

Thank You for Your Help

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Day of Reflection for Women

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The Pillars of Lent

Temptation of Christ Hans Thoma 1890

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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the March 12th edition are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 2nd. Submissions for the March 19th edition are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 9th. 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-FRIDAY 9 a.m. -10 p.m.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

Clergy



Very Rev. Keith Koehl
Pastor
frkeith@stmaustin.org



Rev. Callan Sweeney
Parochial Vicar
frcallan@stmaustin.org



Rev. David TrahanParochial Vicar
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Deacon Tom Mallinger deacontomm@stmaustin.org



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Andrea Cochran Middle School Coordinator andrea@stmaustin.org



Logan Mayes Life Teen Coordinator logan@stmaustin.org



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(512) 258-1721



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cindy1@stmaustin.org



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Council Chairpersons

Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg Finance Council

Parish Contact Information

 Main Phone
 .(512) 258-1161

 Main Fax
 .(512) 258-8812

 Address
 .10205 N FM 620

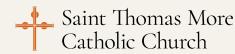
 Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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



The Bulletin February 26, 2023

- PARISH LIFE -

7 - 9 p.m.

This Week at a Glance

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 Mass (Church) 9 a.m.

Intention: † Carol Keene

10:15 a.m. - 12 noon Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Life House)

Adult Study: The Story of Salvation 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. (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

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious 12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

> Education Building) Mass (Church)

5 p.m. Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

Life Teen (Parish Activity Center) 6:30 - 8 p.m.

6:30 - 8 p.m. Middle School Faith Formation (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) -see

Monday, February 27th

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 | Ps 19 | Mt 25:31-46

Mass (Church) 8:30 a.m.

Intention: † Moises Robinson

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious 4 - 5:15 p.m.

Education Building)

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Education Building)

Lenten Lectio Divina (Life House: Back Room) 7 - 8:30 p.m.

-see page 6

7 - 9 p.m. Prayer & Life Workshop (Religious Education

Building: 213)

Tuesday, February 28th

Is 55:10-11 | Ps 34 | Mt 6:7-15

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Men's Scripture Share (Life House)

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Anna Belle Franklin

4 - 5:15 p.m. **Elementary Faith Formation (Religious**

Education Building)

7 - 8:30 p.m. Man Up (Life House: Main Room)

Rosary Prayer Group (Parish Activity Center: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

St. Thomas More Room)

7 - 9 p.m. Life Teen Bible Study (Life House: Back Room)

Wednesday, March 1st

Jon 3:1-10 | Ps 51 | Lk 11:29-32

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez

9 - 9:30 a.m. **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

(Church: Confessional)

Adult Study: Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Mission (Religious Education Building: 213-215)

Sacrament of Reconciliation 6 - 7 p.m.

(Church: Confessional)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST (CONTINUED)

Middle School Bible Study (Religious Education 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Building: 207) -see page 8

7 - 8:30 p.m. **Adult Study: Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary**

Mission (Religious Education Building: 213-215) Confirmation Classes (Religious Education

Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center:

St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, March 2nd

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 | Ps 138 | Mt 7:7-12 6 - 7:30 a.m. Man Up (Parish Activity Center)

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Seth Wilbert

Friday, March 3rd

Ez 18:21-28 | Ps 130 | Mt 5:20-26

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † St. Thomas More Parishioners 9-10 a.m. Healing Prayer (Church) -see page 6

9-10 a.m. **Library Open**

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon Called to be Mom (Religious Education Building:

Brennan Auditorium) -see page 4 Stations of the Cross (Church) 12 noon - 1 p.m. 1 p.m. Healing Prayer (Church) -see page 6

KoC Fish Fry (Parish Activity Center) -see page 4 5-8 p.m.

6-7 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 4th

Gn 12:1-4a | Ps 33 | 2 Tm 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. All Parish Service Day (Life House) -see page 5 10 - 11:30 a.m. Altar Server Training (Church) -see page 6 3-4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Church:

Confessional)

Mass (Church) 5 p.m.

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

Sunday, March 5th

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a | Ps 33 | 2 Tm 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Thomas & Lorraine Letcher

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: † Eileen Sullivan O'Grady

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)

Mass (Church) 10:45 a.m. Intention: † Victor Linan

Liturgy of the Word for Children and

Childcare available

12 noon - 1:15 p.m. **Elementary Faith Formation (Religious**

Education Building)

First Communion Parent Meeting (Religious 12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Mass (Church) 5 p.m.

Intention: † David Gorski

6:30 - 8 p.m. Life Teen (Parish Activity Center) Middle School Faith Formation (Religious 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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.

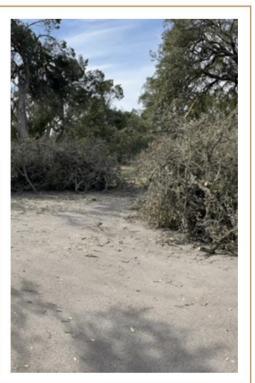
February 26, 2023 The Bulletin

Thank You for Your Help!

Many thanks to the roughly 40 volunteers who helped remove fallen limbs and branches from the ice storm. Their efforts in wood clearing and cutting saved the parish an estimated \$3,000 to \$5,000 and the campus looks much better. This is a great example of our parish community pulling together in time of need. Thanks again to all the volunteers!







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.



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.



Support parish youth programs. 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 plate costs \$15, while child plates are \$10. One free child's ticket will be provided for every pre-paid adult ticket. Pre-paid meals may be ordered at stmknights.org/fishfry, which provides a receipt by email. The ticket can be redeemed on any Friday between February 24th and March 31st. Simply provide us with a name on the order and we'll take care of the rest, regardless of whether you pick up or dine in. Please join us in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) or come through our drive-thru service to pick up your meals! All proceeds raised support our Life Teen program.

"Choose mortifications that don't mortify others."

- ST. JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ -

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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.



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.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER -



Prayer Requests

Barbara Foxwell

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 Beth Jones** Ed Burke **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

Trent Overall

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



Penance Services in our Area

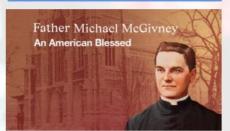
This Lenten season is an opportunity to better understand the reality that sin does violence to our relationship with God. Thankfully, that relationship can be mended or reconciled through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While we will continue to offer the sacrament at our normal times, the following penance services (special

times when a multitude of priests will be available to offer the sacrament) have been scheduled in our area:

- ♠ March 1st at 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake, Lago Vista
- ♠ March 16th at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Cedar Park
- harch 21st at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Parish, Austin
- March 22nd at 7 p.m. at St. Louis Parish, Austin
- ⊕ March 23rd at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin
- ⊕ March 30th at 7 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Parish, Austin

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Fr. Michael McGivney: An American Blessed

This documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization and empowerment of the laity.

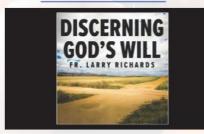
Go to stma.cc/F230226a.



Session 1: Jesus: Model and Master of Prayer

In this episode of his course on the *Our Father*, Dr. Ben Akers teaches us what we can learn from the perfect model and master of prayer: Jesus himself.

Go to stma.cc/F230226b.



Discerning God's Will by Fr. Larry Richards

Discovering the will of God can be an intimidating challenge in the spiritual life. Join Fr. Larry Richards as he guides us in this task through practical advice and personal stories.

Go to stma.cc/F230226c.

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

Healing Prayer

Trained healing prayer ministers will be available after noon Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent. Please consider asking the Lord for healing from life's emotional, spiritual and physical traumas and tragedies. The Divine Healer awaits!



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.



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.



10 to 11:30 a.m.

Altar Server Training

Church

There will be altar server training for all interested students from the 4th grade to seniors in high school.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Contributions

Week Ending	30	February 19 th
Envelope:	\$	22,891.11
eGiving Online:	\$	15,863.98
Weekly Total:	\$	38,755.09
Weekly Goal:	\$	48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$	(9,444.91)



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A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel reading, we listen to the confrontation between Jesus and the devil, who thought he might tempt Jesus to forget who he is and commit a grievous sin when he was most vulnerable. Jesus had just spent 40 days and nights out in the desert, alone, away from civilization. He was hungry, thirsty and tired. If there ever was a time to tempt Jesus, that was it. Temptations to sin come at us every day, from many directions and in many different

forms. When the temptation to sin tries to overcome us, how do we react? Do we consciously remind ourselves we are followers of Christ? Is there a time this week when you have needed to confront a temptation to sin? What lessons did you take away from the experience?

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

From the Catechism this Week

"Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' (Mt 16:16). On the rock of this faith confessed by St. Peter, Christ built his Church."

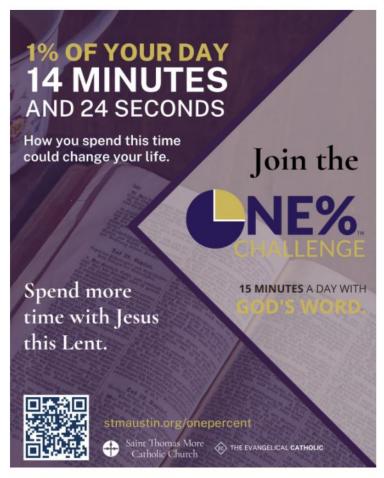
- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 424 -

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 9^{th} , 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 <u>stmaustin.org/ciy</u> or contact Dawn at <u>dawn@stmaustin.org</u> or (512) 258-1944 x235.







Tonight at Edge Night February 26th

At Sunday's Edge night, we will cover time management and how to find balance while including Christ in your day.

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.



Middle School Bible Study/Game Night

Join us for our Wednesday Bible Study from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Room 105 of the Religious Education Building where we will dive into the Sunday readings for the upcoming week and end with a game.

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

SOCIAL OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE -

Catholic Social Teaching

e begin the season of Lent with Jesus going into the desert. We need to follow him into the desert of fasting, prayer and self-denial in order to re-learn the covenant way of life which comes with our Baptism. Now is the time to turn from distractions. Now is the time to remember and reverence our own dignity and the life and dignity of each person as God's beloved. Now is the time to set aside anything that diverts us from our true hunger and thirst for God alone. What is the fasting God desires for us this Lent?

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.

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 stmaustin.org/crs-rice-bowl to learn more.

Lenten Donation 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.

Hope Austin 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.

The Green Spot

Tip of the Week: Gather your friends or family members to clean up a public space in your neighborhood. In addition to enhancing your surroundings, you will be setting a positive example of how to be good stewards of God's creation. Learn more in paragraph 231 of Laudato Si'.



and 15th, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life – Central Texas Coalition for Life

Planned Parenthood, 9041 Research Blvd., Austin

Please consider praying for a greater respect for life in front of a woman's clinic. We need prayer warriors! Since March 15th is the Wednesday during Spring Break, consider bringing your children to pray with you. It's never too early to start teaching about respect for life! You can sign up for an hour-long slot at stma.cc/SUG4023b. We hope you consider giving an hour of your time to stand in solidarity and pray for the mothers and unborn babies who are struggling during this time of need. "Everyone deserves a birthday!"

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

8



The licensed counselors at Catholic Charities of Central Texas focus on the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of their clients. Catholic Charities Counseling Services offers individual, couples and family counseling, as well as play therapy, trauma therapy and solution-focused grief therapy on a sliding fee scale to those looking for help and support with a variety of issues. For more information, call (512) 651-6150 or visit ccctx.org/counseling-services.

Relics coming to the Diocese

The Diocese of Austin will host the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez at the following times and locations:

February 24th: Our Lady of Wisdom University Parish, San Marcos. Details: txstatecatholic.org.

February 25th: St. Mary Cathedral, Austin. Details: smcaustin.org.

February 26th: University Catholic Center, Austin. Details: utcatholic.org.

February 27th: St. Paul Chong Hasang Parish, Harker Heights. Details: stpaulchonghasang.org.

February 28th: St. Peter Catholic Center, Waco. Details: <u>baylorcatholic.org</u>.

March 1st: St. Mary Catholic Center, College Station. Details: aggiecatholic.org.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as part of the National Eucharistic Revival, is offering the relics to dioceses throughout the country. Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García are special intercessors for the revival. For more information, visit austindiocese.org/eucharistic-revival.

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. Classes will be in person at the Mercy of God Prayer Center (located on the St. Thomas More Parish campus, just past the Parish Activity Center), every other Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. starting March 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Stephens at (512) 814-6470 or mogpc81@gmail.com. For more information or to register online, go to mogpc.org/mercy-of-god-prayer-center-1.



8 a.m. to 12 noon

Marian Mornings

St. Elizabeth Parish, Pflugerville

On the first Saturday of each month, Fr. Kevin Rai will lead this mini retreat. It will begin with Mass and will include a teaching, prayer time, silence and time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For more information, call the St. Elizabeth Parish office at (512) 251-9838.

The Father's Heart: Young Adult Silent Retreat

Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, Burnet

This five-day retreat into the silence of prayer, reflection and rest is the perfect opportunity for young adults to leave behind the noise and chaos to hear the heartbeat of God. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, this retreat will include teaching on prayer and discernment of spirits, followed by three days of silence with individual spiritual direction and daily conferences. The cost for the retreat is \$250 for professionals and \$175 for students. missionaries and faculty/staff of Catholic parishes and

schools. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, visit austindiocese.org/tfh.

6 p.m. MAR

Deaf Apostolate Consultation Session

St. Louis King of France Parish. Austin

The need to provide the means for deaf (hard of hearing) awareness, information and education is imperative now more than ever - especially during the Eucharistic Revival. The Diocese of Austin will host a consultation session with the Deaf Apostolate to explore how the diocese can support discoveries of meaningful opportunities to encounter Jesus

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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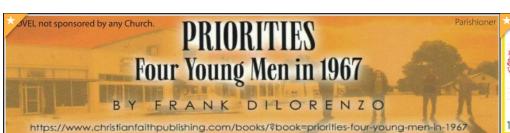


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