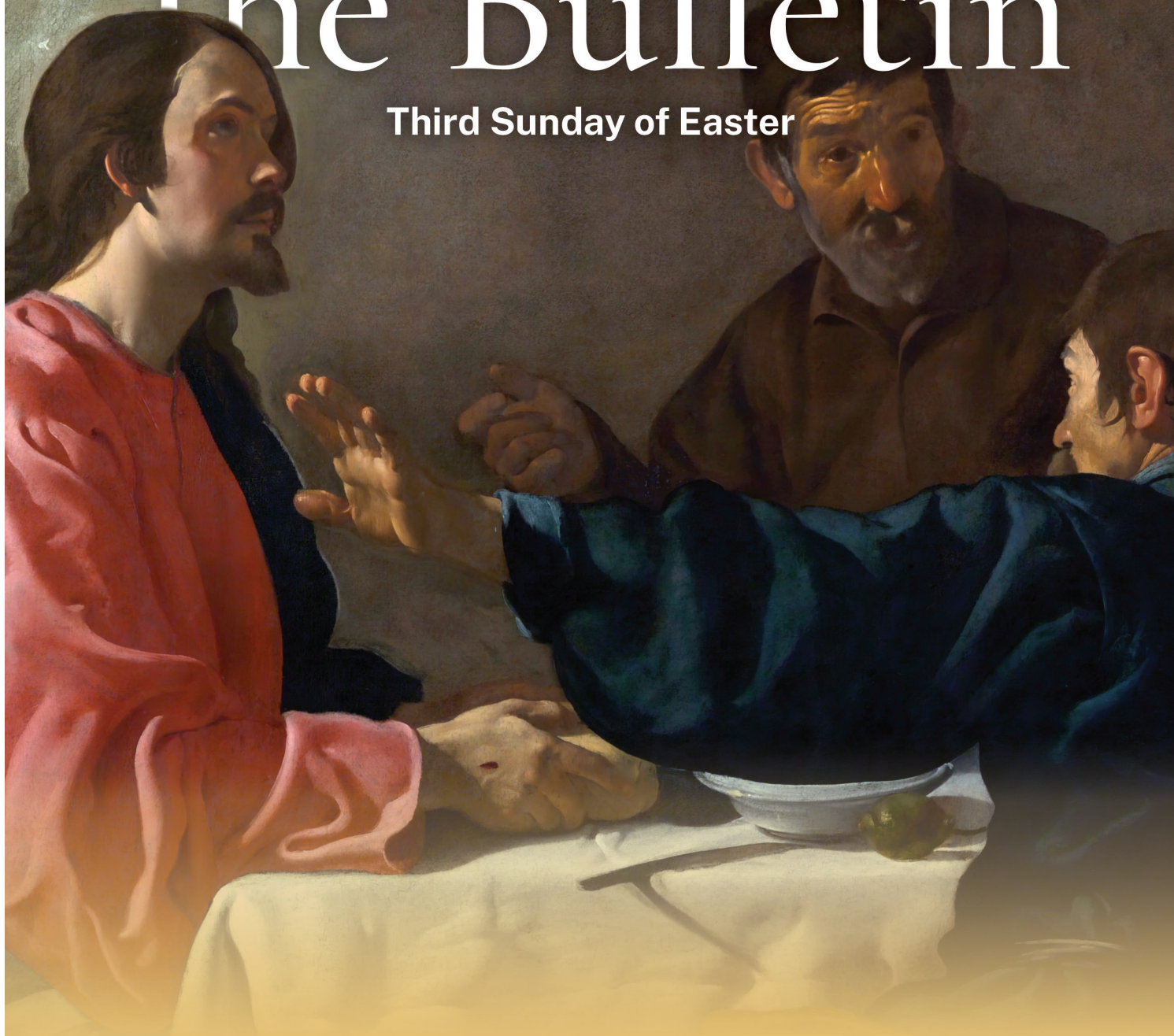


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

April 23, 2023

The Bulletin

Third Sunday of Easter



*Little Liturgy
Lessons*

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Ascend

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Virtual Job Fair

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The Supper at Emmaus, Diego Rodríguez de Silva, 1622-1623

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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the May 7th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on April 27th**. Submissions for the May 14th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on May 4th**. Email asanchez@stmaustin.org for instructions on submitting content for *The Bulletin*.

To Reach a Priest in an Emergency

DURING OFFICE HOURS:
(512) 258-1161

AFTER HOURS:
(512) 258-1161, Opt. 1



Adoration Schedule

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

FRIDAY
3 - 10 p.m.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

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frkeith@stmaustin.org



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Parochial Vicar
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Council Chairpersons

Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

Parish Contact Information

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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.



**Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church**

PARISH LIFE

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, April 23rd

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33 | Ps 16 | 1 Pt 1:17-21 | Lk 24:13-35

- 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 5
- 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Library Open**
Mass (Church)
Intention: † Molly McConkey
- 10:15 a.m. - noon **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** (Life House)
- 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. **Adult Study: Wild Goose** (Religious Education Building: 213)
- 10:45 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Joyce Brabham
Liturgy of the Word for Children and Childcare Available
- Noon - 1:15 p.m. **Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)
- 5 p.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Yvonne Malunga & † Zachary Hardin
- 6 - 8 p.m. **Life Teen** (Parish Activity Center)
- 6 - 8 p.m. **Middle School Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Monday, April 24th

Memorial of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

Acts 6:8-15 | Ps 119 | Jn 6:22-29

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Thomas James & Mary Claire Fulton
- 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: Let This be the Time** (Library)
- 7 - 9 p.m. **Prayer & Life Workshop** (Religious Education Building: 210)

Tuesday, April 25th

Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14 | Ps 89 | Mk 16:15-20

- 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. **Men's Scripture Share** (Life House)
- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Maria Guadalupe Delgado
- 4 - 5:15 p.m. **Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)
- 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, April 26th

Acts 8:1b-8 | Ps 66 | Jn 6:35-40

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Lee Shaw
- 9 - 9:30 a.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)
- 6 - 7 p.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** (Parish Activity Center: St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, April 27th

Acts 8:26-40 | Ps 66 | Jn 6:44-51

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Frank Rodriguez
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Gift Shop Open**

Friday, April 28th

Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr & St. Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest

Acts 9:1-20 | Ps 117 | Jn 6:52-59

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Elizabeth Franklin & Aidan Dawson
- 9 - 10 a.m. **Library Open**
- 9:30 a.m. - noon **Called to be Mom** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Saturday, April 29th

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | Ps 23 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | Jn 10:1-10

- 9 - 11:30 a.m. **Gift Shop Open**
- 3 - 4:30 p.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)
- 5 p.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Daniel Lupo

Sunday, April 30th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | Ps 23 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | Jn 10:1-10

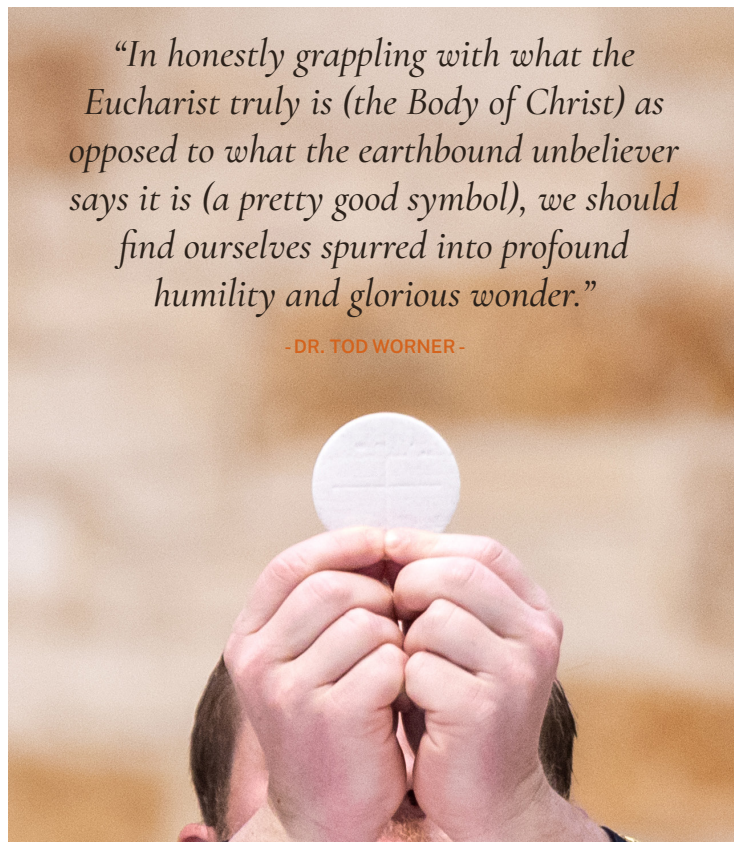
- 7:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Daniel Ochoa & † Catherine O'Connell
- 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Coffee & Donuts** (Family Center)
- 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Gift Shop Open** -see page 5
- 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Library Open**
- 9 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners
- 10:15 a.m. - noon **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** (Life House)
- 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. **Adult Study: Wild Goose** (Religious Education Building: 213)
- 10:45 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Raul Marez
Childcare Available
- 5 p.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Matthew Grisham

Due to the bulletin production schedule, this *Week at a Glance* does not reflect changes made to the church calendar after April 16th. 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.

*"The courage and strength that are in me are not of me,
but of Him who lives in me—it is the Eucharist."*

-ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA-



“In honestly grappling with what the Eucharist truly is (the Body of Christ) as opposed to what the earthbound unbeliever says it is (a pretty good symbol), we should find ourselves spurred into profound humility and glorious wonder.”

- DR. TOD WORNER -

THE Gift Shop

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

We're offering 25 to 50 percent off select items on our First Communion and Confirmation center displays. The Gift Shop will be open for First Communion and Confirmation as follows:

<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH 9 - 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MAY 4TH 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 6TH 9 - 11:30 A.M.</p>
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We are looking to add two new team members who 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.

WORSHIP & PRAYER



Prayer Requests

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

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

Church Closure

On Friday, April 28th, the church will close after the 8:30 a.m. Mass so that our facilities team can conduct maintenance without disturbing anyone's prayer. The church will reopen and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 3 p.m.

*"[In the Mass,] the most sacred truths
of the faith are given full material reality,
leading up to that moment when
Christ himself becomes present at the altar."*

-PETER ACKROYD-

Little Liturgy Lessons

MAKING AN ENTRANCE BY
REV. DAVID TRAHAN



You can watch and share the video version of this reflection at stma.cc/LLLeB or by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.

We usually think of the Mass as beginning with the procession or maybe the Sign of the Cross or the opening dialogue, but the first rubric, the first liturgical instruction of the Mass is actually further back than any of that. The rubric begins "When the people are gathered ...," so the first liturgical action of the Church when we celebrate the Eucharist is our gathering into the church.

We don't usually think of how we simply come through the doors of the church as something liturgical, but that's precisely why the Church wants to remind us of this in her

instructions. Subconsciously we do act this way — we plan ahead, we choose to go, we get dressed, we gather the family, we leave knowing the amount of time it will take to arrive. All of these acts of the will are directed towards the Mass, are pointed towards the Lord.

But we do all this because we have been invited to come here. The Lord has set aside a particular day with a particular group of people for us to join with and offer worship and thanksgiving. We do not just 'gather' like iron filings around a magnet or as a group or club of our own making, but we 'gather' at the invitation of the Lord, at the Word of the God Who desires us to spend time with Him.

Sometimes our gathering is more prayerful or more hurried than other times, but it is good ... to stop and consider: "How do I enter into the house of the Lord?" "Do I 'gather' at His invitation or out of my own wants?"

Christ Remains Present

BY ALLISON GINGRAS

A powerful thread of truth runs through each of today's Easter season readings: Jesus resurrected. "God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses," (Acts 2:32). The Apostles testified to this raising of Jesus, but also, and maybe even more powerful is the testimony of those who did not want this truth to be known. Scholars often refer to the latter as "hostile witnesses." People, who could not deny what they saw but did not wish to perpetuate the following of Christ, become witnesses to the majesty of God. Fascinating how differently the world perceives the history of secular nature from that of religion. We possess many history books filled with events, teachings and speeches; we do not doubt nor question; we trust what was seen and recorded has been done so accurately. And it is taught from generation to generation.

Yet, how few believe "God raised this Jesus." The Resurrection opened Heaven to those "who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory so that your faith and hope are in God." St. Peter reminds us to hold fast to this truth so that our hope and faith remain with God. The testimony of those who saw, spoke, and ate with the Risen Lord, provides us a confident hope in the Good News. No one, but One, has ever claimed

to be the Son of God and then rose from the dead. Two thousand years later, we are still speaking of his salvific work upon the cross, still re-presenting those moments upon altars across the world, still worshiping and singing praises.

The 24th chapter of Luke's Gospel includes the Walk to Emmaus. Jesus journeyed alongside these disciples, but they did not recognize him. He is still with us today, a true and ever-present companion. How often do we fail to recognize Jesus in our midst? In the Emmaus encounter, in the breaking of bread, "their eyes were opened and they recognized him," (Luke 24:31). Jesus offers the faithful that same wondrous opportunity at each and every Mass to be present at the blessing and breaking of the bread. To experience the burning of our hearts as the Scriptures are opened, and Jesus is made truly present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Eucharist.

When the disciples encountered Jesus on the road, they urged him to stay with them. Through God's mystical, remarkable workings, which we will never comprehend this side of Heaven, Jesus remains with us still at every consecration, in every tabernacle, and within the heart of those who receive him in the Eucharist.



Prayer of the Penitent

Toward the end of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (commonly known as confession) we pray the Prayer of the Penitent also known as the Act of Contrition. Did you know there are different options for this prayer? Over the next few weeks, we'll feature the different options so you can find one that helps you better understand and receive the forgiveness that reconciles your relationship with God.

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. I acknowledge my offense; my sin is before me always.



MAY
5

following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Healing Prayer

Church

Trained ministers will be available for ten-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 & STEWARDSHIP

A Stewardship Moment

As today's Gospel reveals, the first meal shared with the risen Lord happened in a place called Emmaus. Perhaps there is no better time to reflect on this story than in those prayerful moments at Mass when we return to our place after receiving Holy Communion. Those few moments give us an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of Christ's presence within us. We have a chance to practice hospitality by inviting Jesus into our hearts to walk and talk with us about our own Emmaus journey. We can relive once again the time when he broke bread for the disciples. And just as they did, we too can recognize Christ in this meal we have just shared with others.

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

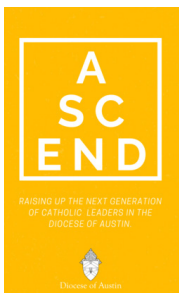
April 16th Collection Information

Due to an augmented production schedule, the collection information for the week ending April 16th will be reported in the May 2nd edition of the *The Bulletin*.

Encountering Christ Campaign Update

The Encountering Christ Campaign (ECC) is a capital and endowment campaign to raise \$85,000,000 in gifts and pledges for local parish needs while strengthening ministries, Catholic education and faith formation, supporting our clergy and enhancing growth across the diocese. Our parish goal was to achieve \$3,525,000 in donations. Of every contribution made toward this campaign, 30% of your donation returns directly to our parish making it possible to make improvements and updates on an ongoing basis. **As of January 31st, the contributions received back to our parish total \$371,825.72! Thank you so much for your support of this campaign.**

YOUNG ADULTS



Ascend

Ascend is the Diocese of Austin's initiative to identify, develop and support young leaders under 40 in the diocese and the communities within its borders. The Ascend class of 2023 will be empowered to make a lasting contribution by practicing applied leadership skills so that they may exercise their faith in positions of leadership in the Church as well as in their homes, communities and careers. Applications and more information are available at austindiocese.org/ascend. The deadline to apply is April 26th.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

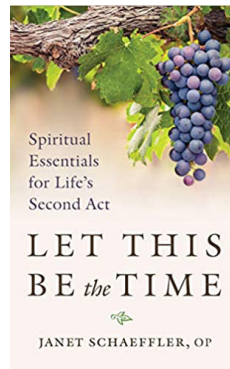
APR
24

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. You are welcome even if you haven't read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.



From the Catechism this Week

"All men are called to this Catholic unity of the People of God ... and to it, in different ways, belong or are ordered: the Catholic faithful, others who believe in Christ, and finally all mankind, called by God's grace to salvation," (LG 13)."

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 779-

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: May 11th / 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m. / Life House

We'll explore the Church, Mary and the saints.

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



Are you searching for:

- ⊕ A deeper relationship with God?
- ⊕ A greater awareness of how God is at work in your life?
- ⊕ A sense of belonging in a faith community?
- ⊕ A deeper look into what Catholics believe and how we live our faith?

To explore your questions and receive an introduction to the Catholic faith, check out the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)! For more information, please contact Dawn at (512) 258-1944 x235.

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED**Episode 1: St. Mark the Evangelist**

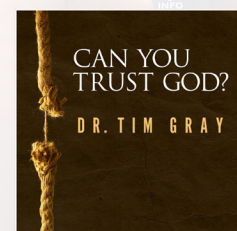
Using outside sources, other books of the Bible, and the Gospel itself, Dr. Gray takes a closeup look at St. Mark, and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians of Rome.

Go to stma.cc/F230423a.

**Who is St. Catherine of Siena?**

In light of St. Catherine of Siena's feast day, join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein, as they celebrate this nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.

Go to stma.cc/F230423b.

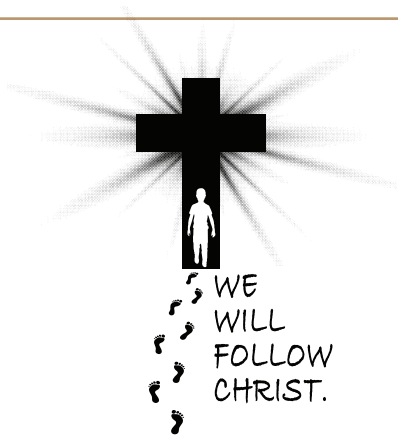
**Can You Trust God?**

To be a saint, we must trust God wholeheartedly. Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray takes us on a journey that addresses the pervasive misconceptions about God, showing us that there is no reason not to follow him.

Go to stma.cc/F230423c.

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.

FAITH FORMATION



Stellar VBS

Vacation Bible School (VBS) registration is now open! Stellar VBS will be June 26th through 30th, 9 a.m. to noon, and is open for children four years old through incoming seventh graders. We need lots of volunteers! More information and registration can be found at stmaustin.org/vbs.

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 1st. 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

Happy Earth Day! Take time to learn and understand the Seven Rs: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. Learn about what a “circular economy” is and what companies are embracing this approach. Learn more in paragraph 22 of Laudato Si’.

“Human formation can be seen in terms of the basic integration of the whole person—body, mind, heart, and soul—and it's something that anyone and everyone (even non-religious people) should cultivate.”

- JACKIE FRANÇOIS ANGEL -



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

Catholic Social Teaching

In today's Gospel, the disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. **How do you recognize the Lord in your midst?** In his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminds us that one important way to see the Lord in our midst is through personal encounters with the poor (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 199). As important as it is to share our resources, it is in sharing ourselves, our time and our presence with the poor that we can have the experience which the disciples had – that we know the Lord in the breaking of the bread.

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.

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+. Go to the Creation Care Team webpage at stmaustin.org/cct or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to learn more details. Contact Linda at creationcareteam@stmaustin.org with any questions.



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.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL
GREECE
INCLUDING A 3 DAY AEGEAN CRUISE
11 Days October 15-25, 2023

For More Information Contact:
Select International Tours
800-842-4842 margot@select-intl.com
selectinternationaltours.com

APR 27 through April 29th The Big Event

St. William Parish, Round Rock

You are invited to the second annual Big Event! Please join the community for delicious food, games, live music, a huge garage sale, a silent auction and family fun. Admission is FREE on April 28th and 29th. For more information, contact the St. William Parish office at (512) 255-4473 or visit st-william.org/big-event.

APR 27 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Virtual Job Fair

Kickstart a rewarding career in education in the Diocese of Austin with this virtual job fair where you can discover the Catholic School difference. During the fair, participants will have the opportunity to visit with school administrators and learn more about working in the schools. Learn more and register at csdatx.org/jobfair or scan the QR code.



MAY 4

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Come to Mary's House

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center, Temple

This retreat will be filled with reflections and brief imaginative sequences that invite participants to imagine they are with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Retreat leader, Shawn Chapman, is a writer and a Discalced Secular Carmelite from College Station. The cost is \$45; lunch will be included. Please register through Cedarbrake at austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or call (254) 780-2436.



**MAY
4**

noon - 12:30 p.m.

National Day of Prayer

El Salido Park, 11500 El Salido Pkwy, Austin

Join your community for prayer! If you have time afterwards, bring a sack lunch and visit with neighbors and friends. For more information, contact Sandy Billingham at (512) 750-8324.

**MAY
13**

10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Family Faith Scouting Retreat

Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, Burnet

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to attend its third annual Family Faith Scouting Retreat. It is open to all families and scouts in Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Trail Life USA, Troops of St. George Scouters, or anyone wanting to learn more about scouting. This day of reflection will include time for prayer, hiking, outdoor activities and crafts for the scouts. The cost is \$50 per family or \$15 for individuals (all scouts under 18 must be accompanied by a troop leader); lunch is included. The deadline to register is May 5th! To register for this exciting day visit, bit.ly/GCfr23.

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.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!