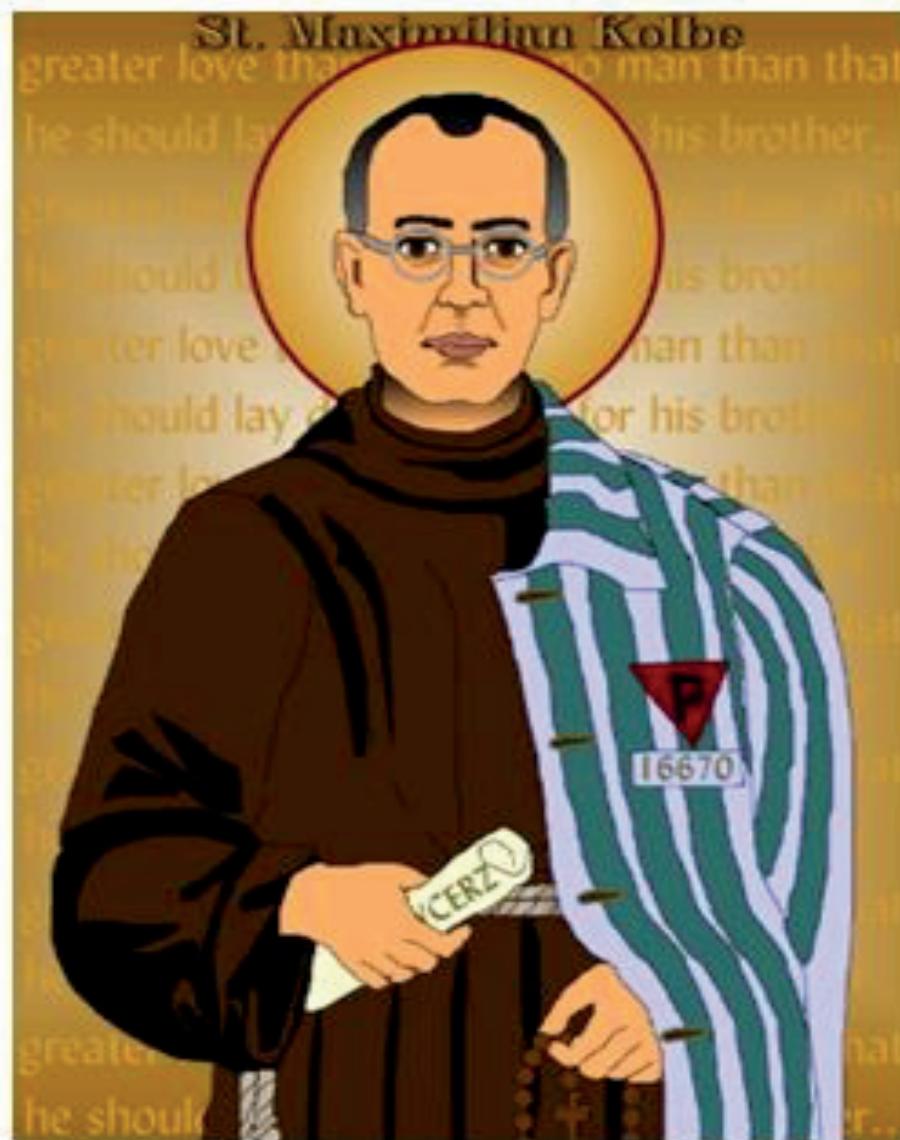


# ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



## Weekend Masses

Saturday 5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday

8 am

10 am

12 Noon

## Daily Mass

8:30 am Monday

**6:30 pm Tuesday**

8:30 am: Wed.- Friday

## Confessions

30 minutes prior to

Tuesday 6:30 pm Mass

After Friday 8:30 am Mass

Saturday: 3 pm – 4:30 pm

Or by appointment.

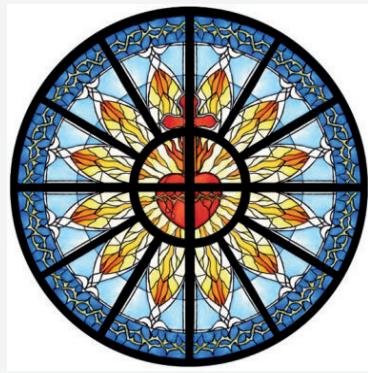
## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DECEMBER 25, 2022

Parish Office Hours  
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

10135 West Road  
Houston, TX 77064

Parish Office: 281-955-7324  
Fax: 281-955-7328

[www.stmaximilian.org](http://www.stmaximilian.org)  
Email: [stmaximilian@stmaximilian.org](mailto:stmaximilian@stmaximilian.org)



The Very Reverend Lawrence W. Jozwiak, E.V., J.C.L., Pastor  
Deacon Dennis Hayes • Deacon Steve Klak  
Deacon John Naber • Deacon Matt Rust • Deacon Joe Weir

## OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Christian Community of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic parish of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Embracing our many and diverse gifts, we are united in Christ Jesus. Challenged by the teachings of Our Lord, and inspired by the example of our Patron, we strive to serve God, and to minister to others, in prayer, sacrament, faith formation, and charity.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Janis Echeverria  
 Madelyn Henderson (Facilitator)  
 Esteban Teran (Recorder)  
 John Garcia  
 Dennis Taylor  
 John Syzdek  
 Veronica McGeachy  
 Patricia Fahy  
 Janice Burns

### PARISH STAFF

Mary Alice Greaney—Music Director  
 Molly Smith—Director of Evangelization & Catechesis  
 Chris Wuenscher—Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
 Janice Burns—Faith Formation Assistant & Baptismal Coordinator  
 Eileen Mace—Kolbe Kids EC Program Director  
 Beth Jones—Parish Business Manager  
 Phyllis Schoelman—Parish Secretary  
 Miguel Perdomo—Maintenance; Lupe Mendez—Custodian

### FINANCE COUNCIL

Sean Kennedy  
 David Ricke  
 Bob Charnock  
 Mark Kohlschmidt (Facilitator)  
 Evie Ornelaz  
 Thomas Nelson  
 Mauricio Antunez  
 Paul Hains  
 Rosa Elena Barragan-Ojeda

### SACRAMENT of BAPTISM:

**ADULT BAPTISM:** Adults who desire to become Catholic will participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

**INFANT BAPTISM** (under the age of 7 years old): We celebrate Infant Baptism on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Parents of infants to be baptized are to attend Baptismal classes, preferably before the child is born. Godparents are encouraged to attend but are not required.

### SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION:

Adults and older youth who have not been Confirmed should contact the parish office.

### SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Couples who are considering marriage are to contact the parish office, at least six (6) months (preferably earlier) before the couple's projected wedding date.

### SACRAMENT of ANOINTING of the SICK:

Any Catholic who is to have surgery due to a serious illness OR whose health is seriously impaired due to a serious illness or old age should be anointed ASAP, preferably before going to the hospital. Contact ASAP a priest to schedule an anointing.

#### Christmas 2022

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration Schedule

##### Friday (December 23)

Repose at 8 am  
 No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 for the rest of Friday the 23rd

##### Saturday (December 24)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Sunday (Dec 25) Christmas Day

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Monday (December 26)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 resumes after 8:30 am Mass

#### Pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed:

**Laurine Krejci †**  
**Anna Quiroz †, sister of Elsa Garcia**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

—And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. —Amen.

May their souls & the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. —Amen.

For consolation and God's healing graces upon the family & friends of the deceased. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness & doubt that comes from grief. —Amen.

**Keep Christ in Christmas!!**

### SIGNIFICANCE of BOWING

A bow signifies reverence & honor shown to the names or event being mentioned. We are to do the following:

1) A **bow of the head** is made when the three Divine Persons (the Trinity) are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated.

2) A **bow of the body** (a profound bow) is made during the Creed with the words "**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**"

—General Instruction to the Roman Missal, #275

December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas!

We hear the beautiful words "For today in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord (Lk 2:11)." This child was foretold "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; .... They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:5)" Praise God that "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (Jn 3:16)."

Why do our hearts melt when we see a new born or young child? A child seems to bring out the best in us. Perhaps it is their innocence or their joy at such simple things. Can we imagine a world where we encounter each other as adults with joy and awe just as we encounter children? Just as we teach children, may we allow them to teach us renewed truths about humanity. May the joy of children re-teach us how to live our adult lives. All too often, we just get too serious, and do not know how to enjoy the simple joy of laughter and enjoyment in our relationships. How often, if ever, do we say "I love you" or give each other hugs? And if we do, does it become too routine? Do not allow our professions, busy-ness or possessions and technology to overshadow what is truly important!

Each time I baptize a child, I speak about the simplicity & joy of a child & how much the child can teach us. So I remind every parent that as the first teacher of their child, allow your child to teach you things, including those lessons that we have to re-learn or remember. Every good teacher knows that he or she always learns from the students, just as the students learn from the teacher. Ask anyone who teaches religious education, whether for an adult or younger person. That person learns so much about the faith by teaching.

Even when I hear confessions & a spouse confesses hurting one's spouse or child, many times I tell the penitent to spend quality time with the spouse or child. And I remind them to be "playful" with them since we need to enjoy each other. The joy of laughter, smiling & enjoying each other helps us to remember what is important in life versus all the burdens, hardships and routineness of life that straddle us.

We celebrate the great birth of the Prince of Peace. Do we allow Him to be born again into our hearts? Do we



St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

Fr. Lawrence W. Jozwiak  
Pastor

**"There is no greater love, than to lay down one's life for one's friend." John 15: 13**

strive to have peace in our hearts toward ourselves and to others? Do we live the golden rule (Lk 6:31) "Treat others as you would like people to treat you"? Do we need to approach those we have offended and apologize? And if they approach us, do we accept their apology and forgive them? Are we willing to go to confession to rectify our relationship with God, others and self? May we be receptive to God's graces from personal prayer and the Church's prayer, especially the Mass, to live this peace! Remember the Church celebrates Christmas through Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Allow the spirit of Christmas to continue beyond merely one day.

Since Christmas Day & New Year's Day fall on a Sunday this year, some of the regular feasts that normally fall on a Sunday will not. The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will fall on Monday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. If your schedule allows it, please come to that daily 8:30 am Mass.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Christmas Giving Tree (ornaments for different age children). We were so pleased with the great response of 815 gifts with an estimated value of \$20,375 plus some 50+ more gifts that we have yet to process. That is amazing! Thank you also to all those who are praying, volunteering & contributing so as to feed 1,300 people at 11 different Houston area shelters on Christmas Day. You can still assist with a donation to offset the expenses for feeding so many people on Christmas, by marking your donation to Christmas Joy of Sharing 2022. See p. 6.

Have you included our parish on your Christmas gift list? If you have not done so yet, see p. 7 for suggestions. It is unusual that we have 4 full weeks of Advent since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. See p. 7 for the effects when Christmas & New Year's fall on a Sunday.

Thank you to the Choir who worked so hard for the Organ Dedication with Sung Evening Prayer (Vespers) & the Advent Concert on Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Many of those who attended expressed a desire that we do Sung Evening Prayer & a choral concert more often. We are receptive to such a suggestion. Thank you also to the choir & all other ministries who are assisting with the Christmas liturgies. Thank you to the Art & Environment group, led by Theresa & Mike Sicola, who have made our church look so beautiful, inside & outside. Let us pray for one another, especially those who are burdened, and for peace!

**"The Cross is the school of love."**

**"The most deadly poison of our time is indifference."**

—St. Maximilian Kolbe

## Liturgy Corner for Christmas Eve Masses

Scripture readings: Hymnal: #1004



**Order of Mass:** Hymnal #166 - #187

**Gathering Hymn:** #439—O Come All Ye Faithful  
Gloria; Alleluia

**Profession of Faith (Creed):** #174

**Preparation Hymn: for 4 pm & 6 pm:**  
#430—Angels We Have Heard on High

**Preparation Hymn: for 8 pm:**

O Come, Redeemer of the Earth (octavo)

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Mystery of Faith**

**Amen**

**Lamb of God**

**Communion Hymns: For 4 pm:**

#424—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#448—Away in a Manger

#441—Silent Night

**Communion Hymns: For 6 & 8 pm:**

The Table of Emmanuel (Octavo)

#441—Silent Night

**Sending Forth Hymn:** #437—Joy to the World



## Liturgy Corner for 10 am Christmas Day Mass

Scripture readings: Hymnal: #1006



**Order of Mass:** Hymnal #166 - #187

**Gathering Hymn:** #439—O Come All Ye Faithful  
Gloria; Alleluia

**Profession of Faith (Creed):** #174

**Preparation Hymn:** #430—  
Angels We Have Heard on High

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Mystery of Faith**

**Amen**

**Lamb of God**

**Communion Hymns:**

The Table of Emmanuel (octavo)

#441—Silent Night

**Sending Forth Hymn:** #437—Joy to the World



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalm** — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

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## Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

6 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

8 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

Sunday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

10 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen

8:30 am Francisca Dominguez Chavez †

Tuesday, Dec. 27

St. John

6:30 pm Charles Wiggins †

Wednesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:30 am Anastacia A. Apeles †

Thursday, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

8:30 am Carmen Lugo † & Lydia Lugo †

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 am Michael Williams † & Eddie Velasquez †

Saturday, December 31

St. Sylvester I  
New Year's Eve

5 pm Thomas Sakallah

Sunday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day

8 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

10 am Juan Rafael Silvera †

Noon Christopher † & Victoria Okpiabhele †

## READINGS for the WEEK

**Monday**

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3CD-4, 6 & 8AB, 16BC & 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Tuesday**

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8;

**Wednesday**

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Thursday**

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Friday**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Saturday**

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

**Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ!**

For the scriptures used at Mass every day & to hear a Reflection, go to: <https://www.usccb.org>   
On the very top Menu bar, tab in on "Daily Reading." Then click on the date of the readings you would like to read. Or go to our parish website. You may also request to have the daily readings sent to your email.

## Parish Offices are closed for the Holidays

The parish offices will be closed starting at Noon on Friday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, & all day on Monday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as Monday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!**

May all our parishioners & their families have wonderful & blessed Christmas & New Year.

## The Rosary Making Ministry meets at 7 pm Thursday, January 5th in the Parish Office Conference Room.

This ministry meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month for fellowship, learn how to make a corded rosary, pick up supplies & drop off completed rosaries. Come join us! The rosaries are given out to WATCH & ACTS retreatants, Confirmation & First Communion students - just a few of the different ministries we support. Rosaries are available in the parish office & in the chapel if you need one. For more info, contact Barbara Sextro @ 713.818.6729 or Teri Corbitt at 832.544.1798.



**Have you made a Christmas Gift to the Parish yet? See p. 7.**

## Confessions

NO confessions on Sat., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

Tuesdays: 30 minutes before 6:30 pm Mass

Fridays, after 8:30 am Mass

Saturdays, 3-4:30 pm

By appointment:  
281-955-7324.



**Invite others to come & worship with us for Christmas & New Year's!**

## Holiday Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:**

- 4 pm, 6 pm & 8 pm Mass  
(15 minutes of carols before 4 pm: Children's Choir)  
(15 minutes of carols before 8 pm: Adult Choir)
- Police directing traffic at intersection lights after 4 pm & 6 pm Mass.

**Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>:**

- 10 am Mass only.

**New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**

- 5 pm Vigil Mass

**New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 8 am, 10 am & 12 Noon.

## New Additions!

p. 5



**New Organ!**

New partition wall to hide the items stored in the choir area.



The St. Maximilian Kolbe tapestry has been moved to a more prominent place in the narthex (entrance of the church) with a new piece of furniture. (The tapestry hung previously over the inside door near the baptismal font.)

Hopefully in January, a wall sconce will be placed on either side of the tapestry. The new placement will provide a shrine area with flowers being placed there at times.

## Christmas Flowers & Decoration Fund

Please be generous with your donation for the Christmas flowers & decoration fund. We bought additional ornaments (60% off, plus 10% for a church discount) for future years, to mix & match different colored ornaments. Plus, we bought new garland & lights for the rose window facing the parking lot. All these are investments to be used today & years to come. Plus, all the poinsettias are expensive. Please make your donations to help offset these costs.

## FORMED®

The Catholic Faith. On Demand.

Diving into the beauty of the Catholic Faith has never been easier, using any internet connected device. Discover teachings on doctrine, sacraments & bible, saints, books, movies, etc., there is something for every member of the family to help them grow closer to Christ & His Church.

**Registering on FORMED is easier than ever!**

- Go to <https://formed.org/signup>
- Enter our parish zip code 77064 & select our parish
- Enter your name & email

You can also sign up for daily reflections to be sent to your email at <https://daily.formed.org/>

**Weekend Homilies** are recorded & posted on our parish webpage:  
<https://stmaximilian.org/homily>



## PARTICIPATE IN CHRISTMAS JOY OF SHARING 2022!

TODAY—Christmas day, St. Maximilian Kolbe parishioners will once again **prepare and serve meals to over 1,300 people at 11 different Houston area shelters**. We will provide everything from the bar-be-cue chicken to the paper plates and the plastic forks!

For more information contact Bobby Knight at 281-813-0983

or e-mail at [rknights29@gmail.com](mailto:rknights29@gmail.com)



**Monetary Donations can still be made via Faith Direct (designate Christmas Joy of Sharing).  
Or mark any envelope as Christmas Joy of Sharing & drop into collection basket.**

**These locations will be served on Christmas Day.**

As always, your prayerful support  
is greatly appreciated!

*"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'* Matthew 25:40

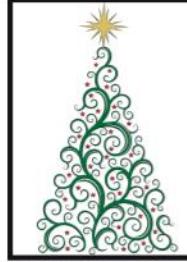


Location	Number
Loaves & Fishes (plus Home Deliveries)	500
Star of Hope (Men + Women/Transitional)	325
Casa Juan Diego (Men & Women)	135
Mission of Yahweh	60
Isaiah House	20
Pope John XXIII Village (Retired Priests)	10
Saint Joseph Clubhouse	30
Kolbe House	10
Project Hope/Saving Grace	80

**| Food Pantry is open: Wednesdays at 3:30 pm |**

[FoodPantry@stmaximilian.org](mailto:FoodPantry@stmaximilian.org)

The pantry could use the following items: canned chicken, canned tuna, canned pasta (Chef Boyardee), pasta sauce, body soap, shampoo, & deodorant. No outdated food products please. The Food Pantry is not able to accept any medications, either over the counter or prescription. \*\*\*updated 9/26/22\*\*\*



**We Wish you  
a  
Merry  
Christmas!**

**New Year 2022-2023  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Adoration Schedule**

**Friday (December 30)**

Repose at 8 am

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
for the rest of Friday

**Saturday (December 31)**

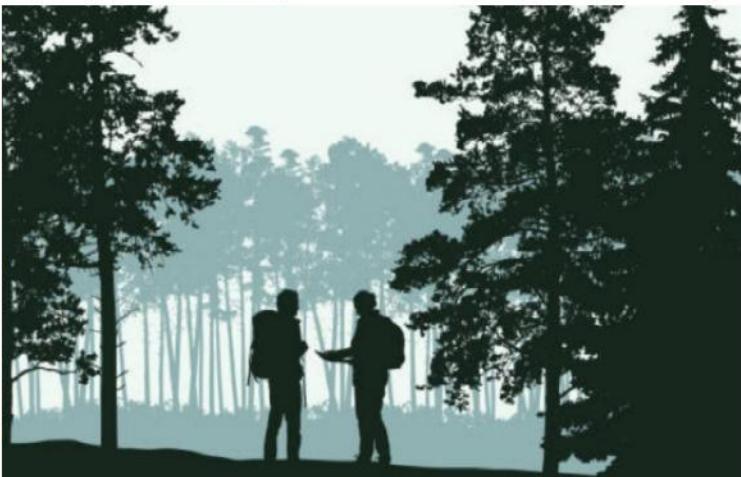
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Sunday January 1**

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Monday January 2**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
resumes after 8:30 am Mass



**St. Max Men's Hiking Trip  
Lone Star Trail - Friday Dec 30th**

High School and Older - for more information & to RSVP

Chris - [chris.wuenscher@stmaximilian.org](mailto:chris.wuenscher@stmaximilian.org)

Gabe - [gonzalezbusiness@hotmail.com](mailto:gonzalezbusiness@hotmail.com)

**"Never be afraid of loving Mary too much.  
You can never love her more than Jesus did."**  
— St. Maximilian Kolbe

**Just as we give a gift to a family member or friend, consider giving a Christmas gift to our parish.**

**Make a donation of your choosing, put it in an envelope marked as a parish Christmas gift & put in the collection basket.**

### Help to offset the cost of the:

- ◆ \$204,000+ cost for the new additional church pews.
- ◆ New church organ, remaining balance of \$58,848—see below for more info.
- Depending on your wishes & budget, please donate accordingly.
- Whatever amount, whether smaller or larger, will be appreciated.
- Use the QR Code via Faith Direct below. OR make your check out to the parish & label it for which project you desire or whatever is needed.



This QR code will link you to our Faith Direct account where you can make ongoing contributions or a one-time contribution. It is quick, easy & efficient. Whether it is a parish contribution for a Christmas gift, or any other parish contribution, please consider using this QR code.



We are all called by Jesus to share our gifts, to offer freely to God all we have received from Him, to pray for each other, and to give generously to our neighbors and to the Church of our time, talent and treasure.

**Stewardship**  
*a way of life*

### Year-End Giving Suggestions

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to St. Maximillian Kolbe. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings & other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support St. Maximillian for years to come.

There are many ways of contributing a gift; however, two of the easiest & most direct methods to give, are donations of cash & appreciated stock or other investments. As the holidays approach, reflect on making a gift in memory or honor of someone who has made an impact in your life.

You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, will/trust bequests & IRA/retirement accounts.

For more info on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to St. Maximillian, contact Beth Jones via email at [elizabeth.jones@stmaximilian.org](mailto:elizabeth.jones@stmaximilian.org) or at 281-955-7324.

Note: Those who are 70½ or older can make a gift of as much as \$100,000 a year from their individual retirement accounts (IRA) directly to eligible charities without having to include any of the transfer as part of their gross income. The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to the organization. Transfers count toward that person's required minimum distribution for the year.

Talk with your tax advisor for more info.

### Christmas & New Year's Day fall on a Sunday this year!

When Christmas & New Year's Day fall on a weekday, the parish benefits by those 2 *additional* collections, as well as the respective 2 Sunday collections for a total of 4 collections. But when Christmas & New Year's Day fall on a Sunday like this year, then the parish receives only 2 collections, not 4. As a result, will you consider "doubling up" if you are able on Christmas Day & New Year's Day to make up for the loss of 2 collections?

### New electronic church organ Fund

As announced previously with the reasons why, a new electronic church Viscount organ has been installed.

The cost of the organ is \$153,499. So far, \$94,651 has been donated to offset this cost. Thank you. Remaining undonated amount is \$58,848. Please consider making your possible parish Christmas gift by making a donation, whether smaller or larger, to the organ fund. Thank you.

### Weekly Devotional Prayer: all prayed in the Chapel

Power Hour of Prayer @ 7 pm on Mondays.

Holy Rosary @ 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

Evening Prayer @ 7 pm on Wednesdays.

Divine Mercy & Rosary @ 3 pm on Thursdays.

Rosary @ 9:15 am on Sundays.

*Due to an early bulletin deadline, the financial data for the weekend of December 18<sup>th</sup> was not available. It will be provided in the next bulletin.*

- **Amount Pledged: \$9,650**
- **Paid + pledged: Over: \$34,439**
- **Paid over mandatory amount: \$24,789 over!**

**Mandatory Amt: \$144,900**  
**• Donors: 398 out of 2,080**  
**• Amount Paid: \$169,689**



## Men's ACTS Retreat: January 26–29, 2023

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church



**Adoration:** To increase your relationship with God through prayer life.

**Community:** To create a spiritual environment in your parish, family, and friendships & live strong moral values.

**Theology:** To learn more about scripture and our Catholic faith.

**Service:** To join in fellowship in church ministries & share your talents to help meet pastoral needs.

Men, be part of a brotherhood of faith and friendship during the 2023 Men's ACTS Retreat! The retreat is a great way to start the New Year with a commitment to better connect to Jesus and follow His teachings. This three-day/night Catholic lay retreat (presented by parishioners) begins on a Thursday evening and ends Sunday at noon Mass. **Watch for sign-up tables after Masses in January or download a registration form from the St. Max website.** Contact Team Director Mark Kohlschmidt at 281.236.7203 for more info.

## Women's ACTS Retreat: April 27–30, 2023

The next **Café Catholica Lite** will be held on January 19th at Christ the Redeemer (11507 Huffmeister Rd, 77065) from 7-8:45 pm. The speaker is Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa, Vocations Director for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and his talk will be, "Scripture in Art: Mary's Fiat." The night will include lite snacks, the talk, Q&A, and communal prayer. The talk will be available to view online as well (link available online at [www.archgh.org/cafecatholica](http://www.archgh.org/cafecatholica)). The Café Catholica program seeks to help young adults (ages 18-39) encounter Christ and his Church. All young adults are invited to join us for Café Catholica Lite throughout the year. For more information contact the Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry at [yacm@archgh.org](mailto:yacm@archgh.org) or 713-741-8778.



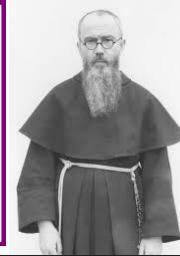
**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Ladies Bunco Night**  
**Sat., Jan. 21, 2023**  
**More details to come**

## Vocations: Ignatian Silent Retreats for Young Men and Women

Whether you want to close your year with prayerful reflection or kick off 2023 with the capacity to listen deeper to the Lord, the Office of Vocations has retreat opportunities for both men and women. Vocations is offering two separate silent retreats geared for young adults who truly desire to hear the Lord. Each retreat has different dates and locations, but both will offer space for conversation with the Lord, time with a spiritual director, daily Mass, and brief talks each night to guide your prayer. Cost is \$150 and space is limited. For specific information for either retreat, please visit:

<https://houstonvocations.com/events/>

**ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE,**  
**PRAY FOR US**



## PRAYER for VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious & consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, God, for ever & ever. Amen.

## DECEMBER 2022

25 LUIS ARMAS	26 BASIL HOUSEWRIGHT	27 SHAWN VARKEY	28 PEDRO RUBIO	29 MITCHELL SCHUMANN	30 MATTHEW LYDICK	31 JOHN PAUL ELLWANGER
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O LORD JESUS CHRIST, GREAT HIGH PRIEST, LEAD OUR SEMINARIANS IN YOUR UNERRING FOOTSTEPS: SO THAT THEY MAY BECOME PRIESTS WHO ARE MODELS OF PURITY, POSSESSORS OF WISDOM AND HEROES OF SACRIFICE. TEACH THEM GENEROSITY AND DETACHMENT FROM WORLDLY GOODS: BUT ABOVE ALL, TEACH THEM TO KNOW YOU AND TO LOVE YOU, THE ONE AND ONLY ETERNAL PRIEST. AMEN.





## Happy Holidays

No Faith Formation  
Classes until Sun, Jan 8  
or Thurs, Jan 19.



Catholic Commentary  
On The CHOSEN

THE CHOSEN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

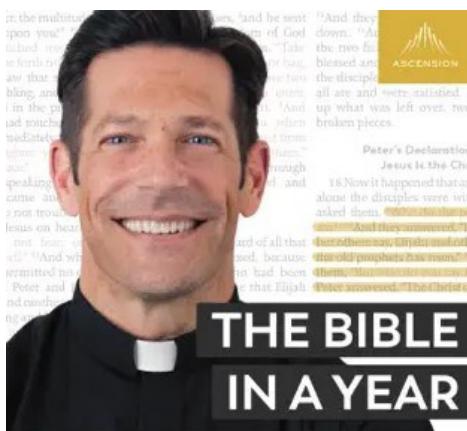
SPECIAL DISCUSSION:  
DID MARY HAVE BIRTH PAINS?

Have you heard of "The Chosen" series? It's a powerful series depicting the life of Christ AND it's now on FORMED.ORG. (Season One plus Bonus Content)

Another Formed Resources:  
Families can get some idea for Catholic practices around the Christmas season by checking out *Catholic All Year At Home* video on Formed: <https://watch.formed.org/videos/catholic-all-year-christmas-eve>



Looking for a way to engage in 2023?? Try a podcast (available on multiple platforms like Google Podcasts, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, etc) Fr Mike Schmitz has a podcast where he reads a selection of Scripture and gives a short reflection every day. You can listen to the entire *Bible in a Year* podcast just by investing about 25 minutes a day. If you have tried in the past, try again. God has more spiritual fruits for those who desire to listen to His Word.



*It is the multitude of the fruits that Jesus sent upon you!* *He said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst."* *Then said the Jews to him, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"* *Jesus answered them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have neither life in you nor do you bear my name."* *They said to him, "This is a terrible saying! Who can bear it?"* *Jesus said to them, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* *They answered him, "We are Abraham's children, and we have never been slaves to anyone; how can you say that we must be born again?"* *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* *They said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* *Jesus answered, "Do not be amazed at this; for the Spirit of God is with you, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many will be born in this way, not with water only, but with the Spirit, and they will be the sons of God. Do not let your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. There is in heaven no greater than I, but he who comes after me is greater than I. I must be born again, so that I may enter the kingdom of God. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world preserves it for ever. If anyone serves me, let him follow me; and where I go, there also my servant will go. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."* *Now Jesus had many people gathered around him, because he was teaching them. And a woman, when she heard that Jesus had come, came and knelt down at his feet, and said to him, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hands on her, so that she may live." Jesus got up and followed her, and so did his disciples. When they came to the house of the woman whose daughter was dead, Jesus saw a commotion, and people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in, and said to them, "Why are you weeping and wailing? The girl is not dead, but sleeping." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand, called to her, and said, "Child, arise." And immediately her spirit returned, and she got up, and ate food. Then the news about him spread throughout that land.*



Peter's Declaration  
Jesus Is the Christ

18 Now it happened that along the disciples were walking and asked them, "Who do you say that I am?"

19 And they answered,

"Teacher, you are the Christ."

20 And Jesus said to them,

"I told you that you would be my disciples."

21 Then he said to them,

"Amen, I say to you, among those

22 who stand here,

one person will not pass away

23 before all the sons of men have seen the Son of Man coming in power."

24 Then he said to them,

"This is the secret of

25 the kingdom of God;

but for you it is hidden.

26 For those who are

27 not ready to receive it,

it is hidden from them;

but for those who are

29 ready to receive it,

it is revealed to them."

30 Then he said to them,

"Are you ready to receive it?"

31 They said to him,

"Yes, Lord."

32 Then he said to them,

"Amen, I say to you, you will receive it."

33 Then he said to them,

"If you are not ready to receive it,

do not ask for it."

34 Then he said to them,

"Amen, I say to you,

you will not receive it."

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you will not receive it."

100 Then he said to them,

"Amen, I say to you,

**DECEMBER:** For volunteer not-for-profit organizations  
We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good & ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**Sensory Friendly Mass** The deaf and hard of hearing ministry along with the ministry for persons with disability invites you to attend a ASL interpreted Sensory Friendly Mass on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 5 pm. The Mass will be presided by Bishop Dell'Oro at Warren Chapel, 2401 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, 77021. No registration is required; masks are required. All are welcome to a social after the Holy Mass. For any questions, please feel free to reach Melissa Alvarez 713-741-8798.

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### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

That we recognize the greatest gift God, Our Father, has given us – His Son, Jesus.

**"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14**

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus, we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.



**Jesus, I trust in You**

**Pray for Our Nation**

#### EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT:

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contact Susie Charnock @  
281-813-1492.

"So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?..."  
Mt 26:40

Tuesday	12 Midnight—1 am
Tuesday	4 pm—5 pm
Wednesday	2 am—3 am
Thursday	1 am—2 am
Thursday	2 am—3 am
Thursday	1 pm—2 pm
Thursday	7 pm—8 pm
Friday	9 pm—10 pm
Saturday	1 am—2 am

Updated: 12/20/2022

### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Laura Aguianga, Eleanor Antunez, Rosa Avalos, Chau Tung Bach, Lupe Batey, Melissa Batey, Isabel Bernal, Gloria Cantu, Anna Cardona, Bill Carew, Carolyn Cartafalsa, Marisela Castaneda, Emilio Chavez-Cody, Kayson Clay, Robert Coldwell, Michael Contreras, Jesse Corona, Aurora Corral, Brayden Vossler Corson, Jim Dodge, Bobby Embesi, Harold H. Emmers, Jr., Greg Evans, Missy Fouts, Joseph Gallagher, James Geary, Mary L. Broussard-Gee, Kenny Gordon, Ellis Goss, Mack Harper, Mitzi Harper, Georgia Hohensee, Danette Isaacs, Lupe Kaminski, Madison Koopmann, Laurine Krejci, Noemi Lopez, Charlie Lozano, Jr., Mark MacFarland, Barrett Mandel, Marc Maraccini, Rachele Marchisio, Frank Martone, Russell Neal, Diem Le Nguyen, Mien Thi Nguyen, Richard Ornelaz, Carmen Ortiz, Reyna Parkhurst, Walker Pennington, Wyatt Pennington, Stan Petty, Anthony Phillips, Irma Phillips, Jose Rodriguez, Kent Rogers, Richard Ramirez, Kyle Rosenfeld, Anita Roth, Nelda Ramos Ruiz, Alveraize Saizan, Maria Senjudo, Patricia Simon, Sam Sinclair, Anthony Sliva, Louise Slott, Bradley Smart, Lance Smith, Doris Soukup, Michael Spears, Albert Stocker, Michael Svemith, Christine Swiech, Ken Switzler, Consuelo Estrada Torres, Merlita Velasquez, Linda Webb, Carolyn & Gary Webber, Chuck Woodruff, Frances Wooley, Dee Worrell, & Calvin Sing Yeung

**Pieced by Sorrow, Released into Joy** The Office of Pro-Life Activities will offer again the Pierced by Sorrow, Released into Joy retreat for parents following miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant loss on Saturday, February 5th. This single-day retreat is part of the Jerome's Hope ministry. Cost is \$35 per person or \$60 for couples. Register online at <https://archgh.cventevents.com/> or 713-741-8728

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