

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

April 30, 2023

The Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Family Celebrations

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*Good Shepherd
Sunday*

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*Cancer Support
Group*

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

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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the May 14th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on May 4th**. Submissions for the May 21st edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on May 11th**. 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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Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

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Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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



**Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church**

PARISH LIFE

This Week at a Glance

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

Monday, May 1st

Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker

Acts 11:1-18 | Ps 42 | Jn 10:11-18 or Mt 13:54-58

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Doan Quoc Khue & † Maria Vu Thuy Linh
- 7 - 9 p.m. **Prayer & Life Workshop** (Religious Education Building: 210)

Tuesday, May 2nd

Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Acts 11:19-26 | Ps 87 | Jn 10:22-30

- 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. **Men's Scripture Share** (Life House)
- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Magdalena Sanchez & † Joseph M. Colleran
- 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, May 3rd

Feast of Sts. Philip & James, Apostles

1 Cor 15:1-8 | Ps 19 | Jn 14:6-14

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: Alex & Anne Rodriguez

- 9 - 9:30 a.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)
- 6 - 7 p.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)

Thursday, May 4th

Acts 13:13-25 | Ps 89 | Jn 13:16-20

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

Friday, May 5th

Acts 13:26-33 | Ps 2 | Jn 14:1-6

- 8:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Geraldine Peña & † Elba Sepulveda
- 9 - 9:30 a.m. **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Confessional)
- 9 - 10 a.m. **Healing Prayer** (Church)
- 9 - 10 a.m. **Library Open**

Saturday, May 6th

Acts 6:1-7 | Ps 33 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

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

Sunday, May 7th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 | Ps 33 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

- 7:30 a.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Michael Messmer
- 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: † Yvonne Reynolds
- 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: St. Thomas More Parishioners
Childcare Available
- 5 p.m. **Mass** (Church)
Intention: † Edward Cullen & † Andie Sanchez

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.

Family Celebrations



◀ Earlier this month, Tom and lone Voor celebrated the birth of their first grandchild, Raphael. He is the son of their eldest daughter, Tammy, and her husband Stephen.



◀ Adrian and Clare Sanchez celebrated the birth of their son, Maximilian Benedict, earlier this month.

If you would like to include your family milestones in future editions of *The Bulletin* so your parish community can celebrate with you, please email asanchez@stmaustin.org. Milestones can include the birth of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc., baptisms, sacramental marriages, wedding anniversaries (in increments of five years) and graduations.



**MAY
9**

11 a.m.

Young at Heart Lunch

Brennan Auditorium

Let's get together for the next Young at Heart (YAH) lunch meeting. We will be entertained by the Hawaiian Kona Isle Group, the longest-established Polynesian dance group in the Central Texas area. Bring your favorite Hawaiian dish and wear your Hawaiian dress/shirt.

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

THE Gift Shop

SUNDAYS

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:

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

9 - 11:30 A.M.

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

Kellie Bergman

Barbara Boland

John Brun

Ed Burke

Graciela Diaz

Frank DiLorenzo

Katie DiLorenzo

Dodie Domanski

Al Esparza

Jo Falkenstein

Ray & Grace Fisher

Ame Frezza

Judi Gilliam

Trace Gilliam

Dylan Johnson

Beth Jones

Frank Kelly

David Kresta

Mary Kubala

Linda Lange

Charles McCourt

Jason Mikolajek

Fr. Michael O'Connor

Barbara Ohradzansky

Trent Overall

Sr. Carolyn Pelzel

William Ricks

Dennis Robinson

Consuelo Rodriguez Brown

Dorothy Thompson

Andy Turner

Clifford Uher

Bernadette Vogel

Jennifer Wiegand

Kerry Wolf

Christopher Younger

Luke Zouzalik

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

Little Liturgy Lessons

RESPONSE BY REV. DAVID TRAHAN



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

The fact that we have responses in the Mass is something we can take for granted. We hear the declaration “The Lord be with you” and we respond “And with your spirit.” It can start to be formulaic, rote, automatic. But it is important for us to see what also lies behind these responses, in the very idea of making a response to the Lord.

We talk to other people all the time and expect some kind of a response, but there really isn't any reason for us to expect the same of God—it is terribly presumptuous to presume that the Lord would respond to us. Thus by having the Church respond in the liturgy, whether in whole or in part, it helps us to see the way in which God seeks to reveal Himself to us, that we are not just passive before

His revelation but that He invites us to be co-actors with Him.

The Lord invites us into dialogue, not only individually in our personal prayer, but also the Church as a whole and each of us gives our voice to that common response. This also helps us see why we have ‘rote’ responses for the liturgy—if I am truly aware of the awesome weight of the declaration, “The Lord be with you,” I would freeze up and turn into a sputtering mess like Moses before the burning bush. But by being given a way to respond to that mystery, it breaks through my own limits and opens me up into the dialogue that God wishes to have with me.

So at the Mass, do I consider my responses? Do I think about what and why I say what I do when prompted? Do I teach those entrusted to me how to respond to the promptings of the Lord?

Good Shepherd Sunday

BY BETH PRICE

Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd calls to us in every one of today's readings. We are the sheep, He is our master, our savior and forgiver of sins.

The apostle Luke is quite direct in the first reading from Acts: “... God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified,” (Acts 2:14). Luke then reports that Peter called on all to repent and have their sins forgiven. He tells them to follow the call of our Lord God, Jesus Christ.

Follow the call of the Lord. This phrase reminded me of a fantastic animated short video about David the shepherd. A very young lamb is seen frolicking about and gets itself into a very precarious situation. David, an expert with a slingshot and a faith-filled youth, is able to rescue the lamb. The two wind up very far from the rest of the herd. The scene cuts to a late evening shot of the now sleeping herd while a very impatient ewe paces, stops, turns her ear and hears a familiar voice singing a song of praise and

worship while carrying the lamb in his tunic.

I'm reminded how we are all the lambs and sheep. Some easily recognize the voice of the One who cares for them. There are many others, possibly even our youthful selves, our kids [pun intended] or a person with not as much wisdom or experience as I may have, who don't or can't recognize there is danger or harm in their path.

The Gospel is clear: “I am the gate for the sheep ... Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture,” (John 10:7,9).

I have to be very intentional in all aspects of life; thoughts, words and deeds. It is up to me to be vigilant in my desire to hear the Master's voice in every situation throughout the day and night. I need to hear His voice in my mind so I am not stolen away by a thief or robber, who would lead me astray and abandon or slaughter me. The Good Shepherd is there for me to turn to in every situation. He is there to forgive my erring way and to heal me. He is the Truth, the Way, the gate to everlasting life. Blessed be God in all His designs! Amen! Alleluia.



**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.



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.

Father, I have sinned against you and I am not worthy to be called your son. Be merciful to me, a sinner.

*“Are we aware that Christ has visited us—
invaded us in our brokenness—
more times than we can count ... ?”*

-DR. TOD WORNER -

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

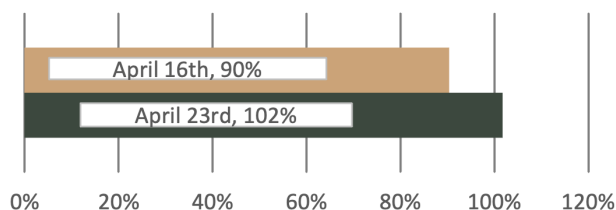
Contributions

Week Ending	April 16 th		April 23 rd	
Envelope:	\$	26,035.47	\$	26,917.85
eGiving Online:	\$	17,515.26	\$	22,101.91
Weekly Total:	\$	43,550.73	\$	49,019.76
Weekly Goal:	\$	48,200.00	\$	48,200.00
Above/(Below) Weekly Goal:	\$	(4,649.27)	\$	819.76

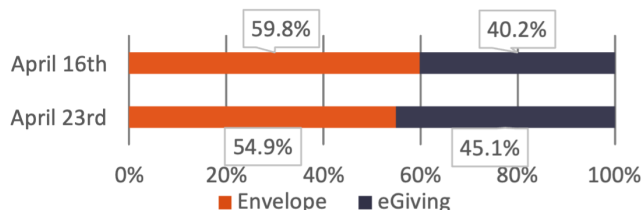
“Not I, but God.”

-BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS -

Above/Below Goal



Collection Method



A Stewardship Moment

St. Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a special way. **Are you a good steward of those baptismal vows? Have you renewed your commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps? Have you opened your heart to discern the will of God in your life?** Take some time to reflect on the importance of your baptismal renewal and your life as a disciple of the Lord.

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

“... disciples are those who hear the Word of God and act on it.”

-LEONARD J. DELORENZO -

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



From the Catechism this Week

“In virtue of their rebirth in Christ there exists among all the Christian faithful a true equality with regard to dignity and the activity whereby all cooperate in the building up of the Body of Christ in accord with each one’s own condition and function,”
(CIC, Can. 208; Cf. LG 32).”

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 872-

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:

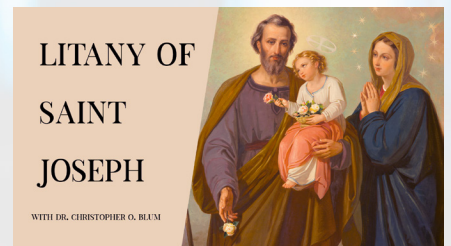
- ⊕ A deeper relationship with God?
- ⊕ A greater awareness of how God is at work in your life?
- ⊕ A sense of belonging in a faith community?
- ⊕ A deeper look into what Catholics believe and how we live our faith?

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**St. Joseph: Old and New**

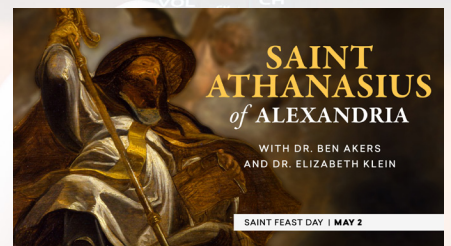
Join Taylor Kemp and Dr. Ben Akers as they comment on St. Joseph and his importance in the life of the Church. They reflect on the Joseph of the Old and New Testaments.

Go to stma.cc/F230430a.

**Litany of St. Joseph**

Join Dr. Christopher O. Blum as he prays the Litany of St. Joseph, asking for his intercession in your life and the lives of your loved ones.

Go to stma.cc/F230430b.

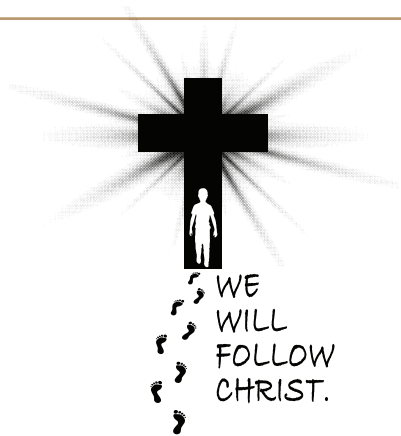
**St. Athanasius of Alexandria | Catholic Saints**

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they discuss the early Church Father, St. Athanasius. A bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Athanasius is remembered as the great defender of the Nicene Creed.

Go to stma.cc/F230430c.

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

Catholic Social Teaching

On this Sunday, our Risen Lord is recognized as the good shepherd who protects us and cares for us. Being the recipients of God's care, we need to realize that Peter's words to the people of Jerusalem are addressed to us as well—we too must reform and embrace a new way of living if we wish to be a part of Christ's fold. That new way of life is to bring God's care and mercy to the poor, the vulnerable, the forgotten and abandoned through our relationships with them.

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.

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.

The Green Spot

Happy National Arbor Day! Now is not the time to plant a tree in Texas (wait until November) but you can donate to organizations that plant trees such as TreeFolks (treefolks.org) in Austin. Buy a tree for inside your home; whether it's a palm, laurel or ficus, God is in all creation and can sit right next to your favorite chair.

"The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf."

-LAUDATO SI', 223-

**MAY
9**

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

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

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Catholic Charities of Central Texas is honored to serve veterans, active-duty service personnel and their immediate families. Case management and more resources are available through the St. Michael's Veterans Services Program to help veteran and military families thrive. Learn more by calling (512) 651-6100 or visit ccctx.org/st-michaels-veteran-services.

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11 Days October 15-25, 2023

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



**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
6**

8:45 a.m.

Mass and Holy Hour for Vocations

St. John Neumann Parish, Austin

This First Saturday Mass for Vocations will be followed by a Holy Hour for Vocations. For more information, contact Kristie Schuchart at schuincal@att.net.

**MAY
12**

6 p.m.

Christ Child Society Evening for the Ladies

St. William Parish, Round Rock, Evangelization Center

This 11th annual evening will open with social time and appetizers, followed by a delicious dinner, desserts and entertainment. Dress attire is roaring 20's. The Christ Child Society, a non-profit organization, has a respect for life and the desire to help children. For more information about tickets, please contact Meg Beasley at (512) 810-8248 or efl.ccctx@gmail.com.

▲ The Christ Child Society of Texas, Capital Area Chapter, has provided over 10,000 diaper bags (layettes) for newborns in need through various agencies. The Christ Child Society offers different programs to support children in need throughout the Texas, Capital area. These programs include the Diaper Bag (Layette) Program filled with newborn items, Bereavement Gowns and handmade ornaments, Hygiene for Teenage Homeless Project, caps and mittens, and more.



**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!