

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

February 18, 2024

The Bulletin

First Sunday



Fish Fry

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*What is the Role of
Suffering in My Life?*

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Lent is Here

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Bulletin Deadlines

Content for the March 3rd edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 22nd**. Content for the March 10th edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 29th**. 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

No adoration this week due to renovations in the church.

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

Clergy



Very Rev. Keith Koehl
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Deacon Pat O'Beirne
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Preschool (512) 258-1721



Cindy Acosta
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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

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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 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

Monday, February 19th

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 | Ps 19 | Mt 25:31-46

8:30 a.m.	Mass (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) Intention: Crowley Family
Noon - 1 p.m.	Grief & Loss Luncheon (Life House)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Lent Lectio Divina (Religious Education Building: Library)
7 - 9 p.m.	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Invitation to Serve Open House (Life House)

Tuesday, February 20th

Is 55:10-11 | Ps 34 | Mt 6:7-15

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	Men's Scripture Share (Life House: Back Room)
8:30 a.m.	Mass (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) Intention: Dulan Lee & Battistini Family
9:30 - 11 a.m.	Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart (Religious Education Building: 101)
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 - 8:30 p.m.	Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart (Religious Education Building: 101)
7 - 9 p.m.	Life Teen Bible Study (Life House: Back Room)

Wednesday, February 21st

Jon 3:1-10 | Ps 51 | Lk 11:29-32

8:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Donna Kathleen Herman
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
5:30 - 6 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Chapel)
6 - 7 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Middle School Bible Study (Religious Education Building: 105)
7 - 9 p.m.	Confirmation Class (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

7 - 8:30 p.m.	Jesus of Nazareth (Religious Education Building: 213)
7 - 10 p.m.	Men's Club (Religious Education Building: Family Center)
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center (PAC): St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, February 22nd

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4 | Ps 23 | Mt 16:13-19

6 - 7:30 a.m.	Man Up (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
8:30 a.m.	Mass (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) Intention: † Jo Prendergast
9:30 - 11 a.m.	Presense (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Presense (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

Friday, February 23rd

Ez 18:21-28 | Ps 130 | Mt 5:20-26

8:30 a.m.	Mass (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) Intention: Mary T. Soria
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 24th

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Ps 116 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Ministry Summit (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
3:45 - 4:40 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
5 p.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: Christina Warden Garrity

Sunday, February 25th

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Ps 116 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

7:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Frank Kelly
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: † Donald & Daniel Walthers
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: St. Thomas More Parishioners Liturgy of the Word for Children available
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)
5 p.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Barbara Elaine Wilhelm
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Life Teen (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)

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

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

Stewardship of Treasure Report

Weekly

February 5th - 11th Collection:
\$66,086



Amount Needed Weekly:
\$50,000

ABOVE Weekly Budget:
\$16,086

Youth Stewardship:
\$101

Month to Date

Collected in February to Date:
\$96,540



Amount Needed to Date:
\$100,000

BELOW Monthly Pace:
(-\$3,460)

Youth Stewardship Month to Date:
\$268

Did You Know?

We wish to thank you for your contributions which helped supplement the cost of sending roughly 180 students, faith sharers and catechists to the Confirmation Retreat at the end of January. Your giving helped so many young disciples encounter Christ and prepare them for the sacrament. You are an integral part of our mission here 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.

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.



Fish Fry Fridays

Support Our Youth Programs

The Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent 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!

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. 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.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Prayer Requests

† Daniel Abel	Ray & Grace Fisher	Linda Lange	Dorothy Thompson
Ally Bengs	Ame Frezza	Skye Lohraum	Andy Turner
Kellie Bergman	Dave Galvin	Charles McCourt	Stan Urban
Barbara Boland	Judi Gilliam	Luke Merchant	Barbara Wiegand
† Andrew Brooks	Trace Gilliam	Jason Mikolajek	Jennifer Wiegand
John Brun	† James Hess	Fr. Michael O'Connor	Kerry Wolf
† Ed Burke	Brendan Huey	Jim O'Donnell	Christopher Younger
Samuel Chirafis	† Daniel Jares	Barbara Ohradzansky	Luke Zouzalik
Graciela Diaz	Dylan Johnson	Trent Overall	We also pray for the well-being of our fellow parishioners who are homebound or nursing home residents.
Frank DiLorenzo	Beth Jones	JJ Pacelli	
Katie DiLorenzo	Ramona Kaauamo	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	



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.

Temporary Liturgical Relocation

Starting February 19th, we will have a contractor in the narthex of the church replacing the ceiling tiles. Due to the debris and equipment, the church will be closed and the following relocations and cancellations have been made:

- ✦ **Daily Mass** will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. in Brennan Auditorium of the Religious Education Building.
- ✦ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** has been cancelled for the week.
- ✦ **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on Wednesday** has been cancelled.
- ✦ **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on Saturday** will take place in the church as scheduled.
- ✦ **Weekend Masses** will be celebrated in the church as scheduled.

“Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.”

- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM -

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. Stewards are called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. **In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask yourself whether or not you truly believe in the Gospel; and if you do, to what extent are you willing to change your prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?**

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

Are you a Secret Admirer?

Have you included St. Thomas More Parish, the Diocese of Austin, a Catholic school or one of your favorite ministries in your will or other estate plans? If you've been keeping it a secret, please share it with the diocese. Whether you'd like to shout it out to inspire others, or whisper it and remain anonymous, the diocese would love to welcome you to the Perpetual Light Society. The Perpetual Light Society recognizes those who have shown their gratitude and support for the Diocese of Austin or one of its many Catholic organizations with a gift in their will or other estate plans. It's easy to join! Just go to stma.cc/mpg and fill out the online form in less than a minute. For more information contact Dan Wierzbowski at (512) 949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Are you desiring to be Confirmed?

If you are an adult Catholic interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, here's some good news: Bishop Joe Vásquez confirms adult Catholics in the Austin Diocese twice per year, in the spring and the fall. And here's some more good news: you can start preparing for your Confirmation right here at St Thomas More, right away! Our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team would love to help you complete the journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation. For more information, please reach out to us today at stmaustin.org/becoming-catholic.

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
20

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

What is the Role of Suffering in My Life?

Religious Education Building: 101

Walking With Purpose: Opening Your Heart is a Bible study for women that 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 we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us. Our spring season runs from January 9th to April 23rd but you can join us any time! Learn more at stmaustin.org/www or email Maria Kiehn at mdkiehn@yahoo.com.

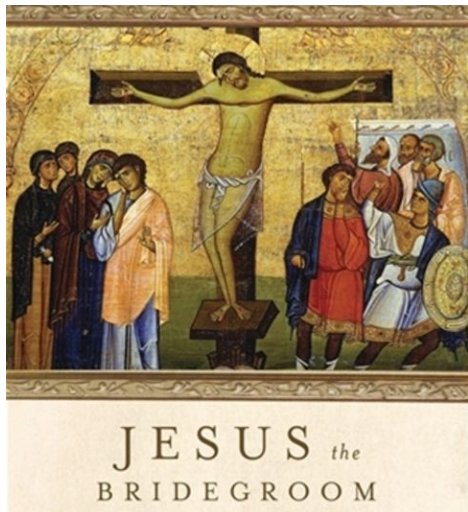
FEB
25

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

Join us in fellowship to discuss *Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told* by Brant Pitre. "With his customary combination of deep erudition and clarity of expression, Brandt Pitre sheds light on a central theme of the New Testament: Jesus as

the incarnation of the God who wants to marry his people. In the course of elaborating this motif, Pitre offers wonderfully fresh readings of the Wedding Feast of Cana, the Woman at the Well, the Last Supper, and the Crucifixion. His interpretation of the Passion as the consummation of the spousal relationship between Jesus and his people is simply stunning," says Bishop Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire.

FAITH FORMATION

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

Middle School Bible Study and Game Night

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Religious Education Building: Room 105

Join us as we break open the Bible and then play a game. If you have any questions, please email Andrea Cochran, middle school coordinator, at andrea@stmaustin.org.

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.

FEB
22

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Middle School Truck Run

Fisher House

Middle school students are invited to join us on a Mobile, Loaves and Fishes truck run. Help prep sandwiches and/or deliver food. Contact Andrea at andrea@stmaustin.org to sign up.

FEB
23

Drop off: 8 a.m. at the Life House

Middle School Social: Traveling Overnighter

Food & Fun all Night!

The first stop is ice skating at Ice and Field followed by a stop at Gattiland for pizza and games. The final stop will be at Main Event for laser tag, games, bowling and mini golf. We will return on Saturday morning for a 6 a.m. pickup. The cost is \$65. Friends are welcome! Permission form and payment can be completed online at stma.cc/to. There is limited space, so get registered ASAP.

*"Jesus showed us that children have a capacity for a rich relationship with God
and the ability to grasp spiritual concepts and ideas."*

-FR. MICHAEL VAN SLOUN-

Catholic Social Teaching

This Lenten season begins with the contrasting images of the desert and flood waters. We live in the paradox of these images: needing to go into the desert of fasting, prayer and self-denial in order to re-learn the covenant way of life we entered through the waters of baptism. Now is the time to turn from the flood of distractions that can drown us. **Now is the time to remember and reverence your dignity and the dignity of every human person. Now is the time to set aside anything that diverts you from your true hunger and thirst for God alone and his covenant of love with all humanity.**

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.

You Can Make a Direct Impact on Lives

You are invited to serve people in need in the area of St. Thomas More Parish by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Helping us provide people in our parish area needing food, clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and other types of support will be a rewarding experience. Is it time for you to live your religious convictions and give something back for all you have received? Join us on January 19th at 7 p.m. in the Life House to find out more about what we do.



The Green Spot

This weekend is National Battery Day. NEVER throw a battery into the garbage as there are chemicals in them that damage the environment. Also, they may contain critical minerals so “every effort should be made to recycle and recover these materials to ensure they will be available for generations to come.” (epa.gov) Drop them off at your local Austin library or hang onto them until the Creation Care Team BOPA (Batteries, Oil, Paint and Antifreeze) event in September.

Lent is here!

Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the narthex. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

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.

*“Christian perfection consists in three things:
praying heroically, working heroically, and suffering heroically.”*

- ST. ANTHONY MARIE DE CLARET -

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



T-Shirts for Sale

Limited supply in stock!

We are 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 this weekend. Cash, check or Venmo will be accepted. You can also purchase a t-shirt in the Pastoral Offices Building; ask for Jennifer Bibbo.



**MAR
2**

and 3rd, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Save the Date: Stuff the Truck

Life House

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Stuff the Truck is coming soon! More info to come.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



The Disaster Response program at Catholic Charities of Central Texas works to respond quickly to natural disasters and ensures Central Texans are supported across the entire 25-county region. Types of assistance may include emergency financial aid, material assistance and case management. To learn more, including opportunities to volunteer during times of need, visit ccctx.org/disaster-response.

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 19 Catholic schools in Central Texas are ready to welcome you and your family! Learn more at csdatx.org/explore.

**FEB
18**

3 - 5 p.m.

Project Stephen

St. Joseph Parish, Bryan

Men: Are you being called to serve as a deacon? Project Stephen provides an opportunity to actively engage men who are discerning their call to a deeper relationship with God through service as a deacon. This is a time of prayer and reflection, and an opportunity to discuss one's call with others. Hear a witness from a deacon, his sense of call and life of service, and learn about the qualities, characteristics, charisms and aspects of the diaconate and

of formation. Please visit the Diocese of Austin's Project Stephen webpage at austindiocese.org/projectstephen for more information. One can register by email at diaconateformation@austindiocese.org or call the Diaconate Formation Office at (512) 949-2459.

**FEB
21**

7 p.m.

Personal Investment Management Webinar

The diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development will host this free informational webinar. The webinar discussion topic is personal investment management and it will be presented by Anthony Minopoli, president and chief investment officer of Knight of Columbus Asset Advisors. To register, visit stma.cc/DOApim. Contact Dan Wierzbowski at (512) 949-2496 or dan-wierzbowski@austindiocese.org for more information.

**FEB
24**

10 a.m.

Listening Session

St. Louis King of France Catholic Church,
Austin: Louis IX Hall

Please join Shepherd Them All, a non-profit group partnering with Austin diocese schools to support them in serving students of all ability levels, for a listening session and discussion about why Catholic education is important for children with learning differences.

**MAR
8**

through March 10th

Silent Lent Retreat

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center, Temple

Lent is a graced time of the year to ponder more deeply the sacrificial love of Our Lord. This silent retreat will include community prayer, reflections, Mass, adoration and confession. Fr. Harry Dean and Brian Egan will lead the retreat. For more information, visit cedarbrake.org or call (254) 780-2436.

Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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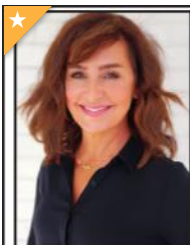


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