th.

APR 12 10:30 a.m.
SAVE THE DATE: CHRISM MASS
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Austin

Everyone is invited to the annual celebration of the Chrism Mass. Each year, Bishop Vásquez blesses the holy oils that will be distributed to every parish in the diocese. These oils are used in anointing the sick, the newly baptized, altars and the hands of priests at their ordination. At this Mass, the priests of the diocese also renew the priestly promises they first made at their ordination.

Finance & Stewardship

CONTRIBUTIONS

Week Ending	February 27 th
Envelope Collection:	\$ 21,021.11
eGiving Collection:	\$ 23,112.20
eGiving Text Collection:	\$ 150.00
Total Weekly Collections Actual:	\$ 44,283.31
Total Weekly Collections Goal:	\$ 48,100.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$ (3,816.69)
St. Vincent de Paul (month-to-date)	\$ 8,795.15

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

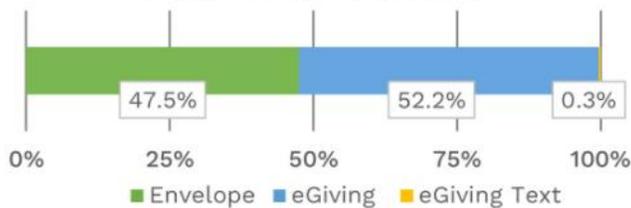
Here are some ways our children were good stewards of their time and talent last week:

- Cleaned up a mess
- Gave books away
- I was a good listener

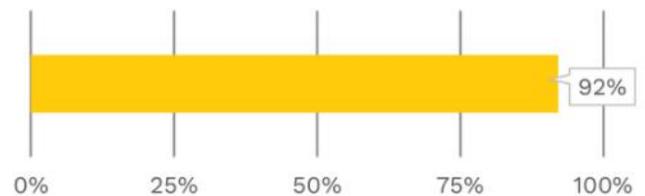
Children's Stewardship Box Collection: \$37



Collection Method



Above/Below Goal



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The second reading from St. Paul to the Romans is a favorite of those involved in the ministry of evangelization. There are no “secret” disciples of the Lord. Those who exercise good stewardship of their faith realize that publicly identifying themselves as followers of Christ has a cleansing effect on their lives. Openly confessing Christ makes them more conscious of how they live their daily lives. **Are we content to privatize our faith or are we good stewards of a faith that we share, make public and regularly identify as a life in Christ?**



EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

In your March envelope packet, you received the Easter Flower envelope. This is a great way to help beautify the church for Easter while remembering or honoring a loved one. You can place your envelope in the collection basket at any Mass or drop it off at the parish office.

FOLLOW US ON
YOUR FAVORITE
SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS



stmaustin

Parish News

MAR
8

11 a.m.

YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING

Brennan Auditorium

If you are 55 or older, we hope to see you at the next YAH potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite dish to share! The theme is "Zumba." Learn about this low impact exercise that is great for seniors. New to Young at Heart? Contact Dawn at (512) 258-1944 x235 or dawn@stmaustin.org for more info. Join us!



MAR
11

5-8 p.m.

LENTEN FISH FRY: SUPPORTING PARISH YOUTH PROGRAMS

Parish Activity Center (PAC)

The Knights of Columbus are excited to once again host a fish fry dinner every Friday of Lent. For your convenience, you can purchase your tickets at stmknights.org/fishfry. Ticket(s) can be used on any Friday this Lent. Additionally, we will have drive-thru service available! Regardless of whether you pick up or dine in, simply give us the name on the order and we'll do the rest. Dinner consists of fried catfish, french fries, coleslaw, hush puppies, tea and lemonade. There is also a pizza option. Each adult dinner costs \$15, while child plates are \$10. All proceeds support STM's Life Teen program.

APR
28

7-9:30 p.m.

MADE FOR MORE

St. Theresa Catholic Church, Austin

Made for More is an inspired blend of teaching, live music and art that taps the deepest desires of the human heart revealing their ultimate purpose and goal. Want to be inspired by beauty and the wisdom of the Church? Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they offer a unique presentation of the Gospel through the lens of St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Tickets are on sale now and are limited! Grab your tickets today in the parish office or online at austintx.eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$25.

You can watch a trailer for this event at vimeo.com/251850893. Contact Denise Abele at (512) 258-1161 x223 or dabele@stmaustin.org if you would like more information.

Adult Faith Formation

PAUL Pastoring God's People



MAR 27 through April 10th, Sundays, 10:30-11:45 a.m.
PAUL: PASTORING GOD'S PEOPLE
 Religious Education Building, Room 213

Tap into the teaching, insight and guidance the writings of St. Paul have given to Christians from the church's earliest days to today in this three-week study. Books are available for \$4.50 online or at the study sessions. Learn more and sign up at stmaustin.org/adult-faith or contact Dawn (dawn@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1944 x235).

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR:

- A deeper relationship with God?
- A greater awareness of how God is at work in your life?
- A sense of belonging in a faith community?
- A deeper look into what Catholics believe and how we live our faith?

To explore your questions, and receive an introduction to the Catholic faith, check out the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)! For more information, please contact Dawn at (512) 258-1944 x235.



FORMED PICKS OF THE WEEK

Watch

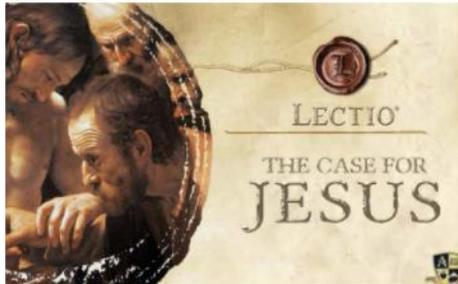


Everyday Heroes

Heroism isn't restricted to decorated soldiers or persecuted saints. It's something achievable for all of us even in our ordinary lives. In this documentary, see how the Knights of Columbus have embodied this everyday heroism!

Watch this week's pick of the week here: bit.ly/Fpow220306wa.

Learn

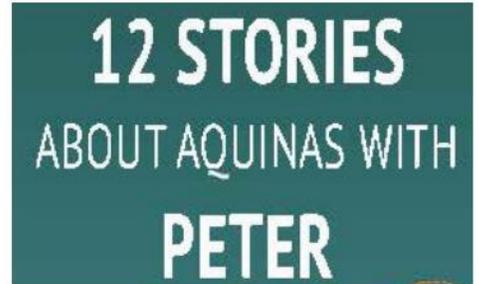


Lectio: The Case for Jesus

Dr. Brant Pitre answers the key question of faith: Who is Jesus? Dr. Pitre presents evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writings that attest to the authenticity of the Gospels.

Learn more about our faith with this week's pick of the week here: bit.ly/Fpow220306le.

Listen



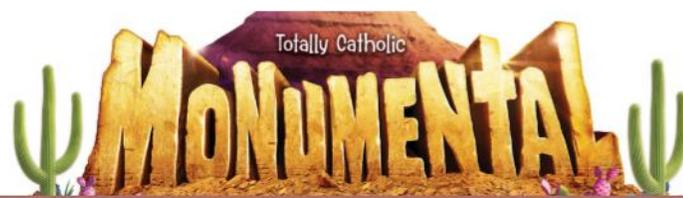
12 Stories about Aquinas with Peter Kreeft

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the equivalent of 500 books, all with a quill pen! Join Dr. Peter Kreeft, an influential teacher of Catholic thought, as he shares some entertaining anecdotes from the life of this genius saint!

Listen to learn more about our faith with this week's pick of the week here: bit.ly/Fpow220306li.

New to FORMED? Visit formed.org/signup then search for *St. Thomas More Austin*. Fill in your information and you gain access to tons of great Catholic content for all ages.

Faith Formation



MAR 21 and 22nd, 4 and 6:30 p.m.
CHURCH TOUR
 Church

JUN 27 through July 1st, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
SAVE THE DATE: MONUMENTAL VBS



First Communion students who attend Sunday classes, OSSP or Holy Family Catholic School can attend any of these tours. Monday and Tuesday 2nd grade classes will participate in the tour during their regular class time.

Are you interested in being an instrumental part of VBS this year? We are looking for a few key-area leaders to help us plan VBS: Games Leader, Crafts Leader and KidVid Leader. Visit stmaustin.org/vbs or scan the QR code with your phone's camera for descriptions of these positions. If interested, contact Andrea (andrea@stmaustin.org) or Johanna (johanna@stmaustin.org).

Social Outreach



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

There are times in our lives when, like Jesus, we find ourselves alone and hungry in a wasteland. It is tempting when all is dry rock and rubble to put our faith in things that offer comfort and security. The Scriptures today invite us to put our trust and faith in God, the only one who can save us and give us life. **We must reject the temptation to make “gods” of or to place our trust in material goods, power or control and instead cling to our Lord who is our rock and refuge.**

LENTEN DONATION DRIVE: HOPEAUSTIN AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES

This year's Lenten Donation Drive will benefit HopeAustin and Catholic Charities of Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV). To support HopeAustin please consider picking up individual cups of mac and cheese or cans of pasta (i.e. ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, beefaroni, etc.) next time you are at the grocery store. To support CCRGV visit their Amazon Wish List at amzn.to/3h3OvFH to purchase needed items. If you do not wish to use Amazon, you can purchase the requested items and drop them off at STM. Both donation drives go through Easter. You can leave all items in the barrels outside the church. For more information please contact Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161 x256.



THE PILLARS OF LENT

As we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explains, these are “elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity.” How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

In need of healing prayer?
 Mercy of God Prayer Center
 Theresa Stephens
 (512) 834-6401

Struggling with bills?
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 STM Offices
 (512) 258-1161

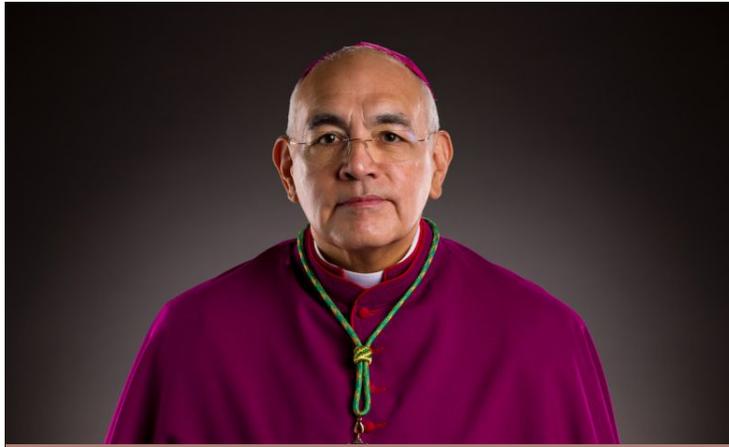
Want to talk about a difficult time?
 Stephen Ministry
 Eileen (512) 507-9563

Need help with meals?
 Good Samaritan
 Meal Ministry
 (480) 788-6325

Around the Diocese



March is Severe Storm Safety Month. At Catholic Charities of Central Texas, we aim to educate communities in how to be prepared for a disaster and how to respond when it strikes. To learn more about how you can help meet the immediate and long-term needs of families on the road to recovery or to schedule a preparedness presentation, visit ccctx.org/disaster-response.



MAR 12 9 a.m. - 12 noon
PRE-SYNODAL MEETING WITH BISHOP VÁSQUEZ

St. Louis King of France Catholic Church, Austin

The Diocese of Austin will host a gathering to reflect on the fruits of the consultation process. Termed the “Pre-Synodal” Meeting because it is held prior to the Synod of Bishops with the Holy Father, all are invited to join Bishop Joe Vásquez for this gathering. The session begins with a prayer service. For more information on the synodal process in the Diocese of Austin, visit austindiocese.org/synod.

MAR 12 9 a.m. - 12 noon
GABRIEL ANGEL TRAINING
Zoom

You are invited to become a Gabriel Angel to an expectant mother in your parish community. Learn how you can provide support and prayer for an expectant mother and her family during her pregnancy and help her find the support (material, emotional and spiritual) she needs. For more information and questions about the Gabriel Project contact Karen Candelas at (512) 651-6176 or karen-candelas@ccctx.org.

MAR 13 2-5 p.m.
PERMANENT DIACONATE INQUIRY SESSION

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Killeen

Are you called to serve as a deacon? Men between the ages of 30 and 50, sensing God’s call to the permanent diaconate are invited to attend an inquiry session offered by the Office of Diaconal Formation. Wives are also invited to attend the session. Applications for the diaconal formation class of 2028 are now being accepted. Additional information, including dates for future inquiry sessions, can be found at austindiocese.org/welcome.



MAR 16 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT DINNER

University Catholic Center, St. Luke Room

Join Sr. Maria Jose for a great meal and discussion with other young women (ages 18-35) discerning their vocation. The evening will begin with praying Vespers (evening prayer) together and enjoying a wonderful meal. If you have a breviary, bring it along! If you don’t have one, don’t worry, you can use the free iBreviary app. The discussion will be based on Mother Clare’s book, *Discerning Religious Life*. You are welcome to join even if you haven't read the book.

MAR 17 6:30 p.m.
MEN'S DISCERNMENT DINNER

St. Mary Cathedral, Bishop's Hall

Join Fr. Will for a great meal and discussion with other young men (ages 18-35) discerning their vocation. The evening will start with Vespers (evening prayer) in the church and enjoying a delicious dinner. The discussion will be inspired by Fr. George Elliott’s book, *Discernment Do’s and Don’ts*. If you have missed a previous discernment dinner or have not read Fr. George’s book, don’t worry! Fr. Will will quickly catch you up on the content at the beginning of the conversation. The Lord can work in your heart, no matter the circumstance! Simply be open to His abundant graces.

Discover resources and events to help you along the discernment journey at godiscalling.me.



MAR 18 through 20th
SILENT LENTEN RETREAT

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center, Belton

Join Brian Egan, Cedarbrake Director, for three days of sacred silence to reflect on the depth of Jesus' love for all. Brian will give two talks intertwined with prayer, Adoration, Confession and Sunday Mass. The cost is \$270 for a private room, \$230 for a shared room and \$130 for commuters. Find more information and register at bit.ly/DOAcLSR.

MAR 24 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Austin

Franciscan Father Albert Haase will present this one-day retreat based on his bestselling book, *Saying Yes: Discovering and Responding to God's Will in Your Life*. Participants are invited to grow in a deeper relationship with God by learning how the Lord speaks to us in daily life. The cost is \$45 and includes lunch. Register at bit.ly/DOAcLVG or call (254) 780-2436.



MAR 25
TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

11:30 a.m. at St. Helen Catholic Church, Georgetown
6 p.m. at St. Mary Cathedral, Austin
6:15 p.m. at St. William Catholic Church, Round Rock

Many throughout the diocese will collectively make or renew their "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary" during Mass on the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Visit TexasToJesusThroughMary.org for more locations and information.

Clergy



Very Rev. Michael J. O'Connor
Pastor
fmichael@stmaustin.org



Rev. Callan Sweeney
Parochial Vicar
frcallan@stmaustin.org



Rev. David Trahan
Parochial Vicar
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Deacon Dan Lupo
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Deacon Tom Mallinger
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Deacon Pat O'Beirne
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Johanna Isburgh
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vacant
Elementary School



Andrea Cochran
Middle School
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Logan Mayes
Life Teen
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Dawn Rouen
Adult Faith
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Preschool (512) 258-1721



Cindy Acosta
Director
cindy1@stmaustin.org



Julie Olesen
Asst. Director
jolesen@stmaustin.org

Council Chairpersons

Jim Lonergan
Pastoral Council
(512) 940-0924

Dan Price
Stewardship Council
(512) 970-5710

Ione Voor
Finance Council
(954) 325-2327

Main Phone (512) 258-1161

Main Fax (512) 258-8812

Address 10205 N FM 620
Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 - 4 p.m.

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 three steps to stay current with EIM:

Complete the Application

Attend a Workshop

Renew Your Workshop
(EVERY THREE YEARS)

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

EIM Policies require all clergy, religious, seminarians, employees and adult volunteers serving in any EIM compliance-required ministry to submit an EIM Application for Ministry (one-time only at austindiocese.org/application) prior to service. New applicants must attend an in-person EIM Workshop within 60 days of application submission and all applicants must update/renew compliance at least once every three years at austindiocese.org/eim-compliance-status. **NOTE:** starting February 1st, new applicants must attend an in-person EIM Workshop within 30 days of application submission.

If you are a new 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.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!



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**THE LION, THE LAMB,
AND THE DAWN OF CHRISTIANITY**

BY FRANK DILORENZO

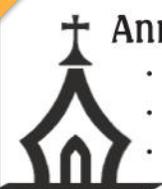
<https://www.christianfaithpublishing.com/books/?book=the-lion-the-lamb-and-the-dawn-of-christianity>
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Mark Libby
737.888.1551

Erik J. Galian, DMD, MPH
Parishioner
Root Canal Therapy
austinendo.com
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