

SOLEMNITY OF

Mary, Mother of God

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Archdiocese of Galveston Houston

816 Park Dr. La Porte, Texas 77571

281-471-2000 Fax:281-471-9365

Website:www.stmaryslaporte.com E-mail:stmaryslpcc@sbcglobal.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 am -12:00 Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Eucharistic Celebrations

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Spanish)
1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church

Monday (No Mass)
Tuesday & Wednesday – 12:00 noon
Thursday & Friday – 8:30 a.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Tony A. Castro, Pastor
Deacon Hector Cantu
Deacon Stan Avallone

Bookkeeper-Nelda Shealy
Bulletin/Sacramental Records-
Cheryl Frobenius
Maintenance- Steve Regan
Parish Secretary-Jessica Jaramillo

C.C.E. Director - Shari Davis
C.C.E. Coordinator - Graciela Lopez
EDGE Coordinator-Randy Tercero
Life Teen Director-Shari Davis
RCIA - Tracy Avallone

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Classes are held as needed, according to instructor availability. Please come by the Parish Office to register or call for more information.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance is offered on Saturdays, from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least (6) six months prior to your desired wedding date to arrange a meeting with Father Tony or one of the Deacons. If you want a Mass, you must call Father Tony.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you a non-Catholic who is interested in joining the Catholic faith? Are you a baptized Catholic who has never received the sacraments of 1st Communion and Confirmation? If your answer is yes to either of these questions, call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation/First Communion

First Reconciliation/Communion candidates must be baptized, at least in the second grade, and have been attending CCE classes for at least TWO full years prior to entering into sacramental preparation. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a separate more intensive examination of the faith and our responsibilities as practicing Catholics. Confirmands will meet once per month in addition to attending Life Teen faithfully, both one full year prior to the beginning Sacramental preparation and during the preparation year (no more than three absences either year). Parents/Sponsors will also be required to attend once per month meetings. Confirmation candidates must have previously received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. A habit of attending weekly Mass is required for both years. Please, note the above represents the minimum requirements. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Vision Statement

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic Community of Believers called to serve Christ by gathering together at the Lord's Table in worship and praise, by serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, and by being a welcoming beacon of light to all. We are many parts, yet one body in Christ.

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Saturday, December 31:

5:30pm Raymond Zann†
By: Family

Sunday, January 1:

9:00am Special Intention for the Hellstein Family
By: Rena Hellstein

11:00am People of the Parish

1:00pm Patrick Stanton†
By: Debbie Heasty

Tuesday, January 3:

12:00pm George Lopez†
By: Debbie Heasty

Wednesday, January 4:

12:00 pm Jack Humphrey†
By: Walter Hayes

Thursday, January 5:

8:30am Jacque Dulin†
By: Jan Hughes

Friday, January 6:

8:30am Sarah Delgado†
By: Renee Cortez

Saturday, January 7:

5:30pm Special Intention for Megan LaRue
By: Bremer Family

Sunday, January 8:

9:00am Leo Villarreal†
By: Ortiz Family

11:00am Gonzalo R. Lopez Jr.
By: Delfina Lopez

1:00pm People of the Parish

***In order to sign up for the open Ministry spots next weekend, please use your phone to scan the QR below. Our Flocknote page will come up and you will easily be able to fill one of the open spots.

LENTEN RETREAT



Lenten Silent Retreat
February 24 - 26
At the Christian
Renewal Center
Given by Kim Brown,
M.Ed, M.Th.



Join Catholic author, Spiritual Director, and speaker, Kim Brown for a Lenten Silent Retreat focused on our Lord. During the Silent Retreat, Kim will provide Meditations to reflect upon about every 3-4 hours throughout the day. In addition, participants can do one on one spiritual direction, attend daily Mass, confession, and enjoy the 52 acres to encounter God.

The retreat starts 7PM Friday and ends 11AM on Sunday. Lodging is provided in a private room or shared room based on how you register.

\$259 per person for a private room

\$429 for 2 people in a shared room

Register online at
retreatcentercrc.org/events

Mass Schedule		Lector/ Commentator	Altar Server	Alter Server	Scan To Sign up
01/07/23 Saturday 5:30PM		Victoria Swenson			
01/08/23 Sunday 9:00AM					
01/08/23 Sunday 11:00AM (Spanish)		Juanita Velasquez			
01/08/23 Sunday 1 PM					

Dear parish family,

Solemnity of the Mother of God

We look forward to what's coming for this New Year. But first we must be grateful to God for our countless blessings for the past year. And let us never forget to ask the Lord to forgive our past shortcomings, including those we might have failed to recognize. It is essential to be aware of our past mistakes and the lost opportunities of growing in faith and love because we might repeat them if we take them for granted. As the saying goes, "those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it."

Now, as we look forward to the New Year, we ask God to shower us with his blessings and protection so that this year will be more productive, rewarding, and full of love and peace – all the positive things we desire. Yet we know that all the things we hope cannot happen with us being passive but not engaged to make things happen or to say "yes" to all that is good and positive. To be actively engaged in pursuing what we consider best for us.

New Year is like a baby, so full of promises and hope. So the Church asks us today to look upon Mary, the mother of the Lord, as we begin the year for her maternal care and protection – for her support and intercessions that we become close to her son, Jesus. God entrusted the baby Jesus to her mother, and so, in the same way, let us also entrust ourselves to our Blessed Mother as we begin this New Year.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model for bringing the Savior into our lives. It was her "yes" to God that brought Jesus to us. And so it is always our affirmation to God that we experience the abiding presence of the Lord with us. Mary gave human life to Jesus, who said, "I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly." And thus, each of us can also give our human life its abundance if, like Mary, we bring Jesus into it.

It is not a coincidence but a deliberate design that the Church has turned January 1st into the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. It recognizes the "new beginnings" in religious thinking when Mary uttered her famous words of acceptance - "Be it done unto me according to Your word." With those words, she became the patron of "New Beginnings."

The presence of Mary at center stage on New Year's Day signals to all Christians to be confident, hopeful, and happy that the same opportunities for a fulfilled living are still being offered. The best image available today is that of the Madonna-Mary holding the child in her arms, the beginning of new life in the world with all the hope and confidence outweighing the uncertainty and anxiety that marks the beginning of every new life.

My best wishes to each of you. May the peace of Christ be with you, your family, and your friends, and God bless you throughout this New Year.

Fr. Tony



The Gabriel Project is designed to help women and teenagers who are in a crisis pregnancy. If you are in need of assistance or know someone who is, please contact Belinda @ 713-805-4961 or the Office.



St. Joseph's Chapel

Scheduled Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held Tuesday from 12noon to Thursday at 8:30am. **We are still currently looking for someone to fill the hour on Wednesday Morning from 9-10am.**

Please call the office if you would like to sign up for a specific hour each week or be placed on our sub list.

Adoration will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. However, if you may visit at any time, using the combination. If you need it, please call the office during regular hours.

RCIA... Classes

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Who should do the full RCIA program? If you are not baptized or were baptized in another Christian denomination and are interested in possibly becoming Catholic, RCIA is for you. If you are a baptized Catholic adult who needs First Holy communion and confirmation, then you should attend RCIA to receive those sacraments. Coming once (or twice... or more) obligates you to NOTHING. **For additional information about RCIA call the office or email Tracy, stmarysria@yahoo.com.**

Join Us...St. Mary's Music Ministry
Contact Jose Vazquez at josemvazquez@gmail.com

Querida familia parroquial,

Solemnidad de la Madre de Dios

Esperamos con ansias lo que se viene para este Año Nuevo. Pero primero debemos estar agradecidos con Dios por nuestras innumerables bendiciones durante el año pasado. Y nunca olvidemos pedirle al Señor que perdone nuestras fallas pasadas, incluidas aquellas que quizás no hayamos reconocido. Es fundamental ser conscientes de nuestros errores del pasado y de las oportunidades perdidas de crecer en la fe y el amor porque podemos repetirlos si los damos por sentados. Como dice el refrán, "quien olvida el pasado está condenado a repetirlo".

Ahora, mientras esperamos el Año Nuevo, le pedimos a Dios que nos colme de bendiciones y protección para que este año sea más productivo, gratificante y lleno de amor y paz, todas las cosas positivas que deseamos. Sin embargo, sabemos que todas las cosas que esperamos no pueden suceder si somos pasivos pero no comprometidos para hacer que las cosas sucedan o para decir "sí" a todo lo que es bueno y positivo. Participar activamente en la búsqueda de lo que consideramos mejor para nosotros.

El Año Nuevo es como un bebé, tan lleno de promesas y esperanza. Entonces, la Iglesia nos pide hoy que miremos a María, la madre del Señor, al comenzar el año para su cuidado y protección maternal, por su apoyo e intercesiones para que nos acerquemos a su hijo, Jesús. Dios encomendó al niño Jesús a su madre, y así, de la misma manera, encomendémonos también nosotros a nuestra Santísima Madre al comenzar este nuevo año.

La Santísima Madre es el modelo perfecto para traer al Salvador a nuestras vidas. Fue su "sí" a Dios lo que nos trajo a Jesús. Y así, es siempre nuestra afirmación a Dios que experimentamos la presencia permanente del Señor con nosotros. María dio vida humana a Jesús, quien dijo: "Yo vine para que tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia". Y así, cada uno de nosotros también puede dar a nuestra vida humana su abundancia si, como María, llevamos a Jesús a ella.

No es casualidad sino un designio deliberado que la Iglesia haya convertido el 1 de enero en la Fiesta de María, Madre de Dios. Reconoce los "nuevos comienzos" en el pensamiento religioso cuando María pronunció sus famosas palabras de aceptación: "Hágase en mí según tu palabra". Con esas palabras, se convirtió en la patrocinadora de "Nuevos Comienzos".

La presencia de María en el centro del escenario en el día de Año Nuevo es una señal para que todos los cristianos tengan confianza, esperanza y alegría porque todavía se les ofrecen las mismas oportunidades para una vida plena. La mejor imagen disponible hoy es la de la Virgen-María con el niño en brazos, el comienzo de una nueva vida en el mundo con toda la esperanza y la confianza superando la incertidumbre y la ansiedad que marca el comienzo de cada nueva vida.

Mis mejores deseos para cada uno de ustedes. Que la paz de Cristo esté contigo, tu familia y tus amigos, y que Dios te bendiga durante este nuevo año.

Fr. Tony

Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center

“Rise Up in Christ’s Love”

Men’s Retreat, January 6, 7 & 8, 2023

Text Ruben @ 713-858-0154 for additional information. He will contact you back as soon as possible.

The Office of Pro-Life Activities offers various opportunities for healing after abortion. Interested individuals can attend one or all events depending on need and preference. For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Office of Pro-Life Activities at 713-741-8728 or email jkfritsch@archgh.org.

ESL Classes Available

Harris County Public

Library La Porte

600 S. Broadway St., La Porte

Monday Evenings @ 6pm

Please call the library to register. 281-471-4022

Spiritual Direction

Feeling stuck in your faith? Deeper intimacy with Our Lord is possible. With gentle encouragement from a spiritual director and your commitment of 30-60 minutes a day you can enter into a deeper relationship with Our Lord than you ever thought possible. Spiritual direction can help you learn to pray better.

Contact Tracy: stmarysrcia@yahoo.com

Readings of the Week

Sunday Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Monday Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Friday 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11

Saturday 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 & 6a & 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

For your safety ...

We are located directly across from a public park, and we are currently seeing and experiencing an increase of people wandering around our facilities. And occasionally some are sleeping on the property. If your child needs to use the restrooms during Mass, please be sure they are accompanied by an adult at all times.

St. Mary's Bereavement Support Weekly Sessions

St. Mary's Samaritan Ministry Bereavement Support Team is hosting their fall Grief Share seminars weekly. After our Christmas break, we will resume our sessions Saturday, January 21, 2023. Join us at 9:00 am in the Rosary Hall Conference Room. Our topic will "Complicating Factors".

Advanced registration is helpful but not necessary. It is most beneficial to attend all of the sessions. However, each session is "self-contained", so you do not have to attend in sequence and you will be able to pick up any session you missed in the next Grief Share seminar cycle.

For detailed information and a complete schedule, please pick up a orange brochure in the back or side doors of the church. For additional information please contact the Team Coordinator Nelda Shealy at 281-471-2000.

St. Mary's Samaritan Ministry Bereavement Support Team is currently training facilitators. If you are interested, please contact Nelda..

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Thursdays @ 6pm

Jan. 5th ~ Feb. 9th

Discover the Beauty, the Riches, and the Profound Meaning of the Mass



Everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. A Biblical Walk Through the Mass explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

Please contact Tracy via email stmarys-cia@yahoo.com if you would like to join us. The cost is \$30., but not payable until our first class.

Charism Retreat

Saturday, February 4, 2023

9AM – 12PM

At the Christian Renewal Center



Join Catholic author, Spiritual Director, and speaker, Kim Brown for a 3-hour retreat to discover your Charisms and how to use them to build the Kingdom of God! All baptized believers have Charisms, and knowing and working with the grace of your charism can be powerful!

Register online at
retreatcentercrc.org/events



Please Pray for Our Troops and

Mason Cade, Jose Guerrero, Ally LaBlanc, Bianca Brog, Martinez Family, Craig Wade, Jennifer Wade, Regina Casazza, Tommy & Hilda Phillips, Diane Phillips, Dena Michna, Dave & Cindy Schmitz, Ann DuBois, Raelynd, Ash,

Becky Smith, Dianne Lemons, Peggy & Erica Hargens, Ruth Christian & family, Bob & Barbara Jennings, Robert D, Lowine, Wes & Miles Sarbacker, Katherine Reichley & family, Don & Allie Faye Matthews, Jennifer & Ernie Bernet Vera & Violet Garcia, Monica Lesenski, James Fontroy, Joshua & Kellie Ojeda, Irene McFarland, Darrell, Frankie Livingston, Maria Raymundo, Judith Ibañez, Evelia Carazo, Jaime Ibañez, Katia Heredia, Gloria Ibañez y Catalina Heredia, Richard Mata, Dolores Andrade, Monica Rey Araujo, Ramon Araujo, Carmen Zambrano, Chase Henscey, Michael Lesenski, Jeanie Phillips

Continue to Pray for *Lynn Revak, Beatriz Gamboa, Cathy Hanzelka, Mario Cano, Wal'Dean Lundquist, Steve & Amy Farley, Sue Gonzales, Maria Miranda, Britton & Gayle Phillips, Lucille Schaidler, Tim Hellstein, Miguel Campos, Rebecca Guzman, Jessica Salazar, Mose Davis, Maria Alicia Hodges, Josh Lara, Allen Hayes, Maria Garcia, Charlie Jenkins, Fr. Gary Rickles, Edward D. Palacios, Ladd Puskus, David Gonzalez, Nell Turk, Rosie Yznaga, Teresa Mills, Joe Lozano, Sr., Leroy Marchan, Geraldine Christensen, Daniel Vasquez, Rosa Harness, Jeanette Tilley, Marisol Leyva & family, Marisol Luna, Pete & Juanita Sanchez, Orville Burgess, Marlene Orellana, Humberto Villalobos, Kathy & Mark McBride, Robert & Margaret Espinoza, Romela Nolan, Renee Cortez, Rosa Reyes, Pat Lewis, Preston Wolf, Marcos Vasquez, Gavin Binkley, Linda Jaramillo, Deacon Merce Leal, Sue Crockett, Ben Munoz, Diana Ortiz, Janet Hoffpauir, Nick Martin and those requesting prayer via our website.*

Remember Our Shut-Ins *Albert Palacios, Lydia Rubio, Trinidad Arrindon, Elida Peterson, Aurelia Hinojosa, Ann Mullins and those battling terminal illness and the residents of LaPorte Care Center and Parson's House*

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of George Sturm

Our Sympathy to Joe Sturm and family on the loss of his brother, George

Please Note: Names on our "Please Pray For" list are left on for four weeks. If someone needs to be put back on the prayer list or added, please call the office.

Texas Catholic Herald

Check out the new digital edition of the Texas Catholic Herald! Read the latest issue online now at <https://www.archgh.org/digitaleditions>.

Pope's Prayer Intention for January: True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Baptismal Information

Baptism class/baptisms are currently being held each month. If we do not have anyone signed up for either the baptisms or classes in advance, they will be cancelled. **You must pre register for both the class/baptism. Please call the office.**

English baptisms this month will be on Sunday, January 18 after the 2pm Mass. English class will be on Tuesday, January 10 at 7[. Spanish baptisms this month will be on Saturday, January 14 at 10am and class will be Saturday, January 21 at 10am. Must pre register for baptisms.



Altar Society Needs you! Calling New members!

Our purpose is to promote true Christian charity, the love of God, the love of our neighbor and our love to our Christian Family.

Please join us at our next Meeting December 13th @ 6:30pm. For more information or for what Altar Society's duties are please contact Heather Lopez @ lopez.heather87@hotmail.com

January Altar Duty Assignments

Laundry ~ Jan Hughes, Sheridan Lewis

Altar Duty ~ Evarist Coryat, Sharon Hebert

Altar Flowers

Available Dates 2023

January 14/15, 21/22, 28/29

February 4/5, 11/12, 18/19, 25/26

Please contact Rose Kolenc 713-202-3283 to reserve a date for flowers in 2023.

Sharon Ramos, President @ 281-451-9593



Speaker Series 1/08/23

“The Source and Summit”

(The Heart of the Home: Jesus)

Speaker Starts at 10:15

Join us for coffee and Donuts—9:45

Happy New Year!

Classes will resume for EDGE and Life Teen

January 8, 2023



St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Mon., Tues., and Wed., 9-11am

Drop-off Room Open 7am to 8pm

Monday ~ Wednesday

9-11am ~ Room C

Our St. Vincent program is a reflection of the generosity of our community. Through your donations, we are able to financially help the needy in our community with clothing, utility bills or rent. Currently we are serving the cities of La Porte, Seabrook and Baytown. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call or have them call the office to make an appointment. We see clients on Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

WE SERIOUSLY NEED HELP. WE NEED YOU!!! Our store has been in existence for many years. However, this milestone would not have been possible if it were not for ALL of Our DEDICATED Volunteers. Are you retired, looking for a way to help our church and community? Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this Ministry. There are many ways to help. We are in desperate need of volunteers. You can pick any day you are able to work. If you can help, please call the office or contact Norma @ 281-471-1752.

Activities of the Week

Sun. Jan. 1: Masses 9am, 11am & 1pm

Mon. Jan. 2: Office Closed

Regular Daily Mass schedule this week in Chapel.

Adoration will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

IGNITE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Parish Goal \$469,301.00

Amount Pledged: \$229,305.24 (48.20 % of Goal)

Amount Paid: \$190,986.16

Total # of Participants 72

Our Faith, Our Mission Begins!

Addressing the Short and Long-term Needs of Our Church and those God calls us to serve.

We seek to raise over \$150 million over the next 4 years to prepare our faith family for the future. At its heart, this campaign is about supporting our future by focusing on our parishes, our future priests, Catholic Education and Faith Formation as well as Rebuilding and ensuring a future Disaster Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!