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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the March 26th edition are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 16th. Submissions for the April 2nd edition are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 23rd. 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

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Council Chairpersons

Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg Finance Council

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 .(512) 258-1161

 Main Fax
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 Address
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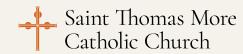
 Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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



PARISH LIFE

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 12th

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Ps 95 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

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: † Marie Reale

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

10:45 a.m.

Mass (Church)
Intention: † Moises Robinson

Liturgy of the Word for Children and

Childcare available. **5 p.m.**Mass (Church)

Intention: † Juan Vasquez

Monday, March 13th

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab | Ps 42 | Lk 4:24-30

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Domenico Fazzone

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

-see page 4

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

Building: 213)

Tuesday, March 14th

Dn 3:25, 34-43 | Ps 25 | Mt 18:21-35

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

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Asya Matsakyan &

† Arthur Khurchudyan

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon Cancer Support Group (Life House: Back Room)

-see page 9

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

St. Thomas More Room) -see page 6

Wednesday, March 15th

Dt 4:1, 5-9 | Ps 147 | Mt 5:17-19

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Intention: † Marie Ann Singleton

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

(Church: Confessional)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6 - 7 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Church: Confessional)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH (CONTINUED)

7 - 9 p.m. Confirmation Classes (Religious Education

Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7 - 9:30 p.m. Men's Club (Parish Activity Center)7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center:

St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, March 16th

Jer 7:23-28 | Ps 95 | Lk 11:14-23

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Priscilla Wilbert

Friday, March 17th

St. Patrick, Bishop

Hos 14:2-10 | Ps 81 | Mk 12:28-34

8:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Marjorie Fleischhacker & † Jim Loebig

9 - 10 a.m. Library Open

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

5-8 p.m. KoC Fish Fry (Parish Activity Center) -see page 4
6-7 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church) -see page 4

Saturday, March 18th

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Ps 23 | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

3 - 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Church: Confessional)

5 p.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Howard Wilbert & † Diane Rava

Sunday, March 19th

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Ps 23 | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

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: St. Thomas More Parishioners

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

10:45 a.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Dale Anderson

Liturgy of the Word for Children and

Childcare available.

5 p.m. Mass (Church)

Intention: † Moises Robinson & † Theresa Sorell

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 <u>reservations.stmaustin.org</u> 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.

A Message from the Bishop A Dispensation for St. Patrick's Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

The feast of St. Patrick is March 17th, which falls on a Friday during Lent. I, therefore, decree that on Friday, March 17, 2023, all Catholics of the Diocese of Austin, no matter where they may be, and all other Catholics actually present in the

diocese on that day, are, by my authority, dispensed

from the obligation to abstain from meat (Code of Canon Law, can. 87). While it is not required that anyone make use of this dispensation, those who do wish to make use of it are encouraged to abstain from meat on some other day as part of their penitential practices during Lent. Read the full decree at <a href="mailto:stranger-strang

-Bishop Joe S. Vásquez

The Bulletin March 12, 2023





7-8:30 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.



12 noon and 6 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

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



1 p.m. 17 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!



17 Lenten Fish Fry

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. Pre-paid meals may be ordered at stmknights.org/fishfry, which provides a receipt by email. The ticket can be redeemed on any Friday until 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. 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.



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.

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 through Easter weekend, April 9th. Thank you for your generous support.

Bishop Vásquez' March Message Dated March 1, 2023

Last Saturday, I celebrated Mass with 95 men discerning their vocation. There were high school-aged as well as career professionals in attendance. Many of these men were invited to attend after being identified by their priests, family and parishioners on Called By Name Sunday. All these men share a common desire to discern God's will in their lives. Brothers and sisters, all of us are called to promote a culture of vocations in our Church. Let us pray for these men as they continue to reflect on their vocation and for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

On Sunday, I celebrated the Rite of Election with over 400 catechumens from throughout the diocese. The Rite of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Election takes place on the first Sunday of Lent. This ritual marks the catechumen's entry into the final phase of their preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), usually at the Easter Vigil. After the Rite of Election, they are called "the elect," since they have been elected by the Church to become members. These "elect" have been on a journey and now that journey intensifies in the weeks before the Easter Vigil. Together with our "elect" and Catholics throughout the world, we pray to deepen our faith, grow in holiness, and strengthen our relationship with God.

On Ash Wednesday we began our Lenten journey by receiving ashes as a visible sign of our faith. The ashes remind us of the season we are entering and the opportunity to evaluate our life with the Lord, Jesus Christ. Before the Lord, we are all weak, poor and needy. Jesus looks upon us with compassion inviting us to trust in his mercy. Brothers and sisters, may God grant us Lenten graces that will bring about conversion in our lives.



6:30-8 p.m. Parent Life

Family Center

Taylor C. Johnson of Integral Care will share a presentation on teen mental health with an emphasis on local resources and training for parents to gain additional intervention skills. For more information about Parent Life, contact Denise Abele at dabele@stmaustin.org.

▲ This ministry allows us to work with parents to lead teens closer to Christ. It is designed to give parents the opportunity to embrace their role in their teen's faith journey through various topics affecting teens. Through gatherings called Parent Life Nights, parents will come together in fellowship while strengthening their own faith, marriages, and family life. These nights will run concurrently with Life Teen and Edge.



Mulch and Firewood Available

Over the last few weeks, our facilities team, volunteers and contractors have done an excellent job of cleaning up the fallen branches from last month's winter weather. The mulch (located just past the Parish Activity Center) and chopped wood (located anywhere other than the barbecue pits) are free for the taking. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide assistance with loading your vehicles.

WORSHIP & PRAYER -

Prayer Requests

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

Frank Kelly Consuelo Rodriguez Brown

Dodie Domanski

March 12, 2023 The Bulletin





The Story of Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 1

In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.

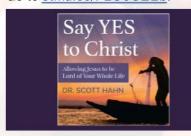
Go to stma.cc/F230312a.



Living Lent as a Family (Part 2 of 4)

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Keenan and Bri Fitzpatrick to discuss liturgical living during Lent and marks of the Christian home in the world today.

Go to stma.cc/F230312b.



Say Yes to Christ: Allowing Jesus to be Lord of Your Whole Life

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.

Go to stma.cc/F230312c.

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.

Rosary Prayer Group

Lent is a great time to pray the Rosary. Join our Rosary Prayer Group on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the St. Thomas More Room of the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

Penance Services in our Area

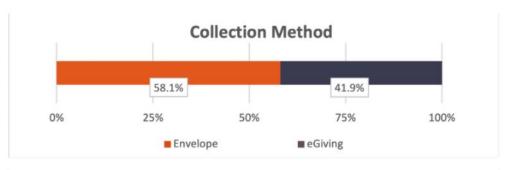
This Lenten season is an opportunity to better understand the reality that sin does violence to our relationship with God. Thankfully, that relationship can be mended or reconciled through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While we will continue to offer the sacrament at our normal times, the following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

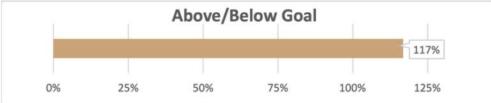
- March 16th at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Cedar Park
- Harch 21st at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Parish, Austin
- \$\text{\text{\$\}}\$}}}\$}}}}}}} \eximiniminfightine{\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\}\$}}}\$}}}}}}} \eximiniminfightint{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\}}}}}}}}}}} \exitting}} \ex
- March 23rd at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin
- Harch 27th at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More Parish, Austin
- 4 March 30th at 7 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Parish, Austin

- FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP -

Contributions

Week Ending	 March 5 th
Envelope:	\$ 32,693.02
eGiving Online:	\$ 23,596.84
Weekly Total:	\$ 56,289.86
Weekly Goal:	\$ 48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$ 8,089.86





The Bulletin March 12, 2023

A Stewardship Moment

esus' longest-recorded conversation with anyone is the one he has with the Samaritan woman at the well. She discovers she can be honest with Jesus and goes and tells others about him. She gives witness. She's not the most certain, thorough or even convincing witness. But her witness is enough. It is inviting, humble, nonjudgmental and sincere. What is the quality of your witness? How do your words and actions give daily testimony on behalf of Christ? During this season of Lent, how might you do a better job at proclaiming the risen Lord in word and deed?

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

Special Collection: Catholic Relief Services

A special collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up March 18th and 19th throughout the Diocese of Austin. This collection is an opportunity to help improve the lives of the most vulnerable people around the world and here in the United States. Your support funds organizations dedicated

to aiding people affected by war and natural disasters, migrants and refugees in need of material and legal assistance, and people worldwide whose livelihoods are impacted by changing political and environmental conditions. Thank you for your generosity!



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

From the Catechism this Week

"The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. (Cf. Mk 1:12-13) At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leaves him 'until an opportune time.' (Lk 4:13)"

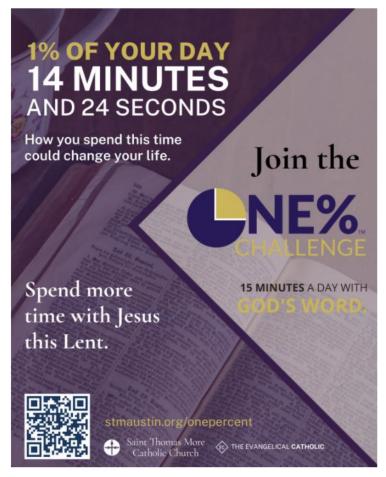
-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 538 -

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: April 13th, 9:30-11 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. in the Life House.

We'll explore Jesus' death and resurrection and the Holy Spirit.

▲ Learn more and sign up at stmaustin.org or (512) 258-1944 x235.



"God makes all His own the soul that is wholly given to Him."

-ST. PHILIP NERI -



MAR 26 through May 7^{th} , Sundays, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Wild Goose

Religious Education Building, Room 213

Discover who the Holy Spirit is, how the Spirit works in our lives and practical ways to respond in this six-week study.

▲ Learn more and sign up at <u>stmaustin.org/adult-faith</u> or contact Dawn at <u>dawn@stmaustin.org</u> or (512) 258-1944 x235.

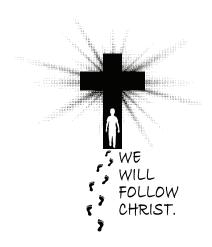
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Read, Reflect, Rejoice!

Library

Join us to discuss Let This Be the Time, Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act by Janet Schaeffler, OP. She identifies and explores twelve increasingly important needs of aging which include the need to continue to learn and grow, to navigate change and transition, and to cope with losses. To learn more, pick up a copy of the book and join us. Register at stmaustin.org/book-discussions. You are welcome to join even if you haven't read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

FAITH FORMATION -





Church Tour

Second grade children in Faith Formation Classes or attending Holy Family Catholic School or Regina Mater that are to receive First Holy Communion this year will have a Church Tour on March 20th and 21st. The tours will take place at 4 and 6:30 p.m. Any parents who missed this tour in the fall are encouraged to join this amazing learning event. Contact Casey McMillan, Elementary Education Coordinator, at cmcmillan@stmaustin.org for more information.

PRESCHOOL -



Registration is Open

Our preschool has opened registration for the 2023-2024 school year which is scheduled to begin in early September. The preschool serves children who are 18 months old, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old, 3 years old or 4 years old on or before September 1^{st} . Please contact Cindy Acosta, Preschool Director, at (512) 258-1721 x218 or cindy1@stmasutin.org for more information.

SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE -



The Green Spot

Tip of the Week: Austin lost many trees last month. Plant a native tree! They clean our air; removing CO_2 and giving us oxygen. They protect drinking water, provide food and habitat for animals, prevent soil erosion and provide shade. Studies show they even improve our mental health.

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

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Overcoming Disaster

In Bangladesh, cyclones and other natural disasters are increasing - destroying farms, homes and more - making it difficult for people like Noornobi to earn a living and support their families. But Noornobi has learned new techniques to protect his land and income, enabling his niece and nephew to go to school. How can you care for creation to help the planet and our global family? Visit stmaustin.org/crs-rice-bowl to learn more.



10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Cancer Support Group

Life House

To all of our parishioners touched by cancer, please join us for our monthly gathering. We hear, see and experience how our faith will help us live above cancer. We have guidebooks for all - Fighting Cancer with the Help of Your Catholic Faith. Contact karenmoore8@gmail.com with any questions.

Catholic Social Teaching

hunger and thirst for the living God. We are invited to know that need, but not to despair as our ancestors did in the desert. God does feed and nourish us. God does quench our thirst if we let ourselves be open to God's transforming love. Like the Samaritan woman, we are called to be open to the waters of life given to us in Christ. Like her, we are called to be agents of God's transformative love in our world. Who in your life needs you to be an agent of God's love for them? What, in your world, is in need of God's action and transformation?

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.



6:45-8:30 p.m.

Ramadan Iftar Dinner

Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Our Social Justice Ministry invites the parish community to participate in this interfaith dinner. Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar and it coincides with the Catholic Lenten season. The tentative schedule of the evening is as follows:

4 6:45 p.m.: Gathering

7 p.m.: Introduction

4 7:15 p.m.: Dialogue Institute presentation

\$\rightarrow\$ 7:40 p.m.: Self-service dinner buffet available

Sunset: Dinner

So we have enough food, please RSVP at: stmaustin.org/iftar-dinner.

- AROUND THE DIOCESE -



The Disaster Response program at Catholic Charities of Central Texas works to respond quickly to natural disasters and ensures Central Texans are supported across the entire 25-county region. Types of assistance may include emergency financial aid, material assistance and case management. To learn more, including opportunities to volunteer during times of need, visit ccctx.org/disaster-response.



3 p.m.

21 Deaf Apostolate Consultation Session

St. Louis King of France Parish, Austin

The Diocese of Austin will host a consultation session with the Deaf Apostolate to discover how those who are deaf/hard of hearing can be fully included in the life of the church. 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. Underscoring that the consultation session is a shared journey, invite your fellow parishioners who are deaf (hard of hearing), their family members, and those who provide pastoral care for deaf ministry to participate.

This virtual job fair will feature a variety of positions in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Austin, including teaching positions, administrative roles and support staff positions. The job fair will provide attendees with the chance to connect with representatives from various Catholic schools in our diocese, learn about their missions and values, and explore job opportunities. This virtual job fair is an excellent opportunity for those who are looking for meaningful work in a faith-based setting. Learn more at csdatx.org/jobfair.

Join St. Catherine of Siena parishioners on their eighth pilgrimage to Medjugorje (in Bosnia-Herzegovina). Included are two meals per day, six nights in Medjugorje with visionary Mirjana, and three nights touring Split and Zagreb, Croatia. medjugorje.org for details. pricing sign-up. For additional info. contact Carol atrubyredtrout@sbcglobal.net Herm or at airbear47@gmail.com.

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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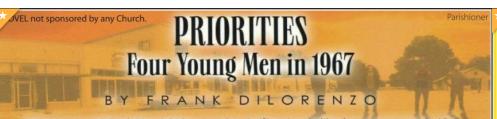
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