

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

2023

# The Bulletin

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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## Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the October 29<sup>th</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on October 19<sup>th</sup>**. Submissions for the November 5<sup>th</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on October 26<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. Manickam Rajamanickam**  
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**Rev. David Trahan**  
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**Deacon Tom Mallinger**  
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### Admin., Liturgical and Pastoral Staff



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### Faith Formation (512) 258-1944



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**Andrea Cochran**  
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**Logan Mayes**  
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### Preschool (512) 258-1721



**Cindy Acosta**  
Director  
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**Julie Olesen**  
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### 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. - noon and 1 - 5 p.m.

Cover: *The Parable of the Unworthy Wedding*  
Guest, Jacob Adriaensz, c. 1644

## PARISH LIFE

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10a | Ps 23 | Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 | Mt 22:1-14 or  
Mt 22:1-10

7:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Gift Shop Open</b>
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b> (Family Center)
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Library Open</b>
9 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: Lisa Schreiber
10:15 a.m. - noon	<b>Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)</b> (Life House)
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Adult Study: Lectio/Eucharist</b> (Religious Education Building: Rooms 213-215)
10:45 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Pilar & Jeronimo Quidato Liturgy of the Word for Children available
Noon - 1 p.m.	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training</b> (Church)
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
5 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: Rev. Keith Koehl
6 - 6:30 p.m.	<b>Gift Shop Open</b>
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>Lector Training</b> (Church)
6:30 - 8 p.m.	<b>Life Teen</b> (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
6:30 - 8 p.m.	<b>Middle School Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>Memorial of St. Hedwig, Religious, St. Margaret Mary  
Alacoque, Virgin

Rom 1:1-7 | Ps 98 | Lk 11:29-32

8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Charles Allen Beck
9 - 10 a.m.	<b>Hospitality Ministry Training</b> (Church)
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Grief &amp; Loss Support Group Luncheon</b> (Life House)
4 - 5 p.m.	<b>Hospitality Ministry Training</b> (Church)
4 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>Hospitality Ministry Training</b> (Church)
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr  
Rom 1:16-25 | Ps 19 | Lk 11:37-41

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	<b>Men's Scripture Share</b> (Life House)
8 - 8:45 a.m.	<b>Young at Heart</b> (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)
8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Eric Von Lehmden
9 - 10 a.m.	<b>Lector Training</b> (Church)
9:30 - 11 a.m.	<b>Adult Study: Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart</b> (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
9:30 a.m. - noon	<b>Theresians International</b> (Life House: Back Room)
4 - 5 p.m.	<b>Lector Training</b> (Church)
4 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
6:30 - 8 p.m.	<b>Pastoral Advisory Council</b> (Pastoral Offices Building: St. Joseph Conference Room)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Man Up</b> (Life House)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

7 - 8:30 p.m.

7 - 9 p.m.

**Adult Study: Walking with Purpose: Opening  
Your Heart** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))**Rosary Prayer Group** (Parish Activity Center  
(PAC): St. Thomas More Room)**Life Teen Bible Study** (Life House: Back Room)Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist

2 Tm 4:10-17b | Ps 145 | Lk 10:1-9

8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Antoinette Riccio
9 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance &amp; Reconciliation</b> (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
9 - 10 a.m.	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training</b> (Church)
5:30 - 6 p.m.	<b>Evening Prayer</b> (Church)
6 - 7 p.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance &amp; Reconciliation</b> (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
6:30 - 8 p.m.	<b>Middle School Bible Study</b> (Religious Education Building: Room 105)
7 - 8 p.m.	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training</b> (Church)
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b> (Parish Activity Center (PAC): St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>Memorial of St. John de Brébeuf & St. Isaac Jogues,  
Priests, & Companions, Martyrs

Rom 3:21-30 | Ps 130 | Lk 11:47-54

6 - 7:30 a.m.	<b>Man Up</b> (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Frances Carrillo

Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Rom 4:1-8 | Ps 32 | Lk 12:1-7

8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Simon Gonzalez & † Dorothy Kuenzi
9 - 10 a.m.	<b>Library Open</b>
5 - 6:30 p.m.	<b>Altar Server Training</b> (Church)

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

Is 45:1, 4-6 | Ps 96 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Mt 22:15-21

10 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>Altar Server Training</b> (Church)
1 - 2:30 p.m.	<b>Altar Server Training</b> (Church)
3 - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance &amp; Reconciliation</b> (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
5 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Diego Julian Garza Urdiales

Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6 | Ps 96 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Mt 22:15-21

7:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Bertie June Knight
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Gift Shop Open</b>
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b> (Family Center)
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Library Open</b>
9 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners
10:15 a.m. - noon	<b>Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)</b> (Life House)
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Adult Study: Lectio/Eucharist</b> (Religious Education Building: Rooms 213-215)
10:45 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Leo G. Sorell Liturgy of the Word for Children available

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> (CONT'D)**

**Noon - 1:15 p.m.** **Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)  
**5 p.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
 Intention: † Esther Greber

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**Hospitality Ministry Training** (Church)  
**Life Teen** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))  
**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](https://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

**October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Collection:**  
**\$58,690**



Amount Needed Weekly:  
**\$50,000**

**ABOVE Weekly Budget:**  
**\$8,690**

### Monthly

**Collected Month to Date:**  
**\$84,297**



Amount Needed Month to Date:  
**\$100,000**

**BELOW Monthly Budget Pace:**  
**(-\$15,703)**

### Thank You!

Many thanks to the 300+ families who submitted pledge cards for our commitment weekend. Your donations will help spiritually provide for our parishioners.

If you didn't get a chance, you can fill out a digital commitment card online at [stmaustin.org/commitment](https://stmaustin.org/commitment). Additionally, you may set up or change your electronic giving amounts at [stma.cc/give](https://stma.cc/give).

**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](https://stmaustin.org/give) to make a secure and convenient gift online.

**Help us become missionaries in the ever-expanding digital frontier of social media.**

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera or visit [stma.cc/surveyb2](https://stma.cc/surveyb2) to take our communications survey.

*"Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world."*

- OUR LADY OF FATIMA -

## THE Gift Shop

**SUNDAYS**  
**8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**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](https://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,

October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. I hope all of us can take time to pray the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious Mysteries. In contemplating these mysteries, we remember the salvific acts of Christ's life and the closeness of his beloved mother, whose life was completely dedicated to her son. Pope Benedict XVI said "The Rosary is a means given by the Virgin for contemplating Jesus and meditating on His life." Visit [austindiocese.org/rosary](http://austindiocese.org/rosary) for a guide on "How to Pray the Rosary."



— Most Rev. Joe Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin

glues us to the problem. Concern is a very different process and can open us to hidden possibilities. Simple concern is quite powerful because it involves us in the problems of life without allowing us to get trapped by them. Learn to discern between the two processes. "In the end, it is not how much darkness there is in the world, your country, Church, family or even in yourself that really matters. It is how you stand in that darkness that is the real issue." — Robert J. Wicks Join us for a discussion of *Riding the Dragon* by Robert J. Wicks as he delivers 10 lessons for inner strength in challenging times. Let us know you are coming by registering at [stmaustin.org/book-discussions](http://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 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](http://stma.cc/LM2310).

OCT 23

7 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Read, Reflect, Rejoice! Book Discussion**  
*Library*

Worry is a spiritual treadmill and is debilitating because it

OCT 26

5 - 9 p.m.  
**Benefit Dinner**  
*Sheraton Georgetown Hotel and Convention Center*

Would you like to have dinner with the bishop of Austin and the founder of 40 Days for Life? Well here's your opportunity! The Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men is sponsoring a benefit dinner with Bishop Joe Vásquez and David Beireit. Tickets are \$125 per person and proceeds will be used to fund the annual Men's Conference and Men's Mass. Please visit [centexcatholic.com/benefit-dinner](http://centexcatholic.com/benefit-dinner) for tickets and 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  
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  
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.



## 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](http://stma.cc/lmts23b) or scan this QR code. This week's training includes:



### Lector

- ⊕ Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- ⊕ Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 10 a.m. and 4 – 5 p.m.

### Hospitality

- ⊕ Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 10 a.m., 4 – 5 p.m. and 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- ⊕ Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- ⊕ Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 10 a.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.

### Altar Server

- ⊕ Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 6:30 p.m.
- ⊕ Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

*“Martyrdom is nothing in comparison with the Mass, because martyrdom is the sacrifice of man to God, whereas the Mass is the Sacrifice of God for man!”*

- ST. JOHN MARIE VIANNEY -

## October is the Most Holy Rosary Month

Come pray with us on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the St. Thomas More Room of the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

### A Stewardship Moment

There are a number of Bible verses Christians have memorized. One of them is in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians found in this weekend's second reading: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (Phi. 4:13). Most people define themselves either by their problems or their possibilities. Fearful people wake up each morning ensnared by their problems. Christian stewards wake up reflecting on their possibilities with confidence

and hope. Some stewardship reflection questions for the week: **What challenges do you back away from because you doubt you are up to them? What would you attempt tomorrow if you were sure God would help you?**

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



### A Week to Focus on Stewardship

October 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> is National Estate Planning Awareness Week! Estate planning is not just about assets and legalities — it's a profound act of faith and stewardship. When you create your estate plan, you have the opportunity to demonstrate your love for your family and also support your parish, Catholic school or favorite ministry with a legacy gift. Visit [freewill.com/austindiocese](http://freewill.com/austindiocese) to create your estate plan for free. Contact Dan Wierzbowski at (512) 949-2496 or [dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org](mailto:dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org) for more information.

### 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 July 31<sup>st</sup>, the contributions received back to our parish total \$388,921.37!** Thank you so much for your support of this campaign.





October 15, 2023

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I invite you to participate in the 2023-2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), which begins the weekend of October 28-29. Your prayers and financial support are vital in providing programs and services to thousands in Central Texas.

This year's CSA theme — **Be a Miracle** — serves as a powerful reminder of the miracles that can happen through our united efforts. Parishioners who contribute to the CSA demonstrate their deep commitment to fulfilling the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” These commandments embody the reasons for this annual appeal.

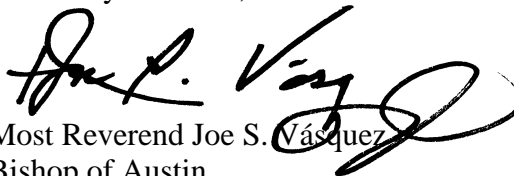
Christ has uniquely called each of us to share in a common mission to know, love, and serve others through him. Together, let us strive for 100% participation, supporting Christ's mission. Whenever I witness a child receiving the Eucharist for the first time, a young person discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or someone in dire need finding assistance through Catholic Charities of Central Texas, I am reminded of how Christ truly works miracles through the prayers and efforts of others.

Your contribution to the CSA is critical. Without it, more than 100 essential ministries and programs in the Diocese of Austin would not be possible. Our Catholic schools, campus ministry centers, seminarians in formation, active and retired priests, Catholic Charities, and parishes depend on your generosity to provide the spiritual and material resources needed in our communities.

I encourage you to take the time to review the CSA material recently mailed to you to learn the profound impact your gift has on the people of Central Texas. Prayerfully consider how God is asking you to share your blessings. With your help, I am confident that your parish will surpass its goal for the 2023-2024 Catholic Services Appeal.

May we entrust this appeal to the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, who always leads us closer to her son, Jesus Christ, and his miraculous works.

Gratefully in Christ,



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin



## THIS WEEK ON FORMED



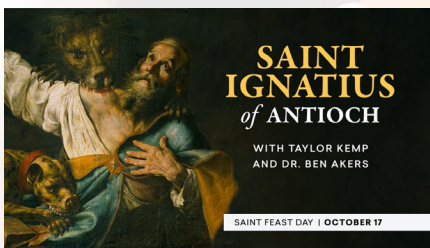
### St. Luke the Artist / Sacred Art

Taylor Kemp and Dr. Ben Akers discuss Rogier van der Weyden's painting, *St. Luke Drawing the Virgin*, artistry and what it reveals about St. Luke the Evangelist. Go to [stma.cc/F231015a](http://stma.cc/F231015a).



### St. Teresa of Ávila: A Study in Perseverance

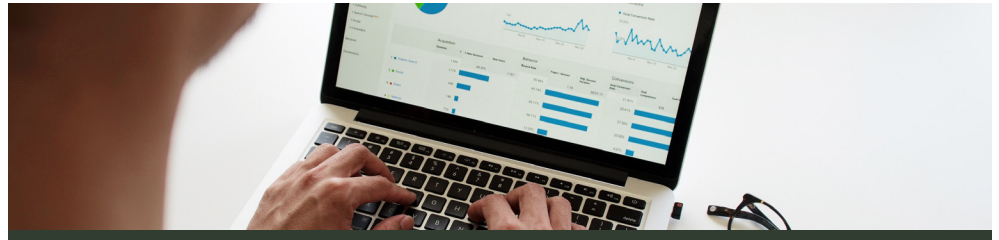
Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Avila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance. Go to [stma.cc/F231015b](http://stma.cc/F231015b).



### St. Ignatius of Antioch / Catholic Saints

Learn about St. Ignatius of Antioch, a remarkable saint who died a martyr for his fidelity to Christ. Go to [stma.cc/F231015c](http://stma.cc/F231015c).

**New to FORMED?** Visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and search for *St. Thomas More Austin*. Fill in your information and you can access great Catholic content for all ages.



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](http://tinyurl.com/KofCOct17). If there are any questions please contact Dave Doman at [david.doman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david.doman@sbcglobal.net).



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### From the Catechism this Week

*"Through the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the 'first heralds' for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church (LG 11 # 2). A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life."*

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2203-

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:** November 9<sup>th</sup>

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

Life House

We'll explore the guides for love of neighbor that we find in the Ten Commandments (family, respect for life, chastity, social teachings, living in truth, purification and poverty of the heart).

▲ 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.

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, 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 or instant potatoes, rice or stuffing in a box!

## FAITH FORMATION

## Pray the Rosary with Your Children

Children ages 0-18, please join the Elementary Faith Formation classes in praying the Rosary on October 18<sup>th</sup>! We will pray the Rosary for unity and peace along with one million children throughout the world!

## Middle School Bible Study

Join us for Wednesday Bible Study/Game Night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Religious Education Building, Room 105, where we will dive into the readings for the upcoming Sunday and end with a game.

## This Week at Edge

Sunday's Edge Night will cover the Mass and the importance of the priesthood. Fr. Keith will be joining us. For more information, contact Andrea Cochran at [andrea@stmaustin.org](mailto:andrea@stmaustin.org).



## It's Not Too Late!

Faith Formation/Religious Education classes (kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) have begun! You still have time to register your child(ren)! Head to [stmaustin.org/ff-registration](https://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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) before receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Contact Casey McMillan at (512) 258-1944 x221 or [cmcmillan@stmausitn.org](mailto:cmcmillan@stmausitn.org) if you have any questions!

OCT  
28through October 29<sup>th</sup>

## Middle School Edge Retreat

Marble Falls

Don't miss out! This is the perfect chance to get away and enjoy God's creation, hang with friends and have fun. The registration form is available at [stmaustin.org/ms-retreat](https://stmaustin.org/ms-retreat). For more information, contact Andrea Cochran at [andrea@stmaustin.org](mailto:andrea@stmaustin.org).

## SOCIAL OUTREACH &amp; PASTORAL CARE

## Catholic Social Teaching

In today's Gospel, we see that God continues to invite, but that the first on the list did not accept the invitation. The second-tier invitees did come, but we see in the parable that it is possible to be asked to leave if we are not ready to accept all that God has to offer: both the banquet and the wedding garment. When we accept being in a relationship

with God, we are called to embrace whole new ways of being and thinking which are determined by God's will, not ours. **Some invited by God might not be on our list, who is it that God is calling us to accept that might be difficult right now?**

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](https://austindiocese.org).

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## Thank You STM!

Your participation in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's (SVdP) Friends of the Poor Walk helped us to exceed our goal. Because of your generosity, we can now help an additional 40 families with rent, utilities, transportation and more. You help us bring hope and light in times of struggle. SVdP is grateful to the Garriss family and Custom4Good for sponsoring the walk and providing the t-shirts. We are blessed to be a part of such a dynamic and faithful community.



## Got Spare Change?

Keep filling those Baby Banks and show your children how important it is to be involved in efforts to help unborn babies, women and families in need by dropping their spare change in the box. Each time you add to your bank, your contribution helps the Walking with Moms in Need initiative, the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line and much more! You can also donate online at [stma.cc/give](http://stma.cc/give). If you still need a Baby Bank, or more information, or to volunteer, please contact Patti Gallen (information is below).

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

*radical*  
**solidarity**



## Respect Life Month Novena

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Get daily intentions, brief reflections and more. Sign up at [respectlife.org!](http://respectlife.org!)

## Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Mass

At the 9 a.m. Mass on October 29<sup>th</sup>, share the message of our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life. Learn more at: [stma.cc/KOCsr](http://stma.cc/KOCsr)

## Resources

To learn more about the 2023 USCCB Respect Life program, please visit [usccb.org/prolife](http://usccb.org/prolife). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a wealth of information and resources. Every life is cherished, chosen and sent.

▲ If you have any questions or need additional assistance please email Patti Gallen, the Respect Life Ministry Leader at [STMRespectLife@stmaustin.org](mailto:STMRespectLife@stmaustin.org).

## Join Us for Respect Life Month

### Respect Life Sunday

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Learn more at [respectlife.org/celebrate](http://respectlife.org/celebrate). As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

### 40 Days for Life

This is a volunteer-based prayer campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, STM will pray on the sidewalk in front of an abortion referral clinic. Be a part of something that is saving women and babies from the tragedy of abortion. Your presence WILL help save lives and convert hearts. Sign up at: [stma.cc/SGfdf123](http://stma.cc/SGfdf123). If you would like to participate on another day, there are many opportunities to sign up for at [centraltexascoalition.com/signup](http://centraltexascoalition.com/signup).

### Diaper Donation Drive

The Knights of Columbus are collecting the following items for the John Paul II Life Center:

- ⊕ Diapers (sizes newborn to 6)
- ⊕ Wipes
- ⊕ Baby toiletries (lotion, wash, diaper cream)
- ⊕ Adult Toiletries (body wash, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- ⊕ Adult diapers

Items may be placed in the bassinet outside of the church.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Participation is open to all residents of central Texas. For more information or to register, contact Marilyn Jones at [mdj4jhj@att.net](mailto:mdj4jhj@att.net) or (512) 331-7742 (give your name, email and phone number).

## 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](http://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](http://txabusehotline.org) or by calling (800) 252-5400.

After reporting to local law enforcement or DFPS, submit the form found at [bit.ly/DOAerfB](http://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](http://austindiocese.org/healing-abuse-prevention).

Learn more about Ethics and Integrity in Ministry at [stmaustin.org/eim](http://stmaustin.org/eim).

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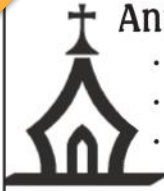
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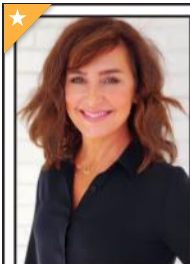


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