

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

October 1, 2023

The Bulletin

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank You

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Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the October 15th edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on October 5th**. Submissions for the October 22nd edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on October 12th**. 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.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

Clergy



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Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

Parish Contact Information

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Main Fax (512) 258-8812

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Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 1st

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28 | Ps 25 | Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5 |

Mt 21:28-32

7:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Clifford Uher

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

Gift Shop Open

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

Coffee & Donuts (Family Center)

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

Library Open

9 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Barbara Prendergast

10:15 a.m. - noon

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

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Adult Study: Lectio/Eucharist (Religious
Education Building: Rooms 213-215)

10:45 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Alexander Anthonysamy
Liturgy of the Word for Children available

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious
Education Building)

4 - 4:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Pets (Courtyard)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Life Teen Hospitality Training (Church)

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Life Teen (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Middle School Faith Formation (Religious
Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Monday, October 2nd

Memorial of the Guardian Angels

Zec 8:1-8 | Ps 102 | Mt 18:1-5, 10

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Riley Stark, Jr.

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 p.m.

Sacristan Training (Church)

Tuesday, October 3rd

Zec 8:20-23 | Ps 87 | Lk 9:51-56

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Men's Scripture Share (Life House)

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Timothy Melendez

9:30 - 11 a.m.

**Adult Study: Walking with Purpose: Opening
Your Heart** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious
Education Building)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Man Up (Life House)

7 - 8 p.m.

Sacristan Training (Church)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Adult Study: Walking with Purpose: Opening
Your Heart** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rosary Prayer Group (Parish Activity Center
(PAC): St. Thomas More Room)

7 - 9 p.m.

Life Teen Bible Study (Life House: Back Room)

Wednesday, October 4th

Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi

Neh 2:1-8 | Ps 137 | Lk 9:57-62

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Pierce Broe

9 - 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church:
Confessional & Holy Family Room)

9 - 10 a.m.

5:30 - 6 p.m.

6 - 7 p.m.

6:30 - 8 p.m.

6:30 - 8 p.m.

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

7 - 8 p.m.

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sacristan Training (Church)

Evening Prayer (Church)

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church:
Confessional & Holy Family Room)

Creation Care Team Pot Luck & Meeting (Parish
Activity Center (PAC))

Middle School Bible Study (Religious Education
Building: Room 105)

Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM) Workshop
(Religious Education Building:
Brennan Auditorium)

Sacristan Training (Church)

Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center
(PAC): St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, October 5th

St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 | Ps 19 | Lk 10:1-12

6 - 7:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Man Up (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Frances Carrillo

Friday, October 6th

St. Bruno, Priest & Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin

Bar 1:15-22 | Ps 79 | Lk 10:13-16

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Ramon Payen

9 - 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church:
Confessional & Holy Family Room)

9 - 10 a.m.

Healing Prayer (Church)

9 - 10 a.m.

Library Open

Saturday, October 7th

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 | Ps 69 | Lk 10:17-24

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church:
Confessional & Holy Family Room)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

Sunday, October 8th

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Ps 80 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

7:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parish Staff

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

Gift Shop Open

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

Coffee & Donuts (Family Center)

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

Library Open

9 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez

10:15 a.m. - noon

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

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Adult Study: Lectio/Eucharist (Religious
Education Building: Rooms 213-215)

10:45 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Rose Hale & † Lee Wiegand
Liturgy of the Word for Children available

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious
Education Building)

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

**Older Student Sacrament Preparation Parent
Meeting** (Religious Education Building:
Brennan Auditorium)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Charles Stewart, Jr.

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Life Teen (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Middle School Faith Formation (Religious
Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Due to the bulletin production schedule, *This Week at a Glance* does not reflect changes made to the church calendar within the last five days. Visit reservations.stmaustin.org to see the most up-to-date calendar.

If you would like a Mass 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.

Stewardship of Treasure Report

Weekly

September 23rd & 24th Collection:
\$33,866



Amount Needed Weekly:
\$50,000

BELOW Weekly Budget:
(-\$16,134)

Monthly

Collected Month to Date:
\$144,485



Amount Needed Month to Date:
\$200,000

BELOW Monthly Budget Pace:
(-\$55,515)

Did you know?

Sunday contribution trend lines have been flat for the last six years. The staff has been working hard to offset inflation which is getting difficult. Your contributions help us share the Good News of the Gospel and serve others. Please consider setting up recurring giving or increasing your donation so, together, we can fulfill the mission of the Church.

Thank you for faithfully using the gifts God has generously given you!

If you would like to help us share the Good News with our community, visit stmaustin.org/give to make a secure and convenient gift online.



Thank You for Your Support

A humble yet resounding thank you to everyone who filled out financial pledges this weekend. We encourage you to set your giving up electronically for a "worry free" giving experience. You may do so by clicking the "donate" button on any page of our website, stmaustin.org. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may simply place them in the collection basket next weekend or bring them to the Pastoral Offices Building.

Your generous giving helps us serve our parish community and lead others to an encounter with Christ. Once again, our sincerest thanks for your generosity.

Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM) Workshops

- ⊕ Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m.
- ⊕ Tuesday, October 10th at 10 a.m.

All workshops will be held in Brennan Auditorium and last approximately three hours. In order to pre-register for a workshop, start by creating an account or logging into your account at virtus.org. Contact Debra Lohrstorfer at (512) 258-1161 x214 or debra@stmaustin.org with any questions.



THE Gift Shop

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

OCTOBER 9TH & 10TH
6 - 6:30 p.m.

The STM spirit store is coming as part of the Gift Shop! Check future bulletins for more information.

For new items and Gift Shop hours, you can now follow us on Facebook and Instagram at stmaustin.org/gift-shop.

If you would like to join our ministry, please call or text Marlene Miller, Gift Shop manager, at (316) 304-5431 for more information.

A Message from Bishop Vásquez

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Catholic social teaching underscores, our collective gifts must be shared in order to build up the common good. Each of us has a responsibility to carry forth Christ's mission through our vocations, relationships and in our service to one another. May we accept with joy the roles we are given to continue the mission of Christ in our world. I ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, patron of our diocese, to intercede for us with her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Bishop Joe Vásquez

join us in the auditorium. Please contact Kathyryne at ctbm@stmaustin.org with any questions.

▲ CTBM meets monthly and also offers monthly playdates and semi-monthly mother's nights out.

**OCT
19**

6 - 9 p.m.

L.O.V.E. Night Out

Golfinity, Austin

Make a Hole in One for your Marriage!

Enjoy an evening out with other married couples, practice your golf skills and enjoy food and beverages. \$25 per couple provides golf and appetizers. Registration is available at stma.cc/LM2310.

**OCT
23**

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Read, Reflect, Rejoice! Book Discussion

Library

Riding the Dragon by Robert J. Wicks

Kindness and clarity paired is a true recipe for wisdom. The challenging lesson for us is: Are we balancing the two of them? If we are not, then what do we do to increase either clarity or kindness, so the mixture is better? Join us for a discussion of *Riding the Dragon* by Robert J. Wicks and his 10 lessons for inner strength in challenging times. Let us know you are coming by registering at stmaustin.org/book-discussions. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

▲ Dr. Wicks writes about the intersection of spirituality and psychology, and is a well-known speaker, therapist and spiritual guide who has taught at universities and professional schools of psychology, medicine, social work and theology for more than 30 years.

**OCT
9**

11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Golf Tournament

The Golf Club at Star Ranch, Hutto

Gather your foursome! The cost is \$150 per player or \$600 for a foursome. There are sponsorship opportunities available. Visit stmnights.org/golf/order for more details and to register.

**OCT
13**

9:30 a.m. - noon

Living Liturgically

Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

Join Called to be Mom (CTBM) for a discussion and a short talk given by Fr. David. Please RSVP online at stmaustin.org/ctbm. Childcare is available for children one year and older. Babies are welcome to

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

Ramona Kaauamo

Frank Kelly

David Kresta

Mary Kubala

Linda Lange

Laura Lavergne

Skye Lohraum

Charles McCourt

Jason Mikolajek

Fr. Michael O'Connor

Jim O'Donnell

Barbara Ohradzansky

Trent Overall

JJ Pacelli

Sr. Carolyn Pelzel

Sylvie Pignot

Trent Rinehart

Dennis Robinson

Consuelo Rodriguez Brown

Dorothy Thompson

Andy Turner

Stan Urban

Barbara Wiegand

Jennifer Wiegand

Kerry Wolf

Christopher Younger

Luke Zouzalik

We also pray for the well-being of our fellow parishioners who are homebound or nursing home residents.

What If?

By Lynn Grace Wong

If I had been born in your time, Lord, blessed to see you walking on this earth. Would I have invited you, Lord Jesus, to dinner at my home like Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus? Would you have had nicknames for my children, laughed with them, told them your stories as we sat gathered at your feet?

Or would I have stayed comfortable in the crowd? Moved by your words, curious, but afraid that you would complicate my life. Would I have listened with awe as your miracles reached my ears? Yet doubting that you could be my miracle too.

And when you carried your Cross, did I shut my door as you passed by? Or did I run and weep for you, my closest friend? And somehow found the strength to stand with Our Lady, though afraid, staying hidden in her mantle.

Centuries have passed and at times I forget you are here still. Knocking at my door. Asking me to come and lay my weary head. Waiting, always waiting in the tabernacle. And at every Mass, the miracle of miracles, ready to be received.

You come changing not only a piece of bread but the dust of man.

Some thoughts for prayer and reflection...

- ✚ Do I help my children realize the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? As we pass a Catholic Church, I could remind them that Jesus is there in the tabernacle and that my children can greet him with the Sign of the Cross, and my littlest ones can blow him a kiss.
- ✚ Can I increase my devotion to the Holy Mass? Maybe I could borrow a book on the Eucharist from our parish library.
- ✚ As I receive our Lord in Holy Communion, do I realize I am called and given the grace to become another Christ and bring his love to others? As St. Paul reminds us, "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me (Gal 2:19-20)."

Lynn Grace Wong is a parishioner of St. Thomas More and is a member of the Catholic Writers Guild. She is also a proud mom to five. Connect with Lynn at lynngacewong.wordpress.com

Liturgical Ministry Training

Ministry training continues this week. Join us to begin or refresh your ministry. To see the full schedule, pick up a copy in the narthex, visit stma.cc/lmts23b or scan this QR code. This week's training includes:



Hospitality Ministers

- ✚ Sunday, October 1st, noon - 1 p.m.

Sacristans

- ✚ Monday, October 2nd, 7 - 8 p.m.
- ✚ Tuesday, October 3rd, 7 - 8 p.m.
- ✚ Wednesday, October 4th, 9 - 10 a.m. and 7 - 8 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

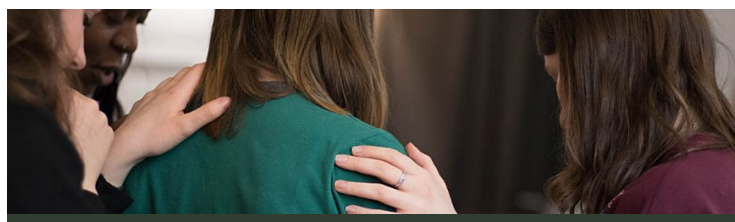
- ✚ Sunday, October 8th 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do so without the Holy Mass."

-ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

2024 Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions for 2024 are available to request at the Pastoral Offices Building. Intentions are a beautiful way to commemorate a loved one who has passed, or to elevate someone in need of prayers. Please prayerfully seek no more than four Mass intentions per family, per year. Also note that Christmas, Easter and holy days of obligation will be offered for the intentions of all St. Thomas More parishioners. Thank you.



OCT
6

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.

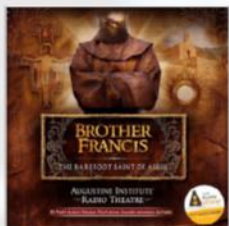
THIS WEEK ON FORMED



Faustina and the Spread of Divine Mercy | Divine Mercy | Episode 4

This episode of Divine Mercy and the Second Greatest Story Ever Told, reveals how a saint from Poland embarked on one of the greatest missions in the history of the Church.

Go to stma.cc/F231001a.



Brother Francis: The Barefoot St. of Assisi

Listeners can dive into the life of St. Francis of Assisi as he goes from being a son of wealth and privilege to a man who gave up everything for the sake of Christ.

Go to stma.cc/F231001b.



The Feast of St. Thérèse

Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger sit down to discuss the life and writings of this great saint and Doctor of the Church.

Go to stma.cc/F231001c.

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.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

A Stewardship Moment

St. Augustine, a doctor of the Church, once wrote that the first, second and third most important attitude in Christianity is humility. In today's second reading, St. Paul is concerned with how we conduct ourselves in our community of faith. He urges us to let our conduct be worthy of the Gospel we say we believe; and that it all begins with humility. He asks us to consider others better than ourselves and to serve them by looking out for their best interest, not ours. **Consider how St. Paul's appeal to imitating Christ's humility can enhance your relationships.**

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

**OCT
17**

7:30 p.m.

Aligning Financial Decisions with Your Catholic Values

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a special live webinar, presented by Anthony Minopoli, president and chief investment officer of Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. The Knights are committed to helping provide for the financial security of our members and their families. However, you are NOT required to be a Knight in order to attend this event and learn from Anthony's expertise. There is a limited number of virtual seats, so please sign up as soon as you can. You may register at tinyurl.com/KofCOct17. If there are any questions please contact Dave Doman at david.doman@sbcglobal.net.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

From the Catechism this Week

"To adore God is to acknowledge, in respect and absolute submission, the 'nothingness of the creature' who would not exist but for God. To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself, as Mary did in the Magnificat, confessing with gratitude that he has done great things and holy is his name. (Lk 1:46-49) The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world."

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2097-

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: October 12th

9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Life House

We'll explore salvation (grace, justification and holiness) and the love of God.

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

New Women's Bible Study

Are you interested in getting together with other women to explore your faith? Would you like to see how the Scriptures apply to your everyday life? If so, we invite you to consider joining Walking with Purpose (WWP) at St. Thomas More on Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m. Opening Your Heart, the two-semester foundational study, is designed for women new to WWP as well as those with more Bible study experience. If interested, please sign up at stmaustin.org/wwp or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. The cost is \$50 to cover the Bible study book for both semesters.



OCT
28

1-3 p.m.

Seasons of Life: The Coming of Fall

Life House

All women are welcome! Join the Theresians for a couple of hours to visit one another, enjoy the treats of the fall season, create with your uniqueness and pray and embrace this season. Please join in helping feed our community: bring one or two of the following non-perishable food items: dried beans, pasta, instant potatoes, rice or stuffing in a box!

FAITH FORMATION

It's Not Too Late!

Faith Formation/Religious Education classes (kindergarten through 12th grade) have begun! You still have time to register your child(ren)! Head to stmaustin.org/ff-registration to sign up. We encourage all children to attend weekly and grow in their friendship with Jesus. Children should be registered in Faith Formation classes preferably for two years (1st and 2nd grade) before receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Contact Casey McMillan at (512) 258-1944 x221 or cmcmillan@stmausitn.org if you have any questions!



High Schoolers & Core Team Members

There is one key opportunity left to practice your servant leadership at our 5 p.m. Masses this year! Come attend the last Life Teen Hospitality Minister Training. See you in the church on Sunday, October 1st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE

Catholic Social Teaching

In the Gospels, Jesus is always challenging the boxes we like to create: I like the boxes for "good" and "bad." It is human to create such boxes, but Jesus wants us to realize we are always called to see as God sees and not as human beings see. That is not easy, and it takes great humility and constant conversion to see every person, even those whose lives are a contradiction to our values as loved by God, and even as potential saints. Jesus was able to do this and calls us to do the same.

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.

Don't Forget Your Baby Bank

Don't forget to pick up your Baby Bank after Mass today! Remember those families who need help during or after an unplanned pregnancy. Your donation will help pro-life efforts in our parish and throughout the diocese. Walking with Moms in Need initiative, the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line, and more will receive funds from this

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



respect life month

OCTOBER 2023

Knights of Columbus donation drive for the St. John Paul II Life Center

The church is collecting:

Diapers New Born to size 6

Wipes

Baby toiletries

(lotion, wash, diaper cream)

Adult toiletries

(body wash, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant,
toothpaste, toothbrushes)

Adult diapers

The bassinet for donations is located
in the back of the church.

Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Mass
October 29th at 9 a.m.

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and
promote respect for life.

Baby Banks

Baby Banks will be available on the narthex
table at the back of the church during the
weekend of September 30th.

Don't forget to grab one as you enter or
exit mass. Please return the banks the
weekend of October 28th & 29th.

NOVENA

October 13-21, 2023

This novena prays for the protection of human life,
from conception to natural death.
Each day of the novena features a different pro-life
prayer intention which is accompanied by a short
reflection and suggested actions to help build a
culture of life.

Join 40 Days for Life

and spend some time in front of an
abortion referral clinic
on Saturday,

October 7th and/or Monday, October 9th.



Thank you

For your support!

Scan the QR code
for details on all these events



Bringing up the gifts

This year we are asking parishioners to help bring up one or two items
from the donation bin during Mass along with the offertory gifts.

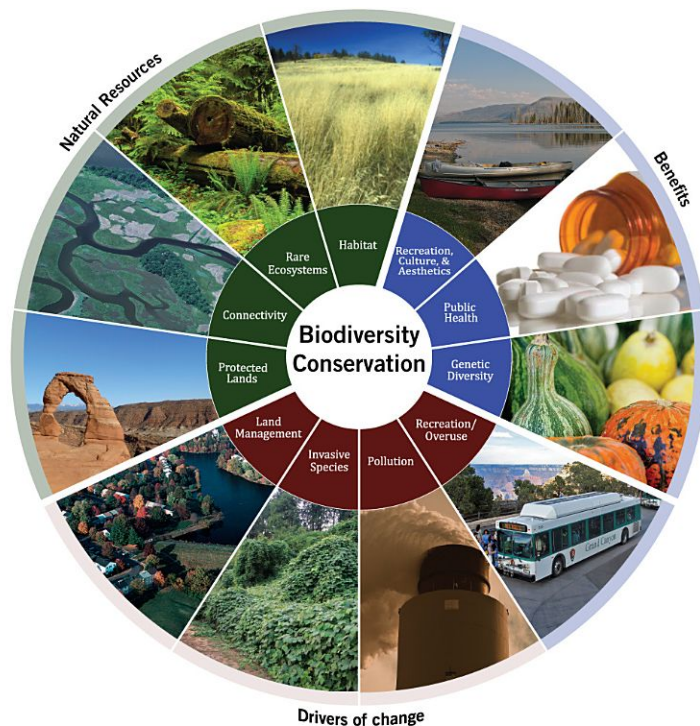
Sing-up using QR Code

campaign. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Patti Gallen at pattigallen@gmail.com.

Biodiversity Loss

Season of Creation: September 1st - October 4th

Biodiversity loss is the reduction or elimination of a wide range of biological life. Human-driven biodiversity loss, caused by habitat destruction, overfishing, poaching, pollution, etc. is long-lasting and severe. This eco-wheel image shows natural resources provided by biodiversity, benefits and beneficiaries as well as drivers of change. Scan the QR code to learn more! To learn even more and get involved with the season, please visit stmaustin.org/cct or email creationcareteam@stmaustin.org.



Cancer Support Group

Our booklet, *Fighting Cancer with the Help of Your Catholic Faith* by Lorene Hanley DuQuin (a cancer survivor), is encouraging, helpful and practical for cancer patients, caregivers, family and friends. We use this booklet to jumpstart our conversations as we navigate our daily lives.

All who are touched by cancer are welcome to join us every second Tuesday of the month. We meet in the Life House from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Please contact Karen Moore at karenmoore8@gmail.com with any questions about this ministry.

Advent Giving Tree Form

Each year, our Advent Giving Tree offers parishioners the opportunity to make Christmas a bit brighter for individuals and families in need because of their current financial situation. Do you know someone at STM who would benefit from the generosity of our parishioners? If you do, please submit their information using the Advent Giving Tree form (available from Liz Franklin in the parish office). Forms are due back to the office no later than Monday, October 23rd. Please contact Laura Lavergne at (512) 771-3138 or lauraclavergne@yahoo.com if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for your prayers in support of this joyous ministry!

Are You a Caregiver?

If you are a caregiver (a few hours per week to full-time) for a parent, spouse or other older adult, then Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a class for you. It is not a support group specific to your care receiver and how you effectively care for him/her; rather, its focus is on you and your health, and helping you develop self-care tools. There are six 90-minute remote classes on Wednesdays, beginning October 18th, 10:30 a.m. - noon via Zoom. Zoom is an easy-to-use tool for use on computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. Remote classes allow you to stay home and learn. The class is limited to 15 people. Enroll by October 15th. Participation is open to all residents of central Texas. For more information or to register, contact Marilyn Jones at mdj4jhj@att.net or (512) 331-7742 (give your name, email and phone number).

OCT
1

4 - 4:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals

Courtyard

In honor of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology, come to the 3rd annual Blessing of the Animals. The blessing starts promptly at 4 p.m., so arrive earlier if needed. Please have your pets restrained either in a carrier or on a 6' leash. Also, please be prepared to clean up after your pet.



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

Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

United with the bishop of Austin, St. Thomas More Parish is committed to preventing harm to any of God's people and supporting those who have experienced abuse.

What is EIM? It is the diocesan policy, training and screening process that empowers our community to prevent and respond to abuse. Compliance with EIM policies is required of all clergy, consecrated sisters and brothers, seminarians, employees and adult lay volunteers serving in ministry.

Why is EIM required for all who serve in ministry? 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 parish, neighborhood, families and schools safe.

What is required to be compliant with EIM? To be compliant, one starts by creating an account with virtus.org and attending an initial live training. Then, one

completes the online refresher training and consents to a background check every three years. If you are a victim of sexual abuse and have concerns regarding your attendance at a workshop, please contact the EIM director at (512) 949-2447 to discuss alternative workshop arrangements.

How do I report a concern? If you have information that a person in ministry in this diocese abused a minor, elderly adult or adult with a disability, report the information to your local law enforcement or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) online at txabusehotline.org or by calling (800) 252-5400.

After reporting to local law enforcement or DFPS, submit the form found at bit.ly/DOAerfB using the instructions at the top of the form. If you prefer to make your report to the diocese by telephone, call (512) 949-2447.

What resources are available for victims of abuse? You can find a list of available care resources at austindiocese.org/healing-abuse-prevention.

Learn more about Ethics and Integrity in Ministry at stmaustin.org/eim.

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