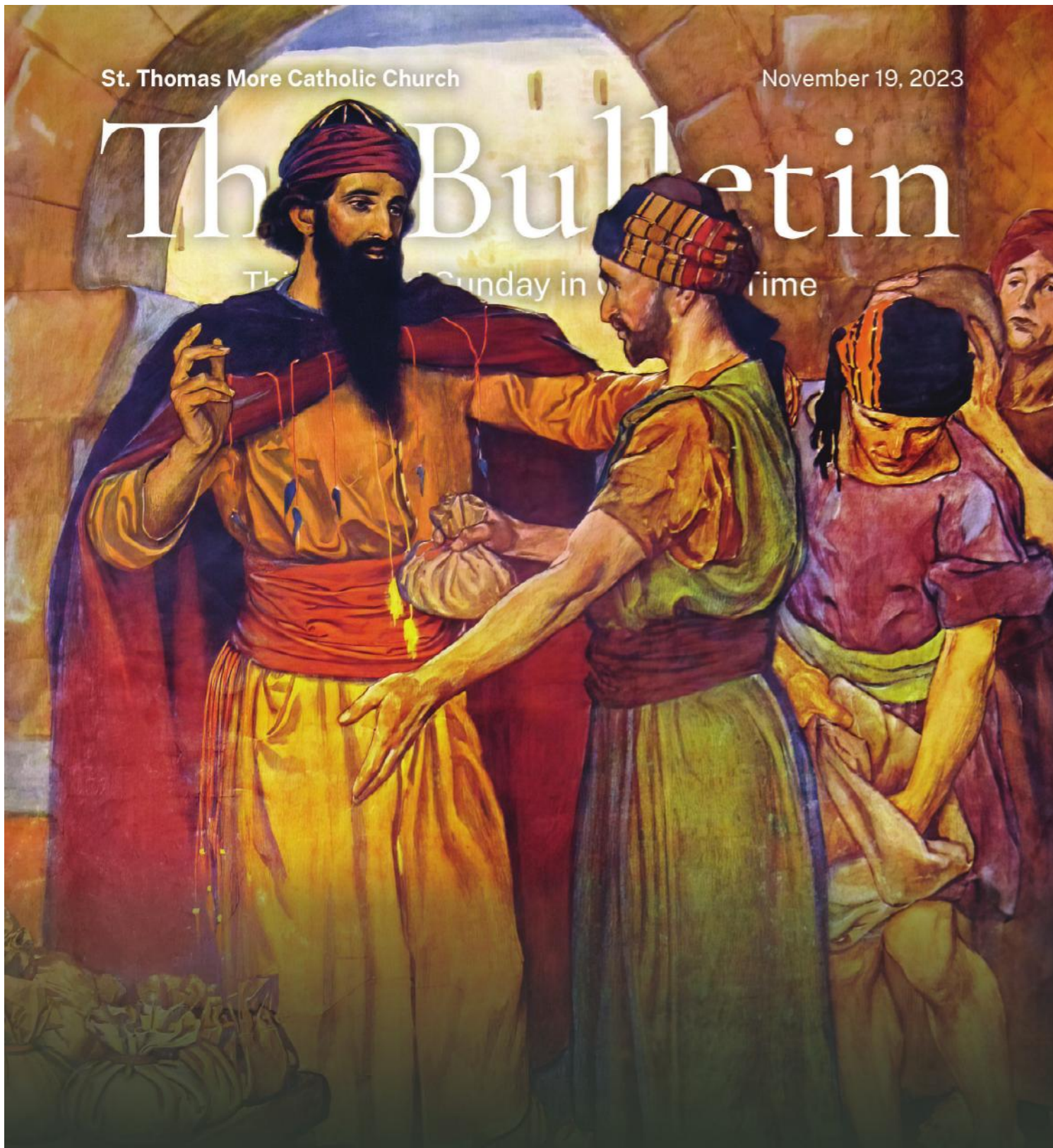


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

November 19, 2023

# The Bulletin

The Sunday in Christ Time



*Pardon Our Mess*

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## Bulletin Deadlines

Submissions for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Submissions for the December 10<sup>th</sup> edition are due **by 11:59 p.m. on November 30<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**  
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**Andrea Cochran**  
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**Logan Mayes**  
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**Dawn Rouen**  
Adult Faith  
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### Preschool (512) 258-1721



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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](http://stmaustin.org)

### Parish Office Hours

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY**  
9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**  
Closed

PARISH LIFE

## This Week at a Glance

### Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 | Ps 128 | 1 Thes 5:1-6 | Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

**7:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

**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: † Members of the Knights of Columbus #9997 Council

**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: † Isabel Reyes  
Liturgy of the Word for Children available

**5 p.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: Markey Family

**6 - 8 p.m.** **Life Teen** (Life House)

**6:30 - 8 p.m.** **Middle School Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

### Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 | Ps 119 | Lk 18:35-43

**8:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Judy McMinn

### Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Mc 6:18-31 | Ps 3 | Lk 19:1-10

**6:30 - 7:30 a.m.** **Men's Scripture Share** (Life House)

**8:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Nick Stawowy

**6:30 - 8 p.m.** **Pastoral Advisory Council** (Pastoral Offices Building: St. Joseph Conference Room)

**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)

**7:30 - 8:30 p.m.** **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** (Church)

**8:30 - 9 p.m.** **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Reception** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

### Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31 | Ps 17 | Lk 19:11-28

**8:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Victims of the Palestinian & Israeli War

**9 - 9:30 a.m.**

**5:30 - 6 p.m.**

**6 - 7 p.m.**

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

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

**Evening Prayer** (Church)

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

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

### Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sir 50:22-24 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Lk 17:11-19

**10 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

### Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

Memorial of St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest &

Companions, Martyrs

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 | 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11d-12a, 12cd | Lk 19:45-48

**8:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † William J. Verbish

### Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | Ps 23 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46

**3 - 4:30 p.m.** **Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation** (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)

**5 p.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Marjorie Booth

**6 - 6:30 p.m.** **Gift Shop Open**

### Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | Ps 23 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46

**7:30 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Dan Abel

**8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** **Gift Shop Open**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** **Coffee & Donuts** (Family Center)

**9 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

**10:45 a.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: † Dulcisimo Perez  
Liturgy of the Word for Children available

**Noon - 1:15 p.m.** **Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)

**5 p.m.** **Mass** (Church)  
Intention: Russell Lowery-Hart

**6 - 6:30 p.m.** **Gift Shop Open**

**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](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.

## Family Celebrations

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](mailto:asanchez@stmaustin.org). Milestones can include the birth of children, grandchildren,

great grandchildren, etc., Baptisms, sacramental marriages, wedding anniversaries (in increments of ten or twenty-five years) and graduations.

## Stewardship of Treasure Report

### Weekly

November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Collection:  
\$54,922



Amount Needed Weekly:  
\$50,000

**ABOVE Weekly Budget:**  
**\$4,922**

Youth Stewardship:  
\$95

### Monthly

Collected Month to Date:  
\$98,403



Amount Needed to Date:  
\$100,000

**BELOW Monthly Budget:**  
**(-\$1,597)**

Youth Stewardship Month to Date:  
\$220

### Thank You!

Just a reminder that you can donate via Venmo if you prefer to not give through our online service on our website. Simply scan the bottom QR code in the pews with your smartphone to give. It's just like dropping cash in the collection basket! Thanks for your generosity.

**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.



### Office Closure

The parish offices will be closed November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope you and your loved ones have a great holiday!

### Pardon Our Mess!

We have generated quite a mess around campus and couldn't be happier about it!

First of all, we are in the process of replacing some of the trees we lost in February's ice storm. We are installing nearly 30 trees varying between 5" and 12" in trunk diameter at our more visible locations. These include the circle drive, Parish Activity Center (PAC), Fisher House, rectory and the Stations of the Cross. The funding for the trees comes from our insurance settlement.

Additionally, we are expanding the PAC kitchen porch which will allow groups to more easily cook and transport food into and out of the PAC. This upgrade is being funded from our Encountering Christ Capital Campaign that YOU have generously donated towards. Thank you!



## THE Gift Shop

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

**NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
9 - 11:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
6 - 6:30 p.m.

The Gift Shop Advent/Christmas celebration begins this weekend!

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).

The Gift Shop is currently open every Sunday in November from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will also be open after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses on November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

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



## Knights of Columbus Nut Sales

The Knights of Columbus Holiday Nuts Sales will be available after Masses this weekend. In December, we resume sales after Masses on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We accept cash, checks and credit cards. All proceeds from this sale benefit seminarians studying for the priesthood and other worthy charitable causes. The Knights will be selling pecans, almonds, walnuts, cashews, chocolate-covered nuts, candy-coated pretzels and other nut items. Plan now to buy for your holiday cooking, snacks and fun while supplies last! We are also accepting online orders for nut sales products at [stmknights.org/nuts](http://stmknights.org/nuts). See the website for details on picking up your online order.

NOV  
22

10 a.m.  
**Columbarium Blessing**  
Columbarium

Bishop Joe Vásquez will be at St. Thomas More Parish to bless the second phase of our columbarium. All are welcome to attend!

DEC  
8

9:30 a.m. - noon  
**Called To Be Mom (CTBM)**  
Religious Education Building, Brennan Auditorium

Join us for a discussion on children's adoration. CTBM meets monthly and also offers monthly playdates and semi-monthly mother's nights out. Please RSVP online at [stmaustin.org/ctbm](http://stmaustin.org/ctbm). Childcare is available for children one year and older. Babies are welcome to join us in the auditorium. Please contact Kathyryne at [ctbm@stmaustin.org](mailto:ctbm@stmaustin.org) with any questions.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

<b>Prayer Requests</b>	Ray & Grace Fisher	Skye Lohraum	Andy Turner
Kellie Bergman	Ame Frezza	Charles McCourt	Stan Urban
Barbara Boland	Judi Gilliam	Jason Mikolajek	Barbara Wiegand
Ally Bengs	Trace Gilliam	Fr. Michael O'Connor	Jennifer Wiegand
John Brun	Brendan Huey	Jim O'Donnell	Kerry Wolf
Ed Burke	Dylan Johnson	Barbara Ohradzansky	Christopher Younger
Graciela Diaz	Beth Jones	Trent Overall	Luke Zouzalik
Frank DiLorenzo	Ramona Kaauamo	JJ Pacelli	We also pray for the well-being of our fellow parishioners who are homebound or nursing home residents.
Katie DiLorenzo	Frank Kelly	Sylvie Pignot	
Dodie Domanski	Jack Klaer	Trent Rinehart	
Al Esparza	David Kresta	Dennis Robinson	
Jo Falkenstein	Mary Kubala	Consuelo Rodriguez Brown	
	Linda Lange	Dorothy Thompson	



## What's Coming Up? The Parish Advent Mission!

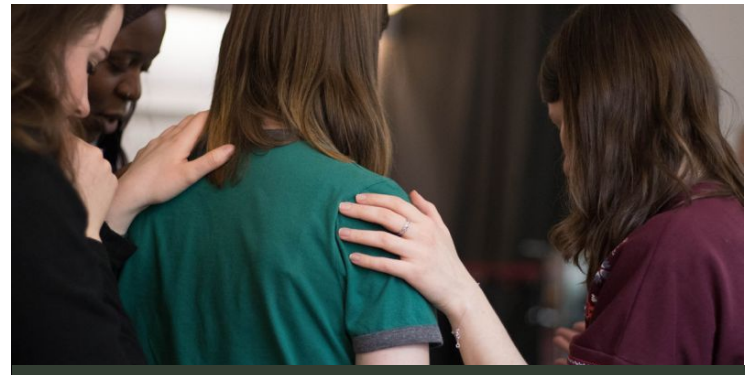
December 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> | 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Evening #3 (12/6): Living the Eucharist:** "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." While we know the answer to this because we hear it every Sunday at the end of Mass, we often forget that God calls each of us specifically into mission with him as soon as we leave the parking lot. In this presentation, speaker, singer and inspirer Paul J. Kim shares the powerful stories of the saints and how we are each called to serve the Lord in the unique circumstances of our lives. Learn more at [stmaustin.org/mission](http://stmaustin.org/mission).

## Join our Christmas Choirs

Our Music Ministry is already preparing for Christmas, and we need help! We are really looking for singers for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve\*, Midnight, 9\* and 10:45 a.m.\* Christmas Choirs. You can find our other needs and a rehearsal schedule at [stmaustin.org/music](http://stmaustin.org/music). Contact Ren at [ren.macnary@gmail.com](mailto:ren.macnary@gmail.com) to discuss your questions or how you can join!

\* These choirs do not require rehearsals!



DEC  
1

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.

NOV  
21 7:30 p.m.

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Church

Join our Christian brothers and sisters in offering a prayer of thanksgiving. Fr. Keith and Deacon Dan will lead this time of prayer along with clergy from Bethany United Methodist Church, Hope Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran and Unity Church of the Hills. Our Knights of Columbus will host a reception following the service.

### FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

## A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, Jesus delivers the parable of the talents; using the example of money rather than abilities or skills. It is a story about investments, risks and returns. Stewards understand that God has given them an abundance of spiritual gifts. They know God doesn't want them to simply receive these blessings and bury them in fear, but to multiply them; to use these gifts to serve Him and others; to spread Christ's Good News; to go and make disciples of others. **Good stewards invest what God has given them in the service of others and are prepared to render an account when the Lord returns.**

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

## Special Collection: Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Please be generous in this weekend's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, more than 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and support those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [usccb.org/cchd](http://usccb.org/cchd).

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION



## This Month on FORMED

### Our Mother Mary

What is Mariology? Learn about this fascinating topic in this interview with Dr. Mark Miravalle, the St. John Paul II Chair of Mariology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Watch it at [stma.cc/F2311](http://stma.cc/F2311)

## From the Catechism this Week

*“The ‘pure in heart’ are promised that they will see God face to face and be like him. Purity of heart is the precondition of the vision of God. Even now it enables us to see according to God, to accept others as ‘neighbors;’ it lets us perceive the human body - ours and our neighbor’s - as a temple of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of divine beauty.”*

- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2519 -

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:** December 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
Life House

We'll explore prayer and how Jesus taught us to pray in the Our Father.

▲ 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.

## FAITH FORMATION

### No Faith Formation

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there are no classes this week. We'll see you next week!

DEC  
9

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### Santa's Workshop

Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

**Middle School Service Project:** Middle schoolers will be paired with little kids and enjoy crafts, games, shopping, visiting Santa and more. There's no need to register ahead of time. For more information, contact Andrea Cochran at [andrea@stmaustin.org](mailto:andrea@stmaustin.org).

**Believe**

## It's that time of year...

...to FALL in love with JESUS! Elementary Faith Formation is open to all children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We have classes available, so please sign your children up if you haven't already. For more information and to register visit [stmaustin.org/ff-registration](http://stmaustin.org/ff-registration).

## SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE

### Make Someone's Day!

Studies have shown the power of even a smile has long-ranging effects on the mood of not only the recipient of a smile but the sender as well! Improve someone's mood this week, as well as your own, by committing random acts of smiling!



### Diaper Donation Drive

Thank you St. Thomas More community for once again helping those in need! The Knights of Columbus' diaper drive was a huge success. Thanks to your generosity, the church

was able to build up the JPIL Life Center supply room. Below are some facts about JPIL:

They are currently supporting 700 moms who have chosen life. This is double the number of clients since the overturn of Dobbs and Roe v Wade.

They were down to two packages of baby wipes before STM showed up.

They see each mom at least monthly. Their ideal goal, which they are a long way from achieving, is to provide a month's worth of diapers for each mom. To do that, they would need 30,000 diapers per week.

Thank you for helping with this important need in our community! And thank you to our Knights for organizing the diaper drive.

## Catholic Social Teaching

We all want to be considered God's good and faithful servants and God gives us all we need to be his disciples: sacraments and their grace, God's word and a community of faith. What we need to do is to risk pouring out our lives as Jesus did and not clinging to our life and gifts out of fear. We can do this by giving our lives away and learning that so much more is given when we spend ourselves in God's service to others. If you don't believe this, ask someone who has served in a ministry to others like the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Communion ministry to the sick, prison ministry, pro-life ministry or any other in your parish. They will report the rich rewards they receive.

This reflection is courtesy of the Diocese of Austin. You can find more inspiring content and learn about the work of the diocese at [austindiocese.org](http://austindiocese.org).

## The Advent Giving Trees are Here!

Each tag represents a gift request from a family or an individual in need. Some gift recipients are from our St. Thomas More community and some are served by nonprofits in our area, such as Mobile Loaves and Fishes, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Annunciation Maternity Home and St. Louise House. Gift card requests are for \$50 (rather than \$35) this year; please spend a similar amount on gifts. Tags will hang from the trees November 18<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. Return your gifts and cards to STM no later than Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember to attach each tag you take securely to the unwrapped gift you return to the church. Thank you for your prayers and generosity for this special project!

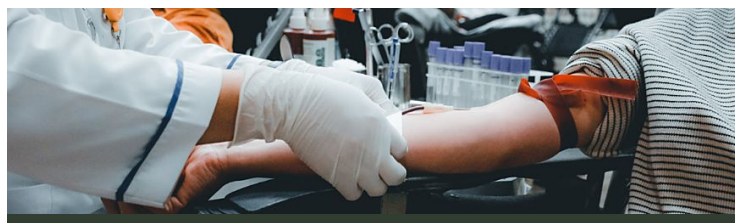
## SVdP Thanksgiving Food Drive

Benefitting St. Thomas More's MLF Pantry and the Vincentian Family Center Food Pantry

Through November 19<sup>th</sup>

It's not too late. Thank you for your generosity. We are truly blessed!

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ⊕ Canned Items            | ⊕ Fruit/Applesauce        |
| ⊕ Beans                   | ⊕ Dry Items               |
| ⊕ Chicken/Tuna            | ⊕ Cereal/Oatmeal          |
| ⊕ Chili/Pasta/Chunky Soup | ⊕ Pasta/Rice              |
| ⊕ Peanut Butter/Jelly     | ⊕ Mac & Cheese            |
| ⊕ Pasta Sauce             | ⊕ Instant Mashed Potatoes |
| ⊕ Vegetables              | ⊕ Instant Stuffing        |



DEC  
2

8 a.m. - noon

**Blood Drive**

Life House



This Advent, give the gift of life at our next blood drive. To make an appointment visit [stma.cc/WRB231202](http://stma.cc/WRB231202) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. For questions specific to our drive, contact Steve Isaacson at [sisaacson51@gmail.com](mailto:sisaacson51@gmail.com) or (936) 525-9503. If you have eligibility questions, call We Are Blood at (512) 206-1108.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE



Catholic Charities of Central Texas (CCCTX) works to eliminate poverty in the community. The Financial Stability programs help individuals and families avoid homelessness and achieve financial security through case management, education and financial assistance. For more information, call (512) 651-6100.

## Open Position at Annunciation Austin

Annunciation Austin is searching for an assistant director of education. This kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education program is based on a Catholic, classical curriculum with classes held on the St. Thomas More campus. Please scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit [annunciationaustin.org/assistant-director-of-education](http://annunciationaustin.org/assistant-director-of-education) for more information. To apply, contact [president@annunciationaustin.org](mailto:president@annunciationaustin.org).



### In need of healing prayer?

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## Yard Nativity Scenes

The St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Knights of Columbus are creating Advent and Christmas yard decorations. Made from durable white PVC sheets, the following items are offered:

- ⊕ Nativity Scene: \$200
- ⊕ Trumpeting Angel: \$95
- ⊕ Three Wise Men: \$180
- ⊕ Shepherd & Sheep: \$80

Visit [stma.cc/Ssvdpkoc](https://stma.cc/Ssvdpkoc) or scan this QR code with your phone's camera to see pictures and place an order before these items sell out. Orders will be ready for pickup at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.



DEC  
2

8 a.m.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession

St. Mary Cathedral, Austin

Join the Diocese of Austin for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. The procession will begin at 8 a.m. and go from St. Mary Cathedral in Austin to San José Parish. Bishop Joe S. Vásquez will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. at San José. Learn more at [austindiocese.org/olg-celebration](https://austindiocese.org/olg-celebration).

DEC  
2

8:45 a.m.

## Monthly Mass for Vocations

St. John Neumann, Austin

This Mass for Vocations will be followed by a Holy Hour for Vocations. For more information, contact Kristie Schuchart at [schuincal@att.net](mailto:schuincal@att.net).

DEC  
6

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## ACP Quarterly Luncheon

Hyatt Regency, Austin

The Assembly of Catholic Professionals (ACP) provides a unique formational opportunity for Catholic lay professionals to grow in faith. ACP serves as a Catholic community forum for developing one's faith and working toward a common cause. The next speaker will be Laura Fanucci. Her writing has been featured on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *On Being* and in popular outlets including *People Magazine* and the *Kelly Clarkson Show*. Learn more at [austindiocese.org/acp](https://austindiocese.org/acp).

JAN  
13

6 - 9:30 p.m.

## Saints and Scholars Awards Ceremony

Hyatt Regency, Austin

Save the date for an unforgettable evening of joy, hope and honor at the 2024 Saints and Scholars, Celebrating Catholic Schools Dinner and Awards Ceremony. Let's come together to support tuition assistance for Catholic school students and pay tribute to the unsung heroes who help make Catholic schools shine. Together, let's advance the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Austin. Ticket and sponsorship information is available online at [csdatx.org/2024ccs](https://csdatx.org/2024ccs).

NOV  
27 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
**What We Call "It" Matters.**  
Zoom

Most international studies and recent grand jury reports have included eyewitness testimonies detailing the spiritual damage done by sexual, emotional and physical abuse by religious authorities. Yet, there is not a common understanding, language, definition and diagnosis as to what is called "it." Is it complex trauma, betrayal trauma, soul murder, spiritual abuse or moral injury? Or all of them? This discussion will explore current understandings, problems with them, and the implications for survivors' well-being. Advance registration is required. Visit [stma.cc/Zwwcim](https://stma.cc/Zwwcim) to register now!

DEC  
1

through December 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Silent Advent Retreat

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center, Temple

Give yourself a gift early by preparing for the birth of Our Lord. This silent retreat will include community prayer, reflections, Mass, Adoration and confession and will be led by Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan. The costs are \$295 for a private room, \$255 for a shared room and \$150 for commuters. For more information and to register, visit [cedarbrake.org](https://cedarbrake.org) or contact Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436.



DEC  
2

8 a.m. to noon

## Marian Mornings

St. Elizabeth Parish,  
Pflugerville

On the first Saturday of each month, Fr. Kevin Rai will lead this mini-retreat. It will begin with Mass and will include a teaching, prayer time, silence and time for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

## 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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hands establish thou it" Ps 90:17



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