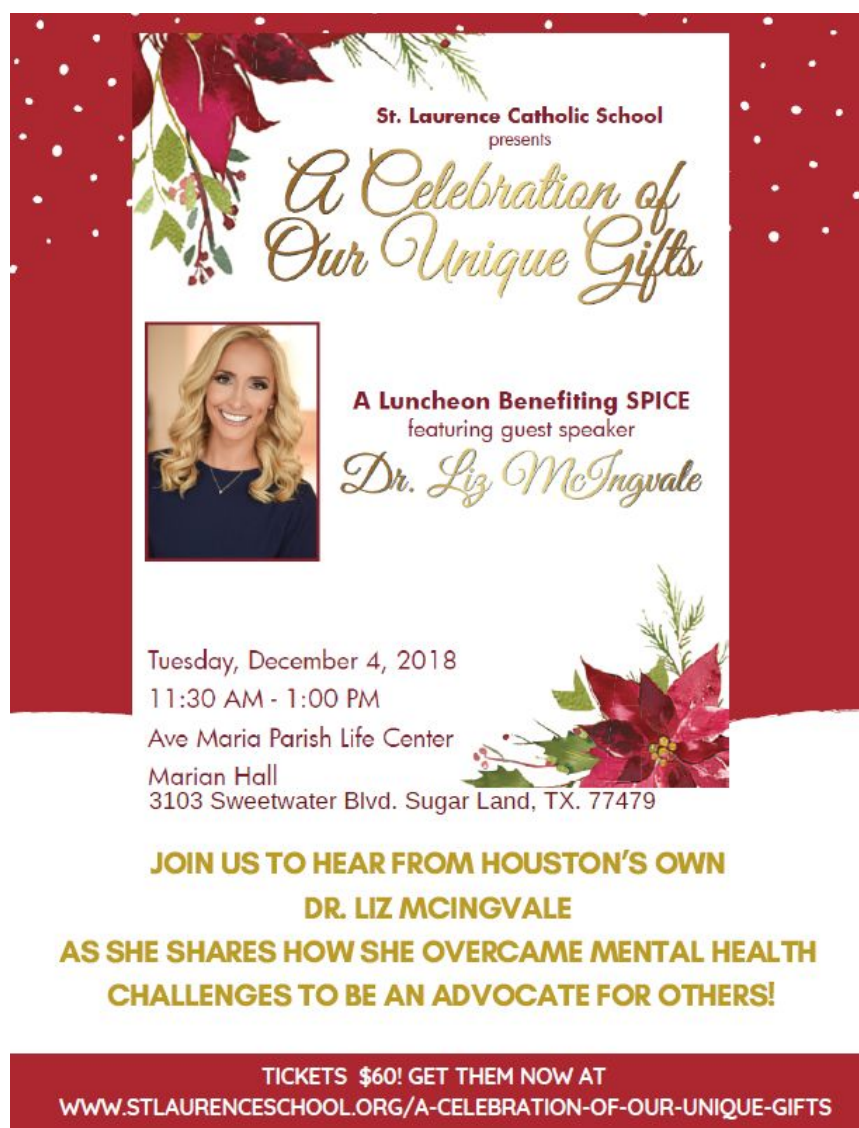


ST. LAURENCE

# SAINTS


SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 28, 2018



St. Laurence Catholic School  
presents

*A Celebration of  
Our Unique Gifts*



**A Luncheon Benefiting SPICE**  
featuring guest speaker  
*Dr. Liz McIngvale*

Tuesday, December 4, 2018  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Ave Maria Parish Life Center  
Marian Hall  
3103 Sweetwater Blvd. Sugar Land, TX. 77479

**JOIN US TO HEAR FROM HOUSTON'S OWN  
DR. LIZ MCINGVALE  
AS SHE SHARES HOW SHE OVERCAME MENTAL HEALTH  
CHALLENGES TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR OTHERS!**

TICKETS \$60! GET THEM NOW AT  
[WWW.STLAURENCESCHOOL.ORG/A-CELEBRATION-OF-OUR-UNIQUE-GIFTS](http://WWW.STLAURENCESCHOOL.ORG/A-CELEBRATION-OF-OUR-UNIQUE-GIFTS)

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

Sponsorships and tickets form available [HERE](#)  
or by contacting the Advancement Office [HERE](#).

Elizabeth McIngvale, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). Dr. McIngvale's clinical interest focuses on

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), anxiety disorders, mental health stigma and access to mental health care. Dr. McIngvale works with patients with OCD at BCM, engages in research related to OCD and serves on an NIH grant focused on OCD with Dr. Wayne Goodman.. Elizabeth is the founder of the Peace of Mind Foundation, a non-profit foundation dedicated to Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Elizabeth was the first ever national spokesperson for the International Obsessive Compulsive Foundation and is a renowned speaker and licensed therapist in Texas. Dr. McIngvale received her bachelor and masters degrees in social work from Loyola University Chicago and her Ph.D. in social work at the University of Houston. She is dedicated to giving a voice to the voiceless; being a social worker allows her to continue her work in the field and to stamp out the stigma of mental illness every day.

## IMPORTANT DATES

11/29	<b>POINSETTIA DELIVERY - 4:00-5:30 P.M. - DINING HALL</b> (New date- moved from 11/30) Parents can pull up to the front door like carpool and poinsettias will be brought out to their car from the Dining Hall side door. No need to even get out of the car!
11/30	All School Mass led by 7A First Reconciliation Assessments
12/2	First Sunday of Advent
12/3	Advent Parish Penance Service - 6:30 p.m.
12/4	<b>Celebrate our Unique Gifts Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. - Ave Maria Center - Marian Hall</b> Leos Officers Meeting - 7:15 a.m. MS Christmas Program - 7:00 p.m.
12/5	Jean/Spirit Day-students can wear purple accessories for Advent Spirit Store Sales - All Lunches SHS Meeting - 7:00 a.m. Student Coalition Meeting - 7:30 a.m. Spirit Event for Boosters at Lopez Restaurant - Starting at 11:00 a.m. Saints Families - 1:45 p.m.
12/6	St. Nicholas' Day STUCO Meeting - 7:00 a.m.
12/7	All School Mass Led by 8A Holy Day Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m.
12/8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Please read below for more information!
12/10	NJHS Officers Meeting
12/11	Leos Meeting - 7:15 a.m. PTO Board Event - 8:30 a.m. Finance Committee and School Board Meeting 5:00/7:00 p.m.
12/12	Jean/Spirit Day-students can wear purple accessories for Advent 6th Grade Reconciliation - 9:30 a.m.
12/13	1st grade Service Project - Rice and Beans - 8:30 a.m. - Dining Hall NEHS Meeting - 7:00 a.m. NJHS Meeting - 7:00 a.m. PTO Prayer Group - 8:15 a.m.

**[CHECK OUT THE ATHLETICS CALENDAR ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE HERE!](#)**



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

This Sunday is the beginning of the new liturgical year as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. The term Advent means “the coming” and this season is recognized by the Church as a time set aside to pray and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Sadly, we often overlook this important time of waiting and preparation due to the excitement of seeing Christmas so close on the horizon. I’m sure you have noticed that

things are often more meaningful when we anticipate them over time. We know that patience is not a virtue that is practiced as much in our society today. More and more we find ourselves conditioned by our busy schedules and technology to value immediate gratification and we don't feel we have the time to reflect. Increasing our child's attention span and teaching them the value of patience is very important. Advent provides a wonderful opportunity to practice that skill and to eventually experience the beautiful reward of Jesus' birth.

If you do not already have a family "tradition" for Advent, it is never too late to start. Lighting the Advent candles each week or slowly building a manger scene leading up to Christmas with the appearance of baby Jesus in the manger can great ways to celebrate this holy season. Advent Calendars are always fun for children as they open a new door each day and find some sort of message or present pertaining to Christmas. A tradition we have practiced at school for many years is to hang an ornament on a Jesse Tree each day after reading a related scripture passage. Not only is this a great way to anticipate and wait for Christmas, it allows our children to learn more about the bible. [HERE](#) is a link with information if you would like to do this at home with your family. I have also heard of families that hide a star around the house and move it closer to the manger each day until Christmas. Children will always remember family traditions and look forward to them each year.

One of the best ways we can prepare our hearts as adults is to start the season by going to confession and striving to do our best to be a gift to others. We are very blessed at our parish to provide an Advent Penance Service on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please also read our Pastor's Statement on Families below to ensure that quality family time is a priority.

In observing Advent, we are given a wonderful opportunity to slow down and reflect on the path we are currently taking. We should examine whether we are setting the best example for our loved ones. Finally, reflect on whether that path is leading us to where we want to end up and is the goal worth the journey?



Have a very blessed week!

*Mrs. Suzanne Barto*



## TIPS FOR PARENTS

**A STATEMENT ON FAMILIES**  
**By Fr. Drew Wood, Pastor**  
**St. Laurence Catholic Church**  
**November 10, 2018**

It is incumbent upon husbands and wives, mothers and dads, and single parents to spend time in prayer, discernment, and dialogue about the kind of family they will be. Family and home does not automatically happen. The demands and pressures of modern life often dictate the pace and substance of family life, and the family seems helpless and simply reacts to this frantic pace.

The challenge for the family is not to succumb, but to be proactive and intentional about the kind of family they are choosing to be. After that, a response to modern society can be wisely, prudently, and intelligently made. The process of discernment is first and always receptive, prayerfully seeking God's direction and inspiration through the Church. Decisions about family life will of course never be too rigid or inflexible, always open to re-evaluation as life grows and changes. Every family will be different in its needs and aspirations. But proper discernment will always make room for family prayer, shared meals, shared faith dialogue, shared charity, and a certain discipline in family life that allows for these virtues to happen.

All parents must create a kind of moat around their home. Every effort will be made to keep evil outside: anger, rage, abuse, active addictions, and the dark side of modern technology. Within the home, the parents will nurture gentleness, affection, active listening, prayer, humor, fun, diligence, study, and some measure of solitude and meditation. Families will safeguard against the compulsion to over-commitment and will strive to say 'no' while saying 'yes' always to God.

Families are so precious and key to virtuous, joyful living. We want to seek mentors of all ages in the Church to help others with an array of wonderful ideas. Everything we do for the sake of the family will be for the glory of God. It isn't easy today. But prayer, courage, and intentionality will change the world and bring joy to the faces of our children and our Church.



## NEWS

### CALL FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

As we close out the fall semester and move into the spring semester, 7th graders are busy working on their annual Science Fair projects. We are recruiting judges for our fair on Thursday, January 10, and would like to invite engineers, geologists, health care experts, and community members with a background in science to consider serving on our judging panel. Parents and family members of current 6th and 7th graders are not eligible to judge. Please contact Mrs. Alexander at [salexander@stlaurence.org](mailto:salexander@stlaurence.org) if you are interested in serving on our judging panel and are up-to-date on VIRTUS. Thank you for your support of our Middle School Science program.



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR TECH DEPARTMENT ABOUT EMAIL

We have been receiving complaints about Yahoo and AOL email accounts being flagged as SPAM. Both Yahoo and AOL have been breached in the past and have taken extreme measures to counter this. In addition, both ISP's have had large amounts of SPAM sent through and to individual accounts. Unfortunately, this is an issue that many organizations are dealing with, not just St. Laurence. We are currently dealing with this through the email we send out via RenWeb. We also experienced this with our previous SIS program Edline. This is primarily because we use RenWeb to send bulk emails out to parents at one time. Yahoo sees this as a potential SPAM threat. Below is an explanation from our RenWeb account manager and what they are doing to help alleviate this issue.

Hello from your Account Manager at RenWeb,

I am reaching out to inform you of an issue we are having with emails. Staff, parents, and students that utilize an email address associated with Yahoo and its subsidiaries (i.e. AOL) are not receiving their emails sent through the FACTS SIS communication piece at the moment. This is due to an issue at Yahoo. We are monitoring the situation and working with Yahoo to correct the problem. We have been in contact with Yahoo and have provided them with all necessary information to verify the email traffic is legitimate. Yahoo, to date, has not responded with a time frame to resolve this issue. Yahoo has a hard limit in place that limits our follow-up questions to one every 48 hours. The emails sent from FACTS SIS are being delivered to Yahoo. The issue is Yahoo is delaying the delivery of the emails to the recipient mailboxes due to increasing spam scanning. We understand this is a great inconvenience to your parents, students, and staff and we are using every available resource to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

While this issue will eventually get resolved, this is another episode we've dealt with for years with Yahoo/AOL where they put forth many hoops we have to continuously jump through because of some change they made in the spirit of more security. I would not be surprised if this happens again in the future. This is why we encourage people to consider a different email provider as outlined next.

The easy fix to avoid being flagged as SPAM and to better ensure email delivery is to obtain a free



Gmail account. Emails to and from the school from Gmail seem to be working with no issues. If you do make a change in your email address, please be sure to login to RenWeb ParentsWeb and make the appropriate changes. For instructions, please go to the school's website [HERE](#), click the RenWeb menu and then ParentsWeb tips. Instructions are located there. Sorry for the inconvenience.

### **CALLING ALL DETAIL-ORIENTED FANS OF THE LIBRARY!**

The SLCS Library is looking for a few more great volunteers to help with shelving books. You can be flexible with the day and hour that you come in to help (times range from 8am to 2:30pm). No prior experience is needed, as we will happily train you on the specifics of shelving in our library. Must be able to recite the alphabet in your head and read small numbers (feel free to bring your “cheater glasses”)! Your kids will be proud that their parent helped out in the library, and may even think you’re cool! Caution: shelving books can lead to a nostalgic feeling as you see titles that you loved as a child, which may lead to (lovingly) nagging your child to check out certain books. Please contact our Library volunteer coordinator, Stephanie Limbacher [HERE](#) to get on our schedule or email our SLCS Library Team, Kate Senften and Melanie Reynolds [HERE](#) with questions you may have.

### **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE FALL SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE**

Students in seventh and eighth grade will be taking fall semester exams December 17th-19th. Teachers who are administering semester exams will be providing study guides for the students one week prior to the date of the actual exam/s. The schedule arranged by date is as follows:

DATE	GRADE LEVEL	SUBJECT/COURSE	TEACHER
12/17	7	English	K. Lavery
12/17	8	Social Studies	J. Gunter/J. Barry
12/17	8	Science	S. Alexander
12/18	7	Religion	K. White
12/18	8	Math	E. Lagasca
12/18	8	English	A. Klotz
12/19	7	Math	C. Powell
12/19	8	Literature	A. Klotz
12/19	8	Religion	K. White

### **FAMILY RETREAT THE LAST WEEKEND IN MARCH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

We are so excited that the SLCS Family Retreat is back this year and will take place the last weekend in March. Anyone who has been can tell you how much they have enjoyed spending quality time with other school families dedicated to the purpose of pointing their children to Christ. This is a group effort! We are seeking a few dedicated volunteers for a few committees. Please let us know if you can help. We are happy to get you started and in contact with other families. If you would like to volunteer to help on a committee, please fill out your contact information [HERE](#)!

### **NOTICE REGARDING THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, falls on Saturday, December 8th, this year. As this is the patronal feast day of the United States and of the Archdiocese, the obligation to attend Mass is never dispensed. Accordingly, parishes should plan to offer adequate Masses for the Solemnity, both during the day on Saturday and by making use of the Vigil Mass on Friday evening. Please note that Masses after 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8, must use the prayers and readings for the Second Sunday of Advent. The faithful are obliged to attend two Masses that weekend and no single Mass can count for both obligations. ANY Mass celebrated between 4 p.m. Friday, and the end of the day Saturday, fulfills the obligation for the Solemnity. ANY Mass celebrated between 4 p.m. Saturday, and the end of the day Sunday, fulfills the obligation for Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Chris Labadie in the Office of Worship at 413-741-8762 or [HERE](#).

### **UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOR THE COLDER MONTHS: IT’S COLD OUT THERE, WHAT CAN I WEAR?**

Cooler weather means that students bring sweaters and jackets! Here are a few reminders: Most importantly, please label EVERYTHING, especially the uniform pieces! Middle school students are required to wear their

red vests with the official uniform.

### Per the Family Handbook

- All non-SLCS outdoor must be removed once the child has entered the school building or church.
- For Mass, students may **only** wear official SLCS sweaters and fleece or Booster Club Saints Monogrammed navy jackets (no sweatshirts are allowed on once inside the church).
- Girls can wear red, white or navy tights and/or Risse Brothers navy pants in colder weather. **(no leggings)**
- Undershirts must be plain red, white or navy.

Parents, please note that we do go outside daily even in colder weather, so please dress your child appropriately.

Reminder about Free Dress for girls- Leggings, tights or yoga pants are not allowed unless they are underneath a full length (2" above the knee) dress or skirt. Girls coming to school in leggings as bottoms with a shirt only will be asked to change or will be sent home. This rule also applies to shorter tops that expose the abdomen. Middle School students may serve a detention for non-compliance with uniform regulations. Please refer to the Family Handbook for more information on shoes and uniforms.



### NEED A 2017-2018 YEARBOOK?

If you missed ordering your 2017-2018 yearbook, we have extras! Please stop by the front office to purchase one for \$55.00 or send in a check made out to SLCS with your student and we'll send it home that same day.

### POINSETTIAS FUNDRAISER - PICK UP DAY IS TOMORROW!

If you ordered poinsettias, you can pick up your order tomorrow, November 29, between 4:00-5:30 p.m. Parents can pull up to the front door like carpool and poinsettias will be brought out to their car from the Dining Hall side door. No need to even get out of the car!

### SHARE YOUR PICTURES FOR OUR YEARBOOK USING THE BALFOUR APP!

If you've got great photos of school events, or you and your school friends just having fun, please share them with us. The more photos you share, the better our yearbook will be for everyone!

#### IT IS VERY EASY!

- Download the Balfour Image Share app. Flyer [HERE](#)
- Create an account and start sharing your pictures!
- Project number: 920467
- Password: saints
- Questions? Contact Adriana Gutierrez [HERE](#).



## EVENTS



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND PLAY!

Ms. Bonno, the Middle School Choir, and 5th Grade Music Classes invite you to the Middle School Christmas Concert and Play, "Room for Christmas," on Tuesday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gym. Guests are invited to bring new or gently used toy or stuffed animal to help make a child's Christmas brighter. The toys will be donated to St. Laurence Church Social Concerns for their Christmas Toy Drive. They also have an 8:30 a.m. preview performance for the student body. So please join us on December 4th to celebrate in song and presentation the real Reason for the Season, Jesus!



### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

St. Laurence Catholic School invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at our School Mass on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.

Learn the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the miracles and the image she left us almost 500 years ago, with the special sketch presented by the SLCS Spanish Culture Club. Enjoy the special traditional song "Las Mañanitas" and other special songs to serenade Our Lady of Guadalupe by Mariachi music.

Everyone is welcome to attend Mass with us for this special celebration!



### YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR BAND CONCERT!

Please join us as our SLCS Band presents their winter concert, Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Gym. It promises to be a wonderful evening with our musicians. Come out and support their hard work and celebrate the Christmas season.



### ECC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM INVITATION

You are invited to attend our annual Early Childhood Campus Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 19, in the Parish Hall. Our PreK program begins at 8:30 a.m. and Kindergarten will begin at 9:15 a.m. Students are asked to wear their Christmas church attire and be sure to have them get plenty of rest the night before. Thank you for sharing your precious little ones with us. It is a blessing to serve them at St. Laurence Catholic School!



### REGISTER AND START FUNDRAISING NOW!

#### Steps for Students 5K Run/Walk

Steps for Students 5K Run/Walk is Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. We hope to see you there!

**REGISTER ONLINE [HERE](#) AND START FUNDRAISING!  
HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS FUN, FAITH-FILLED EVENT!**



### SAVE THE DATE FOR SLCS AUCTION 2019: CIRQUE DU SAINTS! JOIN OUR AUCTION COMMITTEE TEAM!

We need help with Silent, Live, Big Board Auctions, decorations, volunteers, and FUN!

Our first meeting will be in January!

Interested? Contact the Advancement Office [HERE](#)!





## SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

### BOYS BASKETBALL

The Varsity boys won first place in the Fort Bend Christian Turkey Shoot-out last weekend. The Saints are currently 3-0 in league play. The Varsity will play at the St. Thomas High School tournament this Friday and Saturday.

-The C Team will play at the St. Thomas More tournament on Saturday.

-All 3 teams will play at St. Thomas More on Wednesday, November 28th.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls varsity came back from Thanksgiving break ready to play! The Saints defeated St. Michael 41-20 on Tuesday. The Varsity also won the Consolation bracket at the Fort Bend Christian Turkey Shoot-out last week. The Varsity are now 3-1 in league play. The JV girls are 4-0. The C Team will play in the St. Thomas More Tournament on Friday, November 30th.

-All 3 teams will play St. Thomas More at home on Thursday, November 29th, C Team at 4:30 p.m., JV at 5:30 p.m. and Varsity at 6:30 p.m. Please come out and support the Saints!

### SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION: BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, AND TRACK

The holidays are upon us and spring is just around the corner. We are asking all 5th-8th-grade students who are interested in playing a spring sport to register now on the athletic website [HERE](#). This is not a commitment to play and you do not need to pay any fees until January, however, we need to get an idea of how many students are interested. Baseball is for 5th-8th-grade boys, softball for 5th-8th-grade girls and track is for both boys and girls in 5th-8th grades.



## BOOSTER CLUB

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SPIRIT EVENTS! STAY TUNED FOR MORE LOCATIONS!

- ☐ December 5: Lopez Mexican Restaurant (Wilcrest) All Day – 11:00 a.m. -9:45 p.m.
- ☐ February 7: Chick-fil-A (Sugar Land Location)
- ☐ March 27: Willie's Ice House (Sugar Land Location)
- ☐ April 4: Chick-fil-A (Sugar Land Location)

**BOOSTER CLUB SPIRIT STORE!** Find the Booster Club forms [HERE](#)!



## ALUMNI NEWS



### SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Stay connected and share your news and pictures. We always love to hear from you! Don't forget to include your name and graduation year in your description.

Please send them to Adriana Gutierrez [HERE](#).

**"ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT"**



## PARISH NEWS





- Do You Want To Continue Learning About Your Faith With Other Adults? Click [HERE](#) for the upcoming speakers in Adult Faith Formation.
- Sign up [HERE](#) to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you.

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE [HERE!](#)



## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### INVITATION FROM ST. JOHN XXIII COLLEGE PREPARATORY!

St. John XXIII would like to invite your 6th, 7th & 8th students and their families to the following athletic events:

- Middle School Basketball Night. Friday, January 4, 2019. Boys Basketball vs. AWTY. JV @ 4:30 p.m. and Varsity @ 6:00 p.m.
- Middle School Basketball Night. Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Beaumont Kelly. Game time @ 5:00 p.m.

### CLEMENTS CHEER CLINIC

- ❑ Clements High School invites the community to participate in their Cheer Clinic. It is a fun event for the kids and a great opportunity for parents to get a head start on holiday shopping!
- ❑ The clinic is on December 1, and it is geared for kindergarten through 6th grade.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*As a pastoral instrument of the Church,  
St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole  
Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of  
parent, child, and educator.*

#### Follow SLCS

STAY CONNECTED



JOIN THE CONVERSATION: [www.stlaurenceschool.org](http://www.stlaurenceschool.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)