

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

January 28, 2024

# The Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



*Valentine's Dance*

PAGE 4

*Become a  
Gabriel Angel*

PAGE 7

*Interactive  
Eucharistic Miracle  
Exhibit*

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## Bulletin Deadlines

Content for the February 11<sup>th</sup> edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 1<sup>st</sup>**. Content for the February 18<sup>th</sup> edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 8<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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### 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-FRIDAY**

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



## PARISH LIFE

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20 | Ps 95 | 1 Cor 7:32-35 | Mk 1:21-28

7:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: Molly Cloran
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b> (Religious Education Building: Family Center)
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>Gift Shop Open</b>
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 a.m. - noon	<b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)</b> (Life House)
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.	<b>Adult Bible Study: Metanoia</b> (Religious Education Building: Rooms 213-215)
10:45 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Antonio & Beatrice Mendez Liturgy of the Word for Children available
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
5 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Howard Salge
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, January 29<sup>th</sup>

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13 | Ps 3 | Mk 5:1-20

8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: Rev. Sang Quan & † Peter Harry
4 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)

Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3 | Ps 86 | Mk 5:21-43

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	<b>Men's Scripture Share</b> (Life House: Back Room)
8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Kathleen Lenahan
9:30 - 11 a.m.	<b>Adult Study: Walking with Purpose</b> (Religious Education Building: Room 213)
4 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b> (Religious Education Building)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Adult Study: Walking with Purpose</b> (Religious Education Building: Room 213)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Man Up</b> (Life House: Main Room)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Rosary Prayer Group</b> (Parish Activity Center (PAC): St. Thomas More Room)
7 - 9 p.m.	<b>Life Teen Bible Study</b> (Life House: Back Room)

Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 | Ps 32 | Mk 6:1-6

8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> (Church) Intention: † Pat Wolfe
9 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance &amp; Reconciliation</b> (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
5:30 - 6 p.m.	<b>Evening Prayer</b> (Chapel)
6 - 7 p.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance &amp; Reconciliation</b> (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)

Due to the bulletin production schedule, *This Week at a Glance* (on the previous page) 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.

6:30 - 8 p.m.

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

7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Adult Study: Jesus of Nazareth** (Religious Education Building: Room 213)

7 - 9 p.m.

**Confirmation Class** (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** (Parish Activity Center (PAC): St. Thomas More Room)Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 | 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd | Mk 6:7-13

6 - 7:30 a.m.

**Man Up** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: David Dunn &amp; Mari Payne

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4 | Ps 24 | Heb 2:14-18 | Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32

8:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: Linda Raily

9 - 9:30 a.m.

**Blessing of Thoats** (Church)

9 - 9:30 a.m.

**Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation**

(Church: Confessional &amp; Holy Family Room)

9 - 10 a.m.

**Healing Prayer** (Church)

9 - 10 a.m.

**Library Open**Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | Ps 147 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

8 a.m. - noon

**Blood Drive** (Life House)

3:45 - 4:40 p.m.

**Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation**

(Church: Confessional &amp; Holy Family Room)

5 p.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † John Robert Illg, Sr.

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

**Valentine's Dance** (Parish Activity Center (PAC))Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | Ps 147 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

7:30 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

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

**Coffee & Donuts** (Religious Education Building: Family Center)

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

**Gift Shop Open**

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

**Library Open**

9 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Severio Martinez &amp; † Medora William

10 a.m. - noon

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

(Life House)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

**Adult Bible Study: Metanoia** (Religious Education Building: Rooms 213-215)

10:45 a.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Denis Linnane

Liturgy of the Word for Children available

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

**Elementary Faith Formation** (Religious Education Building)

5 p.m.

**Mass** (Church)

Intention: † Howard Salge

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)

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

January 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Collection:  
\$52,123



Amount Needed Weekly:  
\$50,000

**ABOVE Weekly Budget:**  
\$2,123

**Youth Stewardship:**  
\$51

### Month to Date

Collected in January:  
\$169,023



Amount Needed to Date:  
\$150,000

**ABOVE Monthly Pace:**  
\$19,023

**Youth Stewardship Month to Date:**  
\$312

### Did You Know?

We are on pace to spend roughly \$70,000 this fiscal year in electricity bills. Thanks for all you do in being a good financial and thermostat steward to help absorb these bills!

**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.

## THE Gift Shop

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

The Gift Shop is currently open every Sunday in January from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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.

## Family Celebrations

Bill and Connie Ricks celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 19<sup>th</sup>. They were married in Connie's childhood parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Cleveland, OH after meeting on a blind date on April Fool's Day in San Diego, CA while both were in the U.S. Navy. Happy anniversary Bill and Connie!



▲ 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.

## Valentine's in VERONA

**FEB 3** 6-10:30 p.m.  
**Valentine's Dance**  
Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Join us for a "Valentine's in Verona" Valentine's dance, sponsored by the L.O.V.E. Marriage Ministry! World Marriage Day emphasizes the beauty of marriage and honors husbands and wives for their faithfulness and sacrifices. In anticipation of World Marriage Day, we invite all couples to celebrate marriage with dinner and dancing in the Parish Activity Center! Tickets are \$50 per person and include a Tuscano's dinner, beverages and a live band! Buy your tickets at [stma.cc/vd24](https://stma.cc/vd24).

**FEB 9** 9:30 a.m. - noon  
**Called to be Mom (CTBM)**  
Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

All mothers are welcome to discuss marriage including a fun marriage activity ahead of Valentine's Day. CTBM is a mother's group that welcomes, supports and nurtures soon-to-be mothers and mothers of all ages, at any stage of motherhood. We meet monthly for formation and fellowship in addition to play dates and a quarterly mom's night out. Childcare is provided for children one year and older. Babies are welcome to join us in the meetings. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP please contact Kathryn at [ctbm@stmaustin.org](mailto:ctbm@stmaustin.org).

FEB  
17

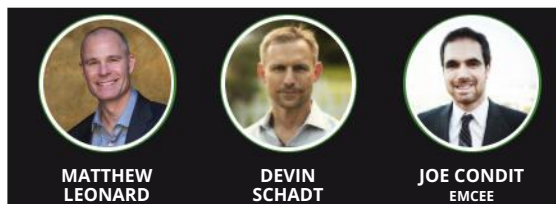
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Men's Conference**

San Jose Catholic Church, Austin.

Men, if you're looking to kickstart your spiritual journey, join other Catholic men across the Austin Diocese at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference. The theme is "Spiritual Fatherhood," and our two fantastic speakers are Matthew Leonard, founder of Science of Sainthood and *The Art of Catholic* podcaster, and Devin Schadt, executive director of The Fathers of St. Joseph. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and there will also be music, Catholic exhibitors and vendors, and the opportunity to fellowship with other men looking to grow in their walk with Jesus, and dynamically live out their Catholic faith. Several men from St. Thomas More have already bought tickets, so chances are you will know someone who

will be there. For more information and to get your own tickets, go to [centexcatholic.com](http://centexcatholic.com) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. Be a part of this amazing event!

MATTHEW  
LEONARDDEVIN  
SCHADTJOE CONDIT  
EMCEE

## WORSHIP &amp; PRAYER

**Prayer Requests**

Kellie Bergman

Barbara Boland

Ally Bengs

John Brun

Ed Burke

Samuel Chirafis

Graciela Diaz

Frank DiLorenzo

Katie DiLorenzo

Dodie Domanski

Al Esparza

Jo Falkenstein

Ray &amp; Grace Fisher

Ame Frezza

Dave Galvin

Judi Gilliam

Trace Gilliam

Brendan Huey

Dylan Johnson

Beth Jones

Ramona Kaauamo

Frank Kelly

Jack Klaer

David Kresta

Mary Kubala

Linda Lange

Skye Lohraum

Charles McCourt

Luke Merchant

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.

**Bring Your Palms**

You are invited to bring the blessed palms from last Palm Sunday back to church over the next few weeks. A basket to collect them will be in the narthex.

FEB  
2

after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

**Blessing of Throats**

Church

Maybe you're feeling a little "blah" and need some physical and spiritual comfort. Maybe you suffered through a throat or respiratory illness recently and could use a little healing. Maybe something you're saying or not saying needs a little spiritual help. Let's come to invoke the help of St. Blaise who was known to heal people from both physical and spiritual illness—especially those illnesses of the throat. Join us for this Blessing of Throats on the feast of St. Blaise.



## FINANCE &amp; STEWARDSHIP



## A Stewardship Moment

A central theme in today's Gospel reading is the nature and extent of Jesus' authority. The people were astonished, "for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Jesus' authority brought blessings to people including healing and comfort. His authority possessed an irresistible power that drew people not through manipulation, but simply by the person that he was and the gifts that he gave. Good stewards reveal the power and authority of Christ through the words they use and deeds they perform every day. At times, their stewardship leaves them open to ridicule and scorn. But having the courage to imitate Jesus invites others to imagine a different world. **What can you do this week to reveal Christ's authoritative presence in the world?**

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

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

FEB  
26

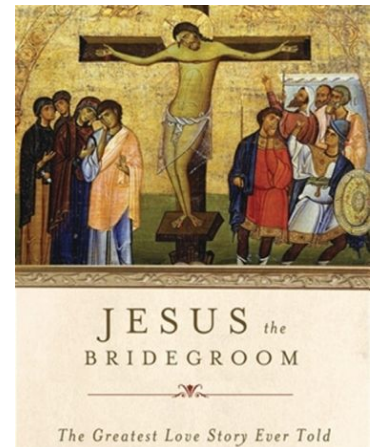
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Read, Reflect, Rejoice!

Religious Education Building: Library

*Jesus the Bridegroom* by Brant Pitre

Pitre writes that by looking at the love of God and the passion of Christ through the lens of the Bridegroom Messiah, we can transform not only the way we see Jesus and his death, but also how we understand baptism, the Lord's Supper, marriage, virginity and even the end of the world. While many a man throughout history has jokingly described his wedding day as his funeral, Jesus of Nazareth is the only man who ever solemnly described his funeral as his wedding day. This book explains why and what it means for who he was, why he lived and why he died on the cross. Join us on a journey to see Jesus through the eyes of ancient Christians—through ancient Jewish eyes. Let us know you're coming by registering at [stmaustin.org/book-discussions](http://stmaustin.org/book-discussions). You are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

JAN  
30

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

## How Can I Conquer My Fears?

Religious Education Building: Room 213

*Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart* (a Bible study for women) will take you on an exciting journey closer to the heart of God, help you form a personal relationship with Christ, and help you find answers to life's biggest questions through the context of the Catholic faith. Join us as we explore the core questions that we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us. Learn more at [stmaustin.org/www](http://stmaustin.org/www). Our spring season runs from January 9<sup>th</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>, but you can join at any time.



walking with purpose



## Jesus of Nazareth: Guided Book Discussion

Wednesdays, January 17<sup>th</sup>-February 28<sup>th</sup>,  
7-8:30 p.m., Religious Education Building:  
Room 213

Pope Benedict XVI wrote *Jesus of Nazareth* as his “personal search ‘for the face of the Lord.’” Join him in encountering Jesus through a discussion of this rich book with Frank O’Connell and Fr. David as your guides.

▲ Learn more and sign up at [stmaustin.org/adult-faith](http://stmaustin.org/adult-faith) or contact Dawn at [dawn@stmaustin.org](mailto:dawn@stmaustin.org) or (512) 258-1944 x235.



## Metanoia: A Journey with Jesus into Conversion

Sundays, January 21<sup>st</sup>-April 14<sup>th</sup>,  
10:30-11:45 a.m., Religious Education  
Building: Room 213

Jesus’ words are an invitation to metanoia (change/conversion). In this 11-week series with Fr. Dave Pivonka, explore areas of life where conversion is so often necessary and get inspired to embrace the new life Jesus is constantly inviting you to.

▲ Learn more and sign up at [stmaustin.org/adult-faith](http://stmaustin.org/adult-faith) or contact Dawn at [dawn@stmaustin.org](mailto:dawn@stmaustin.org) or (512) 258-1944 x235.

## SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE

### Catholic Social Teaching

The Gospel today tells us that the crowds were spellbound by Jesus’ teaching “... for he taught them as one having authority ...” As a Church, we share the privilege and responsibility of living God’s truth with authority so that the whole world might hear and believe. Under the leadership of Pope Francis and Bishop Vásquez, we call all to protect and defend every person throughout their lives; to promote the dignity of every person by ensuring they have what they need to live with dignity; to grow in solidarity by recognizing our common humanity with everyone. These authoritative teachings are challenging. **How are you called to grow in understanding and proclaiming them?**

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

### What are the goals of the Gabriel Project?

- ✚ Offer hope and support for mothers and fathers during and after pregnancy, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy.
- ✚ Assist in a confidential and non-judgmental manner.
- ✚ Strengthen families so children can grow in a nurturing environment
- ✚ Provide life-affirming support for those facing difficult or unexpected pregnancies
- ✚ Witness to the community a respect and reverence for all human life
- ✚ Advance the teaching of the Catholic Faith regarding the gift of life

### Upcoming Training Dates:

February 10 <sup>th</sup>	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
9 a.m. to noon	9 a.m. to noon
Sacred Heart	Zoom
Catholic Church, Elgin	

This is a great way to be introduced to the ministry. To learn more, complete the form at [stma.cc/GFgatr](http://stma.cc/GFgatr).

## Become a Gabriel Angel!

### What is the Gabriel Project?

The Gabriel Project is a parish-based ministry within the Diocese of Austin that serves mothers and fathers facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy. Trained volunteers called “Gabriel Angels” provide spiritual and emotional support, as well as material assistance and help navigating community resources. Join other Gabriel Angels in supporting young families by becoming a Gabriel Angel.

*“It is not enough just to wish well;  
we must also do well.”*

- ST. AMBROSE -



## Grief & Loss Support Group

**Mondays, February 5<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup>,  
9:30 – 11 a.m., Mercy of God Prayer Center**

If you or someone you know is struggling with the loss of a loved, please prayerfully consider attending (or inviting them to attend) our Grief and Loss Support Group. This is a Catholic, eight-week guided and collaborative support group. Our goal is to find God the Divine Healer in our suffering and together seek his healing. Register at [stmaustin.org/grief-loss](http://stmaustin.org/grief-loss).



**FEB  
3**

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Blood Drive

Life House



Start off the year right by giving the gift of life at our next blood drive. To make an appointment, visit [stma.cc/bd2401](http://stma.cc/bd2401) 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 aims to educate communities on how to be prepared for a disaster and how to respond when it strikes. To learn more about how you can assist to meet the immediate and long-term needs of families on the road to recovery or to schedule a preparedness presentation, visit [ccctx.org/disaster-response](http://ccctx.org/disaster-response).

## YCP is Working in Witness for Christ

Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a mission to challenge, train and inspire young adults working in various professions to "Work in Witness for Christ." The Austin chapter of YCP invites all ages to get involved in this ministry:

- 20s & 30s: Enjoy refreshments, find new friends and hear faith and career advice from local Catholic business leaders!

- 40+: Serve young adults in your community as a mentor, board member or financial supporter of YCP.

YCP offers a variety of events to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire action. To learn more and to check out some upcoming events, visit [ycpaustin.org](http://ycpaustin.org) or [facebook.com/YCPAustin](https://facebook.com/YCPAustin).

## Explore Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin

Catholic education offers students an opportunity to reach their full potential, not only academically, but also spiritually. Explore Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin today. Tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities are available. All 20 Catholic schools in Central Texas are ready to welcome you and your family! Learn more at [csdatx.org/explore](http://csdatx.org/explore).

## Applications Now Open

### Catholic Young Adult Leadership Program

Ascend is the Diocese of Austin's initiative to identify, develop and support young leaders under 40 in the diocese. Participants will be challenged to consider ethics and leadership through the lens of their faith. The Ascend class of 2024 will be empowered to make a lasting contribution by practicing applied leadership skills so that

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they may exercise their faith in positions of leadership in the Church as well as in their homes, communities and careers. The application window for the Ascend class of 2024 is now open. More information can be found at [austindiocese.org/ascend](http://austindiocese.org/ascend) or contact Elizabeth Lagoe McAlonan at [elizabeth-lagoe@austindiocese.org](mailto:elizabeth-lagoe@austindiocese.org).

FEB  
3through February 9<sup>th</sup>

## Interactive Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit

St. William Catholic Church, Round Rock: Parish Evangelization Center



**Eucharistic wonder and awe for the whole family, open to all ages.** Renew and deepen your faith in Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist. For children, there will be nine interactive, nature-defying, awe-inspiring, child-friendly Eucharistic miracle displays shared through storytellers, experiential visual displays, audience participation plays and activity sheets! For teens and adults, there will be 35 international Eucharistic miracles spanning the ages shared through large posters, scavenger hunts, activities and talks! For the latest updates, visit [st-william.org/eucharistic-miracles-exhibit](http://st-william.org/eucharistic-miracles-exhibit) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera. Questions? Contact Melissa Kirking at [mkirking@hotmail.com](mailto:mkirking@hotmail.com).

FEB  
10

6-9:30 p.m.

## Gala Fundraiser

St. Thomas More Catholic Church: Parish Activity Center (PAC)



Celebrate 20 years of Annunciation Austin deep in the heart of Texas! This will be a fantastic adults' evening of BBQ, drinks and dessert, dancing and a silent auction of one-of-a-kind items. Visit [bit.ly/AAfg23](http://bit.ly/AAfg23) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera for more information and to purchase tickets. See y'all there!

FEB  
14

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

## Ash Wednesday Retreat

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center

This year, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are celebrated on the same day. This rare coincidence offers a unique opportunity to reflect upon beginnings, selfless giving and what can become of our destiny. Join Cheryl "Max" Maxwell, gifted retreat director and parishioner of St. Thomas More Parish, on a journey to the Cross, the ultimate gift of love. The retreat will include lunch, holy Mass and distribution of ashes. Register at [cedarbrake.org](http://cedarbrake.org) or call (254) 780-2436.

FEB  
16through February 18<sup>th</sup>

## Project Rachel Retreat

This retreat is for anyone who would benefit from a healing after having an abortion. For more information, please reach out to [project-rachel@austindiocese.org](mailto:project-rachel@austindiocese.org).

MAR  
9

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

## Seasons of Life: The Coming of Spring

St Thomas More Catholic Church: Life House

The Austin Theresian District Leadership Team invites all women to a Lenten retreat led by Deacon Dan Lupo, PhD. Currently, Deacon Dan co-facilitates a lay spiritual formation class at the Mercy of God Prayer Center. He was recently asked to serve as its spiritual director as well as for the Lay Ministers of Charity. He has a certificate in chaplaincy from Seton Healthcare Ascension and has advanced degrees in theology and rhetoric. If you have any questions, contact Dorothy Runge at [dorothyrunge@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyrunge@gmail.com).

MAR  
22through March 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Hosanna

Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, Burnet

Daughter, your King has come! Do you ever just want to sit in the moment of triumph on Palm Sunday as Jesus enters Jerusalem? Can you feel the joy, the excitement, the wonder that the King has arrived in all his glory? We know that heartache is coming, but we can't miss the beauty of this moment. Join Kendra Bartlett and Megan Copeland, from the *His Beloved Catholic Podcast*, Palm Sunday weekend for an overnight retreat, to dive into what it means to experience the King in all his glory. This will be an opportunity to draw near to the heart of Jesus, to learn about how he loves you, and how to enter into a deep relationship with him. It will be a weekend of great talks, worship, adoration, Mass, outside time in the beautiful Texas hill country and a ton of fun. All meals and lodging will be included. Accommodations will be camp-style bunk rooms with full restrooms. All food will be provided by the resident chef. Come spend a weekend of relaxation and restoration leading into Holy Week. This retreat WILL sell out! Get your tickets quickly at [hisbelovedoftexas.com](http://hisbelovedoftexas.com). All women 18 and over are welcome.

## 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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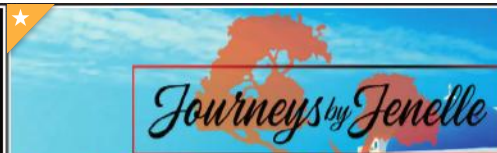
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