

6TH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time



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, February 11:

5:30pm People of the Parish

Sunday, February 12:

9:00am Delia Lopez†

By: Joe Lopez

11:00am Maximina Rios†

By: Rios Family

1:00pm Corey Saenz†

By: Family

Tuesday, February 14:

12:00pm Walter † & Lucy † Morrison

By: Bremer Family

Wednesday, February 15:

12:00 pm Deceased Members of the Hellstein Family

By: Rena Hellstein

Thursday, February 16:

8:30am Dennis Swenson†

By: Walter & Bonnie Hayes

Friday, February 17:

8:30am Soledad Valencia†

By: Maggie Campos

Saturday, February 18:

5:30pm Raul Mendez†

By: I. Mendez

Sunday, February 19:

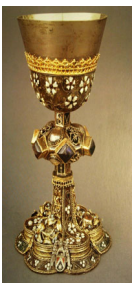
9:00am Benjamin† & Mairan† Wessell

By: Mary Edwards

11:00am Elida Ortiz†

By: Mary Sigala Family

1:00pm People of the Parish



COMMISSIONED EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

There will be an updated/ retraining by Deacon Stan today after all Sunday Masses and again next weekend for all of those previously commissioned to be Eucharistic Ministers. Please see Deacon Stan after Mass if you would like to continue to serve. Also, we will be posting the sign-ups through Flocknotes for cup ministers when we send out the schedule for February.



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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.

Weekly Collections

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February 4/5, 2023

Offertory \$10,128.00

If you would like to send your donations weekly, please visit St. Mary's website and go to the Online Giving icon or mail them to St. Mary's, 816 Park Dr., La Porte, TX 77571.

www.stmaryslaporte.com

Thank you for your ongoing support!

COMMITMENT WEEKEND



GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART

This week, we encourage all to prayerfully consider giving to DSF and help provide 64 ministries that no one parish can do alone, including supporting the formation of our future priests. By sharing your gifts with DSF, you remind all that God is the strength of our hearts.



Please keep Greg Bremer and his family in your prayers this week as he prepares for his Diaconate Ordination on Friday. Next weekend after all masses everyone is invited to attend a reception in Rosary Hall to meet our new Deacon.

Activities of the Week

Sun. Feb. 12: CCE, EDGE & Life Teen

English Baptisms 2 pm

Mon. Feb. 13: Rosary for Life Chapel 7pm

Tues. Feb. 14: Chapel Rosary for the Unborn 11:30am

English Baptism Class 7PM

Wed. Feb. 15: Chapel Rosary for Spec. Int. 11:30am

Thurs. Feb. 16: Biblical Walk through the Mass, 6pm

Parish Ministry Meeting 7 pm Rosary Hall

Fri. Feb. 17: Spanish Prayer Group 7pm

Sat. Feb. 18: Samaritan Bereavement Group RH, 9am

Spanish Baptism Class 10 am, PH Conf. Rm

EDGE Youth Rally

Deacon Greg Ordination Celebration

Dear parish family,

DSF Weekend

It's Super Bowl weekend, the grand ending of football season. For our Archdiocesan church, it's the perfect beginning of the super bowl for caring. It's our annual DSF (Diocesan Services Fund) Commitment weekend! Your support of DSF allows 64 ministries in our Archdiocese to flourish and meet the needs of God's people in a way that no parish can do on its own.

The DSF is the lifeblood of 64 varied ministries of our vast Archdiocese that are divided into Teaching, Evangelizing, and Worship; Ministering to the Poor, the Sick, and Incarcerated; promoting and Preparing and Supporting the Clergy. And finally, in Nurturing and Strengthening Families. Please go online at www.archgh.org/dsf and click on the Ministries supported by the DSF to see the list of the programs and ministries being funded by this yearly appeal. Or, if you prefer, you may also make your donation online, but be sure to credit it to our parish church.

This week, all registered parishioners will receive (or have already received) a letter from Cardinal DiNardo, along with a personalized pledge card, inviting you to participate. This year's theme is "**God is the Strength of My Heart.**" Pray about your DSF 2023 commitment, complete the enclosed pledge card, and return it via mail in the special envelope provided or bring it to Mass next weekend or the office. Our parish goal this year is \$ 52,000.00.

Each parish has a required goal to meet proportional to its size. Whatever exceeds the goal will be sent back to the parish. But the remainder balance, if not completed, will still be due.

For the last two years, we have been unable to meet our parish's yearly DSF goal, understandably because of the pandemic. I wrote to the DSF office & the Cardinal to forgive/dismiss our balance dues. But a negative response for it means many programs/ministries will suffer a crumbling budget. We are not alone; other parishes are also in the same situation.

While we are all aware that the lifeblood of our parish church is our weekly contributions, we must be reminded that the lifeblood of the various programs and services of the Archdiocese is this yearly DSF campaign.

I am so grateful for our parish's generous people who kept our church going and consistently participated in this DSF campaign. I beg those who have yet to participate to get involved - even a token of your kindness is very much welcome. The bottom line is not meeting our goal but meeting our obligation as Christians, as followers of the Lord who calls us to answer the needs of others. It is not that we are giving to structures or purely human endeavors but that we are responding to the message of Christ.

May God touch the hearts of others to do a Christian act of charity also; please let us all support the DSF. This year we can meet our goal with your support.

Blessings to you and have a good week!

Fr. Tony

Join Us...St. Mary's Music Ministry

Contact Jose Vazquez at
josemvazquez@gmail.com

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.**

Mass Schedule	Lector/ Commentator	Cup Minister	Cup Minister	Alter Server	Altar Server
02/18/23 Saturday 5:30PM	Isabelle Salas				
02/19/23 Sunday 9:00AM	David Davenport				
02/19/23 Sunday 11:00AM(Spanish)	Vanessa Bermudez				
02/19/23 Sunday 1 PM	Kerry Regan				



***For Ministry signups for next weekend, please use your phone to scan the QR and sign up through Flock-

Querida familia parroquial,

fin de semana SFD

Es el fin de semana del Super Bowl, el gran final de la temporada de futbol. Para nuestra iglesia Arquidiocesana, es el comienzo perfecto para la caridad del super bowl. ¡Es nuestro anual SFD (Servicios de Fondo Diocesano) fin de semana de compromiso! Su apoyo al SFD permite que 64 ministerios de nuestro Arquidiócesis florezcan y cumplan con sus necesidades para la gente de Dios en una manera que ninguna parroquia lo puede lograr sola.

El SFD es el linaje de 64 varios ministerios de nuestra gran Arquidiócesis que son divididos en Enseñanza, Evangelización, y Alabanza, Administrando a los Pobres, los Enfermos, y los Encarcelados, promoviendo y Preparando y Apoyando al Clero. Y finalmente, en Nutriendo y Fortaleciendo a las Familias. Por favor vayan al correo electrónico www.archgh.org/dsf y hagan clic en los Ministerios que son apoyados por el SFD para ver la lista de los programas y ministerios que son financiados por este llamamiento anual. O si prefieren también pueden hacer su donación por correo electrónico, pero estén seguros de que le den el crédito a nuestra iglesia parroquial.

Esta semana todos los feligreses registrados recibirán (o ya lo han recibido) una carta del Cardenal Dinardo, junto con una tarjeta de promesa, invitándolos a que participen. El tema de este año es “**Dios es la fortaleza de mi corazón.**” Oren por su compromiso del SFD 2023, llenen la tarjeta y regrésenla por correo en el sobre o tráiganla a la Misa el próximo fin de semana o a la oficina. Nuestra meta parroquial de este año es \$52,000.

Cada parroquia tiene una meta que cumplir proporcional a su tamaño. Lo que pase mas de la meta se regresa a la parroquia. Pero el balance que quede si no se completa, se debe.

Los últimos dos años no hemos podido cumplir nuestra meta parroquial anual del SFD, esto se comprende por la pandemia. Yo le escribí a la oficina del SFD y al Cardenal para que nos perdone/despida nuestro balance. Pero una respuesta negativa significa que muchos programas/ministerios sufrirán un presupuesto desmoronado. No estamos solos, otras parroquias se encuentran en la misma situación.

Todos estamos conscientes que el linaje de nuestra iglesia parroquial es nuestra contribución semanal, se nos recuerda que el linaje de los varios programas y servicios del Arquidiócesis es la campaña de este año del SFD.

Estoy muy agradecido por la generosidad de las personas de nuestra parroquia que mantuvieron nuestra iglesia yendo y participaron consistentemente en la campaña del SFD. Les suplico a los que aun no han participado que se involucren – aun un poco de su caridad es bienvenida. El punto final no es en llegar a nuestra meta sino en cumplir con nuestra obligación como cristianos, como seguidores del Señor quien nos llama a cumplir con las necesidades de los demás. No estamos dando a las estructuras o simplemente a esfuerzos humanos, pero estamos respondiendo al mensaje de Cristo.

Que Dios toque los corazones de los demás para que hagan un acto cristiano de caridad y, por favor todos apoyemos el SFD. Este año podemos llegar a nuestra meta con su apoyo.

¡Bendiciones para todos y que tengan una buena semana! Padre Tony

Pope's Prayer Intention for February: For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



Adult Confirmation Class

If you have been baptized, have received your First Communion but need to be confirmed, we will be having **Adult Confirmation Classes** on Sundays

@ 10am in the Parish Hall Conf. Rm for five weeks, **starting Sunday, February 26.** Due to the limited sessions, you will not be able to sign up late. Please contact the office if you would like to attend or have any questions. Deacon Hector will be teaching the classes.

**Want to Stay Connected?
Now Available on Twitter
@StmarysLP**

Www.stmaryslaporte.com

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

Funeral Service Information Samaritan Telephone Tree

If you would like to be notified when there will be a Funeral service here at St. Mary's please call the office. No one will be placed on the list automatically. If you have not received a call recently, you will need to contact us to be placed on the current/updated list.

We are also placing links on our website to the local Funeral Home where parishioners are making funeral arrangements. However, this is only done when we get the approval from the family.

Readings of the Week

Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
Monday	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a & 2; 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk 8:41-21
Wednesday	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-11, 12-13; 14-15; Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday	Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

St. Mary's Bereavement Support Weekly Sessions

St. Mary's Samaritan Ministry Bereavement Support Team is hosting their fall Grief Share seminars weekly. We have resumed our sessions on Saturdays at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall Conference Room. Our topic this week will be "Lessons in Grief, Part 2".

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 in the fall.

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.

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**



Rosary for Life Monday, February 13th

Please join us in praying the Holy Rosary, asking for our Blessed Mother's intercession for the unborn, elderly, disabled, sick and all special intentions in St. Joseph's Chapel @ 7:00pm.

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>.



Please Pray for Our Troops and

Mary Fuentes, Bridgette Weber, Beverly Zann White, Kevin & Pamela Howell, Angela Johnson, Micole McNair, Gail Hall, Vaughn & Laura, Elizabeth & Daniel Fassbinder, Bethany Free, Michael Lesenski, Mason Cade

Robles, Jose Guerrero, Ally LaBlanc, Bianca Brog, Martinez Family, Craig Wade, Jennifer Wade, Regina Casazza, Tommy 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, Kathy Heredia, Gloria Ibañez y Catalina Heredia, Richard Mata, Dolores Andrade, Monica Rey Araujo, Ramon Araujo, Carmen Zambrano, Chase Henscey, Jeanie Phillips

Continue to Pray for Romeo Yap, Lea Katherine Tennyson, Valeria Key, 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, 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, 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 La Porte Care Center and Parson's House

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.



St. Joseph's Chapel

Scheduled Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held Tuesday from 12noon to Thursday at 8:30am.

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



Altar Society Needs you!

Altar society is a group of faith-filled Catholic men and women both young and old, that furnish the liturgical necessities for our parish. The main purpose of the Altar Society is to provide for the adornment of the altar, sanctuary, and chapel.

And we are currently experiencing an acute shortage of members. We are asking that you prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve our parish by volunteering and perhaps volunteering with the Altar Society. We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm but you'd prefer not to have a vote in the things we do and just want to volunteer PLEASE LET US KNOW that we can call on you to volunteer when we need it. We need a variety of talents and skills and we'd love to have you join this extraordinary group of people.

Altar Flowers 2023

Available Dates

February 18/19 **April** 22/23, 29/30

May 6/7, 13/14, 20/21 **June** 3/4, 10/11, 17/18, 24/25

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

Sharon Ramos, President @ 281-451-9593

Cup Ministers Training Lector/Commentator/Altar Server

Deacon Stan is currently doing the updated training for anyone who was a Cup Minister before COVID, and would like to resume their duties. Deacon has asked that you approach him after Mass to do the training this weekend or at anytime he is on the Altar. If you would like to be a Cup Minister, but have not done so, also please speak to Deacon Stan. Once you have been trained with him a request letter will be sent to the Archdiocese requesting that you be commissioned to serve. After we receive the letter of approval back you will be able to sign up through Flocknotes. This method enables people to choose whatever Mass works for them.

Lector/Commentator/Altar Server Training is done on an as needed basis. If you are interested, please call the office to sign up.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you.

Speaker Series:

Jesus' Compassion in His Passion

You are invited:

Speaker: Tracy Avallone
March 5, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
Rosary Hall



Life Teen Spring Retreat
WHEN: March 10, 11, 12

Cost : \$75

WHERE: Cat Springs Retreat Center

For information—
<https://www.stmaryslaporte.com/welcome>
davisinlp@gmail.com

LIFE TEEN

EDGE/LIFE TEEN Today @ 2pm

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.



Online Giving

If you are interested in giving online, please visit our church website scroll down to online giving icon and follow the prompt to make a donation. You can make a one time donation or a recurring one. Please visit www.stmaryslaporte.com. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Parenting Help?

The Office of Family Life Ministry have trained eight professionals around the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to provide services to parents who are willing and need help raising their children. The program is designed to offer advice, support and information to parents with common developmental and behavioral problems in children. To obtain more information please contact us @ 713-741-8739 or 713-741-8711.