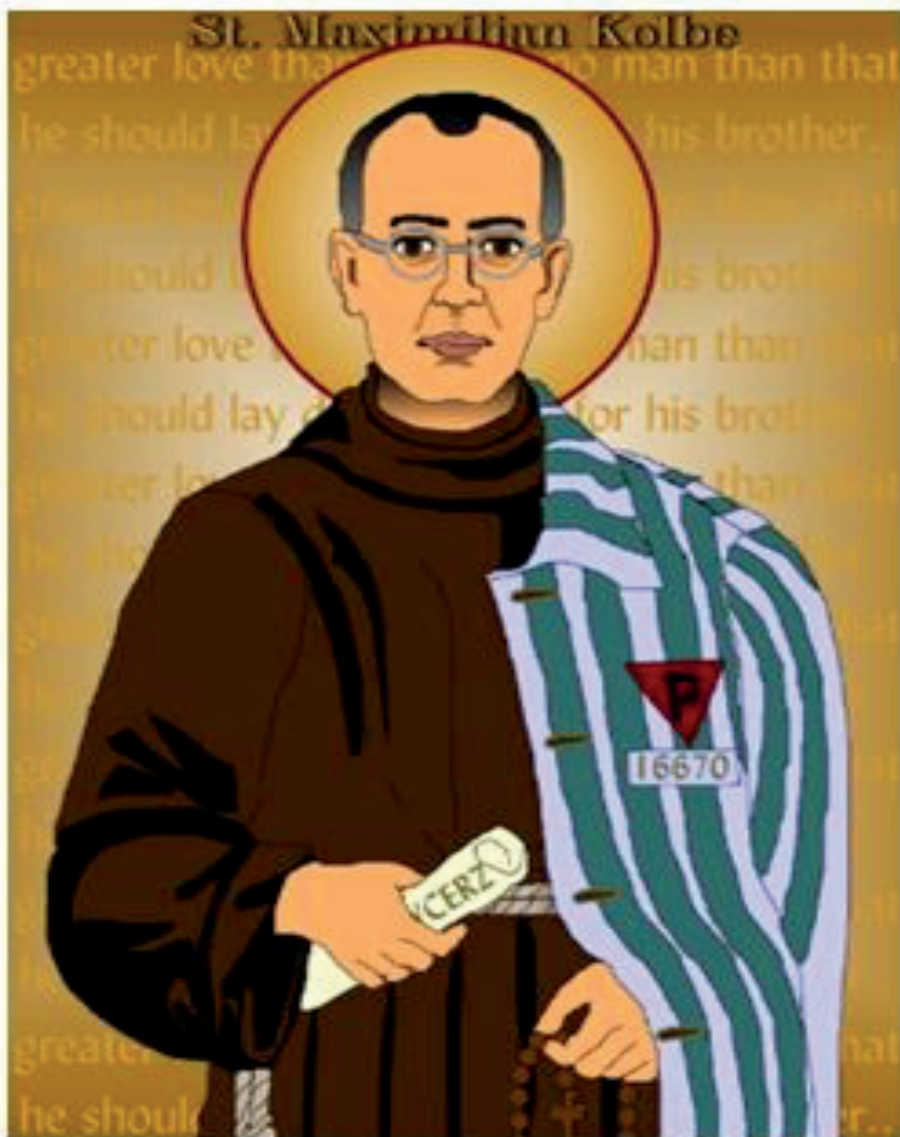


# ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

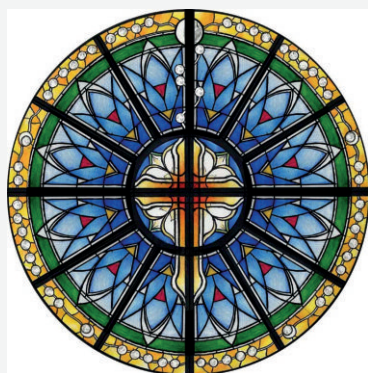
After Friday 8:30 am Mass

Saturday: 3 pm—4:30 pm

Or by appointment: 281-955-7324.

**\*\*See pg. 10 for added  
confession times during Advent \*\***

## 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2023



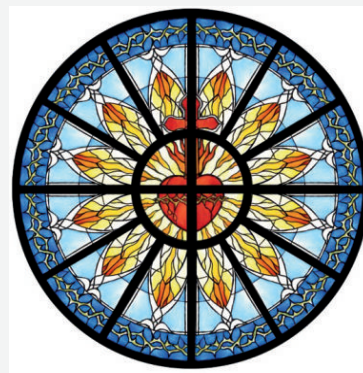
Parish Office Hours  
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

10135 West Road  
Houston, TX 77064

Parish Office: 281-955-7324

Fax: 281-955-7328

Email: [www.stmaximilian.org](http://www.stmaximilian.org)  
[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 David Persich • 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 (Facilitator)  
 Patricia Fahy (Recorder)  
 John Garcia  
 Dennis Taylor  
 Esteban Teran  
 John Syzdek  
 Jeanette Coury  
 Leslie Escobar  
 Jan Hains  
 Edward Lock  
 Thomas Spjut

### 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; [Open Position—Custodian](#)

### FINANCE COUNCIL

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

### 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.

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

**The Rev. John Devlin, LC †**

**The Rev. Anthony W. Dieckhaus, Jr. †**

**Joe Gilbert Castro †**, brother of Joe Hector Castro

**John Hyde †**, husband of Rosalie Hyde

**Doug Shepherd**, husband of Michelle Shepherd

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.



**First  
 Sunday  
 of  
 Advent**

### 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 3, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

We begin a new liturgical year this weekend with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, wearing purple vestments, except rose vestments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Advent (from the Latin word "*ad-venire*" meaning "to come to") is the season encompassing the 4 Sundays & weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

This year is unique with Christmas Day occurring on a Monday. That makes it more of a challenge since the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent is celebrated in the morning of Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. But that same Sunday in the evening, we celebrate Christmas Eve. As a result, there are no weekdays for the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent. Yes, the Church expects us to attend the Mass both on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas. The Advent season is a hopeful time of preparation that directs our hearts & minds to Christ, reminding us of His birth on Christmas but also challenging us to prepare for His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming at the end of time. The final days of Advent, from Dec. 17-24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas). To help you to meditate & reflect during the Advent Season, there are different online reflection opportunities listed on p. 8.

Since we are beginning a new liturgical church year, we begin a new cycle or year of Sunday scriptural readings (Year B) focusing on the Gospel of Mark & chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. There are 3 cycles / years of Sunday readings: A, B & C.

We just finished Year A readings that focused on the Gospel of Matthew. In Year C, we read the Gospel of Luke. In all 3 years, the Gospel of John is read in the Easter Season (Easter Sunday through Pentecost). The 1<sup>st</sup> reading, usually from the Old Testament (except in the Easter Season from Acts of the Apostles) reflects important themes from the Gospel reading. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is usually from one of the epistles, a letter written to an early church community. These letters are read semi-continuously. Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before, though some passages are never read.

The weekday cycle of readings is divided into 2 years, Year I & Year II. Year I is read in odd-numbered years (2025, 2027, etc.) and Year II is used in even-numbered years (2024, 2026, etc.) With Advent, we begin Year II readings. The Gospels for both years are the same. During the year, the Gospels are read semi-continuously, be-

ginning with Mark, then moving on to Matthew and Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. For Advent, Christmas, and Lent, readings are chosen that are appropriate to the season. The first reading on weekdays may be taken from the Old or the New Testament. Typically, a single book is read semi-continuously (i.e., some passages are not read) until it is finished and then a new book is started.

See the Christmas Mass schedule on p. 10. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday evening, the Sunday 12 Noon Mass on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled for that one Sunday due to the number of Masses on one day and the challenge to find so many people to read, distribute Holy Communion, usher, sing in the choir, etc. An out of town priest will celebrate 2 of the Masses that day. I will celebrate the other 3 Masses.

Also on p. 10, I have posted an expanded confession times during Advent. Please take advantage of the additional times. Remember this Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. I am offering a Thursday (Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>) 7 pm Vigil Mass and a Friday (Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>) 8:30 am & 7 pm Mass with confessions around those 3 Mass times. I am trying to make confessions accessible & easy for you. See p. 5 for the Immaculate Conception schedule.

There are 3 important events occurring this month that help others. One is Share Your Blessings, working in partnership with Catholic Charities. Please take a gift tag off one of the 3 Christmas trees (2 in the narthex/entrance & 1 in the transept near the chapel). Buy a gift for the person listed, bring that unwrapped present with the gift tag taped to it by no later Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. See p. 6 for more info.

Our second event is the Christmas Joy of Sharing 2023. We will prepare & serve meals to over 1,200 people at 11 different Houston area shelters on Christmas Day. See p. 8 on different ways to volunteer, make donations, etc.

The third event is called Clean out your Closet with collection of such clothing occurring on Dec. 30/31 & Jan. 6/7. Jan. 7 is the Solemnity of Epiphany which in some cultures is gift sharing. This clothing drive will be supported by Kolbe House & our parish men's ministries: That Man is You!, Fishers of Men & Knights of Columbus. Collected items will be distributed by Kolbe House, with help from the men of St. Max. We would again advertise specifically for MEN'S jeans, coats, shoes, hoodies, sweatshirts, socks, hats, gloves, blankets, as the vast majority of downtown homeless are men, but we'll accept clothing for women & children too. Anything not distributed will be given to Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM).



St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

*Lawrence W. Jozwiak*

Fr. Lawrence W. Jozwiak  
Pastor

**"The Cross is the school of love."  
"The most deadly poison of our time is indifference."  
—St. Maximilian Kolbe**

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



## Liturgy Corner for Weekend Masses

**Scripture readings:** Hymnal: #992  
**Order of Mass:** Hymnal #166—#187  
**Gathering Hymn:** #395—O Come, O Come,  
 Emmanuel



**Gospel Alleluia**

**Profession of Faith/Creed:** #174 or inside cover of hymnal

**Preparation Hymn:** #409—People, Look East

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Mystery of Faith**

**Amen**

**Lamb of God**

**Communion Hymn:**

#909—Jesus, Hope of the World

#406—Wait for the Lord

**Sending Forth Hymn:** #414—The King Shall Come  
 When Morning Dawns



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** We acknowledge You as our eternal redeemer, yet we've strayed & become sinful. We long for Your mighty presence & deeds, as we are lost without Your guidance. (Is 63:16-19; 64:2-7)

**Psalm:** Shepherd of Israel, hear us & save us. Look down, care for us, & let Your face shine upon us that we may be strong & faithful. (Ps 80)

**Second Reading:** I thank God for the grace given to you, enriching you with knowledge & spiritual gifts as you await Jesus Christ, who will keep you steadfast until His return. (1 Cor 1:3-9)

**Gospel:** Jesus advises his disciples to stay vigilant as no one knows when He will return. It's likened to a man going on a journey who instructs his servants to be watchful in his absence, emphasizing the need to remain prepared at all times. (Mk 13:33-37)

## READINGS for the WEEK

**Monday:** Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122:1-2,3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-1

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;  
 Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;  
 Mt 17:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1; 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6,  
 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;  
 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14;  
 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**WE WELCOME YOU!**

**The parish offices will be closed on  
 Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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



p. 4

## Mass Intentions



### Saturday, December 2

5 pm Joe & Jeanette Coury

### Sunday, December 3 1st Sunday of Advent

8 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

10 am Yeo Siew Gek †

12 Noon Clara Kmiec † & Steve Kmiec †

### Monday, December 4 St. John Damascene

8:30 am Ashley Pereira †, Herman Pereira † &  
 Lila Calderon †

### Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm Mary Ellen Morrison †

### Wednesday, December 6 St. Nicholas

8:30 am Carl Kaping, Sr. †

### Thursday, December 7 St. Ambrose

8:30 am Consuelo Acosta †

7 pm Vigil Mass Parishioners of St. Maximilian

### Friday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am Deacon Ronald Fraser †

7 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

### Saturday, December 9 St. Juan Diego

5 pm Mary Ellen Gorka Morrison †

### Sunday, December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

8 am Roland Barrilleaux †

10 am Lindsay Bowker †

12 Noon Parishioners of St. Maximilian



## Deacon Ronald Fraser

Birth: December 2, 1935

Marriage: June 20, 1959

Ordained a Deacon: June 11, 1994

Death: November 15, 2023

**Eternal rest grant unto him,  
 O Lord.**

**All life is sacred & valuable!**

**Pray for our parish!**

**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> Then click on the date of the readings you would like to read (in English or Spanish). Click on "Listen Podcasts" to hear the Word recited. Click on "View Videos" to hear a reflection. Click on "Get Daily Readings e-mails" to have the daily readings sent to your email. Or go to our parish website (<https://stmaximilian.org/>) to secure the readings.





The Mass

## Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 22: The Harmony of the Gospels

By Fr. Luke Spannagel: Step-by-Step through the Mass

Is anyone else still thinking about having four different Gospels? This question was discussed and pondered by some of the earliest Christians. Some tried to develop a harmonious account of the life, death, and teachings of Jesus, and the result was a kind of one-volume gospel. Although we don't have any historical manuscripts of it, a one-volume harmonization called "The Gospel" is referred to by some early Christian writers, including St. Ignatius of Antioch (writing around 115 AD). There is a manuscript dated 170 AD by a man named Tatian, who was a student of St. Justin Martyr. This manuscript is called the Diatessaron and is subtitled "The Gospel Harmony." Others tried this as well through the ages, including St. Augustine (writing in 405 AD) who wrote a work titled "On the Harmony of the Evangelists."

**Uniquely Harmonious** Remarkably, what each person found was that the 4 Gospels could not be squeezed into one without losing something important. As we have reviewed previously, every detail of each of the Gospels is written for a specific purpose. To miss one of these details is to miss an important part of the life of Jesus and his message of salvation to the world. Each of the 4 Gospel writers gives us a special understanding of Jesus, something we would miss if we forced them into just one Gospel. As the early Church moved forward toward the finalizing of the Canon of Scripture (the official list of the books included in the Bible), we see that the 4 Gospels are consistently included & honored.

**The Canon of Scripture** The Canon of the Bible is the official list of texts discerned and compiled by the Roman Catholic Church over time and confirmed by Church Councils, first completed around the time of the Council of Hippo in 390 AD. This list was reiterated by the Council of Trent in the 1500s and again at the First Vatican Council in the 1800s. We believe that certain books are inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore are included in the canon. No known inspired book is outside the canon and no non-inspired book is inside it. Since the Church is entrusted with Sacred Scripture, the Church declares what is included in the canon. A couple of other definitions are helpful here:



**Inspiration:** The Holy Spirit was present and inspired the human writers of the Bible so what God intended—and only those things—were not only understood correctly, but following from this understanding, the Gospel writers wrote them down, expressed in appropriate and meaningful language. (See [Providentissimus Deus](#), 1, 4, and 14).

**Inerrancy:** The Bible is free from errors, not just in faith and morals, but in all parts that pertain to and which God wished to teach for our salvation. (See [Dei Verbum](#), 6 and 11).

These definitions help us know with confidence that what we are reading is God's Word to us, & they can also help us understand what we read. We come to see the unity of all of Scripture & that all the books are important. We read through the lens of our lived faith and tradition. We value how Scripture has been understood and prayed with over the last 2000 years. We recognize that the Church Fathers and saints have much to tell us about Scripture and how it helps us live life in Christ today.



**A Synopsis of the Gospels** An interesting alternative to the idea of a Gospel harmony is called a Synopsis of the Gospels. A synopsis keeps all four Gospels intact as they were written and arranges the passages in four columns so that all four Gospels are side-by-side. The passages are arranged and spaced out so that one can compare the details of each Gospel account. Doing this really helps one see how each of the four writers gives a special flavor to the life and ministry of Jesus. A synopsis is like having each of the Gospel writers with us, sitting in his own armchair, telling us about Jesus.

### For Reflection

1. What are some of your favorite Gospel passages? Do you know which Gospel(s) feature these passages? Take some time to find some of your "favorites" and develop your relationship with particular Gospel authors.
2. Our Catholic liturgies and traditions celebrating the birth of Jesus and his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension draw from different Gospel accounts. Choose either [Matthew 1-2](#) and [Luke 1-2](#) or the Passion narratives in the four Gospels for deeper study to see how each Gospel contributes to our understanding of these events in our salvation.

**Source:** <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/do-this-in-remembrance-of-me-part-22-the-harmony-of-the-gospels>

### The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>:** 7 pm Vigil Mass

**Confessions:** 5:30 pm–6:45 pm prior to 7 pm Vigil Mass

**Friday, Dec. 8:** 8:30 am & 7 pm Mass

**Confessions:** After 8:30 am Mass &  
5:30 pm–6:45 pm prior to 7 pm Mass

### A Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus, you said that you came not to condemn the world but that we might have abundant life. Open my heart to receive the abundant life you offer me this Advent season. Allow me to experience the wonder of a child looking forward to Christmas for the first time. Strengthen my desire for your coming that I might be renewed in heart, mind & spirit as I prepare to celebrate you coming at Christmas. *Amen.*

## p. 6 THIS WEEK AT ST. MAXIMILIAN

### Sunday, December 3

Coffee & Donuts	Gajowniczek Bldg	after Masses
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
RCIA Session	Room 215	11:30 am
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>
Youth Faith Formation, Sunday Classes	Gajowniczek Building	2:30 pm
Advent Party, Gingerbread House Kaing	Kolbe Hall	4:00 pm

### Monday, December 4

<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
Scouting	Gajowniczek Building	6:00 pm
Confirmation Prep-Student & Sponsor Meeting	Kolbe Hall	6:00 pm
Children's Choir Christmas Practice	Church	6:30 pm
Women's ACTS Team Meeting	Rooms 215-216	6:30 pm
Power Prayer Hour	Chapel	7:00 pm

### Tuesday, December 5

Legion of Mary meeting	Room 203	5:00 pm
Confession	Church	5:30 pm
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
Thysia Holy Hour	Church	7:00 pm
Communion & Liberation Wkly Mtg	Room 201	7:30 pm

### Wednesday, December 6

<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
Kolbe Kids ECP Christmas Program	Kolbe Hall	12:30 pm
Food Pantry	Higgins Building	3:30 pm
Rosary	Chapel	6:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Canticle Hall	6:30 pm
Men's ACTS Team Meeting	Room 212	6:30 pm
Evening Prayer	Chapel	7:00 pm

### Thursday, December 7

<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
Confessions	Church	5:30 pm
Rosary Making Ministry	Parish Office Conf. Room	7:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Monthly Mtg	Room 212	7:00 pm
Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Church	7:00 pm

### Friday, December 8

That Man Is You!	Gajowniczek Building	5:30 am
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
Confession	Church	9:00 am
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Room 110	10:30 am
Confession	Church	5:30 pm
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>

### Saturday, December 9

Fishers of Men Meeting	Room 215	7:30 am
Confession	Church	8:30 am
Infant Baptisms	Church	10:00 am
Confession	Church	3:00 pm
<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Movie Night—The Shepherd	Kolbe Hall	6:15 pm

### Sunday, December 10

Coffee & Donuts	Gajowniczek Bldg	after Masses
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
RCIA Session	Room 215	11:30 am
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>
Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception	Kolbe Hall	1:00 pm
Youth Faith Formation, Sunday Classes	Gajowniczek Bldg	2:30 pm

## SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS



We are once again collecting for the **Christmas Giving Tree, Share Your Blessings** program.

There are special Christmas Trees set up in the church's narthex (entrance) & transept near the chapel. The special gift tags hung on these trees will suggest the age & gender for whom you can donate a Christmas gift. You will also find a gift suggestion sheet on the pedestal. We ask that you return the unwrapped gift(s) with the attached gift tag (s) to St. Max the weekends of Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10.

If you know a parish family who needs help or if you would like to adopt a parish family, contact the parish office at 281-955-7324 or email us at [FoodPantry@stmaximilian.org](mailto:FoodPantry@stmaximilian.org)

The Christmas Giving Tree supports Catholic Charities, area families and our own parishioners who are in need during this Christmas season. Don't miss your chance to bring joy & Christmas blessings to families in our community.



## Coffee & Donuts every Sunday,

Plan to join us for fellowship in the Education Bldg.

## "The Chosen"

Join us in watching this popular series on "the big screen" in **Kolbe Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month after the 5 pm Mass in Kolbe Hall** (around 6:15 pm).



We are now meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for the Fall. Go to the Adult Faith Formation page on our website to see the showing schedule or to find out how to catch up on previously shown episodes.

**Next showing: Sat., Dec. 9th**

**Come join us!**



## Spiritual Adoption—End of Month 8

4 more weeks to go!

**"I like to listen to my mommy's voice! Thank you for praying for me. I'm now 32 weeks old. I'm finished developing & concentrating on gaining weight. I am**

**about 14 inches long & weigh about 4 pounds! - My eyelashes, eyebrows, and even the hair on my head are now all in place.**

Please pick up a blessed Spiritual Adoption Prayer Card, at the church exits, to pray for an unborn child to be saved from abortion. This prayer campaign ends December 25, although continued prayers afterward are encouraged. Please also pray for an end to abortion & the healing & reconciliation of all involved.

**"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love & peace is abortion."** *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Watch the amazing & medically accurate, animated video of human life from the moment of fertilization. <https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/> For more information, contact Karen at [kcomstock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcomstock@sbcglobal.net) or 281-639-1999.



Come join **Fishers of Men** on **Saturday, Dec. 9th from 7:30-9 am in Room 215.** Come experience

what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Experience with other men who desire to live the Catholic faith. Free coffee!

Please donate to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers & religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others.



### Christmas Flowers & Decoration Fund

Please be generous with your donation for the Christmas flowers & decoration fund. Thank you.

**Tuesday, Dec. 5th: 7 pm-8 pm**  
(Every first Tuesday of the month.)

## THYSÍA

An hour of Eucharistic  
Adoration, Worship, and  
Scripture

After 6:30 p.m. daily Mass  
every first Tuesday

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

The annual Archdiocesan celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be Saturday, Dec. 9. There will be a procession at 8 am followed by a 10 am Mass & traditional dancing at Noon. All are welcome & invited to attend. Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy., 77002.



Concerned about your young child's Speech and Language development? Kolbe Kids' ECP has invited Amy Lerman, Speech and Language specialist from the Parish School to discuss, "Growing Language at Home and Making it Manageable". Please call Eileen Mace @ 281-970-0979 to reserve your spot for Tuesday, January 23rd from 10--11:30 am.

### CLEAN-OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

Sponsored by:

***That Man is You!, Fishers of Men,  
& Knights of Columbus,***  
in collaboration with the ***Kolbe House's  
homeless outreach program.***

We will be collecting used clothing items before & after all Masses the weekends of Dec. 30/31 & Jan. 6/7 for distribution to the Houston Downtown Homeless.

Special need for:

**MEN'S JEANS, SHOES, COATS,  
Hoodies, sweatshirts, socks, hats,  
gloves, blankets, etc.**

The vast majority of downtown homeless are men, but we'll accept women & children clothing too. Anything not distributed will be taken to Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM).

Call/Text Tom Comstock @  
(281)-380-0403  
with any questions.



## FAITH DIRECT®

Join the parishioners who use Faith Direct for their parish giving. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net), our parish code is **TX625** or call 866.507.8757 (toll-free) for more info; or go to <https://stmaximilian.org/give> OR use this QR Code to make a donation.



## Respect Life in All Stages of Life

### St. Max Mom's Club

CHRISTMAS  
PARTY IN  
EDUCATION  
BUILDING  
7:30-8:30PM

DEC  
**13**

PLAYDATE  
10AM

DEC  
**18**

Contact Hannah for more details & playdate  
locations:

[hannahjankowski15@gmail.com](mailto:hannahjankowski15@gmail.com) or 214-616-5609

The Rosary Making Ministry meets at 7 pm Thurs, Dec. 7th 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. For more info, contact Barbara Sextro @ 713.818.6729 or Teri Corbitt at 832.544.1798.

### Collection for the Week of November 13-26, 2023

Collections	\$33,554
Maintenance & Repair	\$1,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,516</b>

Faith Direct: 11/30/2023 is received twice a month).

Collections	\$9,985
Maintenance & Repair	\$457
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,442</b>

Archdiocesan Second Collection \$6,152  
(Priests Retirement Fund & Campaign for Human Development)

### We reached our 2023 mandatory amt: \$150,000!

- Amount Paid so far: **\$161,199**  
(**\$11,199 paid over goal**)
- Amt pledged to be paid: **\$5,223**
- Amt paid + to be pledged: **\$166,422**  
Amt. over mandatory amt: **\$16,422**
- 400 donors out of 2163 households





## PARTICIPATE IN CHRISTMAS JOY OF SHARING 2023!

On Christmas day, St. Maximilian Kolbe parishioners will once again **prepare & serve meals to over 1,200 people at 11 different Houston area shelters.** We will provide everything from the bar-be-cue chicken to the paper plates & the plastic forks! If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4FA5A92CA0FD0-45930253-joyofsharing> Should you have any questions, call Bobby Knight at 281-813-0983 or e-mail at [rknight829@gmail.com](mailto:rknight829@gmail.com)

Financial donations can be made via Faith Direct (designate Christmas Joy of Sharing) or volunteers will be outside church after masses the weekend of December 9-10 to collect donations. You may also bring your donation to the church office starting December 4. In addition, you may use the QR Code below to donate specifically to this ministry.

Other ways to help: \*\*Workday/Prep Day at St. Max on Sat, Dec 9 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (sign up at above link); \*\*Serve at locations on Christmas morning (sign up at above link); \*\*Non-Financial donations (sign up at above link). 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*



### "My ACTS Retreat stirred my soul into a closer relationship with the Lord."

The 2024 Men's & Women's ACTS Retreats are coming! ACTS Retreats are a 3-day, 3-night Catholic lay retreat presented by St. Max parishioners from Thursday evening to Sunday noon Mass. Centering on core teachings concerning Adoration, Community, Theology & Service, they offer a spiritual journey that calls the soul to friendship in Christ & community. If your faith is lukewarm ... you crave a personal connection with God ... you'd like to become more active at St. Max ... or you'd simply enjoy a weekend away among great new friends & prayer partners, then ACTS is for you! For more info, download a registration form from the St. Max website or contact a retreat director below.

2024 ACTS Men's Retreat | January 25–28  
Retreat Director: Wayne Pelingon,  
713.966.9832

2024 ACTS Women's Retreat | February 15–18  
Retreat Director: Valerie Delafosse,  
713.305.5578



### ACTS Women's Retreat Teaming Is Underway!

All ladies who have attended an ACTS retreat are invited to join the 2024 ACTS Women's Retreat Team! Meetings take place on Mondays in the Education Building, starting with a meal & fellowship at 6:30 pm downstairs & followed by planning at 7 pm in Room 215/216.



*The December Seminarians Prayer Calendar is not available at this time.*

Check out our website daily for Advent Reflections from Bishop Robert Barron + Word on Fire

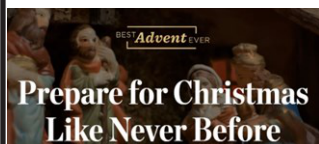
**FORMED**

ADVENT RESOURCES

Available on [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org) or check out ways to celebrate Advent (programs for children & families, daily calendar of content) including receiving daily Advent reflections in your email inbox by signing up at <https://daily.formed.org/advent>

**WORD**  
on FIRE

Prepare Your Heart weekly Advent reflections, prayers and service challenges brought to you by Fr Agustino Torres, CFR founder of Corazón Puro. Find more info at: <https://watch.formed.org/prepare-your-heart-with-fr-agustino-torres-cfr>



Discover Jesus' Radical Invitation to you this Advent with Best Advent Ever daily reflections from Matthew Kelly sent to your email inbox. Sign up here: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>



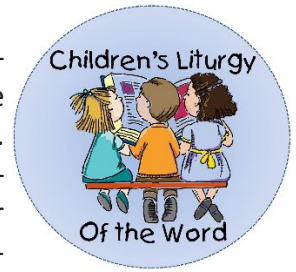
Thank the Lord for the **Sacrament of Baptism!** We believe that every child is a precious gift of God. It is in Mark 10:13-16, where Jesus says, "Let the children come to me." As parents & godparents, the greatest way to bring a child to Jesus is to bring the child to baptism. Then you help the Lord build on that baptism by teaching the Faith at home & witnessing to it by your life. Congratulations & welcome to:

**OCTOBER Baptisms**

Regina Arenas Rodriguez Journey Jaelise Williams  
Anthony Dino Retana Olivia Lisbeth Retana  
Eleanor Colette Antunez (Rite of welcoming a baptized child into the Church)

**HELP WANTED!**

Teach the Gospel to kids ages 5-9. Only once a month at the Mass you are already attending. We are now asking for volunteers for the Noon Mass. For more info or to volunteer, contact Molly Smith at [molly.smith@stmaximilian.org](mailto:molly.smith@stmaximilian.org)



**About Advent Wreaths**

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which 4 candles are inserted, representing the 4 weeks of Advent. Ideally, 3 candles are purple & one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance & preparatory sacrifices & goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over & are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation & hope surrounding our Lord's 1<sup>st</sup> coming into the world & the anticipation of his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming to judge the living and the dead.

For a blessing of the Advent wreath in the home, it is appropriate for a parent or another member of the family to lead it. For such a blessing, go to:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-advent-wreath>

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle symbolizes "HOPE" and is called the "Prophet's Candle". The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.**

God of hope, as we enter this season of Advent, we pray that this time will be different. This Christmas we will stop rushing, we will breathe, and take notice of You and your works in the world. May we be mindful of our actions, that they be peace-filled and our words loving as Christ in the world. Amen.



**Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of The United States, Pray for us!**

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

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SERVANT-FOCUSED SCRIPTURE-BASED

Fall Spring Schedule Many sessions open for Faith Formation:

- Sunday afternoons 2:30-4pm Grades Pre-K to 12
- Thursday evenings 6:30-8pm Grades Pre-K to 8
- Homeschool session Grades K-8

<https://stmaximilian.org/children-youth-faith-formation>

**Parents are the first teachers of their children in all things, especially in the ways of faith.**

DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29		
31																				

**Sunday Session 2:30p -4p**  
PreK - 12th Gr.

**Thursday Session 6:30p -8p**  
PreK - 8th Gr.





**DECEMBER: For Persons with Disabilities**

*We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, & that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

That we don't take our time on Earth for granted & look at each day as a gift from God.

**"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33**

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today & begin thanking God for each & every day. Take time in silence, every day, & listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

**Holiday Schedule**

**—Friday, Dec. 8: The Immaculate Conception of Mary (a Holy Day of Obligation)**

—Thursday, Dec. 7—7 pm Vigil Mass  
—Friday, Dec. 8—8:30 am & 7 pm Masses

—Sun., Dec. 10—12 Noon Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent with Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration in Kolbe Hall.  
—6:30 pm Mass, Tues., Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

**—Saturday, Dec. 23—5 pm Saturday Vigil Mass**

**—Sun., Dec. 24 morning only: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
8 am & 10 am Masses

There will be NO 12 Noon Mass on this Sunday only.

**—Christmas Eve, Sunday evening, Dec. 24:**

• **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, Monday, Dec. 25: 10 am Mass only.**

**—Saturday, Dec. 30—5 pm Saturday Vigil Mass**

**—Sunday morning, Dec. 31—8 am, 10 am & 12 Noon**

**Mary, Mother of God**

**New Year's Eve, Sunday evening, Dec. 31—5 pm Vigil**

**New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1—10 am Mass only**

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Lisa Abbott, Cynthia Aguirre, Eleanor Antunez, Lupe & Melissa Batey, Norma Bodin, Maria Bueno, Bill Carew, Rebecca Carter, Susie Charnock, Aurora Enciso, Rose Farris, Missy Fouts, Joseph Gallagher, Estrella Gonzalez, Elizabeth Anna Goodman, Soledad Haren, Georgia Hohensee, Maria Ibarria, Anne Jackson, Taylar Jackson, Madison Koopmann, Rachele Marchisio, Craig McKnight, Arma Morrison, Maria Mien Nguyen, Richard Ornelaz, Rose Pennell, Stan Petty, Irma Phillips, Walker Ponder, Marian Rearick, Delia Rodrigues, Alveraize Saizan, Maria Senjudo, Guillermo Stewart-Gaynor, Christine Swiech, Ken Switzler, Consuelo Estrada Torres, Ngoc Anh Uy, Linda Webb, Carolyn & Gary Webber, Frances Wooley, & Chuck Woodruff

**Confessions during Advent**

**Tuesdays:** (Dec. 5, 12 & 19): 5:30 pm-6:20 pm

**Fridays:** After the 8:30 am Mass

**Thurs., Dec. 7:** 5:30 pm-6:45 prior to 7 pm Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception.

**Friday, Dec. 8:** the Immaculate Conception:

• after the 8:30 am Mass  
• 5:30 pm-6:45 pm prior to 7 pm Mass

**Tuesday, Dec. 12:** Our Lady of Guadalupe

• 5:30 pm-6:20 pm prior to 6:30 pm Mass

**Saturdays:**

• Dec. 9, 16 & 23—8:30 am - 9:30 am  
• Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23—3 pm-4:30 pm

**Or by appointment: 281-955-7324.**

On Sundays beginning at 7:20 am plan to join a group that gathers to pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy & prayers for the different vocations. These prayers are held in the Chapel.

**Weekly Devotional Prayer: All 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.



**EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

To the side are days/times where help is needed.

To sign up, contact Susie Charnock @ 281-813-1492.

*"So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?..."*

*"Mt 26:40"*

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12 Midnight—1 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 am—2 am *NO ADORER*</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2 am—3 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9 am—10 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 am—2 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2 am—3 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10 am—11 am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4 am—5 am</b>

Updated: 11/19/2023




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