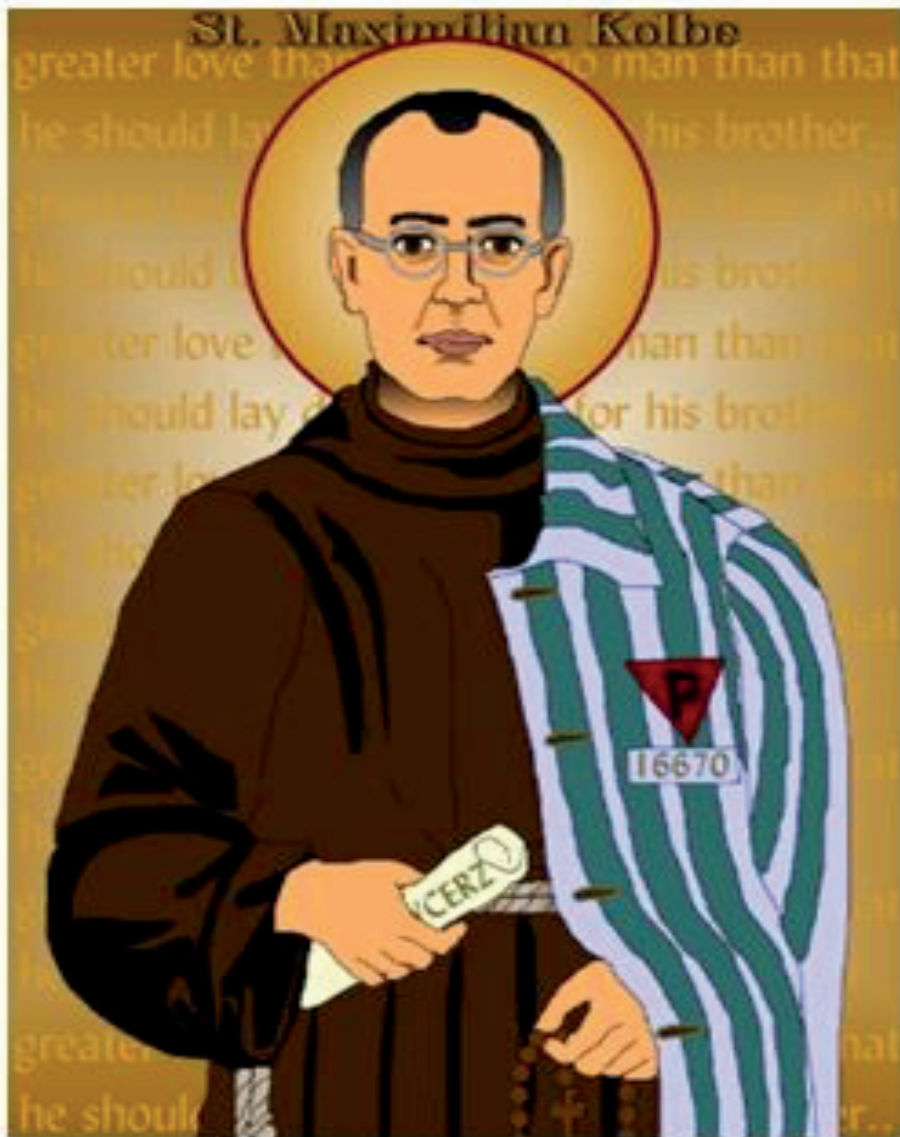


ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

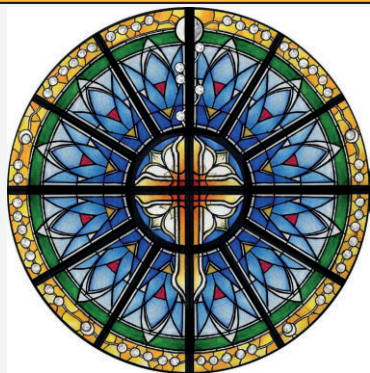
30 minutes prior to
Tuesday 6:30 pm Mass

After Friday 8:30 am Mass

Saturday: 3 pm—4:30 pm

Or by appointment: 281-955-7324.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 7, 2024



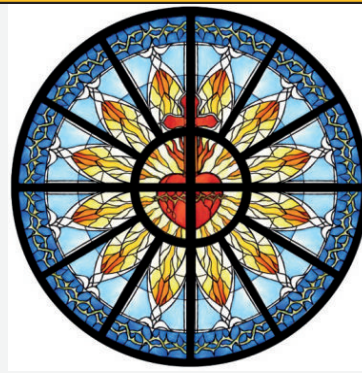
Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

10135 West Road
Houston, TX 77064

Parish Office: 281-955-7324

Fax: 281-955-7328

Parish Office: www.stmaximilian.org
Email: 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.

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

John Eaves †, husband of Joy Eaves
Frank Rubino †, father of Linda Sturgill

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.

WE WELCOME YOU!


 WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM



**Join Us for a Rosary
 for World Peace on
 Sat., Jan. 6 after the 5 pm Mass**

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

January 7, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

We celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany this Sunday Jan. 7th. Epiphany is actually on Jan. 6th (the 12th day of Christmas), but it is moved to a Sunday in many nations. It commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the Magi (kings or wise men) from the East. Epiphany means manifestation or to show or display. Christ as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God & Savior of the world is shown to & adored by the Magi who were of non-Jewish traditions.

Matthew is the only gospel which tells the story of Magi from the East, who followed a star in their search for the newborn King of the Jews. It is interesting that there is no mention of 3 Magi. Presumably, that number comes from the 3 gifts that were offered. Tradition has the names of the Magi as Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar. Each gift had a prophetic meaning for Jesus:

- gold, a gift for a king;
- frankincense, incense offering for God & a priest
- Myrrh, a burial ointment, foreshadowing a death.

These Magi came, looking for the newborn child, Jesus. May we seek Jesus in all things and give him homage / priority in all things.

For many in society, Christmas is long over. But in the Church, we are still in the Christmas Season. May we continue to reflect on the implications of the Christmas event in our lives. There is the wonderful venerable tradition of an Epiphany house blessing that is listed on p. 5.

In some cultures, Epiphany is a time for sharing of gifts. If you have not done so, I encourage you to clean out your closets & bring those items to be distributed as "gifts" to the homeless. See p. 7 for the items in most need. If you have not done so & still so desire, please give a donation gift for the parish for our various Social Concern needs (the parish Food Pantry, Mission Yahweh, our monthly feeding the poor at Loaves & Fishes, etc.) See p. 7 for more info. Or your parish donation could be for other causes in the parish, such as the new security / camera / lighting system, the re-keying of all the buildings, the remaining cost of the pews, the future repainting of the chapel & parts of the church, the cost of new hand rails for the front of the church & education building, etc.



St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

Lawrence W. Jozwiak

Fr. Lawrence W. Jozwiak
Pastor

Remember our Food Pantry needs to be replenished: bring your non-perishable food items as listed on p. 7. Also: note the expiration date. We are not allowed to pass out food items with a past expiration date. It is amazing how much expired food items are donated & have to be discarded. You may bring the food items & leave them near the entrance doors or bring them to the parish office during normal office hours. I consider feeding & clothing the needy to be respect life issues, as well as fulfilling the first 3 corporal works of mercy (Mt. 25: 31-40).

In January, we have prayed for years for Respect Life in light of that U.S. Supreme Court's decision *Roe vs Wade* issued on January 22, 1973 that allowed abortion in all 50 states. Then on June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled that earlier decision & remanded the abortion issue to be decided in each of the 50 states. As a result, we still pray for respect life to be respected in all 50 states. The "9 Days for Life" prayer campaign occurs January 16-24. I encourage you to register online for the 9 day novena at <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup> to receive by email or as a phone text each day the prayer intention, a short reflection & suggested actions to help build a culture of life (either in English or Spanish). See p. 8 for more info. Also you may pray the prayer intention for the "Advent of the infant Jesus..." on p. 8.

We were invited to pray for world peace on Jan 1. We pray for world peace at Mass. And the ACTS Community will be praying the rosary for world peace after this Saturday's 5 pm Vigil Mass. We will pray around the baptismal font. Everyone is invited to join them to pray.

On Sunday, Jan. 14 after all 3 Masses, the ACTS Community will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast in Kolbe Hall. All are invited. Coffee & donuts will be moved to Kolbe Hall this one weekend. We ask that for those who are able, to be generous in your donation to help fund the activities of ACTS. Men & women, please consider attending the ACTS men's retreat (Jan. 25-28) or women's retreat (Feb. 15-18). Family members or friends, consider giving a gift to that man or woman, by paying for the retreat fee. See p. 8 for more info.

Starting on the 2nd Saturday (Jan. 13), we are resuming the showing of the film, *The Chosen* (Session 3, Episodes 1 & 2) in the gathering space of the Education Bldg. Come enjoy the film & fellowship. Also, join the 6 week Bible study on the Sermon of the Mount (Mt. 5-7). See p. 9 for more info.

Pray for peace in the world & in the home.

**"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: #1011

Order of Mass: Hymnal #166—#187

Gathering Hymn: #459—Song of Thankfulness & Praise

Gloria (inside cover of hymnal)

Gospel Alleluia

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

Preparation Hymn: #460—The First Nowell

Holy, Holy, Holy

Mystery of Faith

Amen

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn:

#463—We Three Kings of Orient Are

Sending Forth Hymn: #428—Go, Tell it on the Mountain



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Jerusalem, arise! Your light & the Lord's glory shine upon you, attracting nations & kings. Joyfully, your sons & daughters return, bringing wealth & praise to the Lord. (Is 60:1-6)

Psalms: God's wisdom & justice in the king will usher in an era of fairness, peace, & expansive dominion, earning tributes from afar & devotion from all nations. (Ps 72)

Second Reading: God's grace entrusted to me reveals a mystery: Gentiles are fellow heirs with Jews, part of one body, sharing the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:2-6)

Gospel: Magi from the east, guided by a star, sought the newborn King of the Jews in Jerusalem, unsettling King Herod & the city. Informed by religious leaders about the prophesied birth in Bethlehem, Herod deceitfully instructed the magi to report back after finding the child. Following the star, the magi reached Jesus, worshiping Him & offering gifts. They returned home by another way, divinely warned to avoid Herod. (Mt 2:1-12)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday: Baptism of the Lord; Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Weekend Homilies are recorded & posted on our parish webpage:

<https://stmaximilian.org/homily>



p. 4

Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette

5 pm Vigil Josie Lockwood †

Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord

8 am Parishioners of St. Maximilian

10 am Patrick Nelson †

12 Noon Deacon Ron Fraser †

Monday, January 8

The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 am Hubert Morrison †

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm Jhon Christian Viana Alega †

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 am Cao Thi Ngat †

Thursday, January 11

8:30 am Mary J. Langdon † & Janice James †

Friday, January 12

8:30 am Alejandrina Linaban †

Saturday, January 13

St. Hilary

5 pm Vigil Thelma Martinez Perez †

Sunday, January 14

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 am The Intentions of the Gallagher Family

10 am Rachele Marchisio

12 Noon Parishioners of St. Maximilian



The
Baptism
of the
Lord

Monday,
Jan. 8

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 27: The Creed

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

"I believe in one God..." We all likely recognize these words as the beginning of the Creed which we say together after the homily. Besides needing to stand up and stretch our legs after the homily, why do we have the Creed?

What is the Creed? According to the glossary of our *Catechism*, a creed is "a brief, normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith, e.g., the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed. The word 'Creed' comes from the Latin *Credo*, meaning 'I believe,' with which the Creed begins" (CCC, Glossary, s.v. "Creed"). As we will see, a creed is a collection of core truths in which we believe. As the *Catechism* teaches, there have been many professions of faith that have come from Church Councils or from certain individuals. "None of the creeds from the different stages in the Church's life can be considered superseded or irrelevant. They help us today to attain and deepen the faith of all times by means of the different summaries made of it" (CCC, no. 193). The *Catechism* continues that two creeds have a special place in the Church's life: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. "The Apostles' Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith" (CCC, no. 194). "The Niceno-Constantinopolitan or Nicene Creed draws its great authority from the fact that it stems from the first two ecumenical Councils (in 325 and 381). It remains common to all the great Churches of both East and West to this day" (CCC, no. 195). Although either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed can be used in the Mass, many of us probably most often hear the Nicene Creed being used.



A Statement of Faith and Renewal of Belief How did the Creed enter the Mass? As the Diocese of Peoria instructs, "The Creed, or Profession of Faith, stems from the Ancient Church. This statement of belief was not originally written to be recited at Mass; it was rather intended as a prerequisite 'contract' for adult baptism. One would profess these essential truths of the faith before being admitted into the Church through baptism. Eventually, the Creed would be inserted into the Mass as it is today" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9). Fr. Guy Oury says, "The Fathers of the Church recommended that Christians recite [the Creed] daily, morning & evening, as a renewal of their faith & safeguard against doctrinal error" (*The Mass*, p. 71). How many of you say the Creed when you get out of bed each morning?! Jokes aside, the Fathers of the Church were really on to something here. Because the Creed is a great summary of the truths of the Faith, especially the Holy Trinity (more on that to come), knowing the Creed is a wonderful way to know some of the basics of the faith & to keep them fresh in our minds & hearts.

For Reflection:

1. Per Father Luke's advice, consider beginning and/or ending your day by reciting the Creed prayerfully.
2. Consider gathering with others to study the Creed, using the *Catechism* or another resource. One option is to study one line of the Creed each week in preparation for participation in Mass on Sunday.

Source: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/do-this-in-remembrance-of-me-part-27-the-creed>

How to Bless Your Home on Epiphany

- Let this be a family prayer event. Gather all who live in your home (invite others if you so desire).
- Make the sign of the cross.
- **"Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the child Jesus, so enable those who dwell here and all who visit to be your light in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."**
- Read **Colossians 3:12-17**
- Using chalk, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside, horizontal frame of the doorway to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. Wetting the chalk will make it easier to write with. It should look something like this: **20 ✕ C ✕ M ✕ B ✕ 24**
- After completing the markings, pray the **Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be** & the following prayer:
**May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find that Christ lives here.
May we seek & serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever & ever. Amen.**
- Conclude by making the sign of the cross and praying:
**May God bless us and keep us. May his face shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May God look upon us kindly and give us peace (Numbers 6:24-26). Amen.**

Why do this? Christians have found that this is one way to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. The crosses indicate that your house is a Christian home. The initials **C-M-B** represent the legendary names of the Magi: **Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar**. The **C-M-B** also stands for the Latin words **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** which translates: **"May Christ bless this dwelling place."** When visitors ask about the markings above your door, you can explain the above to them & so you will be giving a witness to Christ. The markings are left all year & then renewed on the next Epiphany.

p. 6 THIS WEEK AT ST. MAXIMILIAN

Sunday, January 7

Coffee & Donuts

Mass

Mass

RCIA Session

Mass

Adult Faith, Sermon on the Mount

Epiphany of the Lord

Gajowniczak Bldg after Masses

Church

8:00 am

Church

10:00 am

Room 215

11:30 am

Church

12 Noon

Kolbe Room

6:30 pm

Monday, January 8

Mass

Scouting

Women's ACTS Team Meeting

Catholic Daughters Monthly Mtg

Church

8:30 am

Gajowniczak Building

6:00 pm

Room 212

6:30 pm

Room 215

6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 9

Kolbe Kids ECH Program

Legion of Mary meeting

Confession

Mass

Men's ACTS Retreat Music Practice

ACTS Core Team Meeting

Gajowniczak Building

9:00 am

Room 203

5:00 pm

Church

6:00 pm

Church

6:30 pm

Room 203

6:30 pm

Room 218

7:15 pm

Wednesday, January 10

Mass

Kolbe Kids ECH Program

Prayer Blanket Ministry Meeting

Food Pantry

Rosary

Choir Rehearsal

Men's ACTS Team Meeting

Evening Prayer

Church

8:30 am

Gajowniczak Building

9:00 am

Room 211

9:30 am

Higgins Building

3:30 pm

Chapel

6:30 pm

Canticle Hall

6:30 pm

Room 212

6:30 pm

Chapel

7:00 pm

Thursday, January 11

Mass

Kolbe Kids ECH Program

Church

8:30 am

Gajowniczak Building

9:00 am

Friday, January 12

That Man Is You!

Mass

Confession

Adult Faith-Sermon on the Mount Study

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Gajowniczak Building

5:30 am

Church

8:30 am

Church

9:00 am

Room 215

9:30 am

Room 110

10:30 am

Saturday, January 13

Red Cross Training

Infant Baptisms

Confession

Vigil Mass

"The Chosen" movie night

Kolbe Hall

8:00 am

Church

10:00 am

Church

3:00 pm

Church

5:00 pm

Kolbe Hall

6:15 pm

Sunday, January 14 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Coffee & Donuts

ACTS Pancake Breakfast

Mass

Mass

RCIA Session

Mass

Adult Faith-Sermon on the Mount Study Kolbe Room

Gajowniczak Bldg after Masses

Gajowniczak Bldg after Masses

Church 8:00 am

Church 10:00 am

Room 215 11:30 am

Church 12 Noon

Kolbe Room 6:30 pm

LADIES BUNCO NIGHT

The Catholic Daughters are hosting a Ladies Bunco Night on Sat., Jan. 20th after the 5 pm Mass. Come join us for food, fellowship & fun.



Tickets are available after each Mass today for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. If you have questions, call Ginger McKnight 713/412-0678.

The Office of Aging Presents:

NURTURING THE ROOTS OF OUR COMMUNAL TREE
A CATHOLIC CONFERENCE TO HONOR AND SUPPORT AGING

PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH
(St. Andrew Community Center)
19222 Tomball Parkway
Houston, TX 77070

FRI, JAN 26, 2024
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

SAT, JAN 27, 2024
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

FOR: PARISH LEADERS

FOR: OLDER ADULTS & FAMILY MEMBERS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FREE EVENT

FOR QUESTIONS/ASSISTANCE WITH REGISTRATION, CALL 713-741-8712

LIMITED SEATING

THE CONFERENCE FEATURES PRESENTATIONS AND VENDORS THAT SUPPORT PASTORAL AND PRACTICAL CARE FOR FAMILIES WITH OLDER ADULTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION/REGISTRATION:

VISIT: ARCHGN.ORG/OFFICES-MINISTRIES/SOCIAL-JUSTICE-AND-LIFE/AGING-MINISTRY/EVENTS/

TO REGISTER

SCAN QR CODE

ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE
A Senior Care Community

KLEIN FUNERAL HOMES
The Finest Personal Care

"The Chosen"

Join us in watching this popular series on "the big screen" in Kolbe Hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month after the 5 pm Mass (around 6:15 pm). Be sure to mark your calendar for the following dates:

January 13 -- Season 3, episodes 1 & 2

February 10 -- Season 3, episodes 3 & 4

March 9 -- Season 3, episodes 5 & 6

April 13 -- Season 3, episodes 7 & 8

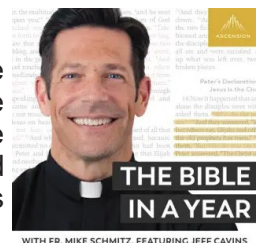
20 + C + M + B + 24

Be generous to the Maintenance & Repair fund.

Pray for an end to violence in homes.

Jesus, I trust in You

Looking for a way to engage in 2024?? 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 & 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.





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.

We will not be able to accept clothing donations in the parish office. We simply do not have enough storage space. Please wait to bring your donations on the weekend noted below. Thank you.

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 weekend of 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.



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.



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.



Food Pantry is open Wednesdays at 3:30 pm **WE NEED MORE FOOD!**

FoodPantry@stmaximilian.org

The pantry could use the following items: 7.5-15.8 oz canned pasta-Chef Boyardee, SpaghettiOs, 10-19 oz canned soup meals-chicken noodle, vegetable beef, etc., no "cream of" soups, ramen noodle soup, 14-15.25 oz canned fruit, 4 oz fruit cups, 5-12 oz canned tuna, 4-12.5 oz canned chicken, 4.6 oz Vienna sausage, 24 oz Hunts pasta sauce, 12-24 oz spaghetti, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, body soap, & toilet paper. No outdated food products please. The Food Pantry is not able to accept any medications or alcoholic beverages.



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/>

Hopefully, you appreciate the beauty of the Church's decorations. If you are able, please make a donation to offset such costs.

"Never be afraid of loving Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

— St. Maximilian Kolbe

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.

—Pope Francis

p. 8 **Give the Gift of an ACTS Retreat!**

Know someone who could really benefit from a life-changing spiritual retreat in the New Year? Click the QR code to download a registration form or simply learn more about the **Men's & Women's ACTS Retreats at St. Max.** 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 and Service, they offer a spiritual journey that calls the soul to friendship in Christ and community. For more info, watch for sign-up tables after Masses in the weeks ahead or contact a retreat director below

**2024 ACTS Men's Retreat |
January 25–28**

Retreat Director: Wayne Pelingon,
713.966.9832

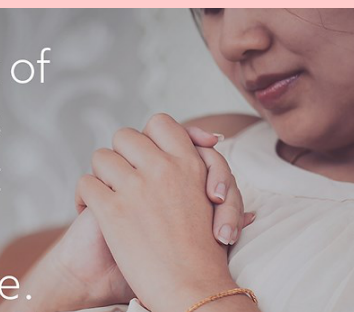
**2024 ACTS Women's Retreat
February 15–18**

Retreat Director: Valerie Delafosse,
713.305.5578



Coffee & Donuts this Sunday,
Plan to join us for fellowship in Kolbe Hall.

May the advent of
the infant Jesus
bring expectant
mothers joy,
hope, and peace.



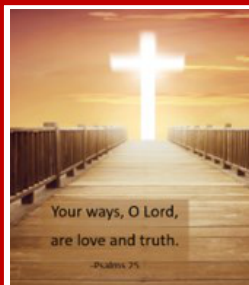
Pray: Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, Glory Be

Reflect: During Advent, we prepared our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior at Christmas. As we anticipated this joyful celebration, we recalled the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home & in great need, Mary & Joseph found refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomed the heavenly host of angels & the infant Jesus himself.

Today, women in our own communities are pregnant, perhaps without a home, & in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they may be reliant on the kindness of others. Today, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we proactively seek to offer loving support & encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope & peace brought by the infant Jesus. May we, too, share in & bear witness to the miracle of new life.

Act: Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this intention.

Pray 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.



**St. Maximilian Kolbe
ACTS Women's ACTS
Retreat**

Feb. 15-18, 2024

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

**Hot Pancake Breakfast
after all Masses on Jan. 14!**



Kick off the New Year with a hot pancake breakfast after all Masses on Sunday, January 14! The ACTS community members will be cooking up flapjacks fresh off the griddle in Kolbe Hall to raise funds for upcoming retreats. Donations appreciated! Come hungry, & bring family & friends to enjoy a warm welcome from friends old & new!

All in the ACTS Community are encouraged to help. Tabletop griddles, cooks, servers & food donations are needed! Contact Thomas Prochazka at 832.628.6262 for more info. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a monetary donation to support our St. Max ACTS ministry, contact Dana Pike at 713.927.3071.

MLK Mass of Remembrance

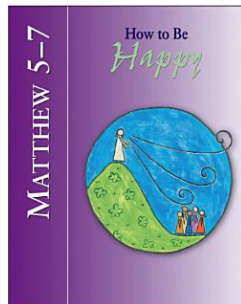
The annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a 3 pm Mass of Remembrance 2024 will be held Sunday, January 14 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway; 77002 at 3 pm. Rev. Martins C. Emeh, Pastor of St. Monica Parish will serve as the Homilist. For further info, email dladet@archgh.org or call 713-652- 8203 or All are invited. Reception to follow.

All are welcome to join in a Eucharistic Adoration vigil at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (6800 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, 77025) on Thursday, Jan. 18—7-9 p.m., to unite with the U.S. Bishops & Catholics across the nation on the vigil of the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Register to attend one or both hours of the vigil. While not required, registration will help to ensure adequate seating & parking for this event. Register at <https://archgh.swoogo.com/holyhour2024>



<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

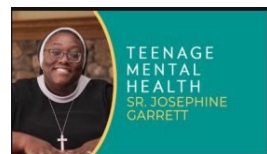
7 KEENAN ANNICHIARICO	8 MITCHELL SCHUMANN	9 DIMARG FONTENELLE	10 BILL WATERS	11 PEDRO RUBIO	12 JOSE VERA	13 BASIL HOUSEWRIGHT
14 JOHN PAUL PHILLIPS	15 TIMOTHY SPJUT	16 CARLOS VELERO	17 RYAN BERGER	18 SEBASTIAN DELGADO	19 JOEL GOTERA	20 MICHAEL JAMES ARIENZA
21 JAMES SCHNITZLER	22 DENNEGHY MASON	23 TRIEU NGUYEN	24 THOMAS VU	25 JOSH SVAJDA	26 ALEX BURNS	27 ORLANDO HERRERA
28 MARLON BARAO	29 GRIFFIN ALEXANDER	30 SHAWN VARKEY	31 ALEXANDER CRUZ	JANUARY 2024		



Join us for a short 6-week Bible study on the Sermon of the Mount in Matthew 5-7. This includes the Beatitudes & other things that include the heart of Christ's teachings. Perfect for beginners & those more familiar with the Scripture. Class is offered at 2 times, join the one that is best for your schedule – Fridays at 9:30am in Room 215 starting January 5th or Sundays at 6:30pm in the Kolbe Room; also offered on Zoom starting January 7th. Contact Molly Smith at molly.smith@stmaximilian.org for more info.

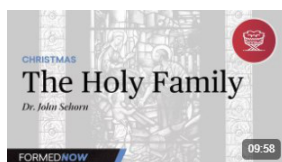
Many people struggle with mental health during the holidays – isolation, lack of sunlight, fears & worries.

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>

Pray for our blessings on our parish!



Spend just a few minutes during this busy holiday season with a reflection on the Holy Family as a model for all families. Listen to a message about how to strengthen your love for family during this holiday season. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-holy-family>

All life is sacred & valuable!



Faith Formation classes resume Thursday, Jan. 18 & Sunday, Jan. 21.

Fall Spring Schedule Formation:


Many sessions open for Faith


- 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.

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

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

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

 Parent Meeting First day of class,

 CFISD Student Holiday

JANUARY: For the Gift of Diversity in the Church
Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, & to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.

"They fell down & worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures & offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, & myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus & prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

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

- Amount Paid so far: **\$171,449**
(\$21,449 paid over goal)
- Amt pledged to be paid: **\$2,433**
- Amt paid + to be pledged: **\$173,882**
Amt. over mandatory amt: \$23,882
- **406 donors out of 2163 households**



**In order for a
 pastor to fulfill the
 Lord's command to
 feed God's flock,
 the sheep must
 show up during
 feeding times.**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Lisa Abbott, Cynthia Aguirre, Lupe & Melissa Batey, Norma Bodin, Maria Bueno, Bill Carew, Rebecca Carter, Susie Charnock, Robert Durocher, 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, Patria Lamela, Rachele Marchisio, Paul Mattern, Craig McKnight, Arma Morrison, Maria Mien Nguyen, Evie Ornelaz, Richard Ornelaz, Rose Pennell, Marie Perez, Stan Petty, Irma Phillips, Walker Ponder, 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

Collection for the Week of Dec. 18-25, 2023

Offertory:	\$18,024
Christmas:	\$20,996
Maintenance & Repair	\$3,724
Total	\$42,744

Faith Direct 12/31/2023: (received twice a month)

Offertory	\$14,035
Christmas	\$590
Maintenance & Repair	\$495
Total	\$15,120
Archdiocesan 2nd Collection	\$195

Collection for the Week of Dec. 26, 2023-Jan. 1, 2024

Offertory	\$26,182
Maintenance & Repair	\$2,474
Total	\$28,656

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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

Monday	5 am—6 am
Tuesday	12 Midnight—1 am
Tuesday	4 am—5 am
Wednesday	1 am—2 am *NO ADORER*
Wednesday	2 am—3 am
Wednesday	6 am—7 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: 12/26/2023





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