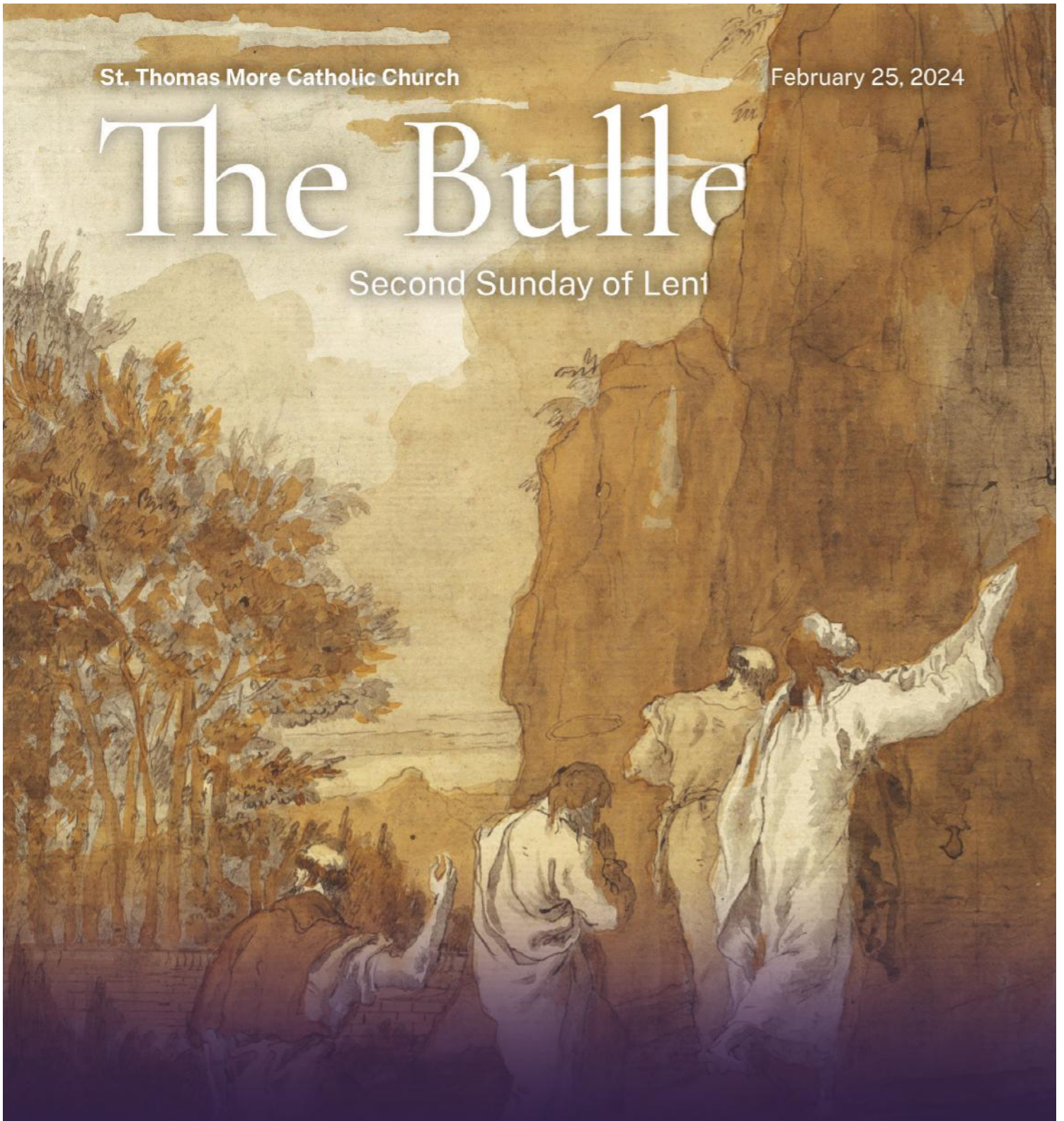


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

February 25, 2024

The Bulle

Second Sunday of Lent



The Way of the
Cross Continues...

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*What You Need to
Know About Kids'
Internet Safety*

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NW Kick Off*

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Bulletin Deadlines

Content for the March 10th edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on February 29th**. Content for the March 17th edition is due **by 11:59 p.m. on March 7th**. 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

WEDNESDAY
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

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

Parish Staff & Contact Information

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frkeith@stmaustin.org



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Jeremy Brown
Pastoral Council

Don Rosenberg
Finance Council

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Main Fax (512) 258-8812

Address 10205 N FM 620
Austin, TX 78726

Website stmaustin.org

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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

Cover: Christ Leading Peter, James and John to the High Mountain for the Transfiguration, Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, 1785/1795

PARISH LIFE

This Week at a Glance

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)

Monday, February 26th

Dn 9:4b-10 | Ps 79 | Lk 6:36-38

8:30 a.m.	Mass (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium) Intention: † Helen Gwaldo
4 - 5:15 p.m.	Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.	Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Book Discussion: Jesus the Bridegroom by Brian Pitre (Library)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Lent Lectio Divina (Life House)

Tuesday, February 27th

Is 1:10, 16-20 | Ps 50 | Mt 23:1-12

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: † Arthur Edward Otten, Jr.
9:30 - 11 a.m.	Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart (Religious Education Building: 101)
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 - 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 28th

Jer 18:18-20 | Ps 31 | Mt 20:17-28

8:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Donna Kathleen Herman
10:30 a.m. - noon	Lenten Penance Service (Church)
5:30 - 6 p.m.	Evening Prayer (Chapel)
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Middle School Bible Study (Religious Education Building: 105)

7 - 8:30 p.m.	Jesus of Nazareth (Religious Education Building: 213)
7 - 9 p.m.	Confirmation Class (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)
7 - 9 p.m.	Lenten Penance Service (Church)
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Parish Activity Center (PAC): St. Thomas More Room)

Thursday, February 29th

Jer 17:5-10 | Ps 1 | Lk 16:19-31

6 - 7:30 a.m.	Man Up (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
8:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Baby Nathan Spencer
9:30 - 11 a.m.	Presense (Parish Activity Center (PAC))
11 a.m.	Funeral Mass for Ed Burke (Church)
7 - 8:30 p.m.	Presense (Parish Activity Center (PAC))

Friday, March 1st

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a | Ps 105 |

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	
8:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: † Seth Wilbert
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
9 - 10 a.m.	Healing Prayer Service (Church)
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, March 2nd

Ex 17:3-7 | Ps 95 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42 or

Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42	
9 - 4 p.m.	All Parish Service Day
3:45 - 4:40 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Church: Confessional & Holy Family Room)
5 p.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: Terry Johnston

Sunday, March 3rd

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Ps 95 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42 or

Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42	
7:30 a.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: Joaquin Camacom
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 Francis Mijares
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: † Victor Linan Liturgy of the Word for Children available
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	Elementary Faith Formation (Religious Education Building)
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	First Communion Parent Meeting (Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium)
5 p.m.	Mass (Church) Intention: St. Thomas More Parishioners
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* (located on the previous page) 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 12th - 18th Collection:
\$51,646



Amount Needed Weekly:
\$50,000

ABOVE Weekly Budget:
\$1,646

Youth Stewardship:
\$101

Ash Wednesday:
\$5,273.49

World & Home Missions:
\$2,550.06

Month to Date

Collected in February to Date:
\$148,187



Amount Needed to Date:
\$150,000

BELOW Monthly Pace:
(-\$1,813)

Youth Stewardship Month to Date:
\$369

Did You Know?

Once again, we wish to thank you for your donations which allowed us to send our Faith Formation staff and Fr. Keith to the Religious Education (RE) Congress in California. The RE Congress is a prayerful national forum that is focused on improving faith formation at all ages. Our team will apply their learnings toward more effective catechism. Again, thanks for your contributions that allow us to better serve you and your family in your faith journey.

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.

Upcoming Funeral

Please join us in praying for the repose of the soul of the following parishioner as well as for his loved ones as they face his passing. Here are the details concerning his arrangements:

Edward “Ed” Burke

March 7th

Mass at 11 a.m. in the church

Inurnment following Mass at the columbarium

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.

“Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

-C.S. LEWIS-



ST. THOMAS MORE PRESCHOOL

Providing your child with a loving, Catholic environment in which to reach their full potential

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR
THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**


PROGRAM FEATURES :

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Play-based learning
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd




Classes are Monday-Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
3- or 4- day options available
18 Months-4 Years Old

ENROLL NOW

 (512) 258-1721

 stmaustin.org/preschool

 10205 N FM 620
Austin, TX 78726



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) from 5 to 8 p.m. 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!



11 a.m.

Young at Heart Potluck

Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

Join us for our monthly potluck luncheon and socialize with other seniors in our parish community. Let's celebrate an early St. Patrick's Day. Wear your green attire and bring your favorite Irish dish, appetizer, salad or dessert. Entertainment will be provided by Michael Hawes, our director of music. He will be performing Irish music along with telling us about himself.

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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Prayer Requests

Ally Bengs

Kellie Bergman

Barbara Boland

John Brun

† Ed Burke

Samuel Chirafis

Graciela Diaz

Frank DiLorenzo

Katie DiLorenzo

Dodie Domanski

Al Esparza

Jo Falkenstein

Ray & Grace Fisher

Ame Frezza

Dave Galvin

Judi Gilliam

Trace Gilliam

Brendan Huey

Dylan Johnson

Beth Jones

Ramona Kaauamo

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

Bob Toeniskoetter

Mary Ellen Toeniskoetter

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.

† Please pray for the souls of our parishioners who recently died.

Lectio for Lent

Let us once again gather in the Life House at 7 p.m. on Mondays this Lent (February 26th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th) to pray Lectio Divina—drawing closer to God and discerning his will for us in meditative prayer. 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.

The Way of the Cross Continues...

Our Social Justice Ministry host the Stations of the Cross on March 1st. The program will look and read a little different as each station will have images of modern day individuals depicting the station. Please join the ministry for this powerful program called *The Way of the Cross Continues...* by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact ministry leader Sheri Zapata at fearlessheri_82@yahoo.com.

A Cheerful Lent

By Lynn Grace Wong

A friend shared that on Ash Wednesday, which happened to fall on Valentine's Day this year, their parish priest mentioned someone saying, "while the world was celebrating love, Catholics were celebrating death." Yet celebrating Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day couldn't be more fitting because Christ's death on the Cross is the greatest love story there is. And this truth brings us hope and joy!

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us rejoice in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (commonly known as Confession), where we are forgiven and reconciled with the great Love of our life. We do our best to smile as we continue to fast from our favorite sweets and treats or binge-worthy shows or social media. Or even better, we fast from our anger, envy, pride ... And with God's help, Lent, for us, can be a time of great spiritual growth.

Last Ash Wednesday, Fr. David asked us to consider the ashes on the forehead as targets, a call to pray for each marked person as they begin and resolve to live Lent well.

And though the ashes have faded, we continue to pray for one another and find opportunities to give of ourselves. For God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

Some thoughts for prayer and reflection...

- ✚ Could I help my children choose a virtue to grow in this Lent? Maybe I could share with them my own struggles to live a virtue this Lent.
- ✚ Am I spending more time with Jesus? I could reflect on the Stations of the Cross and picture myself as one of the characters in each scene.
- ✚ Are there signs that my love for the Eucharist is growing? A desire to go to Mass more frequently, to visit him in the tabernacle, etc. I ask my mother Mary to help me see that each Mass brings me to the foot of the Cross, Christ crucified for love of me.

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 lynngacewong.wordpress.com

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

A Stewardship Moment

The Gospel story of the transfiguration of Jesus holds many lessons; the most prominent being the transformation of Jesus from simply being perceived as a wise and gifted prophet to the one who has fulfilled the sacred traditions of the Mosaic law and the hope of the prophets, the Messiah, the Christ. The Lord calls his stewards to participate in His redemptive activity.

Heeding this call requires transformation, being willing to renounce patterns of behavior that draw you away from God. **In this coming week of Lent, pray for the grace to be transformed, so that by your goodness and generosity, you may walk more authentically in the footsteps of Jesus.**

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



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

The Apostle Paul teaches that Christ is the "Bridegroom," and the Church is the "Bride." But what does this really mean? And what would ever possess Paul to compare the death of Christ to the love of a husband for his wife? Is that how you would have described it? How could a first-century Jew like Paul, who knew how brutal Roman

crucifixions were, have ever compared the execution of Jesus to a wedding? Pitre shows the key to unlocking this mystery can be found by going back to Jewish Scripture and tradition and seeing the entire history of salvation, from Mount Sinai to Mount Calvary, as a divine love story between Creator and creature, between God and Israel, between Christ and his bride—a story that comes to its climax on the wood of a Roman cross. Join us for discussion and fellowship. 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.

FEB 27 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Mary: A Model of Faith
 Religious Education Building: 101

"Let Mother Mary love you, pray for you, and challenge you to love radically, sacrificially, and wholeheartedly." Join *Walking with Purpose: Opening Your Heart*, our Bible study for women this week as we explore how Mary continues to intercede for us and to be a model of faith and charity for all.

▲ Our spring season runs until April 23rd but you can join us any time! Learn more at stmaustin.org/www or email Maria Kiehn at mdkiehn@yahoo.com.

FAITH FORMATION

Tonight at Edge Night
 Middle School Faith Formation
 Sundays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
 Religious Education Building: Brennan Auditorium

Legend: Who is the most influential person in history? For more information, email Andrea Cochran, middle school coordinator, at andrea@stmaustin.org.

Faith Formation on Spring Break!

There will be no Faith Formation classes from March 10th through 19th. Have a wonderful spring break!

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.



Activity Leaders Needed
 Juniors & Seniors looking for a summer job?

Apply @
CampBeyondMe.org

SOCIAL OUTREACH & PASTORAL CARE

Catholic Social Teaching

This Sunday, we are challenged by this question: Are we willing to make the whole journey through temptation, suffering, death and resurrection as participants with Christ or will we become observers only? Being a disciple of Jesus involves risk. It might mean we have to leave the comfort and security of “home” to go to a new place of God’s choosing. This Sunday’s readings ask us to realize that the Christian journey is one of risk, suffering and death, but one that ends in glory for those who walk with Christ. **Are you willing to take the risk?**

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.

The Green Spot

Do something good for your body, soul and God’s creation; take part in a Hike Pray Clean outing. Go to our Creation Care Team webpage (stmaustin.org/cct) to get resources on how to plan an outing with friends, family, fur babies or solo. “Nature is filled with words of love ... An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation.” (*Laudato Si’*, 225)



Drive a Senior NW Kick Off

Our Drive a Senior NW Ministry had a kick-off event on February 7th. The ministry attended Mass together and received a blessing from Fr. Manickam. Afterwards, they had breakfast and Daniele Lea, the ministry leader, recognized the top drivers! If you see these parishioners on campus please thank them for their service!

Top 5 Number of Rides

1. Cathy Warmerdam -226

2. Jim Brinkman -68

3. Kerry Afflerbaugh -60
4. Shirley Brinkman -50

5. Nancy Batsell -50

Top 5 Total Miles Driven

1. Cathy Warmerdam -2436

2. Kerry Afflerbaugh -1273

3. Jim Brinkman -813
4. Nancy Batsell -597

5. Jimmy Fullerton -583

Top 5 Number of Unique Clients Driven

1. Kerry Afflerbaugh -27

2. Cathy Warmerdam -22

3. Shirley Brinkman -20
4. Nancy Batsell -18

5. Kathy Judice & Joseph Pearson -13 each

Number of Years with DSNW:

1. Nancy Batsell and Kathy Judice -18 years

2. Laura Nye -15 years
3. Cathy Reyes 13 years

4. Daniele Lea -10.5 years

A Season for Reflection

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Visit crricebowl.org to learn more and read this week’s Story of Hope.



Lenten Donation Drive

As we celebrate the Season of Lent, we have some wonderful opportunities to offer our time, talent and treasure. Please join us in supporting Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM) with a donation drive that will run through Easter weekend (March 31st). We are collecting the following items:

- + Bar soap

+ Deodorant

+ Facial tissue

+ Individually packaged toothbrushes
- + Shampoo

+ Toilet tissue

+ Toothpaste

Donation barrels are located outside the church and in the Religious Education Building near the 100s classrooms.

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

Get ready to vote!

Central Texas Interfaith and our Social Justice Ministry urge you to vote in the coming election. Early voting is going on now until March 1st. The last day to vote is March 5th. You can find the location of an early-voting site near you at votetexas.gov. Please consider getting all the eligible voters in your family to vote. Remember: your vote is your voice.

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!

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




MAR
2

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

Stuff the Truck event

Life house



Kick off Lent with this event that helps the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serve those in need. Bring your gently used and working items to STM. Look for the large St. Vincent de Paul trucks in the parking lot by the Life House. Preferred items include: bed linens, clothes and accessories, housewares, furniture, home décor, toys, sporting goods, jewelry, entertainment, luggage, outdoor items, large and small appliances (no built-ins), electronics and medical equipment. Please no hard baby items, textbooks, paint or batteries, unframed mirrors, mattresses or bed frames. All items must be intact, in good working order and not soiled or torn. Hospitality and true charity come from giving the best of ourselves, just as our Lord gives us the best of everything. As we prepare our hearts to grow closer to Jesus this Lent, let us follow Christ's example and do what we can to multiply our blessings and share them with our brothers and sisters. Alone we can do little but "Together We Do More."

MAR
2

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Picnic in the Park

Trailhead Park, Austin

Join the Creation Care Team for this social event. Bring a favorite dish to share. See stma.cc/cctue for details.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



The St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program at Catholic Charities of Central Texas offers free education, mentorship and material assistance to new or expectant mothers and fathers so they can give their children the best possible start to life. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (512) 651-6100.

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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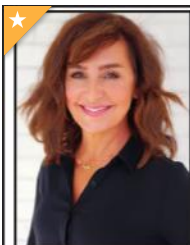


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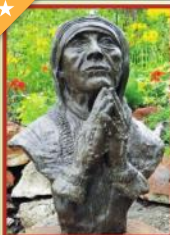
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