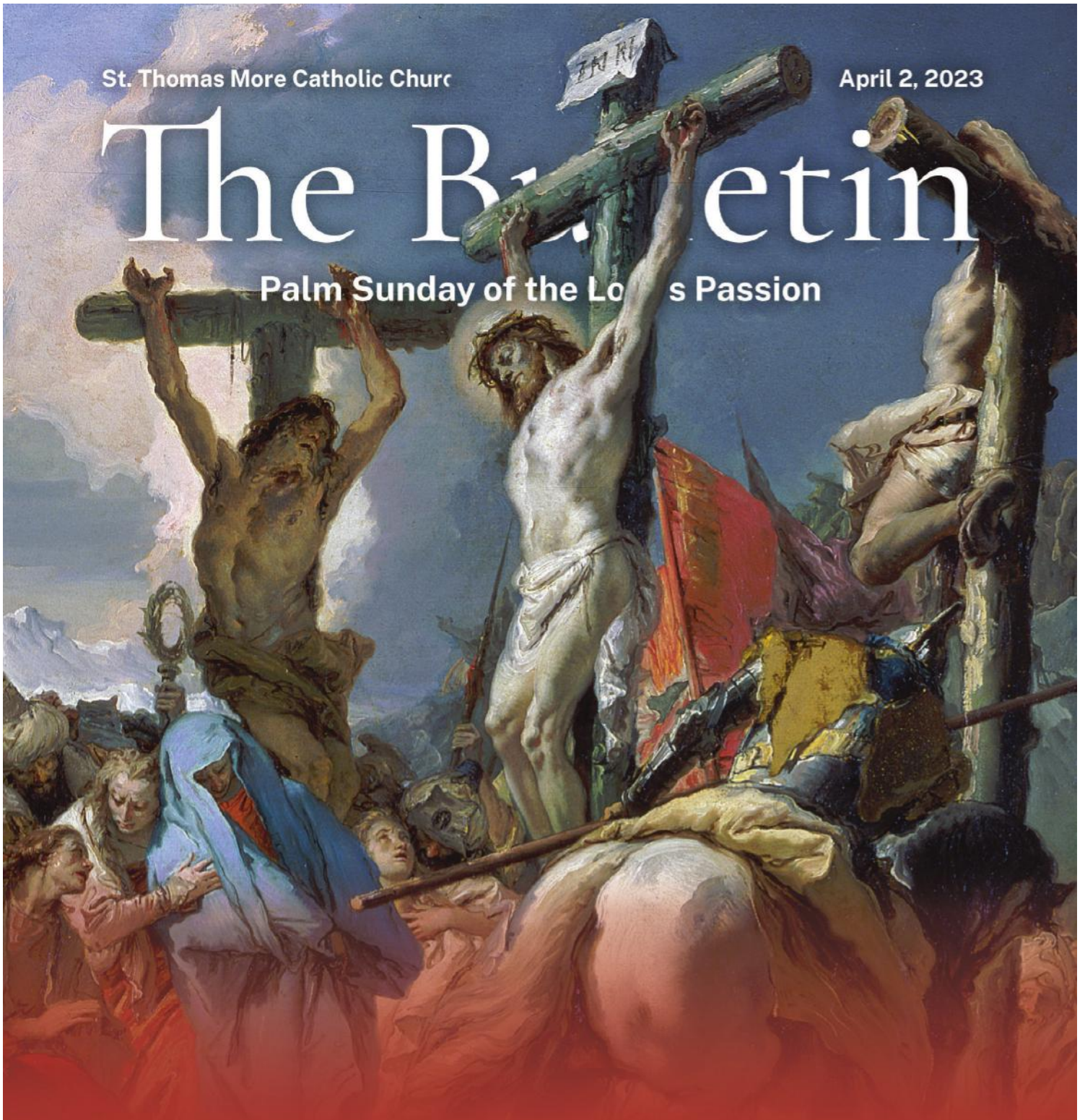


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

April 2, 2023

# The Bulletin

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



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Easter Schedule*

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de Paul Update*

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## Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the May 7<sup>th</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Submissions for the May 14<sup>th</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Email [asanchez@stmaustin.org](mailto: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](http://stm.weadorehim.com).

## Parish Staff & Contact Information

### Clergy



**Very Rev. Keith Koehl**  
Pastor  
[frkeith@stmaustin.org](mailto:frkeith@stmaustin.org)



**Rev. Callan Sweeney**  
Parochial Vicar  
[frcallan@stmaustin.org](mailto:frcallan@stmaustin.org)



**Rev. David Trahan**  
Parochial Vicar  
[frdavid@stmaustin.org](mailto:frdavid@stmaustin.org)



**Deacon Dan Lupo**  
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**Deacon Tom Mallinger**  
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**Deacon Pat O'Beirne**  
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**Deacon Thomas Suniga**  
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### Admin, Liturgical and Pastoral Staff



**Lori White**  
Accounting  
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**Denise Abele**  
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**Marlene Miller**  
Gift Shop  
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### Faith Formation (512) 258-1944



**Jill Goeters**  
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**Johanna Isburgh**  
Assistant Director  
[johanna@stmaustin.org](mailto:johanna@stmaustin.org)



**Casey McMillan**  
Elementary School Coordinator  
[cmcmillan@stmaustin.org](mailto:cmcmillan@stmaustin.org)



**Andrea Cochran**  
Middle School Coordinator  
[andrea@stmaustin.org](mailto:andrea@stmaustin.org)



**Logan Mayes**  
Life Teen Coordinator  
[logan@stmaustin.org](mailto:logan@stmaustin.org)



**Dawn Rouen**  
Adult Faith  
[drouen@stmaustin.org](mailto:drouen@stmaustin.org)

### Preschool (512) 258-1721



**Cindy Acosta**  
Director  
[cindy1@stmaustin.org](mailto:cindy1@stmaustin.org)



**Julie Olesen**  
Assistant Director  
[jolesen@stmaustin.org](mailto:jolesen@stmaustin.org)

### 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](http://stmaustin.org)

### Parish Office Hours

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

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



**Saint Thomas More**  
**Catholic Church**

## PARISH LIFE

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mt 21:1-11 | Is 50:4-7 | Ps 22 | Phil 2:6-11 |

Mt 26:14-27:66

7:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Beatrice Rodriguez

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: † Nancy Rojas

10:15 a.m. - 12 noon

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**  
(Life House)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

**Adult Study: Wild Goose** (Religious Education Building: 213) -see page 7

10:45 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)Intention: Kellie Bergman & † Reina Tovar  
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 - 7:30 p.m.

**Middle School Faith Formation** (Parish Activity Center)

6 - 8 p.m.

**Life Teen** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Monday of Holy Week

Is 42:1-7 | Ps 27 | Jn 12:1-11

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: Adrian &amp; Clare Sanchez

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.

**Lenten Lectio Divina** (Life House: Back Room)  
-see page 4

7 - 9 p.m.

**Prayer & Life Workshop** (Religious Education Building: 213)Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday of Holy Week

Is 49:1-6 | Ps 71 | Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

**Men's Scripture Share** (Life House)

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Kathy Stitz

4 - 5:15 p.m.

**Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)

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, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday of Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a | Ps 69 | Mt 26:14-25

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Nanie C. Gonzalez &amp; † F.M. Adair

6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Middle School Bible Study** (Religious Education Building: 207) -see page 8

7 - 9 p.m.

**Confirmation Classes** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Passion

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 | Ps 116 | 1 Cor 11:23-26 | Jn 13:1-15

7 p.m.

**Mass of the Lord's Supper** (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

9 p.m. - midnight

**Altar of Repose** (Parish Activity Center)Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Is 52:13-53:12 | Ps 31 | Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9 |

Jn 18:1-19:42

9 - 10 a.m.

**Library Open**

12 noon - 1 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross** (Church) -see page 4

3 p.m.

**Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord** (Church)Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Gn 1:1-2:2 | Ps 104 | Gn 22:1-18 | Ps 16 | Ex 14:15-15:1

| Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 | Is 54:5-14 | Ps 30 |

Is 55:1-11 | Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 | Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4 | Ps 19

| Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 | Ps 42 | Rom 6:3-11 | Ps 118 |

Mt 28:1-10

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

**Easter Food Blessing** (Church)

8:30 p.m.

**Easter Vigil Mass** (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Ps 118 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 |

Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35

6:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez

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

**Gift Shop Open** -see page 4

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

**Library Open**

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Ingrid &amp; Brandon Arn

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Parish Activity Center)

Intention: Andres Daniel Aguilera

10:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Eustaquio Cuellar Tristan

10:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Parish Activity Center)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parish Staff

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](https://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.

*“... in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church,  
namely Christ himself...”*

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1324 -

# Holy Week & Easter

## Monday of Holy Week, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Lectio for Lent

7-8:30 p.m. | 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](mailto:deacondanlupo@yahoo.com) or [deacondan@stmaustin.org](mailto:deacondan@stmaustin.org).

## Tuesday of Holy Week, April 4<sup>th</sup>

### Chrism Mass

10:30 a.m. | St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin

During this Mass, Bishop Joe Vásquez will consecrate the oils that will be used to administer the sacraments over the next year and the priests of the diocese will renew the promises they made at their ordination.

## Holy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

### Mass of the Lord's Supper

7 p.m. | Church | Livestreamed at [facebook.com/stmaustin](https://facebook.com/stmaustin)

On Holy Thursday, we begin the Triduum (a three-day observance that re-presents the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus). On this first day, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

### Adoration at the Altar of Repose

9 p.m. - midnight | Parish Activity Center (PAC)

As the disciples waited and prayed with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper, we are invited to pray with Jesus in prayer. Come for a few minutes or stay for all three hours.

## Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

### Stations of the Cross

Noon | Church

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

## Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

3 p.m. | Church | Livestreamed at [facebook.com/stmaustin](https://facebook.com/stmaustin)

As the second portion of the Triduum, this liturgy calls to mind the sacrifice, the total self-offering Jesus made so that we can regain our access to Heaven.

### Tenebrae

7:30 p.m. | Church

This prayer experience brings music and readings together for a powerful meditation on the Passion and Death of Jesus. The Tenebrae service helps us navigate the tension between our commemoration of Jesus' death and our hopeful wait for the celebration of his Resurrection at Easter.

## Holy Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

*The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (confessions) will not be offered and the 5 p.m. Mass will not be celebrated.*

### Easter Vigil

8:30 p.m. | Church

As the climax of the Triduum and the entire liturgical year, the Easter Vigil is truly a feast! Those who have been pursuing entrance into the Church will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion and/or Confirmation).

## Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

### Mass

6:30 a.m. | Church

8:30 a.m. | Church & Parish Activity Center (PAC)

10:30 a.m. | Church & Parish Activity Center (PAC) | Livestreamed at [facebook.com/stmaustin](https://facebook.com/stmaustin)

Join us for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead!

## Office Closures

In order to allow the staff to observe the Triduum and celebrate Easter with their families, the parish offices will be closed from Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. They will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your understanding!

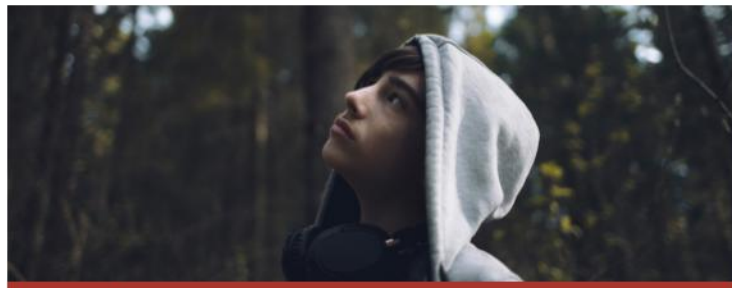


## Lenten Donation Drive

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.



APR  
2

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](mailto: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.



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11 a.m.

### Young at Heart Lunch

Religious Education Building, Brennan Auditorium

Let's get together for our next Young at Heart (YAH) lunch meeting. Our luncheon will be catered at \$10 a plate by the Knights of Columbus. The menu will be baked potatoes with all the fixings, salad, dessert and drinks. Please pay at [stmaustin.org/yah](http://stmaustin.org/yah) by April 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme is: "The Letter: A Message for our Earth" from Pope Francis.

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

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](http://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](http://Hope4Austin.org) for more information.

The donation drive will run through Easter weekend, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous support.

## THE Gift Shop

SUNDAYS

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

Check out the select items in our Lent/Easter, First Communion and Confirmation displays that are 25 to 50 percent off.

**We will be open during Holy Week and on Easter:**

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>

5-7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>

1-3 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

6:30-8:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>

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

We are looking to add two 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.

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9:30 a.m. - noon

### Called to Be Mom

Brennan Auditorium

Called To Be Mom will hear from Linda Sandish, coordinator of our parish Creation Care Team (CCT), as a follow-up on the movie *The Letter* and how the CCT is here to help Catholics on their eco-conversion. Childcare is provided for children one year and older. Infants are welcome to join us in the auditorium. Please RSVP at [stmaustin.org/ctbm](http://stmaustin.org/ctbm) and email [ctbm@stmaustin.org](mailto:ctbm@stmaustin.org) if you have any questions.

It's time to uplift

# our priests



Saint Thomas More  
Catholic Church

This spring, we're uplifting our priests, servants of the church and leaders in our parish community. We ask for your help to uplift Frs. Keith, Callan and David in one or more of the following ways.



**Show your love for our priests by purchasing a gift card from one of their favorite stores/restaurants:**

### **Fr. Keith**

Golf courses, Specs, Saltgrass Steakhouse, Kerbey Lane Cafe, Pappasito's Cantina, Home Depot

### **Fr. Callan**

Half-Priced Books, Amazon, Spec's/Total Wine, Academy, Uber Eats, Reale's Italian Cafe, Dog Haus, Chipotle

### **Fr. David**

Amazon, Total Wine, H-E-B, Starbucks

Gift cards should be returned to the church office or in the donation box at the back of the church by Wednesday, April 19th. They will be given to the priests during the weekend of April 22nd-23rd. Please label the intended recipient of each gift card.



### **Pray for our priests.**

**(Adapted from a prayer of St. John Vianney)**

God, please help our priests pursue your own heart. May they be worthy representatives of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.

Amen.

### **Write a handwritten note of encouragement.**

Our priests are always in need of our prayers and encouragement. Consider writing them a handwritten note and/or pledging to pray for our priests with a certain number of Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplets, hours of adoration or other spiritual devotion in their honor.

## WORSHIP & PRAYER

### Prayer Requests

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

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



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3 - 4 p.m.

### Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Church

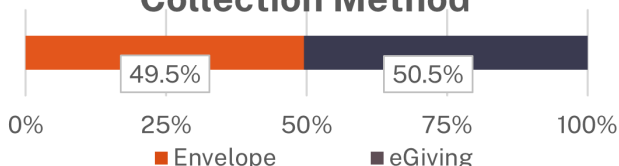
Join us as we will sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Following Benediction, we will conclude with 10 minutes of silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

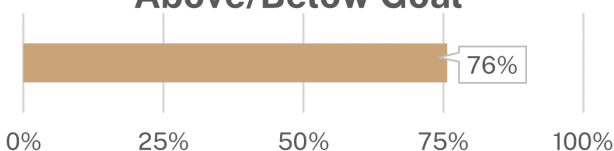
### Contributions

Week Ending	March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Envelope:	\$ 18,063.91
eGiving Online:	\$ 18,414.32
<b>Weekly Total:</b>	<b>\$ 36,478.23</b>
Weekly Goal:	\$ 48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$ (11,721.77)

#### Collection Method



#### Above/Below Goal



### A Stewardship Moment

We are at the doorsteps of Holy Week where we remember Christ's Passion. Jesus humbled himself and let go of everything, emptying himself for us. **During this time of Lent, how have you joined the Lord? Has your prayer, penitential practices and almsgiving moved you to humble yourself before the Lord? Have you let go of things that keep you from being authentic stewards for Christ Jesus? How have you "emptied" yourself so that when you do approach the table of the Lord, you can be nourished by His body and blood?** As disciples of the Lord Jesus and stewards of His gift of faith, it is time to evaluate your life under the cross.

This reflection is courtesy of the International Catholic Stewardship Council. Learn more about stewardship and the council at [catholicstewardship.com](http://catholicstewardship.com).

### Spring Fest Envelopes

The April envelope packets erroneously contain an envelope for Spring Fest. Please disregard this envelope as Spring Fest is not occurring this year.



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## From the Catechism this Week

*"The mystery of Christ's Resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56, St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve ..." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus."*

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 571 -

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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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/ciy](http://stmaustin.org/ciy) or contact Dawn at [dawn@stmaustin.org](mailto:dawn@stmaustin.org) or (512) 258-1944 x235.

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through May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

▲ Even though this is the second session of this study, you are still welcome to join! Learn more and sign up at [stmaustin.org/adult-faith](http://stmaustin.org/adult-faith) or contact Dawn at [dawn@stmaustin.org](mailto:dawn@stmaustin.org) or (512) 258-1944 x235.

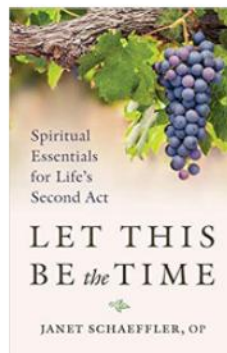
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7 to 8:30 p.m.

## Read, Reflect, Rejoice!

Library

Join us to discuss *Let This Be the Time, Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act* by Janet Schaeffler, OP. "Aging itself is a sacred pilgrimage, a holy way; the aging journey is a fresh and deepened way of experiencing God's love and presence." Schaeffler identifies and explores twelve increasingly important needs of aging: to live a life of meaning and purpose; to joyfully pursue love and relationships; to ask and explore questions; to learn, grow and laugh; to navigate change and transition; to cope with losses; to be grateful; to forgive and be forgiven; to give; for spiritual integration; to let go and simplify; to prepare for dying and death. Register at [stmaustin.org/book-discussions](http://stmaustin.org/book-discussions). You are welcome even if you haven't read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.



## THIS WEEK ON FORMED



### Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history.

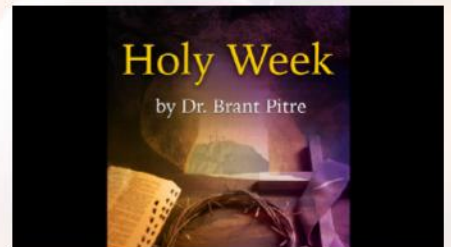
Go to [stma.cc/F230402a](http://stma.cc/F230402a).



### The Faithful Departed | Eternal Rest | Episode 4

What is left for the living to do after someone dies? In this session, we talk about the final ways in which those still living on earth care for the body and soul of the dead.

Go to [stma.cc/F230402b](http://stma.cc/F230402b).



### Holy Week by Dr. Brant Pitre

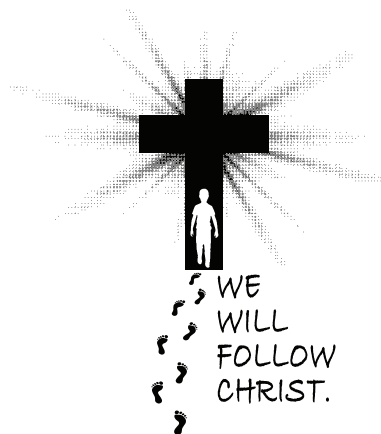
Join Dr. Brant Pitre, author and Scripture scholar, as he walks us through the events of Holy Week. Pitre's insights and clarity allow the listener to enter into a deeper appreciation of the most important events of Christ's earthly ministry.

Go to [stma.cc/F230402c](http://stma.cc/F230402c).

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## FAITH FORMATION



## Middle School Bible Study/Game Night

Join us for our Wednesday Bible Study from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Room 207 of the Religious Education Building. We will dive into the Sunday readings for the upcoming week and end with a game.



## 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, 2 ½, 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Cindy Acosta, Preschool Director, at (512) 258-1721 x218 or [cindy1@stmasutin.org](mailto:cindy1@stmasutin.org) for more information.

## SOCIAL OUTREACH &amp; PASTORAL CARE

## Catholic Social Teaching

Our Lenten journey climaxes in this celebration of Holy Week. Our liturgy begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but the reading of the Passion invites us to walk with Jesus through suffering and death as well. God's promise is fullness of life, but often we cling instead to the empty promises of the life the world offers: power, fame and material wealth. **To what must you die in order to live more fully with Christ and to share his 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](http://austindiocese.org).

## Sharing God's Love

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."*

—JOHN 3:16

As we enter Holy Week, we remember how our Lord suffered and died so that each and every one of us might be saved from sin and have eternal life. **Reflect on God's infinite love for you. How have you responded to that love this Lent, and how can you share it with others?** Visit [stmaustin.org/crs-rice-bowl](http://stmaustin.org/crs-rice-bowl) to learn more.

*"... maturation in the spiritual life is not simply a matter of one's age but instead with how close one draws to the heart of the Father."*

—RACHEL BULMAN—

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## The Green Spot

**Simple Living:** Designate certain rooms in your home, certain hours of the day and/or a certain day as tech-free zones. This allows more time for contemplation, reading books, praying and meaningful interaction with family members and friends. This can lead to a greater appreciation of our world. Learn more in paragraphs 47 and 225 of *Laudato Si'*.

APR  
11

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

### Cancer Support Group

Life House, Back Room

How do you face a cancer diagnosis? How do you help someone who is facing cancer? How can your faith help? A group of our parishioners gathers together on the second Tuesday of every month to ask and discuss these questions with many possible and helpful answers. All parishioners are welcome. Email Karen at [karenmoore8@gmail.com](mailto:karenmoore8@gmail.com) for additional information.

APR  
15

8 a.m. to 12 noon

### Blood Drive

Life House

Take a break from your taxes and give the gift of life! Every patient treated at every hospital in our Central Texas 10-county area relies exclusively on We Are Blood platelet and blood donors. To make an appointment, visit [stma.cc/WAB230415b](http://stma.cc/WAB230415b) or scan the QR code with your



phone's camera. For questions specific to our drive, contact Steve Isaacson at [sisaacson51@gmail.com](mailto:sisaacson51@gmail.com) or (936) 525-9503. If you have eligibility questions, call We Are Blood at (512) 206-1108.

## Laudato Si' Animators Program for Creation Care

April 19<sup>th</sup> is the start of the Laudato Si' Animators course; a free six-week online learning and certification program offered by the Laudato Si' Movement. The program aims to bring the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, to life in each individual and serve as an introduction to how the global Catholic Church is engaging in creation care and the cry of the poor. For more details or to sign-up, visit the website [stmaustin.org/cct](http://stmaustin.org/cct).

## Eco-Justice Programs are Back

Just in time for Earth Day, you can pick your favorite program that matches what you are most passionate about: *Sacred Land*, *Sacred Air* or *Sacred Water*. All being offered, via Zoom, starting in April. Sign up with friends or family; age 13 and older. Go to the Creation Care Team webpage at [stmaustin.org/cct](http://stmaustin.org/cct) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to learn more details. Contact Linda at [STMCreationCareTeam@gmail.com](mailto:STMCreationCareTeam@gmail.com) with questions.



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul Update

Your Society of St. Vincent de Paul works in many ways to help our neighbors in need. Your generosity filled two trucks for the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. We were also able to match no longer needed furniture to two families who benefited from your kindness. Alone we can do little, "Together We Do More." Bless you.



## AROUND THE DIOCESE



Have you felt a calling to volunteer in your community? Catholic Charities of Central Texas offers many opportunities for volunteerism and service, including restocking and organizing the donation center, translating documents, providing administrative support, supporting disaster response operations, and many more. To learn more about volunteering, including current opportunities, visit [ccctx.org/volunteer](http://ccctx.org/volunteer).

**APR  
15**

9 a.m. - noon

## Council of Catholic Women Spring Meeting

Holy Cross Parish, Austin

The meeting will begin with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by refreshments and a business meeting with the election of officers. The speaker is Dr. Vicki Lott who will address the task of healing racism. There is no cost to attend. For more information, contact Eleanor Langsdorf, president of the council, at (512) 873-0480 or (301) 520-9849 or [elangsdo@yahoo.com](mailto:elangsdo@yahoo.com).

**APR  
17**through April 18<sup>th</sup>

## Women's Convention

Doubletree North, Austin

The Most Reverend William Wack, the former pastor of St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, is the keynote speaker at the annual Austin Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention. The agenda also includes motivational speaker Dina Dwyer-Owens, seminarians and their vocation stories, Mass and a banquet with Bishop Joe Vásquez. There will be opportunities to visit the extensive silent auction and vendors. Registration information is available at [AustinDCCW.org](http://AustinDCCW.org). Questions about the convention can be directed to Karen Dunlap at (512) 836-0530 or [kdunlap78@att.net](mailto:kdunlap78@att.net).

## 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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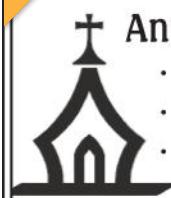


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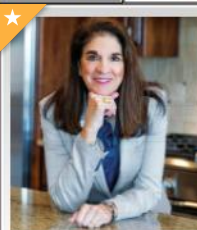
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