

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

October 23, 2022

The Bulletin

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary



Silver Rose Mass

PAGE 3

*World Mission
Sunday*

PAGE 4

*Thanksgiving
Food Drive*

PAGE 8

Table of Contents

Spiritual Life2

Finance & Stewardship4

Parish News.....5

Faith Formation6

Adult Faith Formation.....7

Social Outreach.....7

Around the Diocese8

Parish Contact Information ..9

Spiritual Life

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE, READINGS AND INTENTIONS

**SUN
23**

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 | Ps 34 | 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18 | Lk 18:9-14

7:30 a.m. Intentions of St. Thomas More Parishioners
 9 a.m. † Adela & Rudy Novosad
 10:45 a.m. † Ismael & Ruben Quidato
 5 p.m. † Esther Lopez † Juan Garcia

**MON
24**

Memorial of St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Eph 4:32-5:8 | Ps 1 | Lk 13:10-17

8:30 a.m. † Abraham Paul
 Intentions of Cheryl Jung-Brownlow

**TUES
25**

Eph 5:21-33 | Ps 128 | Lk 13:18-21

8:30 a.m. † Rafael Rivera

**WED
26**

Eph 6:1-9 | Ps 145 | Lk 13:22-30

8:30 a.m. † Jesus Trujillo Intentions of Jeff Schultz

Confessions: 9 - 9:30 a.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.
Evening Prayer: 5:30 p.m.

**THUR
27**

Eph 6:10-20 | Ps 144 | Lk 13:31-35

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Rev. Michael J. O'Connor

**FRI
28**

Feast of St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19-22 | Ps 19 | Lk 6:12-16

8:30 a.m. † Anne Murphy

Adoration: 3 - 10 p.m.

**SAT
29**

Wis 11:22-12:2 | Ps 145 | 2 Thes 1:11-2:2 | Lk 19:1-10

5 p.m. † Lee Wiegand † Rose Marie Hale

Confessions: 3 - 4:30 p.m.

**SUN
30**

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 11:22-12:2 | Ps 145 | 2 Thes 1:11-2:2 | Lk 19:1-10

7:30 a.m. Intentions of St. Thomas More Parishioners

9 a.m. † Barbara McCabe

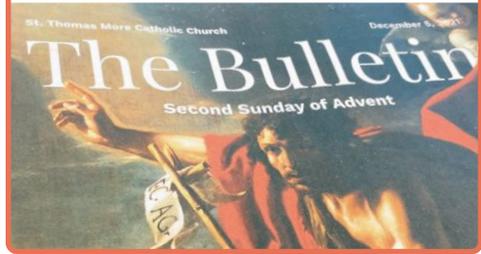
10:45 a.m. † Sarah Martinez

5 p.m. † Sally Wissman

If you would like a Mass said in memory of loved ones or for special intentions, please contact the Parish Office at (512) 258-1161. Each family can request up to four Masses per year.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Submissions for the November 6th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on October 27th**. Submissions for the November 13th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on November 3rd**. Email asanchez@stmaustin.org for instructions on submitting content for *The Bulletin*.



TO REACH A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY

During Office Hours:

(512) 258-1161

After Hours:

(512) 258-1161, Opt. 1



ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

To sign up, please visit

stm.weadorehim.com.

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Gospel last Sunday spoke about persistent prayer. This week, the Gospel is about presumptuous prayer as well as humble prayer. The parable today praises those who realize the wisdom of coming before God not only with awareness of their sins, but also with abiding trust in God’s mercy. In the parable Jesus draws sharp contrasts between the two men who go to the temple to pray. The Pharisee prays aloud, listing moral virtues for which he himself, not God, is responsible. His prayer is a litany of self-congratulations, self-advertisement, and self-aggrandizement. Exalted in his own eyes, he looks down on others, including the tax collector praying nearby. The tax collector, on the other hand, admits he is a sinner and asks for God’s mercy. As for us, if we are not vigilant, the love of God can easily turn into idolatrous self-love. If we boast about ourselves and judge others, our prayer becomes distorted. If we regard God’s gift as our possession, the gift is canceled out. Our attitudes can affect our relationship with God and our prayer life. ***Do we acknowledge ourselves as dependent on God? Does our prayer life align itself with the Pharisee or the tax collector?***

OCT 27 and October 28th, 7-9 p.m. | October 29th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HEALING THROUGH THE HEART OF JESUS
 Church

God desires each of us to be healthy and whole. Come learn about ways to let God bring new freedom in your life through healing. Fr. Charlie Garza will lead this opportunity to find spiritual and emotional healing through the power of the Sacred Heart and the work of the Holy Spirit. The cost is \$40 per person and includes retreat materials, snacks and lunch on Saturday. A limited number of scholarships are available upon request. To learn more or register, visit mogpc.org/events-1 or call Theresa Stephens at (512) 814-6470.

OCT 30 9 a.m.
SILVER ROSE MASS
 Church

Every year, silver roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the silver rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for the respect of life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

NOV 4 following the 8:30 a.m. Mass
HEALING PRAYER
 Church

Trained ministers will be available for 10-minute confidential prayer sessions to help you receive Jesus’ healing from life’s wounds and burdens. Sign-ups for longer sessions will also be available. Christ will be powerfully present in the exposed Blessed Sacrament and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered during this time. Come be healed in the name of Jesus Christ.

SEWING HELP NEEDED!

The Prayer Blanket Ministry needs people who can sew to help make prayer blankets. These blankets are given to anyone in need of healing prayers. If you can sew a straight line, then you can help! Material and instructions are provided and the time commitment is flexible. Contact Frankie Wright at (512) 258-5216 to volunteer. For more information about this ministry, visit stmaustin.org/prayer-blanket.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ken Anderson	Kris Kapchinski
Elizabeth Armes	Frank Kelly
Kellie Bergman	Linda Lange
Ed Burke	Jason Mikolajek
Barbara Boland	Ron Muessel
Whitney Brun	Fr. Michael O’Connor
Mollie Bustos	Barbara Ohradzansky
Jean Collins	Trent Overall
Graciela Diaz	Sr. Carolyn Pelzel
Frank DiLorenzo	William Ricks
Katie DiLorenzo	Consuelo Rodriguez
Dodie Domanski	Brown
Jo Falkenstein	Dorothy Thompson
Ame Frezza	Andy Turner
Vielka Garriss	Clifford Uher
Nancy Gilbert	Bernadette Vogel
Judi Gilliam	Jennifer Wiegand
Trace Gilliam	Kerry Wolf
Rich Godfrey	Luke Zouzalik
Michael Hanson	
Andre Hebert	
Dylan Johnson	
Beth Jones	

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

CHURCH CLEANING

The church will be closed on Friday (October 28th) following Mass until 3 p.m. for cleaning and maintenance. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 3 p.m. Thank you for your patience as we strive to continue to be good stewards of the physical resources our parish has.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Please pray the rosary! You are welcome to join the Rosary Group on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the St. Thomas More room of the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

Finance & Stewardship

CONTRIBUTIONS

Week Ending	October 16 th	
Envelope:	\$	19,955.75
eGiving Online:	\$	13,144.94
eGiving Text:	\$	65.00
Weekly Total:	\$	33,165.69
Weekly Goal:	\$	48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$	(15,034.31)



BE THE LORD’S WITNESSES IN PRAYER AND SUPPORT THIS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Today, World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us that in Baptism we are all called by the Lord to be His missionaries: “You shall be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Joining Catholics worldwide this Sunday, we offer our prayers and generous financial support through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to the Pope’s missions. When you contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection, you make it possible for the Pope to provide mission support to:

- 844,000 catechists teaching the faith
- 258,540 religious sisters caring for children and families.
- 38,140 seminarians preparing for the priesthood
- 26 million children in primary schools
- 12,000 clinics caring for the sick and dying
- 8,750 homes for orphaned children and the elderly

Your prayers are most treasured, and they, along with the financial help offered today, World Mission Sunday, answer Christ’s call to be His witnesses. Thank you!

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

There is an interesting twist we find in today’s Gospel when we hear Jesus’ parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector praying in the temple. The Pharisee is “praying to himself.” It doesn’t mean he was praying silently. It seems to mean something a lot more troubling: that he is praying to himself; that God is not his prayer’s intended audience. The words of the Pharisee are very much centered on himself: he makes claims about his character. He highlights his own admirable activities. Good stewards of their prayer lives know a prayer of praise and thanksgiving should focus on the goodness of God. ***Do your prayers of thanksgiving always stay focused on God’s unfathomable, immeasurable goodness and generosity?***

This reflection is courtesy of the International Catholic Stewardship Council. Learn more about stewardship and the council at catholicstewardship.com.

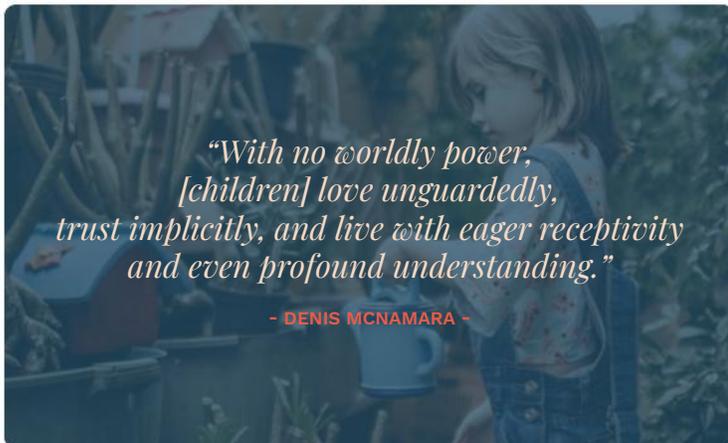
PROVISIONAL AUGUST FINANCIAL RESULTS

Here are our provisional August financial results (pending approval from the Finance Council later this month):

We experienced solid contributions above what was budgeted for August. Church expenses were slightly below budget. Out of that net income, we spent \$37,000 on planned improvement projects in the Parish Activity Center kitchen and at the Preschool playground. This left us with just under \$9,000 to add to our church savings!

In September, however, contributions dropped sharply below budget. Our expenses are still settling on the books. Consequently, September’s final results are unavailable at the time of this submission.

As always, your contributions and generosity are much appreciated. If you have any questions, please email Andy, our Parish Business Administrator, at andy1@stmaustin.org.



NEXT WEEK: CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Next weekend is the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), during which you can support the more than 100 ministries and programs of the Diocese of Austin. This year's theme, *This is My Body ... This is My Blood*, tells us we all become one through the Eucharist, which leads us to serving our brothers and sisters in need. Please prayerfully consider making a gift that will impact the lives of thousands throughout Central Texas through your abundant generosity. To learn more and make your gift today, visit austindiocese.org/csa/give.

THIS IS MY BODY
THIS IS MY BLOOD



ENCOUNTERING CHRIST CAMPAIGN (ECC) UPDATE

The ECC is a capital and endowment campaign to raise \$85,000,000 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 parish goal is to achieve \$3,525,000 in donations. Of every contribution made toward this campaign, 30% of your donation returns directly to our parish making it possible to make improvements and updates on an ongoing basis. **As of July 31st, the contributions received back to our parish total \$351,338.75! Your generosity is overwhelming!**

Parish News

ETHICS & INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY (EIM) UPDATES

The EIM Office is converting the EIM database and training programs to VIRTUS products over the next few months. We offer the following information to help make the data conversion process as smooth and accurate as possible:

NEW APPLICANTS: If you are new to ministry in the Diocese of Austin and wish to serve between now and early January 2023, you must submit an EIM Application for Ministry at austindiocese.org/application by October 31st and attend an in-person EIM Workshop by November 15th. You can learn more about the workshop and find upcoming dates at austindiocese.org/initial-eim-training.

- No new EIM applications will be accepted from November 1st to January 2nd, 2023.
- Beginning January 3rd, 2023, new applicants will register through VIRTUS Online (details about this process will be available closer to the conversion).
- There will be no EIM Workshops held between November 16th and early January 2023.

If you don't know if you are compliant, login to your EIM account at eappsdb.com/austin. If you have trouble remembering your login information use the *Forgot ID?* or *Password?* links or contact Danielle White, EIM site administrator, at dwhite@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161 x211. Thank you for your support of our diocesan EIM program and our shared responsibility and efforts to keep everyone safe from harm.

CURRENT AND EXISTING VOLUNTEERS: If you will serve in ministry between now and the end of the calendar year, you must remain compliant through the end of the year.

- If your EIM compliance expires between November 15th and December 31st, you will be considered non-compliant and your record will not be transferred into the new database. This would require you to complete a new application and attend an initial training to become compliant once again.
- The online EIM training is available at austindiocese.org/onlineeimtraining until November 15th (you do not need to login to your EIM account to complete the online EIM training).
- There will be no online EIM training available between November 16th and January 2nd, 2023.

The Gift Shop

SUNDAYS
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

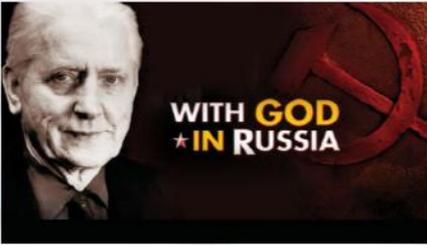
Check out the center display for great prayer resources that will deepen your spiritual life.

We are looking for new volunteers! If you would like to join our ministry, please call or text Marlene Miller, Gift Shop manager, at (316) 304-5431 for more information.

BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Did you know ALL the guides from the *Read, Reflect, Rejoice* book discussions are available online? Go to stmaustin.org/book-discussions and scroll down through the 24 guides available. And of course, the books are available in the library for checkout! See what the library has to offer you at stmaustin.library.site.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED



With God in Russia

This film about the great Jesuit Fr. Walter Ciszek traces his incredible endurance and struggle for survival. It highlights his tremendous faith in God, and the remarkable impact his life has had on Catholicism's resurgence in Russia.

Go to stma.cc/F221023a.



The Last Things

This film presents the reality of death and what will follow for every person: first, the Particular Judgment before God, and second, Heaven or Hell as our destination for all eternity. The Catholic teaching on Purgatory is also explained.

Go to stma.cc/F221023b.



What Is Heaven?

Does heaven exist? Is heaven the eternal Church? Dr. Michael Barber and Chris Stefanick clear up common misunderstandings about heaven.

Go to stma.cc/F221023c.

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

NOV 4 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
POSTPARTUM PHYSICAL HEALTH
 Brennan Auditorium

Join Called To Be Mom (CTBM) and Dr. Shannon Russell from Lady Bird Physical Therapy for a discussion on navigating postpartum physical health. Childcare is available for children one year and above. Please RSVP at stmaustin.org/ctbm. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Stockinger at ctbm@stmaustin.org.

NOV 5 8 a.m. - 12 noon
BLOOD DRIVE
 Life House

We are hosting another Blood Drive and it's not too early to sign up. To make an appointment visit stma.cc/WABbd2211 or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. For questions specific to our drive, contact Steve Isaacson at sisaacson51@gmail.com or



(936) 525-9503. If you have eligibility questions, call We Are Blood at (512) 206-1108.

▲ Remember! Eat a full meal before donating and bring your photo ID.

NOV 8 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
YOUNG AT HEART LUNCH
 Brennan Auditorium

The next Young at Heart (YAH) lunch will be catered by Cracker Barrel at a cost of \$15 per person. You can pay for your lunch at stmaustin.org/yah until November 1st. The theme will be "Games and Gratitude."



▲ New to YAH? Contact Dawn at (512) 258-1944 x235 or dawn@stmaustin.org for more information. Join us!

Faith Formation



TONIGHT AT EDGE NIGHT October 23rd

Q&A with Fr. Keith: Ever wonder what it's like to be a priest? Have a question you've always wanted to ask a priest? Don't miss it!

Middle School Faith Formation meets every Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org.

FAITH FORMATION THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

November 6th - 15th

Faith Formation will be participating in the parish-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive. There will be boxes located in the Religious Education building near the double doors where you enter for classes. See page 8 for a list of needed items.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY/GAME NIGHT

Every Wednesday, 6:30 - 8 p.m. in Room 105 of the Religious Education building. We will spend time diving into scripture and finish with a game.

OCT 26 or October 27th, 6:30 p.m.
CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION
 Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Teens and at least one parent must attend one of these meetings. If you can't attend either of the dates, there will be a makeup meeting on November 6th at 3 p.m. in the PAC. Contact Logan by emailing logan@stmaustin.org if you have any questions.

▲ Those eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2023 need to have been enrolled in faith formation or in a Catholic school the year before.



OCT 27
MIDDLE SCHOOL MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES TRUCK RUN

We will feed the hungry. Join us to make sandwiches and/or help with delivery. RSVP to Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org.

OCT 30 6 - 8 p.m.
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL: HALLOWEEN PARTY
 Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Join us for DJ music, games, costume judging (costumes are optional) and candy throws. Pizza and concessions will be sold. Friends are welcome!

▲ Parent volunteers are needed for decorating, snack bar and costume judging.

Adult Faith Formation



OCT 30 through December 11th, Sundays, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.
THE WAY PART 2 - SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
 Religious Education Building, Room 213

Reflect on how we can know and follow Jesus through the heart and habits of discipleship, particularly the Eucharist, ongoing conversion (including the Sacrament of Reconciliation), the community of faith and our call to mission in this six-week study. Learn more and sign up at stmaustin.org/adult-faith or contact Dawn at dawn@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1944 x235.

▲ You can join *The Way Part 2* without having experienced *Part 1*.

Social Outreach

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Today's Gospel is the famous parable of the Pharisee and Publican. What the Pharisee could not see and the Publican could was that all goodness and all grace come from God! The Publican in humility called out for God's mercy while the Pharisee thought his good actions justified him before God. The good we do is God's grace working in us and we do it with humility and gratitude for God's love. ***What good works can you do this week that will give witness to God's grace, love and mercy in your life?***

This reflection is courtesy of the Diocese of Austin. You can find more inspiring content and learn about the work of the diocese at austindiocese.org.



SUPPORT PRO-LIFE MINISTRIES

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 giving their spare change. Each time you add to your bank, your contribution helps the Walking with Moms in Need initiative, the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line and much more! You can also donate online by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or visiting stma.cc/Vbb22. If you still need a Baby Bank, more information, or to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161 x256.



In need of healing prayer?
 Mercy of God Prayer Center
 Theresa Stephens
 (512) 814-6470

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

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.¹ In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness. . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).

Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God’s creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]”.¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible *for all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1913-15.
- 2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164
- 9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

October 29th - November 20th

Benefiting the STM Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Vincentian Family Center food pantries

2022 has seen the cost of living in Austin rise and hunger has become an even greater problem in our community. We ask you to share your blessings with our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving by bringing nonperishable food items to the barrels outside the church after all Masses or to the collection boxes in the Religious Education building. Your generosity makes a difference. The Vincentians of St. Thomas More and Mobile Loves & Fishes volunteers are most grateful for our families, our community and God's blessings.

Canned Items

- Chicken/Tuna
- Chili/Pasta/Chunky Soup
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Vegetables
- Fruit/Applesauce

Dry Items

- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Pasta/Rice (1 or 2 lbs.)
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta/Rice Sides
- Instant Mashed Potatoes/ Stuffing

BABY DONATION DRIVE SUPPORTING ST. JOHN PAUL II LIFE CENTER

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

- Baby diapers (all sizes)
- Baby wipes
- Baby shampoo and baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Diaper rash cream
- Mom's shampoo and body wash
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Pac'n Plays*
- Highchairs*
- Any kind of stroller*

* these items must be in new condition



Monetary donations can be made at stmknights.org/diaper.

Donations may be placed in the bassinet located outside the church doors 24/7 through October 31st. 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, visit jpiilifecenter.org.

Interested in joining or learning more about the Knights of Columbus? Please visit stmaustin.org/knights.

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OCT 27

6:30 p.m.

CANCER SHARE

Emmaus Parish, Lakeway, Pastoral Center

Arch A/B Room

There is a special solidarity with others facing a cancer illness. The hope inspired by this ministry is an attitude about life and living in God's loving care. Hope, rooted in our trust in God's love for us, gives us strength and confidence. It comforts us with the knowledge that we are loved by God through Christ. So, we need not grieve nor despair. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and family members are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Lee Malkowski at ljm8459@gmail.com.



**NOV
4**

through November 6th

**WHAT SCRIPTURE
AND SAINTS TEACH
US ABOUT THE
HOLY EUCHARIST**

*Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat
Center, Belton*

As we journey into the three-year Eucharistic Revival, come for a weekend to hear what God’s word teaches us and what the saints experienced in their love for the Eucharist. Cedarbrake Chaplain, Fr. Harry Dean, and Cedarbrake Director, Brian Egan, will lead this weekend retreat with Mass and Eucharistic Adoration included. The cost is \$270 for a private room and \$230 for a shared room. For more information, contact Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436 or visit austindiocese.org/cedarbrake.

**NOV
4**

through November 6th

**MARRIAGE
ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND**

*Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat
Center, Belton.*

Married couples: strengthen your marriage! The Marriage Encounter Weekend offers every couple the insights, tools and confidence to strengthen and enrich their marriage at a private weekend for couples to focus on just each other. To register, visit austinme.org or call (512) 677-WWME (9963) or email wwmeaustin@gmail.com. Apply early to ensure a space!

**JAN
14**

8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE:
ENCOUNTER
CARMELITE
SPIRITUALITY**

*St. John Neumann Parish, Austin,
Morris Hall*

The Austin Community of Secular Discalced Carmelites invites you to explore St. Therese of Lisieux, her knowledge of The Little Way, spiritual sainthood and her special insight into God’s mercy and grace. The day will start with Mass at 8:45 a.m. Fr. Ralph Reyes, OCD will give the keynote presentation at 10 a.m. To sign up, scan the QR code with your phone’s camera or go to austincarmelites.com.



Parish Contact Information

Clergy



Very Rev. Keith Koehl
Pastor
frkeith@stmaustin.org



Rev. Callan Sweeney
Parochial Vicar
frcallan@stmaustin.org



Rev. David Trahan
Parochial Vicar
frdavid@stmaustin.org



Deacon Dan Lupo
deacondan@stmaustin.org



Deacon Tom Mallinger
deacontomm@stmaustin.org



Deacon Pat O’Beirne
deaconpat@stmaustin.org



Deacon Thomas Suniga
deaconthomas@stmaustin.org

Administration



Lori White
Accounting
lwhite@stmaustin.org



Terry Wilkes
Bridal Coordinator
terry@stmaustin.org



Andy DeHart
Business Administrator
andy1@stmaustin.org



Adrian Sanchez
Communications
asanchez@stmaustin.org



J.W. Green
Facilities
jw1@stmaustin.org



Jennifer Fangman
Liturgy
jfangman@stmaustin.org



Denise Abele
Marriage & Family Life
dabele@stmaustin.org



Danielle White
Membership
dwhite@stmaustin.org



Stephanie Mire
Music
smire@stmaustin.org



Karen Lawson
Music
karen@stmaustin.org



Cindy Acosta
Childcare Center
cindy1@stmaustin.org



Debra Lohrstorfer
Office Administrator
debra@stmaustin.org



Liz Franklin
Reception
efranklin@stmaustin.org



Jennifer Bibbo
Social Outreach
jbibbo@stmaustin.org

Marlene Miller
Gift Shop
giftshop@stmaustin.org

Faith Formation (512) 258-1944



Jill Goeters
Director
jill1@stmaustin.org



Johanna Isburgh
Assistant Director
johanna@stmaustin.org



Casey McMillan
Elementary School Coordinator
cmcmillan@stmaustin.org



Andrea Cochran
Middle School Coordinator
andrea@stmaustin.org



Logan Mayes
Life Teen Coordinator
logan@stmaustin.org



Dawn Rouen
Adult Faith
drouen@stmaustin.org

Preschool (512) 258-1721



Cindy Acosta
Director
cindy1@stmaustin.org



Julie Olesen
Assistant Director
jolesen@stmaustin.org

Council Chairpersons

Jim Lonergan
Pastoral Council
(512) 940-0924

Vacant
Finance Council

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.

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.

Online Training Now Available

The diocese has opened the EIM online training again which will remain open until November 15th! This option is available only to volunteers who have previously attended an EIM workshop in-person and are due for a refresher. Visit austindiocese.org/onlineeimtraining for instructions on completing EIM online training.

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