



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

February 19, 2023

The Bulletin

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fish Fry Friday

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Lectio for Lent

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*Read, Reflect,
Rejoice Book
Discussion*

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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the March 5th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 23rd**. Submissions for the March 12th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on March 2nd**. 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

TUESDAY-THURSDAY
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY
3-10 p.m.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

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Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

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Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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



**Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church**

**“Nothing great is ever achieved
without much enduring.” - St. Catherine of Siena**

LENT

the desert
through
a pilgrimage

This journey starts on Ash Wednesday when we receive ashes on our forehead as a reminder that we were made for more than this world. We celebrate eternal life with God—that which we were made for—at the end of this passage with the great and holy feast of Easter. Here is your guide to everything happening on this spiritual journey.

Ash Wednesday

February 22nd | Church

While not a Holy Day of Obligation, Ash Wednesday is a day of abstinence (not eating meat) and fasting (eating only one full meal and two small meals). Everyone is invited to receive ashes at the following liturgies:

6:30 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word
8:30 a.m.	Mass
12 noon	Mass (livestreamed on Facebook)
7 p.m.	Mass

Lectio Divina

Mondays | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Life House or Zoom

Discern God's message for you, revealed in a Scripture passage, in this rich form of prayer. Email Deacon Dan at deacondan@stmaustin.org for the Zoom link.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays | 12 noon and 6 p.m. | Church

The Stations of the Cross are a meditation on Jesus' passion and death on the cross that blends sacred art, prayers and reflections.

Healing Prayer

Fridays | Following Stations of the Cross at 12 noon | Church

Trained healing prayer ministers will be available to pray with you and ask the Lord to heal you from life's emotional, spiritual and physical traumas and tragedies.

Fish Fry

Every Friday | 5 – 8 p.m. | Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Join the Knights of Columbus in supporting our Life Teen program. Adult plates are \$15 and children's places are \$10. Learn more and pre-pay for your meal at stmknights.org/fishfry/order.

Penance Service

March 27th | 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 7 p.m. until finished | Church

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you can mend your relationship with God which has been damaged by sin. Multiple priests will be here to hear confessions.

Live Stations of the Cross

March 31st | 6 p.m. | Church

Our middle and high school students will present this powerful live version of the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Workshop

April 1st | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Religious Education Building

There will be games, holiday crafts, an Easter egg hunt, snacks, a movie and lots of fun for children 4 to 7 years old. The cost is only \$10.



Lenten Donation Drive

When pondering how you can give alms this Lenten season, consider helping support Hill Country Community Ministries and HopeAustin through this drive.



One % Challenge

This Lent, give God at least 1% of your day and see what He does with the other 99%. Commit to spending 15 minutes in prayer with Jesus in Scripture.



Learn more about these events and discover helpful resources by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or visiting stma.cc/l23i.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 19th

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 | Ps 103 | 1 Cor 3:16-23 | Mt 5:38-48
7:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Katherine Russell Hernandez

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

Coffee & Donuts (Family Center)

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

Gift Shop Open -see page 4

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

Library Open

9 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Adrian de la Cruz

10:15 a.m. - 12 noon

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Life House)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Adult Study: *The Story of Salvation*

(Religious Education Building: 213)

10:45 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

Liturgy of the Word for Children and

Childcare available

12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Christopher Jones

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Life Teen (Parish Activity Center)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Middle School Faith Formation (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Monday, February 20th

Sir 1:1-10 | Ps 93 | Mk 9:14-29

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Tom Rojas & † Betsy Klaer

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)

6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Book Discussion: *Around the Table* (Library)

7 - 9 p.m.

Prayer & Life Workshop (Religious Education Building: 213)

Tuesday, February 21st

Sir 2:1-11 | Ps 37 | Mk 9:30-37

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Men's Scripture Share (Life House)

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Jo Prendergast

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound Training (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Pastoral Advisory Council (Pastoral Offices Building: St. Joseph Conference Room)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Man Up (Life House: Main Room)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rosary Prayer Group (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

7 - 9 p.m.

Life Teen Bible Study (Life House: Back Room)

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18 | Ps 51 | 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 | Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word Service with Distribution of Ashes (Church)

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

12 noon

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

7 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND (CONTINUED)

7 - 9 p.m.

Confirmation Classes (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, February 23rd

Dt 30:15-20 | Ps 1 | Lk 9:22-25

6 - 7:30 a.m.

Man Up (Parish Activity Center)

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Missy Marks

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound Training (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Austin Disaster Relief Network: I AM™ Ready Training and Orientation (Life House)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound Training (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

Friday, February 24th

Is 58:1-9a | Ps 51 | Mt 9:14-15

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Rev. Michael J. O'Connor

9 - 10 a.m.

Library Open

12 noon - 1 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (Church)

5 - 8 p.m.

KoC Fish Fry (Parish Activity Center) -see page 4

6 - 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, February 25th

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 | Ps 51 | Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19 | Mt 4:1-11

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Altar Server Training (Church) -see page 5

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound Training (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessional)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † James Murgia

Sunday, February 26th

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 | Ps 51 | Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19 | Mt 4:1-11

7:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Ruth Beranek

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

Coffee & Donuts (Family Center)

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

Gift Shop Open -see page 4

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

Library Open

9 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Carol Keene

10:15 a.m. - 12 noon

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Life House)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Adult Study: *The Story of Salvation*

(Religious Education Building: 213)

10:45 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Sandra Sharp & † John Fisher

Dalpathado

Liturgy of the Word for Children and

Childcare available

12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Life Teen (Parish Activity Center)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Middle School Faith Formation (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Due to the bulletin production schedule, this *Week at a Glance* does not reflect changes made to the church calendar within the last five days. Visit reservations.stmaustin.org to see the most up-to-date calendar.

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



Knights of Columbus in Action

Following our recent bout with severe winter weather, one of our parishioners asked for assistance with clearing away fallen branches. Our Knights of Columbus stepped up to help remove debris from this parishioner's driveway and other parts of the property. Thank you to the Knights who stepped up to help those in need.



THE Gift Shop

For the month of February, all hanging wall crosses are 20% off! New items are arriving weekly! Please check out our First Communion, Confirmation and Lent/Easter items in our center displays. *The Catechism in a Year* resources are still available!

We are looking to add five new team members that are able to volunteer one Sunday a month. We have flexible scheduling based on your availability. We hope you can join us!

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

Fish Fry Fridays

Support Parish Youth Programs

The Knights of Columbus will host a Lenten Fish Fry every Friday during Lent starting February 24th at 5 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

Pre-orders can be made at stmknights.org/fishfry/order, which provides a receipt by email, or in person after weekend Masses on February 18th/19th. The ticket can be redeemed in the PAC or in our drive-thru line on any Friday between February 24th and March 31st. Simply provide us with the name on the order and we'll take care of the rest, regardless of whether you pick up or dine in. For every prepaid adult ticket bought, one free child's ticket will be provided.

Dinner consists of fried catfish, french fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and a beverage (tea or lemonade). There is also a cheese pizza roll option. Each adult dinner costs \$15, while child plates are \$10. All proceeds raised are used to support our Life Teen program.

**MAR
3**

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Called To Be Mom

Brennan Auditorium

Wayne Rhoden, Master Gardener, will share his wisdom on herb growing in your home. Childcare is provided for children one year and older. Infants are welcome to join us in the auditorium. Please RSVP at stmaustin.org/ctbm and email ctbm@stmaustin.org if you have any questions.

**MAR
4**

All Parish Service Day "Spring into Service"

Our 5th annual All Parish Service Day, "Spring into Service," is coming up next month. There are several volunteer sites around Austin and surrounding communities at which our parishioners and families can volunteer. This is an amazing event knowing that on this special day, over 350 parishioners will be serving together - putting our faith into action! There are two ways you can sign up to participate:

✚ Visit signup.com/go/TYhNSKC.

✚ Contact Jennifer Bibbo at jbibbo@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1161 x256.

All information, signups and details can be found at stmaustin.org/all-parish-service-day.

**MAR
11**

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Day of Reflection for Women

Life House

Ladies, are you in need of a "pause" during this season of Lent to reconnect with God and your calling? Come join women from around the diocese as we move from "Darkness into Light." A day of artistic imagery, reflection, music and prayer. Registration is required. Contact Kay Schneider at (530) 249-2819. Breakfast and lunch will be included with the program. A donation of \$20 is requested to cover costs. Bring a cross that means something to you. It can be any size.

▲ Presented by local chapters of Theresians International: women in support of women, reaching out with Gospel values.



1% OF YOUR DAY 14 MINUTES AND 24 SECONDS

Spend more time with Jesus this Lent.

PREPARE

- Begin with the sign of the cross.
- Take a moment to be quiet and still.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in this prayer time.

READ

- Read a Scripture selection slowly and attentively.
- Note any word, phrase, or image that catches your attention.
- Consider reading more than once, and/or out loud.

REFLECT

- Think about the meaning of whatever caught your attention.
- Possibly imagine yourself in the scene.
- What is the Lord saying to you through this text?
- Are there any: promises to claim, commands to obey, examples to follow, errors to avoid, praises to sing...

RESPOND

- Talk to God about the passage or anything else on your heart.
- Thank him for blessings received; Ask him for what you & others need.
- Note any changes or actions you are drawn to live out.

REST

- Spend a few minutes in restful silence with him.
- “Be still and know that I am God.” (Ps 46:11)



I prayed today!

Keep the momentum going. Use the QR code to let people know you prayed with them today and share insights from your prayer time.

15 MINUTES A DAY WITH GOD'S WORD.



PREPARE READ REFLECT RESPOND REST

Daily Gospel Readings for Lent 2023

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|------|--|
| 2.22 | ASH WEDNESDAY
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
<i>Pray, Fast, Give Alms</i> | 3.11 | Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
<i>Parable of the Lost Son</i> | 3.27 | John 8:1-11
<i>Woman Caught in Adultery</i> |
| 2.23 | Luke 9:22-25
<i>Follow Me</i> | 3.12 | John 4:5-42
<i>Woman at the Well</i> | 3.28 | John 8:21-30
<i>The Father's Ambassador</i> |
| 2.24 | Matthew 9:14-15
<i>Question about Fasting</i> | 3.13 | Luke 4:24-30
<i>Some Find Jesus Offensive</i> | 3.29 | John 8:31-42
<i>The Truth Will Set You Free</i> |
| 2.25 | Luke 5:27-32
<i>Jesus Calls Levi</i> | 3.14 | Matthew 18:21-35
<i>The Unforgiving Servant</i> | 3.30 | John 8:51-59
<i>I AM before Abraham</i> |
| 2.26 | Matthew 4:1-11
<i>Temptation of Jesus</i> | 3.15 | Matthew 5:17-19
<i>Teaching About the Law</i> | 3.31 | John 10:31-42
<i>Jesus is Rejected</i> |
| 2.27 | Matthew 25:31-46
<i>Judgement of the Nations</i> | 3.16 | Luke 11:14-23
<i>A Kingdom Divided</i> | 4.1 | John 11:45-56
<i>The Plot Against Jesus</i> |
| 2.28 | Matthew 6:7-15
<i>Teaching about Prayer</i> | 3.17 | Mark 12:28-34
<i>The Greatest Commandment</i> | 4.2 | PALM SUNDAY
Matthew 27:11-54
<i>The Passion of Jesus</i> |
| 3.1 | Luke 11:29-32
<i>Demand for a Sign</i> | 3.18 | Luke 18:9-14
<i>Pharisee & Tax Collector</i> | 4.3 | John 12:1-11
<i>Jesus is Anointed</i> |
| 3.2 | Matthew 7:7-12
<i>Answer to Prayers</i> | 3.19 | John 9:1-41
<i>The Man Born Blind</i> | 4.4 | John 13:21-23, 36-38
<i>Announcement of Betrayal</i> |
| 3.3 | Matthew 5:20-26
<i>Teaching about Anger</i> | 3.20 | SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24A
<i>The Birth of Jesus</i> | 4.5 | Matthew 26:14-25
<i>The Betrayal by Judas</i> |
| 3.4 | Matthew 5:43-48
<i>Love for Enemies</i> | 3.21 | John 5:1-16
<i>Healing at the Pool</i> | 4.6 | HOLY THURSDAY
John 13:1-15
<i>Washes His Disciples Feet</i> |
| 3.5 | Matthew 17:1-9
<i>The Transfiguration</i> | 3.22 | John 5:17-30
<i>The Work of the Father</i> | 4.7 | GOOD FRIDAY
John 18:1-19; 42
<i>The Crucifixion of Jesus</i> |
| 3.6 | Luke 6:36-38
<i>Judging Others</i> | 3.23 | John 5:31-47
<i>The Witness of Jesus</i> | 4.8 | HOLY SATURDAY
Matthew 27:57-66
<i>The Burial of Jesus</i> |
| 3.7 | Matthew 23:1-12
<i>Seek Not to be Seen</i> | 3.24 | John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
<i>Is He the Messiah?</i> | 4.9 | EASTER SUNDAY
John 20:1-9
<i>The Empty Tomb</i> |
| 3.8 | Matthew 20:17-28
<i>Prediction of the Passion</i> | 3.25 | ANNUNCIATION of the LORD
Luke 1:26-38
<i>Angel Gabriel with Mary</i> | | |
| 3.9 | Luke 16:19-31
<i>Rich Man and Lazarus</i> | 3.26 | John 11:1-45
<i>Raising of Lazarus</i> | | |
| 3.10 | Matthew 12:33-43, 45-46
<i>Tenants in the Vineyard</i> | | | | |

Find resources
and support:

stmaustin.org/onepercent



Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church

© THE EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Ash Wednesday Schedule

We will distribute ashes at the following liturgies on February 22nd:

- 6:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
- 8:30 a.m. Mass
- 12 noon Mass
- 7 p.m. Mass

The ashes we receive are not so much a sign of our sinfulness, but a reminder that we weren't made for this world.

A Day of Fasting and Abstinence


While not a Holy Day of Obligation, Ash Wednesday is a day of abstinence (not eating meat) and fasting (eating only one full meal and two small meals). Fasting, especially as we begin our Lenten journey, is an opportunity to exercise detachment from the things of this passing world. Just as a mother insists her children put their phones down in order to be present to the family at the dinner table, the Church has made this day of fasting obligatory for anyone from 18 to 59 years old. The mentally, physically and chronically ill, as well as pregnant or nursing women are excused from fasting and abstinence.




Prayer Requests

Ken Anderson	Ame Frezza	Sr. Carolyn Pelzel
Kellie Bergman	Judi Gilliam	William Ricks
Barbara Boland	Trace Gilliam	Consuelo Rodriguez Brown
John Brun	Dylan Johnson	Dorothy Thompson
Ed Burke	Beth Jones	Andy Turner
Graciela Diaz	Frank Kelly	Clifford Uher
Frank DiLorenzo	Mary Kubala	Bernadette Vogel
Katie DiLorenzo	Linda Lange	Jennifer Wiegand
Dodie Domanski	Jason Mikolajek	Kerry Wolf
Al Esparza	Fr. Michael O'Connor	Christopher Younger
Jo Falkenstein	Barbara Ohradzansky	Luke Zouzalik
Barbara Foxwell	Trent Overall	

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





FEB 27

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Lectio for Lent

Life House or on Zoom

Let us gather to pray Lectio Divina - Divine Reading - to discern God's message revealed in a Scripture passage. No previous experience with Lectio Divina is necessary, just have a Bible handy (NABRE or RSV-CE translations ideally). Please email Deacon Dan to receive the Zoom link: deacondanlupo@yahoo.com or deacondan@stmaustin.org.

Altar Server Training

There will be altar server training on February 25th and March 4th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the church for all interested students from the 4th grade to seniors in high school.

Call us at (512) 258-1161

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View this bulletin online at discovermass.com

THIS WEEK ON FORMED



Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith. Go to stma.cc/F230219a.



The Spirit and the Desert

Sometimes we might feel like we're stuck in spiritual deserts. In this episode of *The Wild Goose*, Fr. Dave Pivonka shares how the Holy Spirit is present even in these times of desolation.

Go to stma.cc/F230219b.



Love — Sacrifice — Trust: He Showed Us the Way

In this talk, Fr. Mike Schmitz shares with us the need to pick up our crosses and embrace Christ in our own suffering. He reminds us that love often means sacrifice!

Go to stma.cc/F230219c.

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.



MAR
3

following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Healing Prayer

Church

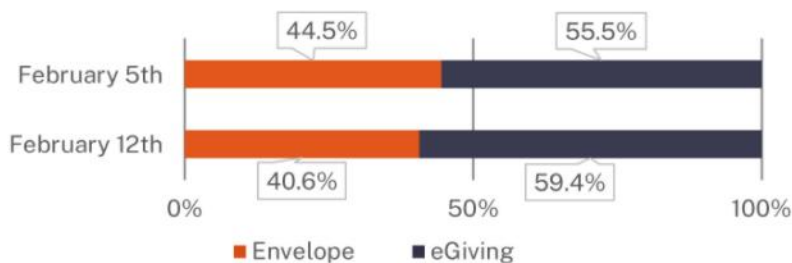
Trained ministers will be available for 10-minute confidential prayer sessions to help you receive Jesus' healing from life's wounds and burdens. Sign-ups for longer sessions will also be available. Christ will be powerfully present in the exposed Blessed Sacrament and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation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

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

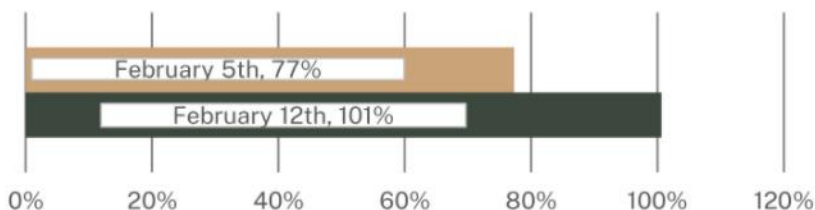
Contributions

Week Ending	February 5 th	February 12 th
Envelope:	\$ 16,577.50	\$ 19,711.43
eGiving Online:	\$ 20,687.88	\$ 28,787.57
Weekly Total:	\$ 37,265.38	\$ 48,499.00
Weekly Goal:	\$ 48,200.00	\$ 48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$ (10,934.62)	\$ 299.00

Collection Method



Above/Below Goal



Higher Education Special Collection

We appreciate your support of the Catholic Higher Education second collection last weekend. Together, we collected \$3,700.27 to support campus ministries in the Diocese of Austin. These include communities on the campuses of UT, Texas A&M, Baylor, Texas State, Mary Hardin-Baylor, St. Edward's and other smaller college campuses.

A Stewardship Moment

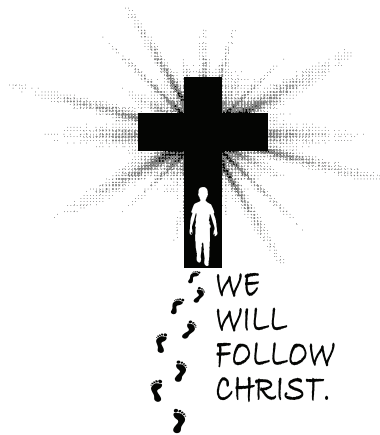
In another passage from his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues to turn his disciples' way of thinking upside down. One of the lessons for the Christian steward in today's Gospel is that if we have a chance to help someone in need, we should be generous and give more than is expected of us. Jesus went "the extra mile" for us. **Can we be more like Jesus and "go the extra mile" for others?**

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

Are you a secret admirer?

Have you included the Diocese of Austin, St. Thomas More Parish, a Catholic school, the Catholic Foundation – Diocese of Austin, or one of your favorite ministries in your will or other estate plans? If you've been keeping it a secret, share it with us! Whether you'd like to shout it out to inspire others, or whisper it to us and remain anonymous, we'd love to know so we can welcome you to the Perpetual Light Society. The Perpetual Light Society recognizes those who have shown their gratitude and support for the Diocese of Austin or one of its many Catholic organizations with a gift in their will or other estate plans. It's easy to join! Just go to austindiocese.myplannedgift.org/society and fill out the online form in minutes. For more information contact Dan Wierzbowski at (512) 949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org.

FAITH FORMATION



Tonight at Edge Night

February 19th

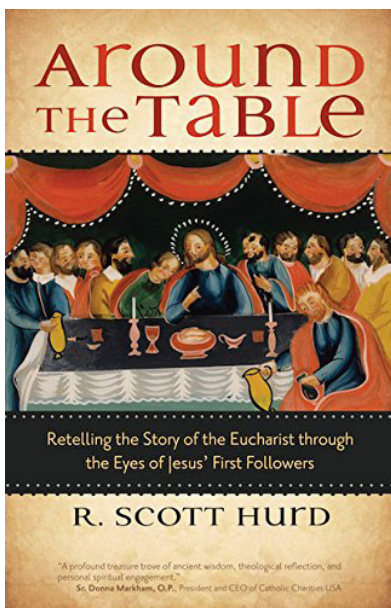
At Sunday's Edge night, we will cover Lent and how we can grow during this liturgical season.

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

Service Opportunity

Middle School Faith Formation will be putting on the live Stations of the Cross on March 31st. We are looking for participants to portray such parts as Mary, Jesus, soldiers, etc. There is no speaking required. Contact Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org if interested.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



FEB
20

7-8:30 p.m.

Read, Reflect, Rejoice Book Discussion

Library

Join us to discuss *Around the Table, Retelling the Story of the Eucharist Through the Eyes of Jesus' First Followers* by award-winning author Scott Hurd. He will help you discover the meaning of the Sacrament through the help of stories about those who accompanied Jesus during His time on earth. In each chapter, you'll take the place of a specific friend, follower or family member of Jesus in order to know Him better, contemplate scripture and deepen your understanding of the Eucharistic mystery we celebrate today. Please register at stmaustin.org/book-discussions to let us know you are coming and to receive an email reminder. Join us even if you haven't read the book. Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

From the Catechism this Week

“The human body shares in the dignity of ‘the image of God’: it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit ...”

- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 364 -

If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life, *The Catechism in a Year* podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz is for you! Start listening anytime and walk it with your parish community in monthly gatherings.

Next Gathering: March 9th, 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Life House

We'll explore God as Creator, God's creation (heaven, earth and us), the fall, Jesus and the Incarnation.

▲ Learn more and sign up at stmaustin.org/ciy or contact Dawn at dawn@stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1944 x235.



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Catholic Social Teaching

This Sunday's Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging statements from Jesus. We are called to love even our enemies. This formidable command is not anything we can accomplish by ourselves. Only God's love working in us can transform us so that we can love in this way. What would the world look like if we all surrendered to God sufficiently so that we all loved even our enemies? That is God's challenge and promise to us. **Are we willing to let God help us love that much?**

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.

*“Earth is a task garden;
heaven is a playground.”*

- G.K. CHESTERTON -



Lent is Coming!

Join our faith community - and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States - in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the church narthex this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit stmaustin.org/crsricebowl to learn more.

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

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STM Offices
(512) 258-1161

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Eileen (512) 507-9563

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Lenten Drive

Throughout Lent, please join us in supporting Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM) and HopeAustin by donating the following items:

- ⊕ **HCCM:** personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, etc ...)
- ⊕ **HopeAustin:** individual servings of pasta (mac and cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc)

Donations may be dropped off in the barrels either in front of the church or inside the Religious Education building in front of Brennen Auditorium.

HCCM represents a coalition of churches that provides food, clothing and other assistance in an atmosphere of neighbor helping neighbor for people in crisis and those living in poverty in southwest Williamson and northwest Travis counties. Please visit hccm.org to learn more.

HopeAustin helps ensure the brightest future for our children by providing meals to students who lose their subsidized meals over the weekend. Please visit Hope4Austin.org for more information.

The donation drive will run from Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, through Easter weekend, April 9th.

Thank you for your generous support.

Creation Care Lenten Calendar

Go to stmaustin.org/cct or scan the QR code with your phone's camera and choose a Lenten calendar based on *Laudato Si'* to use this season.



The Green Spot

Tip of the Week: Buy used items whenever feasible. Repair rather than replace broken items. Sew/mend clothing rather than donate it or throw it away. In most cases, this will save money, but it will also preserve resources and reduce overall consumption. Learn more in paragraph 22 of *Laudato Si'*.



FEB
23

6:30 - 9 p.m.

I AM Ready™ Basic Training and Orientation

Life House

As part of the Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) of churches in the greater Austin community, we want to be ready to help when disasters strike. Together, we can bring hope into crisis, connecting disaster survivors with the love of Jesus in their darkest hours. We will host ADRN's I AM Ready™ Basic Training and Orientation. With this training under your belt, you will qualify as a badged "Yellow Shirt" volunteer, equipped and ready to mobilize with other churches in the greater Austin area whenever disaster strikes. Let's get ready together! Sign up today at link.adrn.org/iarbt. If you need childcare for this event, please email Cindy Acosta at cindy1@stmaustin.org by February 20th to reserve your spot(s).



AROUND THE DIOCESE



Catholic Charities of Central Texas' Immigration Legal Services offers legal assistance to individuals and families eligible to apply for immigration benefits, including family reunification, naturalization, asylum, removal defense, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), as well as services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. If you or someone you know needs services, call (512) 651-6125.

Spiritual Growth & Inner Healing

Has the flame in your prayer life begun to fizzle and are you longing to experience God's love, forgiveness and His healing in your life again? Are you longing for a more intimate relationship with Jesus? The Mercy of God Prayer Center invites you to the Spiritual Growth & Inner Healing program. This program focuses on the desire to enter deeper into the heart of Jesus through the Scriptures. It is a pathway to deeper prayer. It is not a program of information but for transformation. The curriculum teaches a variety of prayer approaches with a strong emphasis on prayer with Scripture, the forgiveness process and aspects of Inner Healing Prayer. **Learn more at an information session on February 21st from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mercy of God Prayer Center** (located on the St. Thomas More Parish campus, just past the Parish Activity Center).



Dear Families,

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger—and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

CRS Rice Bowl gives us a wonderful opportunity to encounter different people from around the world, know more about their lives and recognize them as our sisters and brothers. We will see how, through our **prayer**, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from fully loving God and our neighbor. And when we **give alms**, we share in solidarity with those who need our support.

By joining our prayers, fasts and alms this Lent with those of other parishes and Catholic schools in the United States, we will help millions of women, men and children around the world whose economic challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Together as a Church, through CRS Rice Bowl, we can contribute to the efforts of those who seek to build a better world for themselves and their communities.

CRS Rice Bowl provides many resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

Your sacrifices during this holy season have the power to change lives by providing enough nutritious food for families to thrive. And by practicing the pillars of Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, I hope both your faith and connection to our one human family deepens.

CRS Rice Bowls will be collected at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more. Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Bibbo'.

Jennifer Bibbo
Director of Social Outreach and Pastoral Care
St. Thomas More Catholic Church



**OCT
16**

through October 25th

Save the Date: Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage

**FEB
25**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Project Andrew

St. William Parish, Round Rock

Bishop Vásquez invites all young men to come learn more about the abundant and joyful life of the priesthood! Join priests and seminarians from around the diocese for Mass, prayer and times for reflection and discussions with other men discerning God's will. Breakfast and lunch are included! RSVP at austinvocations.com.

Join fellow Catholics on an 11-day pilgrimage through Greece and Turkey that includes a three-day cruise. Pilgrims will visit Thessaloniki, Corinth, Ephesus, Athens, Delphi, Patmos, Crete, Santorini and more. Mass will be celebrated daily. The fee includes airfare to and from Austin, accommodations, most meals, bus transportation, professional tour guides and excursions. To sign up or to get more information, visit selectinternationaltours.com or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. There is a discount that runs only until late February, so don't wait!



Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

Keeping current with EIM training is required for all who serve in ministry at STM.

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.

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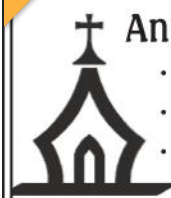


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