

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

February 11, 2024

The Bulletin

Ordinary Time

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Bulletin Deadlines

Content for the February 25th edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 15th**. Content for the March 3rd edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 22nd**. Email asanchez@stmaustin.org for instructions on submitting content for *The Bulletin*.

To Reach a Priest in an Emergency

DURING OFFICE HOURS:
(512) 258-1161

AFTER HOURS:
(512) 258-1161, Opt. 1



Adoration Schedule

MONDAY-FRIDAY
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

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Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

Parish Contact Information

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Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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

PARISH LIFE

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 11th

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 | Ps 32 | 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1 |

Mk 1:40-45

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: † Robert Wood

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: † Chad Nicholls

Liturgy of the Word for Children available

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious

Education Building)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: David Dunn & Mari Payne

6 - 6:30 p.m.

Gift Shop OpenMonday, February 12th

Jas 1:1-11 | Ps 119 | Mk 8:11-13

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Robert Williamson

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious

Education Building)

6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious

Education Building)

Tuesday, February 13th

Jas 1:12-18 | Ps 94 | Mk 8:14-21

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Men's Scripture Share (Life House: Back Room)

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Paul Larsen

10:30 a.m. - noon

Cancer Support Group (Life House: Back Room)

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Young at Heart (Religious Education Building:

Brennan Auditorium)

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Elementary Faith Formation (Religious

Education Building)

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Man Up (Life House: Main 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)Wednesday, February 14th

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18 | Ps 51 | 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2 | Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

7:30 a.m. - noon

Gift Shop Open

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

9:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Ash Distribution (Church)

Noon

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

1 - 6:30 p.m.

Ash Distribution (Church)

5:30 - 6 p.m.

Evening Prayer (Chapel)

6 - 7 p.m.

Gift Shop Open

7 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners

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 15th

Dt 30:15-20 | Ps 1 | Lk 9:22-25

6 - 7:30 a.m.

Man Up (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Cosma Hoang Van Son

Friday, February 16th

Is 58:1-9a | Ps 51 | Mt 9:14-15

8:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Crowley Family

9 - 10 a.m.

Library Open

Noon - 1 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (Church)

5 - 8 p.m.

Fish Fry (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

6 - 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (Church)Saturday, February 17th

Gn 9:8-15 | Ps 25 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

3:45 - 4:40 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

(Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Molina Family

Sunday, February 18th

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | Ps 25 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

7:30 a.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: † Jacqueline Neuman-Smith

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: St. Thomas More Parishioners

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: † Antonio Fabbicatore &

† Ruth Qualley-Barr

Liturgy of the Word for Children available

5 p.m.

Mass (Church)

Intention: Charlotte Smith

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

If you would like a Mass said in memory of loved ones or for the intentions of an individual or family, please contact the Parish Office at (512) 258-1161. Each family can request up to four Masses per year.

Stewardship of Treasure Report

Weekly

January 29th - February 4th

Collection: \$30,454



Amount Needed Weekly:
\$50,000

BELOW Weekly Budget:
(-\$19,546)

Youth Stewardship:
\$167

Month to Date

Collected in February to Date:

\$30,454



Amount Needed to Date:
\$50,000

BELOW Monthly Pace:
(-\$19,546)

Youth Stewardship Month to Date:
\$167

Did You Know?

Thank you to everyone who submitted a contribution pledge card last fall. Please keep in mind the pledge cards do not authorize us to make changes to your giving. There are two ways to do so: you may (1) log into GiveCentral at stma.cc/gc and make those changes yourself, or (2) email Julie Olesen at jolesen@stmaustin.org to authorize her to make changes on your behalf. Thanks for being part of our mission at St. Thomas More!

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

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

THE Gift Shop

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

FEBRUARY 10TH
6 - 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11TH
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 6 - 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14TH
7:30 a.m. - noon & 6 - 7 p.m.

Check out our February clearance tables with items priced from 50 cents to \$10.

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

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

A Message from Bishop Vásquez

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we begin this Lenten season, we are reminded of our vocation to holiness. Lent is an invitation to renew our relationship with God and remain faithful to the Gospel. Throughout these next 40 days, we are called to fast, pray and give alms as an expression of love for God and our neighbor. May we be renewed and grow in holiness. We are called to be faithful witnesses to Christ. May we walk together in this season knowing that together we are his Mystical Body.

— Most Rev. Joe Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



Family Celebrations

◀ William and Carol Cones are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their wedding on February 15th. Congratulations William and Carol!

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

World Marriage Day

The observances of National Marriage Week (February 7th - 14th) and World Marriage Day (February 11th) are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme for 2024 is "Love Beyond Words." The USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth offers resources to married couples and lay men and women to help celebrate and live the great gift of married life. You can find information like couples' retreats, prayers and video series at stma.cc/FYMcnmw. For more information, contact Hannah Haddad, in the diocesan Office of Life, Marriage and Family at hannah-haddad@austindiocese.org.

Fish Fry Fridays

Support Our Youth Programs

The Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent starting on February 16th at 5 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC). Pre-paid meals are now available at stmknights.org/fishfry/order, which provides a receipt by email and the option for drive-thru service. The tickets can be redeemed on any Friday between February 16th and March 22nd. Simply provide us with a name on the order and we'll take care of the rest, regardless of whether you pick up or dine in. Dinner consists of fried catfish, french fries, coleslaw, hush puppies, green beans, tea or lemonade. Each adult dinner costs \$15 and child plates are \$10. All proceeds raised are used to support our Life Teen program. Please join us at the PAC or come through our drive-thru service to pick up your meals!

**FEB
13**

11 a.m.

Young at Heart

Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

Join us for our monthly luncheon and socialize with other seniors in our parish community. Let's celebrate Mardi Gras by wearing your fancy regalia, masks and beads. Fr. Keith will talk about Lent. Share your favorite appetizers, salads, entrees and the ministry will provide the desserts and drinks.

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

**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 12th 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 or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Ash Wednesday Schedule

February 14th
Masses with Distribution of Ashes:

6:30, 8:30 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.

Ongoing Distribution of Ashes:

9:45 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 6:30 p.m.



Lectio for Lent

Let us again gather on Mondays during Lent at 7 p.m. to draw closer to God and discern his will for us in Lectio Divina; a meditative prayer. On February 19th, we'll meet in the Library; other Mondays we'll gather in the Life House. No experience with Lectio Divina is necessary. Bring a Bible, preferably the New American Bible Revised Edition (available for free at usccb.org/bible). If you want to Zoom in, email deacondanlupo@yahoo.com for the link—put "Lectio Zoom" in the subject line.

Bring Your Old 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.

Lent 2024

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Thursdays, February 22nd - March 21st at 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) or start a home group. Explore the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Learn more at stmaustin.org/adult-faith or contact Dawn at dawn@stmaustin.org.

Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus host dinner on Fridays during Lent in the PAC from 5 to 8 p.m. Support our high school youth ministry program, Life Teen. Adult plates are \$15 and child plates are \$10. Purchase your tickets at the door or stmknights.org/fishfry/order.

Easter Workshop

March 23rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your children for a day of games, crafts, an egg hunt and more. Contact Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org to reserve a spot.

Donation Drive

Support the local Hill Country Community Ministries in this toiletry drive. Place your donations in the bins outside the church and in the Religious Education Building. Items needed: bar soap, deodorant, tissues, shampoo, toilet paper, wrapped toothbrushes and toothpaste.

PRAYER

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." James 4:8

FASTING

An expression of conversion. Catholics ages 18 - 59 fast by eating only one full meal and two small meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics age 14 and older are also called to abstain from meat on these days and Fridays of Lent as well.

ALMSGIVING

A sign of care for others and gratitude for all that God has given us.

Ash Wednesday

February 14th
Masses at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., Noon and 7 p.m.
Ongoing distribution of Ashes from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at Noon and 6 p.m.
In the church or outdoors if weather permits. Join fellow parishioners as we meditate on Christ's Passion. On March 22nd our middle and high schoolers will present a live version in the church at 6 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Wednesdays 9 - 9:30 a.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.
Saturdays 3:45 - 4:40 p.m.
Join us on February 28th for Our Penance Services 10:30 a.m. - Noon and 7 - 9 p.m. Multiple priests will offer forgiveness for when we turned away from God.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. in the chapel
If you are interested in making a weekly commitment or to enter the church after 5 p.m., sign up at stm.weadorehim.com.

March 24th: Palm Sunday

regular Mass schedule

March 28th: Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 p.m.

March 29th: Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 3 p.m.

Passion of Our Lord 7 p.m.

March 30th: Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 8:30 p.m.

March 31st: Easter Sunday

Mass at 7:30 a.m. (church)
9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. (church and PAC)

Saint Thomas More
Catholic Church

Learn more about the season of Lent and these events at stmaustin.org/lent.

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

The Hidden Jesus

By Lynn Grace Wong

With the Texas weather bobbing up and down, my girls were happy to settle down inside with a do-it-yourself birdhouse. As the hammer banged against the wood, they dreamed out loud about the birds who would soon come and make the birdhouse their home.

I wonder if Jesus looked as happy as he too went about in St. Joseph's workshop. Observing closely what his father did, he must have turned each block of wood into its own masterpiece. Imagine being able to own one of the chairs or tables Jesus had made!

And I wonder too, as he lovingly shaped and molded the wood, sawdust flying about him, did our Lord sense that somewhere a special tree had been cut down? Its wood, one day, shaped into his holy Cross.

As Lent approaches, we draw closer to Jesus, crucified. His Cross a means to our salvation. And we take this time, Ordinary Time, to remind ourselves that every act of Christ saves us. Not only his holy Cross but every act he had ever done in his thirty years of hidden life. Every chair and table built. Every gesture and smile.

"Come follow me," Jesus invites us. And because of his example, we can offer up the big and small crosses. Our work well done. A kind word given to a stranger. Ordinary time made extraordinary by love.

Some thoughts for prayer and reflection...

- ✚ Do I help my children see that they can offer up an hour of study or two for the Pope, bishops, priests and deacons or a sick friend?
- ✚ Do I ask help from St. Joseph to help me keep my eyes on Jesus as I offer my best work?
- ✚ Am I preparing myself and my family for the coming Lent? Maybe review what Lenten practices we could live as a family such as praying the Stations or The Way of the Cross, making time for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, or finding a charity to give our time and talent to.

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

Temporary Liturgical Relocation

Starting February 19th, we will have a contractor in the narthex replacing the ceiling tiles. Due to the debris and equipment, we will be moving all weekday Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and Evening Prayer. Weekend Masses and Reconciliation will take place in the church as usual. We're still working on the details of the relocation so we can preserve the dignity of these liturgies and prayer experiences. Stay tuned to our communication channels to find the latest about this temporary relocation.

"The Eucharist is our food for our journey on earth, sustaining the divine life in us and offering a foretaste, here and now, of the heavenly banquet."

-BISHOP ROBERT BARRON-

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

A Stewardship Moment

The fate of a leper is a great tragedy at any time and place. In Jesus' time, lepers were considered condemned, part of the plagues God sent as punishment. They were cast out of society and abandoned. St. Mark's Gospel reveals the unthinkable. Jesus reaches out and touches a leper. He risks catching the contagious disease and heals the man. As the Gospel story teaches, no one is abandoned by Christ. **Are there those in our society or in your life for whom we ascribe no hope, who have been abandoned, treated like lepers? Or as Christ's steward of your sisters and brothers, do you risk reaching out and touching those who may seem to be "unclean" or not worthy of your time or attention?**

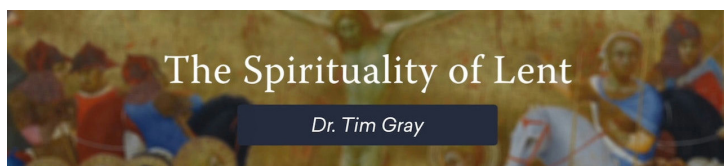
This reflection is courtesy of the International Catholic Stewardship Council. Learn more about stewardship and the council at catholicstewardship.com.



Support Campus Ministries

This weekend, we have been asked to take up a special collection for Catholic higher education to support campus ministries in the Diocese of Austin. These include communities at the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Texas State University, Mary Hardin-Baylor, St. Edward's University and other smaller college campuses. The goals of Catholic campus ministry are to build a faith community, bring the message of Christ to the academic world and prepare future leaders of society and our church. Please be generous in your support of this worthy cause.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



The Spirituality of Lent

This Month on FORMED

Looking to take Lent more seriously this year? Join Tim Gray for ideas for a Lenten spirituality. Watch it now at stma.cc/f2402.

▲ New to FORMED? Visit formed.org/signup and search for St. Thomas More Austin. Fill in your information and you can access great Catholic content for all ages.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

February 22nd - March 21st on Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Parish Activity Center (PAC) or as a home study

Explore the truth and beauty of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture to its profound role in our lives in this four-week study. You can join the study group at the church or start a home group.

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

FEB
25

6:30 - 8 p.m.

What You Need to Know About Your Kids' Internet Safety.

Church

Parents: this is a presentation you don't want to miss! Sergeant Amy Gonzales from the Office of the Texas Attorney General Criminal Investigation Division will discuss common mistakes children are making online that are making predators successful. You will learn how to identify warning signs of kids engaged in risky online behaviors, how to discuss appropriate online behaviors with kids, cyberbullying, sexting, sharing information online, privacy and abduction.

FEB
26

7 to 8:30 p.m.

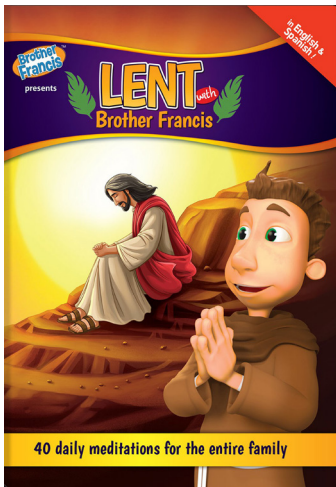
Read, Reflect Rejoice!

Religious Education Building: Library

Jesus the Bridegroom by Brant Pitre

"This book will change you. It is an invitation to the Messiah's wedding feast and a foretaste of Heaven. It will change the way you experience the sacraments, personal prayer, Scripture study and marriage. Most of all, it will deepen your love for Christ," says Scott Hahn, author of *The Lamb's Supper*. 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. You are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book! Books are available for purchase in the Gift Shop.

FAITH FORMATION



Lenten Resources for Children

Join Brother Francis as he walks us through Lent. This DVD includes an introduction to what the Lenten season is, why we observe it and how to grow in faith through 40 daily meditations. Explore our collection online at stmaustin.library.site and visit on Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Class Schedule

Please be aware of the following schedule abnormalities:

- ✚ **Elementary Faith Formation Classes:** Not meeting February 18th-20th
- ✚ **Middle School Faith Formation Classes:** Not meeting February 18th
- ✚ **Life Teen (High School Faith Formation):** Will be meeting on February 18th

Live Stations of the Cross

We are looking for middle and high school teens to help act out the stations (no talking required) on March 22nd. We will have a couple of rehearsals before spring break. Email Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org if you are interested or for more information.

SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE

Catholic Social Teaching

In the Gospel today, Jesus continues his healing ministry by curing a leper. Who are those who are considered "unclean" in our society today? Who are those who must remain separated from the community? They might be those coming out of jails, or those suffering from mental illness. They might be suffering from a disease that we fear. They might be undocumented immigrants who fear

that their families might be deported and torn apart. They might be the poor just struggling to keep their lives together. **How can you continue the ministry of Jesus today by reaching out to those who feel rejected and cast out of society?**

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.



Dear Families,

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services program that invites us to encounter God and our global family through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we will encounter communities in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia and learn how issues like hunger and climate change are impacting our sisters and brothers around the world. Together, we will reflect on our participation in the body of Christ and how the Eucharist—the Bread of Life—compels us to share bread *for* life with all members of our human family.

Alongside thousands of Catholic faith communities across the United States, our Lenten alms will make a difference in the lives of millions of people worldwide. Together as a Church, we can support people who seek to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to read weekly Stories of Hope and watch the accompanying videos.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes from crsricebowl.org/recipe to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our global family.

During this holy season, may your Lenten journey be a transformative and enriching experience as you put your faith into action for our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need.

CRS Rice Bowls will be collected at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more. Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Bibbo'.

Director of Social Outreach & Pastoral Care
St. Thomas More Parish

Share Your Gifts

Do you consider yourself a naturally caring, compassionate and giving person? If so, come and share your gifts with people in need by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In the coming weeks more information will be shared about the spirituality and works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at the parish Masses. If you are interested, please contact Eva Scott at presidentsvdpstm@gmail.com.



The Green Spot

Show our Creator your love; seek an integral ecological conversion this Lent. "To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act." (*Laudato Si'*, 218) Visit our Creation Care Team webpage at stmaustin.org/cct for free resources to help you pray, fast and give alms, to lead you toward reconciliation and a change of heart.

40 Days for Life

This internationally coordinated 40-day campaign aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion-related businesses.

Our Respect Life Ministry will hold a kick-off Rosary to pray for the protection of unborn babies as well as expectant mothers in need. Please join us at 9 a.m. in the church on February 21st to pray a Rosary for life.

Additionally, St. Thomas More Parish has chosen March 2nd and 12th for volunteers who would like to pray in front of the clinic. There will be a table outside of Mass for more information or to sign up to pray. If those days don't work, there are other opportunities to pray. The prayer campaign runs from February 14th through March 24th. If you would

like to sign up for a weekly slot or a one-time slot, please go to centraltexascoalition.com.

All Parish Service Day

It's that time of year: our 6th annual All Parish Service Day. "Spring into Service" is an opportunity for you to give back to the Austin and surrounding community and jump-start your Lenten experience. We hope you find a volunteer site that fits you or your family's schedule and that you have a rewarding experience! Visit stmaustin.org/service-day for all the details.

T-Shirts for Sale

Limited supply in stock!

This year, the church is selling St. Thomas More volunteer t-shirts to wear on All Parish Service Day. T-shirts cost \$10 each and come in multiple sizes. We hope you will purchase one and wear it with your friends and family anytime you are representing STM on or off our campus! T-shirts will be sold after all Masses on February 17th and 18th. Cash, check or Venmo will be accepted. You can also purchase a t-shirt in the Pastoral Offices Building; ask for Jennifer Bibbo.



FEB 13 Cancer Support Ministry Meeting

10:30 a.m. - noon

Life House: Backroom

All who are touched by cancer are welcome. Our February meeting will begin with "Finding Inner Peace" as we share in conversation. Our guidebook, *Fighting Cancer with the Help of Your Catholic Faith*, is available for all. Please contact karenmoore8@gmail.com for more information.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Catholic Charities of Central Texas' Immigration Legal Services offers legal assistance to individuals and families eligible to apply for immigration benefits, including family reunification, naturalization, asylum, removal defense, Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), as well as services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. If you or someone you know needs these services, call (512) 651-6125.

In need of healing prayer?

Mercy of God Prayer Center
Deacon Rod & Cindy Reyna
(512) 814-6470

Struggling with bills?

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
STM Offices
(512) 258-1161

Want to talk about a difficult time?

Stephen Ministry
Eileen (512) 507-9563

Need help with meals?

Good Samaritan
Meal Ministry
(480) 788-6325

Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

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

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

Why is EIM required for all who serve in ministry? We have a shared commitment to ensuring our parish is a safe place for everyone, especially children and vulnerable adults. The more people who are aware of abuse warning signs, the more effective we can be in keeping our parish, neighborhood, families and schools safe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Through the generous support of these sponsors, *The Bulletin* can be printed at no cost to our parish. When you need services, please consider using these sponsors and let them know you found them through our bulletin.

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