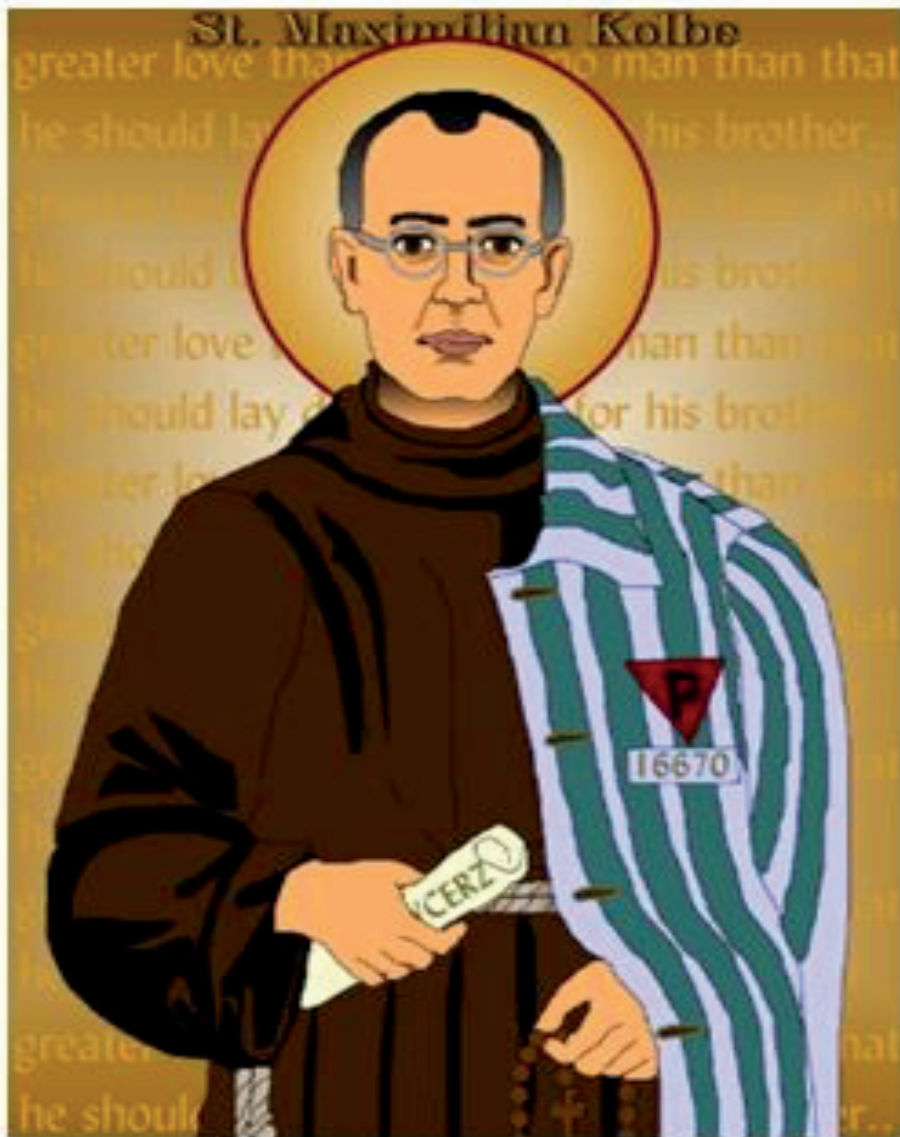


ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

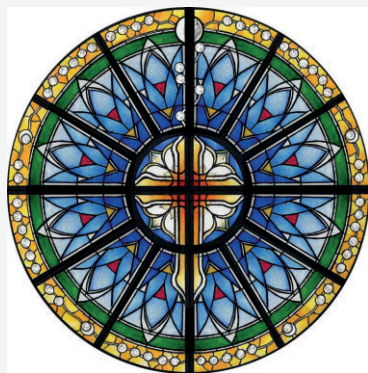
After Friday 8:30 am Mass

Saturday: 3 pm—4:30 pm

Or by appointment: 281-955-7324.

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

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023



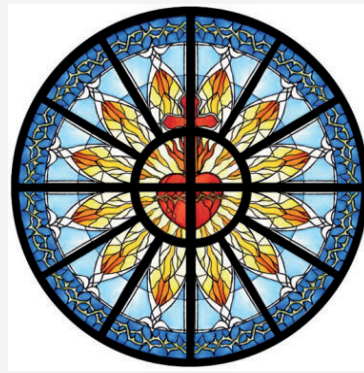
Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

10135 West Road
Houston, TX 77064

Parish Office: 281-955-7324

Fax: 281-955-7328

Email: www.stmaximilian.org
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 2nd 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:

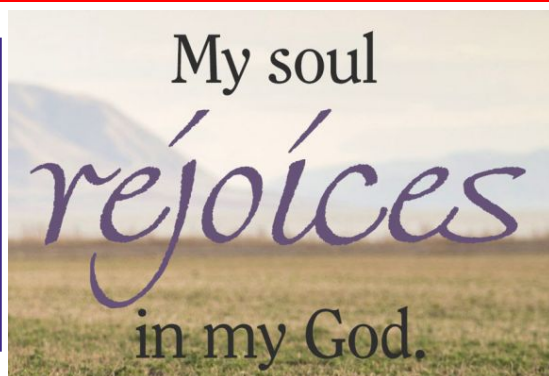
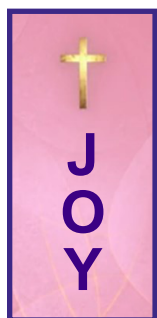
Adults and older youth who have not been Confirmed should contact the parish office.

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.



**Third
 Sunday
 of
 Advent**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling tamales in the plaza this weekend after all the Masses.

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 17, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday. *Gaudete* is pronounced in 3 syllables: *Gow-day-tay*. *Gaudete* is the imperative of the Latin word *gaudeo* which means "rejoice." It is a command or an exhortation for more than one person to do something, to rejoice. It is the midpoint of Advent, as we await to celebrate / remember the birth of Christ into the world. We hear the word "rejoice" or themes of joy several times in today's scripture readings, prayers & hymns.

This weekend is known also as Rose Sunday because the 3rd candle of the Advent wreath is rose colored. Plus, the Church encourages, though does not require, the use of rose colored vestments for the clergy (chasuble/stole for the priest & dalmatic/stole for the deacon) this weekend, as well as on the 4th Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* Sunday, pronounced in 3 syllables: *Lay-tah-ray*). Here at St. Maximilian, only 2 years have we had rose colored vestments due to the generosity of 2 parishioners.

The challenge is to choose music that is applicable to the church's liturgical year & the Mass readings, that we can sing well & most people will like it. That is a tall order to fulfill, especially since everyone's taste & ability to sing differs drastically. Some people would prefer only traditional music hymns (including some Latin). Others prefer more contemporary music. What we try to do is to have an appropriate balance of all types of music. So we will never fulfill everyone's tastes.

There are others who want change and others who do not like any change at all, including the Mass parts (Gloria, Alleluia; Holy, Holy, Holy / *Sanctus*; Amen & Lamb of God/*Agnus Dei*). My response to those who never want change in any types of music: how does new music ever get accepted? If someone did not allow a chance for *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* or *Silent Night* to be introduced, those hymns would never have become popular as they are today. If we never make any changes to the music, including the Mass parts, that would just re-enforce the inaccurate perception the Mass is "always the same."

Have you noticed that during Advent the melody to the Mass parts is the same melody to #395 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*? We thought this melody would be a great way to celebrate the entire Advent Season with a very traditional melody. It is common that different hymns may have the same melody. For instance, the same melody is used both for #539 *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* & #614 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*. The same is true with

a different melody for #641 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* & #949 *Alleluia*! Sing to Jesus! The same is true with these Advent Mass parts. It is an attempt to use a common melody to help us to praise God.

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the 8th century. They are the antiphons (responses) that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23: the Octave before Christmas. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. These O Antiphons comprise the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." These O Antiphons are used for the daily Gospel Alleluia verse normally (there can be an exception sometimes.)

Praying the "O" Antiphons as a family, household or with others – during grace at meals, in front of the Advent wreath, manger scene or the Christmas tree – is a wonderful Advent devotion & a time to read, meditate & reflect on the Scriptural texts which form the basis for the "O" Antiphons.

December 17 (cf. Isaiah 11:2–3; 28:29)

O Sapientia (O Wisdom): O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18 (cf. Isaiah 11:4–5; 33:22)

O Adonai (O Lord of Israel): O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19 (cf. Isaiah 11:1; 11:10)

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse): O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20 (cf. Isaiah 22:22; 42:7)

O Clavis David (O Key of David): O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21 (cf. Isaiah 9:2)

O Oriens (O Rising Dawn or Morning Star): O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come & shine on those who dwell in darkness & in the shadow of death.

December 22 (cf. Isaiah 9:5; 2:4; 28:16-17)

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations): O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23 (cf. Isaiah 7:14; 33:22)

O Emmanuel (God is with us): O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

It is interesting to note that the first letter of each antiphon – *Sapientia*, *Adonai*, *Radix*, *Clavis*, *Oriens*, *Rex* & *Emmanuel* – when read backwards forms an acrostic in Latin: "*Ero cras*." This can be understood as the words of Christ, responding to His people's plea, saying, "Tomorrow I will be there."

"The Cross is the school of love."

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

—St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

Lawrence W. Jozwiak

Fr. Lawrence W. Jozwiak
Pastor



"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: #998

Order of Mass: Hymnal #166—#187

Gathering Hymn: #568—Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Gospel Alleluia

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

Preparation Hymn: #420—Creator of the Stars & Night

Holy, Holy, Holy

Mystery of Faith

Amen

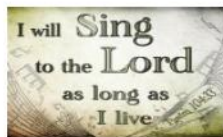
Lamb of God

Communion Hymn:

#415—My Soul in Stillness Waits

#880—Salve Regina

Sending Forth Hymn: #409—People, Look East



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Anointed by God, I am sent to bring hope to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, & proclaim freedom. Clothed in salvation, I joyfully await God's justice to flourish globally. (Is 61:1-11)

Psalms: My soul magnifies the Lord, rejoicing in God my Savior. He has blessed me, His humble servant, & shown mercy across generations, fulfilling His promise with compassion. (Lk 1)

Second Reading: Rejoice always, pray ceaselessly, & give thanks in all situations. Embrace the Spirit, discern truth, & avoid evil. May God sanctify you wholly for Christ's return, fulfilling His promise. (1 Thes 5:16-24)

Gospel: Sent by God, John the Baptist testified to the coming Light, making clear he was not the Christ, Elijah, nor the Prophet. Questioned by Jewish leaders, he identified himself as the voice prophesied by Isaiah, preparing the way for the Lord. Despite his significant role, John humbly acknowledged the greater one to follow, whose sandals he felt unworthy to untie. (Jn 1:6-28)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



Christmas Flowers & Decoration Fund

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

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



p. 4

Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 16

5 pm Vigil Carlos Amengual † & Irvin Charnock †

Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

8 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

10 am Karen Kaping †

12 Noon James W. Cozart, Jr. † & David & Camila Thiam †

Monday, December 18

8:30 am Clara Kmiec † & Steve Kmiec †

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 pm Robert L. Strauss †

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 am Donald R. Sextro †

Thursday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am Rocky Vogtman †

Friday, December 22

8:30 am Vick Todaro †

Saturday, December 23 St. John of Kanty

5 pm Vigil Carol Ann (Sissy) Geary †

Sunday morning, Dec 24: 4th Sunday of Advent

8 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

10 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

no 12 Noon Mass this Sunday only

Sunday evening, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Holy Day of Obligation

4 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

6 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

8 pm Parishioners of St. Maximilian

Monday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Holy Day of Obligation

10 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

no 8:30 am Mass this Monday only

Advent

Hope Peace Joy Love

All life is sacred & valuable!

WE WELCOME YOU!

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 24: The Homily

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

After hearing God's Word to us in the Scriptures and especially the life and words of Jesus in the Gospel, next comes an opportunity to reflect more deeply on those words in the **homily**. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, after the Gospel, we move into the "Second Half" of the Liturgy of the Word, which "consists of the homily, the Profession of Faith and the Prayers of the Faithful. These three 'moments' in the liturgy act as a bridge between the Liturgies of the Word and Eucharist" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9).

The Root of the Term What is the homily exactly? "Homily" comes from a Greek word that means "explanation." The purpose of the "homily is to break open the Scriptures and lead us in a deeper understanding of the mysteries we celebrate" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9). From the glossary of our Catechism, the homily is "[p]reaching by an ordained minister to explain the Scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy and to exhort the people to accept them as the Word of God" (CCC, p. 882). According to the New Catholic Encyclopedia, "a homily is a more or less brief, instructive discourse on a passage of Scripture wherein the spiritual lesson of the Scriptural text is made clear... It is generally to be instructive, informal, and intelligent" (p. 271). Some might say that is a tall order!



Who can give the homily? As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states, "The Homily should ordinarily be given by the Priest Celebrant himself or be entrusted by him to a concelebrating Priest, or from time to time and, if appropriate, to the Deacon, but never to a lay person. In particular cases and for a just cause, the Homily may even be given by a Bishop or a Priest who is present at the celebration but cannot concelebrate" (*GIRM*, 66). The reason that only a Bishop, priest, or deacon gives the homily in the liturgy is directly tied to the proclamation of the Gospel. One of the gifts a man receives at ordination is a particular grace for the special purpose of preaching and teaching the Gospel. Although the wording is slightly different now, I recall very clearly the part of the diaconate ordination rite where the Bishop handed me the Book of the Gospels and said, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." Every now and then when preparing the homily, I will think of these words which remind me that I have been chosen for this ministry. I will read through the Scriptures and recall for myself that Jesus has asked me to share these truths with God's people, hopefully to help them understand more fully, grow in faith, and live more consistently in his love.

A Link Between the Liturgies The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* teaches, "The Homily is part of the Liturgy...for it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. It should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the [prayers of the Mass] and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners" (*GIRM*, 65). So, while the homily may most commonly be about the readings used in the Mass, it would be appropriate for the preacher to also reflect on one of the prayers of the Mass. I somewhat regularly will refer to phrases in the Prefaces before the Eucharistic Prayer, especially on special Feast Days when those prayers are specific to the celebration.



Do we always have the homily? As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* says, there should be a homily at every Sunday and Holy Day Mass when there is a congregation. It is recommended on other days, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season, as well as on other "festive days and occasions" when more people are joining for the celebration (*GIRM*, 66). Next time, we will look more into the homily and how it helps serve as a link between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

For Reflection:

1. Pray with this guidance to Timothy about preaching: "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" ([2 Timothy 4:1-2](#)). Consider how the homilies you experience function to fulfill this instruction.
2. Reflect on significant homilies in your life history. Are there any memorable occasions when the message of a homily affected you? Give thanks to God for the impact of this preaching.

Source: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/do-this-in-remembrance-of-me-part-24-the-homily>

For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine & in any other troubled areas, for an end to terrorism & all violence, including those assaulted by guns & other instruments of harm, and for the safety of all those who protect us.

Invite others to come & worship with us for Advent & the Christmas Season!

p. 6 THIS WEEK AT ST. MAXIMILIAN

Sunday, December 17

Coffee & Donuts

Mass

Mass

RCIA Session

Mass

Christmas Decorating Group Mean

Christmas Decorating

Youth Faith Formation, Sunday Classes

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gajowniczek Bldg after Masses

Church

Church

Room 215

Church

Kolbe Hall

Church

Gajowniczek Building

8:00 am

10:00 am

11:30 am

12 Noon

1:30 pm

2:30 pm

Monday, December 18

Mass

Kolbe Kids ECH Program

Scouting

Children's Choir Christmas Practice

Women's ACTS Team Meeting

Power Prayer Hour

Church

Gajowniczek Building

Gajowniczek Building

Church

Rooms 212

Chapel

8:30 am

9:00 am

6:00 pm

6:30 pm

6:30 pm

7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19

Kolbe Kids ECH Program

Legion of Mary meeting

Confession

Mass

Men's ACTS Retreat Music Practice

Communion & Liberation Wkly Mtg

Gajowniczek Building

Room 203

Church

Church

Room 203

Room 201

9:00 am

5:00 pm

5:30 pm

6:30 pm

6:30 pm

7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20

Mass

Kolbe Kids ECP Program

Food Pantry

Rosary

Choir Rehearsal

Men's ACTS Team Meeting

Evening Prayer

Church

Gajowniczek Building

Higgins Building

Chapel

Canticle Hall

Room 212

Chapel

8:30 am

9:00 am

3:30 pm

6:30 pm

6:30 pm

6:30 pm

7:00 pm

Thursday, December 21

Mass

Church

8:30 am

Friday, December 22

That Man Is You!

Mass

Confession

Parish Office closes at Noon

Gajowniczek Building

Church

Church

5:30 am

8:30 am

9:00 am

Saturday, December 23

Confession

Confession

Vigil Mass

Church

Church

Church

8:30 am

3:00 pm

5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24

Mass

Mass

No NOON Mass this Sunday

4th Sunday of Advent

Church

Church

8:00 am

10:00 am

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Children's Choir singing Christmas Carols

Mass

Mass

Adult Choir singing Christmas Carols

Mass

3:45 pm

Church

Church

7:45 pm

Church

4:00 pm

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

Monday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Holy Day of Obligation

Mass

No 8:30 am Mass this Monday

Church

10:00 am

Keep Christ in Christmas!

**Respect Life
in All Stages of Life**

Coffee & Donuts every Sunday,

Plan to join us for fellowship in the Education Bldg.

**There will not be coffee & donuts offered
on Sunday, December 24th morning.**

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. Maximilian 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. Maximilian 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. Maximilian, contact Beth Jones via email at 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.



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.



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 eye-
lashes, 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 or 281-639-1999.

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

Make a donation for Social Concerns, put it in an envelope marked as a parish Social Concerns & put in the collection basket.



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, consider using this QR code.



A Prayer for Christmas Eve

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, & worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate & open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift & good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings & teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, & Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving & forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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.



Join the parishioners who use Faith Direct for their parish giving. Visit 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.



The 3rd Advent candle symbolizes JOY. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more & more. The 3rd candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the 3rd candle & rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the 3rd candle of Advent is called the "Shepherd's Candle," & its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy. This Advent, light the 3rd candle today.



Collection for the Week of December 4—10, 2023

Collections	\$29,350
Maintenance & Repair	\$1,495
Total	\$30,845

Faith Direct: 12/15/2023 is received twice a month).

<i>Collections</i>	<i>\$28,450</i>
<i>Maintenance & Repair</i>	<i>\$1,793</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$30,293</i>

Archdiocesan Second Collection \$4,502

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

- **Amount Paid so far: \$164,209**
(\$14,209 paid over goal)
- **Amt pledged to be paid: \$4,393**
- **Amt paid + to be pledged: \$168,602**
Amt. over mandatory amt: \$18,602
- **401 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

Financial donations can be made via Faith Direct (designate Christmas Joy of Sharing). You may also bring your donation to the church office. In addition, you may use the QR Code below to donate specifically to this ministry.

Other ways to help:

**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



St. Maximilian Kolbe

Women's ACTS Retreat

Feb. 15-18, 2024

For more info, contact Retreat Director:
Valerie Delafosse, 713.305.5578

Pray for our blessings on our parish!

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>

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>



Pursuing a Vocation that is filled with Joy!

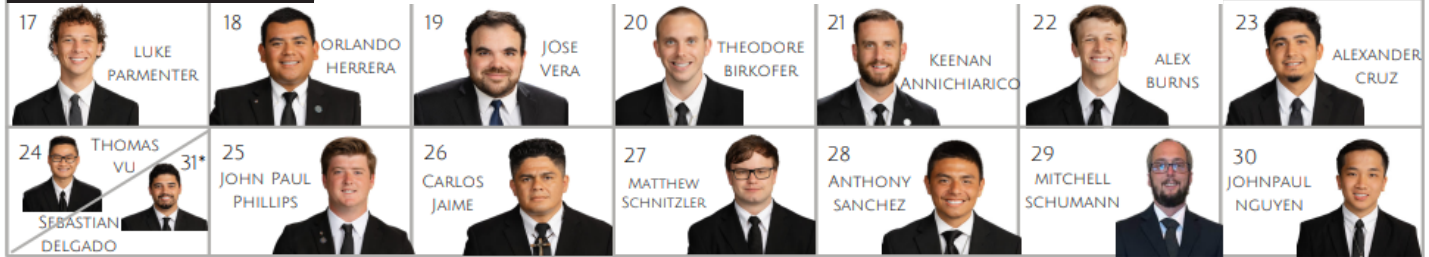
For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine & in any other troubled areas, for an end to terrorism & all violence, including those assaulted by guns & other instruments of harm, and for the safety of all those who protect us.

Los matachines dancers
came to St. Maximilian Kolbe for
Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration.





DECEMBER 2023



We look forward to worshipping with you this **Christmas!** Christmas Day is a momentous celebration in our faith, but this year provides a unique scheduling challenge since it falls on a Monday. Catholics are obliged to attend Holy Mass both for Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Advent & for Christmas. **We are allowed to receive Holy Communion twice in any one day.** So, let us embrace these obligations as moments of grace & joy, where we can draw closer to God & each other. Attend one from each column.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The obligation for the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass may be met at a Saturday evening Mass or any Mass held before 4 pm on Sunday.

Obligation may be fulfilled here at:

5 pm Vigil Mass, Saturday, Dec. 23rd

8 am or 10 am Sunday Mass, Dec. 24th

****no 12 Noon Mass on this Sunday only****

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

The obligation of the Christmas Mass may be met at any Mass after 4 pm on Sunday, Dec. 24th or any Mass celebrated on Monday, Dec. 25th.

Obligation may be fulfilled here at:

4 pm, 6 pm, or 8 pm Mass, Sunday, Dec. 24th

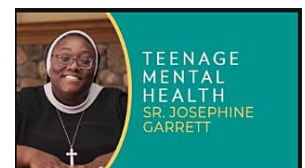
10 am Mass on Monday, Dec. 25th

Many of us struggle with mental health during the holidays – isolation, lack of sunlight, fears and worries.



Formed.org has some programs to help raise our awareness so that we can be reassured & get help, if needed. Please check out the program on Mental Health in the Holiday Season <https://watch.formed.org/videos/mental-health-leading-into-the-holidays>

Or for youth, there is a series about Teenage Mental Health <https://watch.formed.org/teenage-mental-health-with-sister-josephine-garrett>



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 realize suffering is a gift & helps us build empathy for others & build our dependence on God.

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations & shows our dependence on God.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Lisa Abbott, Cynthia Aguirre, 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, Debbie Vela, Linda Webb, Carolyn & Gary Webber, Frances Wooley, & Chuck Woodruff

Holiday Schedule

—**Saturday, Dec. 23**—5 pm Saturday Vigil Mass
 —**Sun., Dec. 24 morning only: 4th 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

Confessions during Advent

Tuesdays: (Dec. 19): 5:30 pm-6:20 pm

Fridays: After the 8:30 am Mass

Saturdays: Dec. 16 & 23—8:30 am - 9:30 am

Dec. 16 & 23—3 pm-4:30 pm

Or by appointment: 281-955-7324.

Parish Offices are closed for the Holidays

The parish offices will be closed starting at Noon on Friday, Dec. 22nd, & all day on Monday, Dec. 25th & Tuesday, Dec. 26th, as well as Monday, Jan. 1st.

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!

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

Christmas 2023

Eucharistic Adoration Schedule

Friday (December 22)

Repose the Blessed Sacrament at 8 am.

Saturday (December 23)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday (December 24)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday (December 25) Christmas Day

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday (December 26)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament resumes at 8 am

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

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

Updated: 11/19/2023



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