St. Laurence CATHOLIC CHURCH

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo — *Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am,
11:00am, 12:45pm, 5:00pm

DAILY MASSES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
7:30am, 12:00pm
Wednesday 7:30am, 6:30pm
Friday 8:15am, 12:00pm
Saturday 8:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00pm–4:45pm
Wednesday 5:30pm–6:20pm
Monday–Thursday after morning Mass

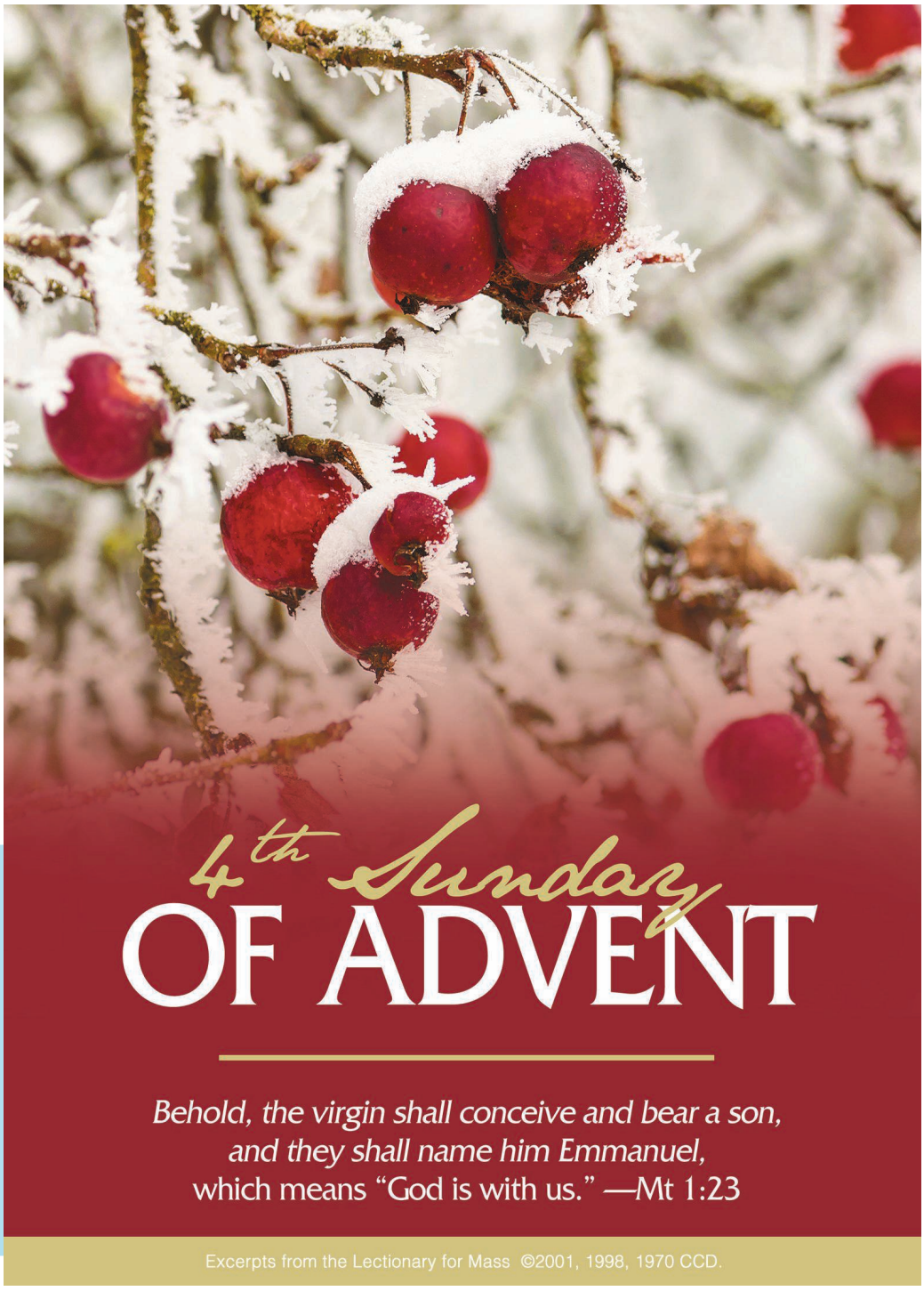
ROSARY

Friday 6:30am

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
January 6 — *In the Chapel*
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
January 7 — *In the Church*
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Enero 9 — *En la Capilla*
Segundo y cuarto sábado de cada mes a las 7:00pm. Confesiones en Español antes de la misa de 6:00 a 6:45 pm. Comunión a los enfermos, Irma Martinez
Tel 281-313-2833



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Parish Contacts

PARISH OFFICE
3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-9812

Pastor: Fr. Drew Wood

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS, jaisonthomas@stlaurence.org

Deacon: Renato (Rey) Arellano, deacon.rey@stlaurence.org

Deacon: Albert Bothe, deaconal@ssjd.org

Deacon: Don Burns, don@donburns.com

Deacon: Charles Plant, stlaurencedeacon@aol.com

Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, toltremari@stlaurence.org

Liturgy: Theresa Rawls, trawls@stlaurence.org

Facilities: Deanna Ennis, dennis@stlaurence.org

Social Concerns: Pennie DeGroot, pdegroot@stlaurence.org

Parish Life & Communications: Sharon Ehrenkranz, sehrenkranz@stlaurence.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-265-5774

Director Religious Education: Laura Stephens, lstephens@stlaurence.org

Religious Education Registrar: Ruba Kaiser, rkaiser@stlaurence.org

Adult Faith Formation: Justin Frato, jfrato@stlaurence.org

Children's Faith Formation: Joan Hastreiter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org

Youth Ministry: Kris Frank, kfrank@stlaurence.org
Sara Sahlezghi, ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org
Eric Painter, epainter@stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-0500

Principal: Suzanne Barto, sbarto@stlaurence.org

Registrar: Marie Brown, mbrown@stlaurence.org

WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-313-0329

Director: Becky Wilkinson, bwilkinson@stlaurence.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCILS
281-980-9812

Pastoral Council: Tom Ruck, rucktg@gmail.com

Finance Council: Bob Ladd, robert.ladd@haynesboone.com

Discipleship Council: Marc Sherman, MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com

OUR MISSION:

"We the people of St. Laurence Catholic Church are centered in the love of Christ and live to glorify God in all we do."

PARISH OFFICE & COURTYARD

The parish office provides services including pastoral care, liturgical planning, business, communications, & administrative support, and social concerns & social justice support. The parish hall and meeting rooms are available through reservation by calling Nia Sepe at 281-980-9812. Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-9:00pm; Friday 8:00am-6:00pm; and Saturday 8:30am-12:00noon.

AVE MARIA PARISH LIFE CENTER

The Ave Maria Parish Life Center is located across the street from the church and is the site for all religious education classes, programs and offices. Inquiries and drop-ins are welcome during office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00am-9:00pm and Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. The Weekday Children's Program is offered for infants through pre-school aged children. During the school year, WCP hours Monday-Friday are 8:00am-3:00pm.

PARISH SCHOOL & CHAPEL

St. Laurence Catholic School provides strong academics in a Christian environment to 720 students enrolled in PreK4 through Grade 8. Office Hours: Monday-Friday are 8:00am-4:00pm.

Adjacent to the school is the Chapel of the Divine Mercy which offers Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and serves as the site for smaller liturgies.

CHRISTMAS

AT ST. LAURENCE

Christmas Eve – Saturday, Dec 24

4:00pm
6:30pm
9:00pm
12:00am Midnight Mass
(Arrive at 11:30pm for Lessons & Carols)
In the Church

4:15pm
At the Ave Maria Center

Christmas Day – Sunday, Dec 25

8:00am
10:00am
12:00pm
In the Church

Solemnity of Mary - Sunday, Jan 1

(Regular Sunday Mass Schedule)
Sat 5:00pm Vigil
Sun 7:30, 9:00, 11:00am, and 12:45, 5:00pm
In the Church

Thank you for being here every Sunday!
As we prepare for the large Christmas crowds, please extend a warm welcome to EVERYONE you meet and make room by scooting to the center of the pew. *Welcome the stranger.* If they come to Mass but once a year, let's make it a JOYFUL visit and maybe they'll come back again because of YOU!

Additional parking available in the Fort Bend ISD Annex lot.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 18 — **(#1000 in your Gather book)**

First Reading	IS 7:10-14
Second Reading	ROM 1:1-7
Gospel	MT 1:18-24

MONDAY 19

First Reading	JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A
Gospel	LK 1:5-25

TUESDAY 20

First Reading	IS 7:10-14
Gospel	LK 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY 21

First Reading	SG 2:8-14
Gospel	LK 1:39-45

THURSDAY 22

First Reading	1 SM 1:24-28
Gospel	LK 1:46-56

FRIDAY 23

First Reading	ML 3:1-4, 23-24
Gospel	LK 1:57-66

SATURDAY 24 — **CHRISTMAS VIGIL**

First Reading	IS 62:1-5
Second Reading	ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25
Gospel	MT 1:1-25

SUNDAY 25 — **CHRISTMAS DAY**

First Reading	IS 52:7-10
Second Reading	HEB 1:1-6
Gospel	JN 1:1-18

PRAYING THE NEWS | DECEMBER 18, 2016

Joseph her husband, …unwilling to expose her to shame...
Matthew 1:19

O Lord, you know all that we do not know. You said, "Judge not…" St. Joseph lovingly refused to subject your mother to shame, though he did not yet know the full truth of your divine conception. We pray for all those - in the news and unknown - who suffer from bullying, shaming and fake news. Please bring a renewed commitment to empathy and treating others as we wish to be treated. St. Joseph, pray for us!
Amen. †

In Our Prayers...

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for these members of our parish family and all our loved ones listed in the Book of the Sick:

Elia Acuna, Stephanie Alford, Linda Ambeaux, Zade Ambeaux, John Argue, Linda Babin, Eden Bantigue, Wallace Barbay, Deborah Beck, Phyllis Benoit, Deacon Al Bothe, Bob Brenner, Eduardo Caballero, Jun Castro, Joe Celestain, Michelle Collins, Lupita de la Rosa, Brittany Dodson, Julie Donati, Terri Donovan, Judith Dupre, Agnes Fagnant, Amelia Flores, Enrique Flores, Maggie Flores, Robb Flynn, Connie Forbes, Lupe Fraga, Jerry Gabino, Alicia Garcia, Patricia Garmon, Delia Genova, Beth Gloff, Kathy Gonzalez, Jordan Hancock, Martha Harbin, Angelina Hernandez, Ramon Hernandez, James Hrebenar, Rosa Janik, Shanthy Jayaprakash, Jeff Johnson, Paul Joseph, Brian Judice, John Judice, Sylvia Kauffman, Christine Kingerski, Cindy Kral, Charles Kramer, Kelley Lamendola, Chris Larkins, Lisa Lauve, Mary Lavine, Mike Lojo, Beverly Marcellus, Russ Marcellus, Lavonne McFarland, Barbara McNees, Victor Mendiola, Ernest Meyer, Marina Monroy, Jim Murray, Patrick Navidad, Paul Vung Nguyen, Fr. Roy Oggero, Sandra Ortiz, Meena Outlaw, Catalina Padora, Fay Parker, Charles Pierson, Lauren Popeney, Lily Belle Pyle, Angela Rankin, Frances Revelt, Melanie Robb, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Provi Sabido, Gil Saenz, Ed Sabrsula, Kathleen Schroeder, Joan Sherman, June Sherman, Sandra Smith, Irma Soza, Steve Spaulding, Justin Stout, Marianne Szalay, Jackie Tanner, Brian Teykl, Eugene Theobald, Todd Triggs, JD Tyler, Amy Visser, Doris Wagoner, Kylie Ward, Monica Williams

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Pray for:

Isabella Flores, Jessica Ayala, Liz Trevino, Tuttle family, Marcos Arriola & family, Anna Pounds & family, Leanne Pounds, Jaylon & Jayson, Casey & Colby Christian, Steve & Becky Garney, Randy Anderson & Charles & Jean, Enis, Yolanda, Edgar & Ana Alegria, Serrano family, Simonson family, Mosqueda family, Rodriguez family, Portillo family, Frank Serrano & grandchildren, Miller family & friends, Patricia LaFleur, Paul Ramirez, Angelic Marie Ramirez, Jocelin Ramirez, Roland Bergara, Robert Crenshaw, Chaplain Tom Lowe, Deacon Al Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3.

PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW2 Brett Aderhold, *US Army, AV*
SPC David Ambrocik, *US Army*
PVT Michael Baird, *US Army*
SA Matthew Baird, *US Navy*
P.O. 5 Debra Barnette, *US Navy*
LCpl Trevor Bello, *USMC*
PFC John Blair, *US Army*
Maj. Michael Carroll, *USMC*
Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, *USMC*
Lt Matthew Chesney, *US Navy*
Maj. Christopher Coffman, *US Air Force*
Capt. Patrick Coffman, *USMC*
LTJG Colin Day, *US Navy*
1LT Andrew DeSplinter, *US Army*
SGT Nicholas Dockum, *US Army*
Capt. Brandon Driscoll, *USMC*
Maj. James Dunphy, *USMC*
1LT Michael Eberhardt, *US Army*
CPT Stacey Eberhardt, *US Army*
Derek Farias, *US Navy*
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, *USMC*
PVT Jahneil Xavier George, *US Army*
SSG Philip Graham, *US Army*
1LT Spencer Henry, *US Army*
PVT Liam Hill, *US Army*
Daniel Hines, *US Navy*
SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, *US Army Reserve*
1LT Michelle Horstman, *US Army*
SPC Joshua Keenan, *US Army*
Joseph Kingerski, *US Navy*
EM4 James Locus, *US Navy*
PFC Philip Loera, *US Army*
PFC John Lundgren, *US Army*
Amn Joseph Marcellus, *USAF*
LCpl William Marcellus, *USMC*
TSGT David March, *Texas Air National Guard*
Capt. Brendan McPartland, *USMC*
1LT Todd Miller, *US Army*
CPT Alexander Morningstar, *US Army*
CB, Richard Pinard, *US Navy*
QMSN Bryce Prochazka, *USNavy*
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, *USMC*
SGT Santiago Ramirez, *US Army*
1LT Taylor Rammrath, *US Army*
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, *USMC*
SSgt Jonathan Slusser, *US Air Force*
LTJG Kevin Stransky, *US Navy*
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, *US Navy*
Cpl Daniel Thesing, *USMC*
Maj. Michael Thesing, *USMC*
1LT Kevin Wheeler, *US Army*
SGT Bryce Whitley, *US Army*
AM Troy Yelverton, *US Navy*
PVT Adrian Zaldivar, *USMC*

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC 17
5:00pm – Buddy Podraza (D)

SUNDAY, DEC 18
7:30am – Doretha Jackson (D)
9:00am – Thu King (D)
11:00am – Randy Newcomer, Sr. (D)
12:45pm – Patricia Mora (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, DEC 19
7:30am – Sally Jue Lee (D)
12:00pm – William & Vivian Jordan (D)

TUESDAY, DEC 20
7:30am – Felix Thomas (D)
12:00pm – Ernesto Padilla (D)

WEDS, DEC 21
7:30am – Helen Wilkins Gass (D)
6:30pm – All Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, DEC 22
7:30am – Ronnie Dyogi (D)
12:00pm – Tom Figoski (D)

FRIDAY, DEC 23
8:15am – Estelita Virtudazo (D)
12:00pm – Alex Herrera (D)

SATURDAY, DEC 24
4:00pm – Jose Estrella (D)
4:15pm – Kevin Hinguillo (D)
6:30pm – Margie Calo (I)
9:00pm – Kelly Suter (D)
12:00am – St. Laurence Parishioners

SUNDAY, DEC 25
8:00am – Felix Thomas (D)
10:00am – Jim Macredie (D)
12:00pm – Tan Esmersoy (D)

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Marc Fryer, Brother Peter Francis (Brian Kelsch), Chad Henry, Bryan Williams, Sister M. Philomena (Krystle Cagandahan), Sister Daniela (Megan Bennett), Sister Rachel Marie of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary (Rachel Gosda), Collin Brown, Christopher Meyer, Margaret Uche, Dennis Henderson

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TONIGHT: "THE NATIVITY" A CHRISTMAS PLAY

The Catholic Charismatic Center is presenting "The Nativity" a Christmas play, tonight, Sunday, **December 18, at 7:00pm**. There is no admission fee and everyone is welcome to attend. The Catholic Charismatic Center is located at 1949 Cullen Blvd, Houston. For more information, please go to **www.cccgh.com** or call 713-236-9977.

JAN 3-6: COURSE ON BASIC CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

This is a basic course on the spiritual and material aspects of humans and how the two relate to each other. The course explains and clarifies concepts from the theoretical to the practical, including work and other aspects of social living. This course is presented by Dr. Alvaro Sierra Londoño, who will present in Spanish, with simultaneous English translation. The classes will be **Tuesday, January 3 through Friday, January 6, 8:30am-3:30pm**, at the St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center, 2403 Holcombe Blvd, Houston. The fee is $100. Materials are included and light lunch and refreshments will be served each day. This training is available to clergy and lay ministers working with families. For more information and to register by December 31, please contact mroman@archgh.org or 713-741-8720.

FORMATION TOWARD CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The schedule and registration for the Spring 2017 semester of FTCM is now available at **www.archgh.org/oec/ftcm**. The Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM) program seeks to develop the basic academic, spiritual and critical reflection skills necessary for Catholic adults to fully answer their Baptismal call to service. FTCM is open to all adults who seek greater understanding of their faith and is especially designed for those who are active in parish ministry or discerning their call to ministry.

PARENTING HELP FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

The office of Family Life Ministry have trained 8 professionals around the Archdiocese to provide services to parents who are willing and need help raising their children. The program is designed to offer **advice, support and formation** to parents with common developmental and behavioral problems in children. To obtain more information please call 713-741-8739 or 713-741-8711.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

December 11 Collection	$ 60,323
Registered Households	7,391
Envelopes Used	743
Loose Checks	250
2nd Collection: Retired Religious	$ 15,978

AUTOMATED GIVING

Monthly Offertory	$ 169,636
Participants	953

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

2016 Parish Goal	$ 495,000
Amount Paid	$ 443,435
Amount Pledged	$ 455,524
Participants	1,076

Diocesan Services Fund

His Mercy Endures Forever

We are still $51,000 short of our parish goal of **$495,000**. If you haven't yet pledged or contributed to the Diocesan Services Fund, please do so **before year-end**. Your gift to the DSF enables us to reach people across the archdiocese through more than 60 programs. Pick up a donation envelope at the Hospitality Desk or go to **www.archgh.org/dsf** to donate today!

THANK YOU!

KINGDOM CARE

Childcare is provided through Kingdom Care, a loving, Christian, and safe environment for young children while their parents attend Mass and other parish programs. Register in advance at the parish office with Christy Delamora at 281-980-9812.

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next class: JANUARY 12

The standard preparation time for weddings is 9-12 months in advance of the desired date. All engaged couples must attend an information session, usually offered every other month. Register with Theresa Rawls at 281-980-9812.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Next classes: JAN 14 and FEB 11

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays each month. To schedule a baptism call Rose Davis at 281-980-9812. The parent prep class is offered monthly.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS

Jewel Ogbechie, Madeleine Rosales, Clare Gutkowski, Malloy Gonzales, Evan Nguyen, Omera Aitsebaomo, Oshone Aitsebaomo, Osiregbeme Aitsebaomo

FUNERALS

Ivan Covurluianu, *father of Valentina Rahim*
Judy Hadley, *wife of John Hadley*

ELECTRONIC GIVING

www.stlaurence.org/contribute-to-our-parish

In this season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with **Faith Direct**? By supporting the Church in this way, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or **End-of-Year contributions** to your account. Thank you for your generous support!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

NO PRESCHOOL OR ELEMENTARY CCE DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

A Prayer for Preparation

St. Francis,
You spent many hours preparing a Nativity scene that would remind the world how the Infant Jesus came to us in poverty. Please help me find time to prepare well for the great feast of Christmas. Show me how to clean out my heart – sweeping away envy, unrealistic expectations and activities that distract me too much from the true purpose of Advent. Guide me in making good decisions about how I spend my time and my dollars during these days of waiting and preparing. As I look upon the empty manger where Christ was born, inspire me to live humbly and simply. Intercede for me, so my preparations this Advent make a lasting difference in my life.
Amen.

MONDAYS: Moms & Tots Group

Are you a mom who is home with young child(ren) ages infant to pre-K on Monday mornings? Please join Moms & Tots for our weekly Play & Pray Group! We plan a variety of activities for our children as we support and encourage one another in our vocation as mothers. Our meetings are casual, and kids and moms get a chance to make new friends and grow closer to Christ. Come every week or just when you can! Call Chrissy Campbell at 310-926-7085 or email stlaurence.momsandtots@gmail.com for details.

ST. LAURENCE
WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

From Crib through 5 years

St. Laurence Weekday Children's Program is an Early Childhood ministry of St. Laurence Parish. We believe that children are the heart of the Kingdom of God. Together with family and community we are called to support children's spiritual and human growth and development.

Learn more and find the **WCP Calendar** at:
www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

St. Laurence Catholic School

HE MAKES ALL THINGS NEW
SLCS 2016-2017

www.stlaurence.org/school

The faculty, staff and students would like to extend to our parish family heartfelt wishes for a blessed Christmas season. May the miracle of Christmas fill your hearts with warmth and love. May peace be your blessing and love be your guide!
Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year ~ Principal Suzanne Barto and the SLCS Faculty & Staff

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SAINTS!

SLCS Varsity Boys won **1st place** at St. Thomas High School Tournament! And the Varsity Lady Saints won **1st place** in the Kinkaid Middle School Basketball Tournament! WAY TO GO!

EDGE Catholic Middle School Ministry

EDGE is way more than effective catechesis. It's Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry that helps young people with life's most challenging years. Edge Nights take place Wednesday evenings, September through April at the Ave Maria Center. All 6th-8th graders are invited and encouraged to attend. Interested in helping out? **Contact Eric Painter at epainter@stlaurence.org.**

WEDNESDAY IS EDGE NIGHT

JAN 11: 700-815pm, Edge in Marian Hall

All middle school youth are invited and encouraged to join us. We are on Christmas break but will return for the Spring semester on Wednesday, January 11.

LIFE TEEN

Life Teen is for any teen currently in high school. This ministry is St. Laurence's main outreach to 9-12th graders. Through teaching and social events we hope to build up the kingdom of God one teen at a time. For info and to help, please **contact Kris Frank at kfrank@stlaurence.org.**

LIFE TEEN ON SUNDAY NIGHTS

JAN 8 630-815pm Ave Maria Center

Current focus is "The Summit" a series on the Mass.
Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass changes everything!

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

TUESDAYS 600-730pm Youth Hall

Discipleship Groups offer teens an opportunity to dig even deeper. Open to all high school students.

LEGACY

2ND/4TH TUESDAYS, 800-900pm Youth Hall

Open to Juniors and Seniors.

WKND Retreat
Jan 13-16, 2017
$175

All high schoolers invited
Contact Kris Frank

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation at St. Laurence is part of Youth Ministry and Religious Education. We bring teens closer to Christ through this Sacrament of the Church. Contact Sara Sahlezghi at **ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org**. Confirmation is open to sophomores and juniors in high school. Teens who do not attend Catholic School should attend Life Nights (HS religious education) for at least a year prior to beginning preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to ensure they have been catechized and are prepared for the journey to Confirmation.

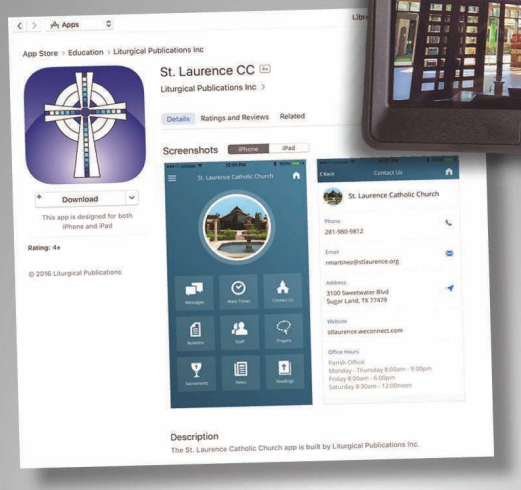
GET THE PARISH APP

Introducing the
St. Laurence Parish APP

Now available for download on Google Play and Apple APP stores.*

Keep up-to-date on all the happenings for our parish from your smart phone or tablet!

St. Laurence CC



Follow these instructions to DOWNLOAD our APP!

*Text **stlaurence1** to **555-888** for **Apple devices***

-or- Scan the QR Code

-or- https://goo.gl/KUMr8L

*Text **stlaurence2** to **555-888** for **Android devices***

-or- Scan the QR Code

-or- https://goo.gl/yMc2zc

When APP is downloaded and opened on your device — **ALLOW** for **PUSH** notifications!

For Adults

THIS WEEK IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

MONDAY

Men's Bible Study (Weekly)
7:30-9:00pm, St Francis Room
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

Lay Apostle Prayer Group (2nd Monday, January 9)
10:30am-12:00pm **OR** 7:00-8:30pm, St. Anne Room
Contact: Kay Quenan | 281-265-3238 | kquenan@icloud.com

TUESDAY

Men's Bible Study (Weekly)
6:15-7:15am, St Francis Room
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Weekly)
9:00-11:45am, Marian Hall, Contact: Joe Kanusky | 281-265-4084
Nov 15, 2016—Jan 3, 2017: No meetings due to holidays

WEDNESDAY

That Man Is You
5:30-7:00am Marian Hall
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-980-5575 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

Contemplative Prayer
9:30am-12:00 pm Corpus Christi Room
Contact: Elaine Smith |281-499-6660 | emchabert@comcast.net

Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
7:30-9:00pm, Corpus Christi Room
Contact: Patti Kallemeyn | 281-438-0696

THURSDAY

Catholic Men Called to be Saints (Weekly)
6:00-7:30am, Guardian Angels Hall
Contact: Jim Kij | 713-855-0108 | jimkij@comcast.net

Divine Mercy Cenacle
9:00am-12:00pm, St Francis Room
Contact: Sally Flowers | sallyjoflowers@comcast.net

Thursday Bible Study (No December, starts again Jan 12)
1:00-2:00pm, St Anne Room or 7:15-8:30pm AMC Room 205
Contact: Julie Evett | jevett@comcast.net

WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/AFF
facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith

Friday Night: JAN 6
FREE SESSION
6:00-8:30pm Marian Hall
'Living the Life You Don't Have Time For'

Saturday: JAN 7
FULL DAY SEMINAR
9:00am-3:00pm Marian Hall
'Walking Toward Eternity'

Saturday Seminar Registration Cost:
$50 per person, **$75** for immediate family (up to 4)
For more information and to register go to:
stlaurence.org/jeffcavins

Welcome Home COME & SEE!

Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13 from 7:15-9:00pm
Ave Maria Center, St. Anne Room

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Church? **Come and See** is a program for them to rediscover, ask questions, and learn all they need know to make a decision to return to our welcoming church. You are invited to experience love and acceptance by coming back home to the Catholic Church. For info, contact **Art & Marilyn Ramponi** at 832-945-2110 or **artmarilyn2@att.net**.

THE CHOICE Wine

A PROGRAM FOR COUPLES

Mondays, Jan 16, 23, 30,
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar 4, 2017
7:00-9:00 pm, Ave Maria Center, Guardian Angel Hall

The Choice Wine: 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage is a pathway to authentic marital happiness. Couples will learn how to virtually divorce-proof their marriage, experience the superabundant love and mercy of God and realize a foretaste of Paradise in their marriages and families. This is a multimedia, interactive program. Couples are asked to bring a dessert to share. It will conclude on Saturday March 4 with a couples retreat from 9am-3pm. Cost is $50 per couple for materials. Register at **stlaurence.org/choice-wine.**

This Christmas ...

Give the Gift of an AFF Workshop to enhance the spiritual growth of your loved one.

For the person who has everything... bless them this Christmas with an AFF gift certificate!

Walking Toward Eternity Seminar, Jeff Cavins
Friday, Jan 6 & Saturday, Jan 7, 2017.
Friday, Jan. 6 Free session
Saturday, Jan. 7 Full Day Seminar, **$50** per person, **$75** for immediate family (up to 4)

This is a great event to start the New Year. Go to **stlaurence.org/jeffcavins** to register your recipient and then fill out the gift certificate below and tie it up in a bow.

Or

THE CHOICE Wine

The Choice Wine, Steve Bollman – $50 per couple
Monday's starting Jan 16-March 4, 2017.

A program for married Couples to learn 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage. Go to **stlaurence.org/choice-wine** to register your recipient and then fill out the gift certificate below and tie it up in a bow.

Gift Certificate

To: _____

For: _____

From: _____

Merry Christmas!

Living as Disciples

LIVE TO GLORIFY GOD!

Stewardship Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel we hear of the coming of *Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. Indeed, "God is with us." The Good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, give comfort to the poor and afflicted, share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!"

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARDS AMONG US

MARINA FLORES

Marina and her husband Art moved here from the Rio Grande Valley, making their home in Sugar Land and at St. Laurence for nearly 30 years. Marina tells her story: "I became involved with the Cancer Support Group after my personal encounter with kidney cancer. I was blessed with great doctors and a hopeful outcome; however, I was changed. I was suddenly unsure of myself, sad. I did not want to worry my family, so I felt I could not speak freely about what I was feeling. I saw the note in the bulletin about Cancer Support and started attending meetings… I told my story… I felt I was standing still while everyone whizzed by me. I cried at every meeting until one day, I just stopped. The Cancer Support Group had wrapped its arms around me and prayed for me and with me. They helped me heal, my heart and my mind. Now, I am one of the group that is there for others, to listen and pray. I give my phone number to new members and ask them to call whenever they need an ear. I am also a memory keeper, as the group's photographer." Marina invites others affected by cancer to join them. You'll discover the journey is easier *in community*.

In all we do … … evangelize

I repeat forcefully: it is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace.

Pope Francis

September 1, 2013

Ask Paula

Q.

What days will the church office be closed for holidays?

A.

Okay, so we are closed Friday, Dec 23, Monday, Dec 26, Friday Dec 30, and Monday, Jan 2. WOW! Of course, I always take the rest of my vacation in December, so I'm off starting Dec 19, *just saying*. I'm not going to list all the Christmas Mass times like I always do, 'cause by now you guys know them, *right?* But wait, you know I always have something to say, so here it is: We all know how *crowded* the Christmas Masses are? Last year I stood up while a small child played with a toy in the pew. Another time I stood because a lady had her mink coat folded in the pew. Maybe this year we all can make room so people can actually sit? Thanks. *Merry Christmas!*

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for 20 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.

Meditations for Advent

THE COMING OF Joy

The Fourth Sunday

Saying Yes Together

Matthew 1:18-24

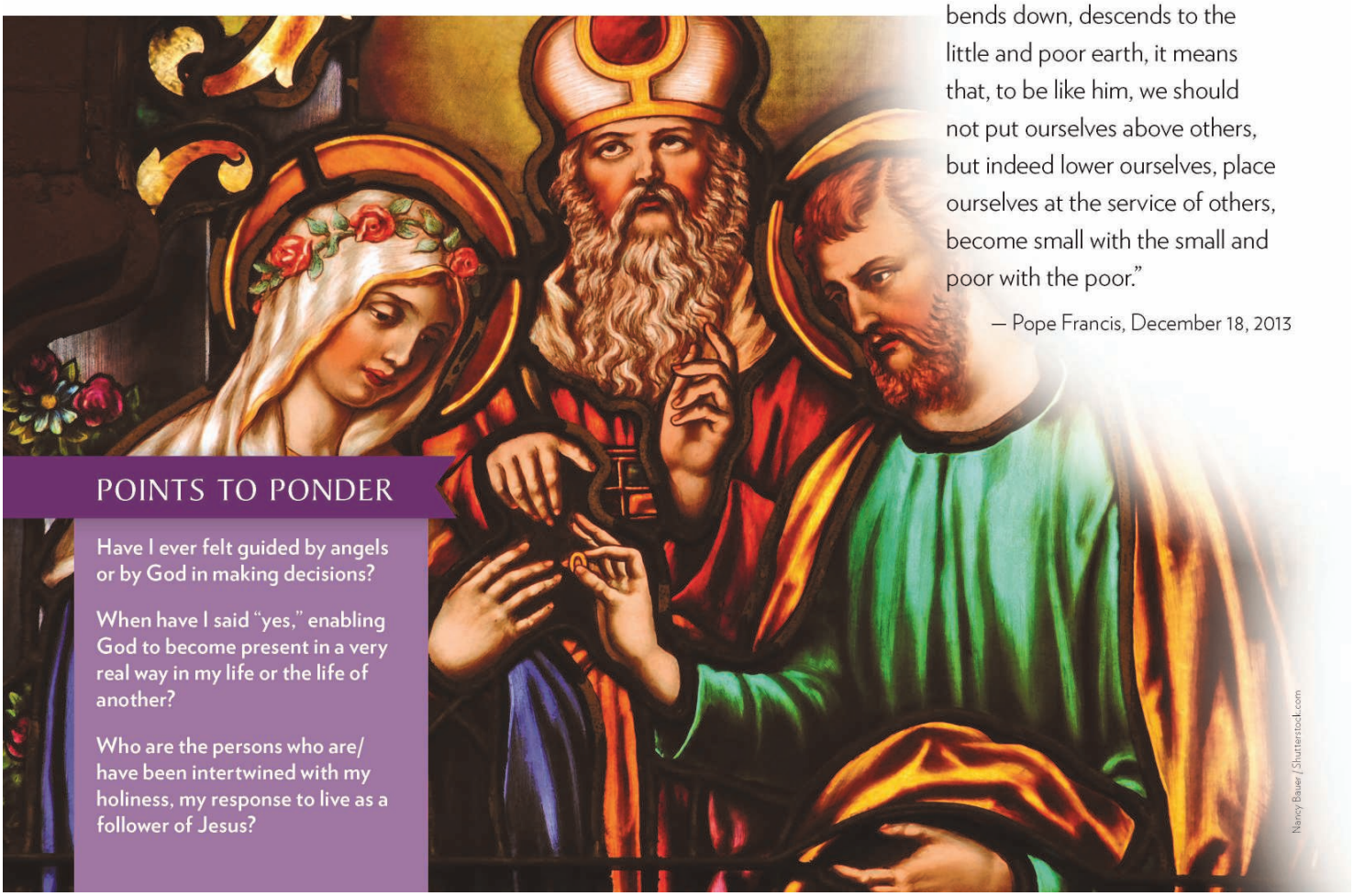
Joseph is trapped in an unthinkable scenario: Mary, to whom he is betrothed, is pregnant. Joseph is faced with a decision. Then he receives a sign from God. In a dream an angel reassures him that the child to be born is part of God's plan and that Joseph is called to care for him and his mother.

When we think of the Annunciation, usually Mary and her response to God come to our minds. In Matthew's story, Joseph is brought to the forefront. God's plan depends upon both Mary and Joseph.

Isn't the same true for us? God's presence in our world is dependent upon our "yes"; God's presence is often revealed in our lives through people who are close to us. Often, it is difficult to say "yes," to be the persons we're created to be, without the partnership, support, and encouragement of others.

"If God, in the Christmas mystery, reveals himself not as One who remains on high and dominates the universe, but as the One who bends down, descends to the little and poor earth, it means that, to be like him, we should not put ourselves above others, but indeed lower ourselves, place ourselves at the service of others, become small with the small and poor with the poor."

— Pope Francis, December 18, 2013



Nancy Bauer / Shutterstock.com

POINTS TO PONDER

Have I ever felt guided by angels or by God in making decisions?

When have I said "yes," enabling God to become present in a very real way in my life or the life of another?

Who are the persons who are/ have been intertwined with my holiness, my response to live as a follower of Jesus?

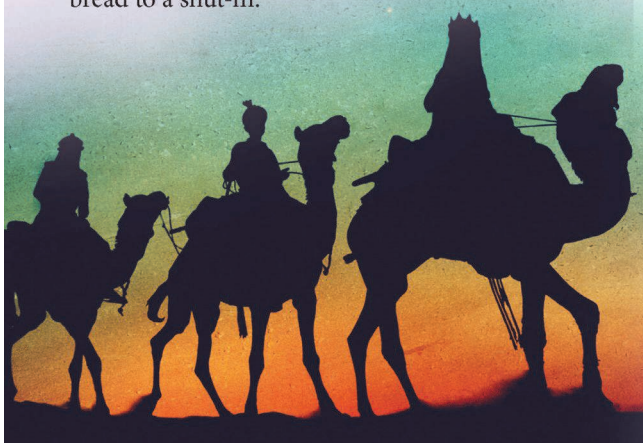
ADVENT FEAST DAYS

The feast of **St. John Kanty** (d. 1473), a lesser-known saint, is tucked in just before Christmas, on December 23. As a professor of theology in Kraków, Poland, he was a serious, humble person, totally at the service of the poor. One day, John Kanty was robbed. He replied "no" when the thieves asked if he had more money hidden that they were not finding. Later that day, he discovered a few coins buried deep within his pocket. He quickly set out to find the robbers, giving them these remaining coins. Experiencing this mind-boggling generosity, the robbers' response was to return all that they had originally taken.

Be excessive this week, not in purchasing more gifts, additional decorations, or more food, but in the giving of your time, presence, and response to the needs of others.

FAMILY TIME

Christmas doesn't end on December 25. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days from Christmas until the Epiphany (traditionally January 6th). These twelve days are an opportunity to continue reflecting on Christ's incarnation among us, celebrate several important feast days, and celebrate family rituals. Take time this week to decide on something you will do on each of the days. For example, read a book about the Christmas story; visit a living Nativity; picnic next to the Christmas tree; go through your Christmas cards, praying for each person by name; visit an elderly person; or take Christmas bread to a shut-in.



3 Ways
to Practice Advent Joy

Place the word "yes" on your nightstand, your refrigerator, etc., to remind yourself how you say yes to God.

Write a letter of thanks to someone who has walked with you in your journey of the Catholic faith.

Do you know someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, chronically ill, worried, unemployed, or discouraged? Think of some way to include them in your twelve-days-of-Christmas plans.

Advent Prayer

God of Love, thank you for the people in my life who support my relationship with you. Together may we continue to answer "yes," bringing your love to our world at Christmastime and each and every day.

Catechism CONNECTION

"Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this 'marvelous exchange': 'O marvelous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity' (*Liturgy of the Hours*)."

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 526

Images: Shutterstock.com

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JAN 6-7: JEFF CAVINS AT ST. LAURENCE!

Popular Catholic theologian, author and speaker Jeff Cavins is coming to St. Laurence right after the New Year. He will give a FREE lecture on **Friday night, January 6** (6:00-8:30pm) and then a full day seminar on **Saturday, January 7** (9:00am-3:00pm). The cost to attend the seminar is $50 (or $75 for the family, up to 4 people). Register in advance at **www.stlaurence.org/jeffcavins** to reserve your spot – this event is attracting people from all over the archdiocese!

JAN 9: SEE YOU AT COR WORSHIP NIGHT

Take Fr. Drew up on his **PASTORS CHALLENGE** and attend the COR Worship Night on **Monday, January 9, from 7:00-8:30pm**, in the church. COR is 90 minutes of pure praise, teaching & adoration, offered to people of all ages, free of charge. Danielle Noonan will lead the music and Fr. Joy Thomas from St. Angela Merici will provide the talk. ALSO! Our Knights of Columbus have offered to cook up a **FREE spaghetti dinner** for everyone who will be attending COR that evening! Just show up at the parish hall at 6:00pm, ready to eat, and we'll all head over to the church at 6:45pm. Don't miss it!

NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Consecrate Yourself to Mary! At the 2016 Heart of Worship, Bishop Cahill encouraged us to consecrate ourselves to Mary. The Spiritual Growth Ministry will facilitate this DIY Retreat beginning early January and ending Feb 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The preparation book, ***33 Days to Morning Glory***, by Fr. Michael Gaitley, tells us how to do this based on the wisdom of St. Louis De Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II. The 6-week sessions start **Thursday, January 5** (10:00-11:30AM, Corpus Christi Room) OR **Monday January 9** (6:30-8:00PM, AMC Room 201). Each session includes a video presentation, group discussion and the daily readings. The book may be purchased from Mary Regina. RSVP to Paul Cranley at pecranley@hotmail.com or 979-236-5906.

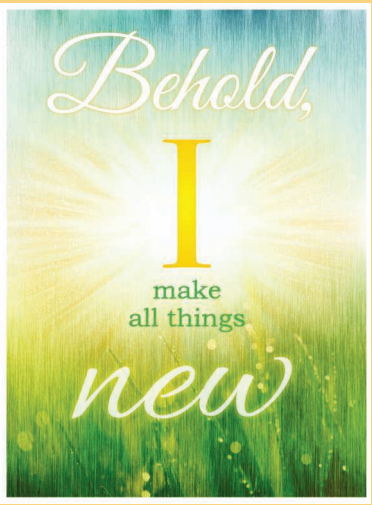
YEAR END GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH

As the end of 2016 nears please prayerfully consider making a financial gift before December 31, to gain an additional tax deduction from the IRS:

Offertory – As our parish continues to grow so do our expenses. No gift is too small and every gift is important.

Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) – This important program touches lives all over our archdiocese in ways that could never be addressed by one parish alone. Our parish and our parishioners receive many benefits from the DSF.

Christmas Flowers – Make a donation to the Christmas Flower Fund which allows for our church to be decorated so beautifully during the Christmas season. Give your gift in memory of or in honor of a loved one.



REGISTER NOW
HEART OF WORSHIP
Saturday, February 25, 2017

Featuring Deacon Alex Jones,
Roland Millare & Brother Peter Francis
www.stlaurence.org/how

PILGRIMAGE
Holy Land with Fr. Jaison

Only a few spots remain to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Jaison, **June 2-12**. Contact Maria Jacobson at 713-582-8424 or mjacobson1984@yahoo.com, or call Inspirational Tours at 713-961-2785 or visit **www.inspirationaltoursinc.com**.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the Christmas Flower Fund! See the list of the names of your loved ones in whose honor and memory these donations were made.
www.stlaurence.org

HOLIDAY HOURS
Merry Christmas from the clergy & staff of St. Laurence!

The parish offices, including Social Concerns and the Ave Maria Center, will be closed Friday, Dec 23—Monday, Dec 26 for the Christmas holiday and Friday, Dec 30—Monday, Jan 2, for New Years.

Serving Others

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY WEEK AT ST. LAURENCE

MONDAYS: Our Daily Bread 9:30am, SCM Workroom

WEDNESDAYS: Coupons for a Cause 1:00pm, SCM Workroom

OTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Bingo: Call weekend Bingo games for nursing home residents at Sugar Land Health Care Center

Birthday Celebrations: Organize bi-monthly birthday/ holiday celebrations at Sugar Land Health Care Center

Caring Creations: Meets first 3 Fridays each month to create crafts to donate to Mamie George Community Center and other Fort Bend agencies

Child Advocates Snack Bags: Monthly assembly of 100+ snack bags for children

Fresh Food Delivery: Twice a month, purchase and deliver fresh food St. John Fisher food pantry

Learn English Ministry: Teach English to non-English-speaking adults; no teaching or foreign language experience necessary

Lunches of Love: Decorate lunch bags; over 2,200 brown bag meals provided each week to children in Richmond-Rosenberg

Village Program: Matches parish families with families that struggle each month to make ends meet

For more info about these and other great ways to serve others, please go to www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns

BLACK BAG COLLECTION TODAY!

This Sunday's black bag collection will be used for our People in Crisis fund which is averaging more than **$9,000 a month** in financial assistance to individuals who come to Social Concerns for help or are referred to us by our community partners. Thank you for your generous support of these 2nd collections to help so many in need!

IN THANKSGIVING (PART 4)

It takes so many volunteers to accomplish all that we do in the Social Concerns Ministry. There are so many behind the scenes volunteers who so generously give their time and make our job so much easier! Here is Part 4 of our callout to all of these volunteers, with ***BIG THANKS*** *from* ***Pennie, Melanie and Monica*** *in SCM...*

Thank you to one of our largest ministries, the **Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy**. **Maria Jacobson** & **Herb Appel** and their team of volunteers travel to Laredo every fall to minister to those in need of basic medical and dental care. They served 1,333 patients this year – a record number! Look for information coming soon for their second mission trip to Costa Rica in April of 2017.

Imagine serving your country thousands of miles from home, in the very center of harm's way every hour of every day. Now imagine receiving a package filled with items such as toiletries, games, magazines and snacks to help make your stay a little bit more bearable. Thanks to your generous donations to our **Military Ministry** and coordinator, **Lisa D'Oliver**, hundreds of boxes are shipped each year via Tip of the Spear to servicemen and women.

Every Monday morning, **Our Daily Bread** volunteers package bread and bagels donated by Panera Bread, Bagel Express and Great Harvest Baking Company, which are in turn donated to Bethel Ministries to be distributed to families in need. Every week, four volunteers pick up the bread and deliver it to Social Concerns. Thank you **Terri Leong, Elizabeth Jaros, Melissa Schroer** and **Chuck Lovelace** and to our **Monday morning volunteers** who help us on extra projects all through the year!

Be a part of Social Concerns! There is a special way for you to serve. Contact Melanie in the Social Concerns office at mhartshorn@stlaurence.org or 281-980-9812.

COORDINATOR NEEDED

SCM is in search of a passionate and energetic individual, dedicated Small Christian Community or group to coordinate the birthday and holiday parties for the elderly residents at Sugar Land Health Care Center in Sugar Land. This coordinator is responsible for **coordinating a party every other month** (Friday at 2:30pm) for all the residents who have had a birthday, including serving cupcakes or cookies. Contact Pennie DeGroot at pdegroot@stlaurence.org for more info. And **THANK YOU to Asumta Affonso** for her dedication and for the love she has shown the seniors at SLHC over the past year!

LEARN ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

Find out how rewarding it is to teach English to immigrants from all over the world. We need volunteer teachers to teach adults to improve their English, thereby helping them to get better jobs, parent their English-speaking children and become US citizens, to name just a few benefits. **No experience is needed**; we will train you and provide teaching materials. For more info and to begin being a part of this ministry, contact Wendy Moore, **learnenglishministry.slc@gmail.com**.

WHAT WE NEED

You can help with these simple donations. Look around the house and see what you have to share and drop off at the parish office or in the SCM Donation bin in the church.

- men's clothing for residents of ROSARY HOUSE, a halfway house for ex-prisoners: new underwear and gently used and new long & short sleeve shirts, pants, socks, shoes, jackets.
- mini/trial sizes shampoo, men's deodorant, soap, lotion, tooth -paste & toothbrush for MILITARY, HOMELESS, REFUGEES
- new white crew socks, new white t-shirts (size large), pop-top tuna/meat, individual peanut butters, granola bars for the HOMELESS
- birthday party gifts of new/unused toys, $10-$20 gift cards (fast food, Wal-Mart, Target), new/gently used children's books & small fleece blankets for CHILDREN IN SHELTERS
- Sunday Coupon inserts for COUPONS FOR A CAUSE program; drop off in parish office or the Hospitality Desk in the church
- Gently used Christmas gift bags, tissue paper, gift boxes, and small jewelry boxes for WISH UPON A STAR
- Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, disinfectant spray cleaners for PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

DEC 28: FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS

After the birth of Jesus, Herod killed innocent babies in Bethlehem. Today innocent children are killed by abortion. We invite you to join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants in a peaceful, prayerful, Mass and Rosary on Wednesday, December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The Mass for Life will be at 12:10pm at Holy Rosary Catholic Church (3617 Milam, Houston) followed by Rosary at Houston Women's (4820 San Jacinto), the busiest abortion clinic in Houston. Parking available along Caroline Street.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is estimated that over 500,000 embryos are created every year in the U.S. through the process of in vitro fertilization. For every 100 children created, however, 39 will die outside the womb, 36 will die in the womb, 14 remain frozen and only 11 are born.

SUPPORT AFTER A MISCARRIAGE

If you have suffered the loss of a child through miscarriage, please stop by the parish office to receive a memory bracelet to remember your child, plus a prayer card and contact info if you wish to speak to others who have suffered such a loss. For more info, contact Marie McCoy at 281-265-7749.

GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

H4H: SPRING BUILD UPDATE

Please think of the St. Laurence Habitat for Humanity Ministry as this year comes to a close. Currently, we are $30,000 short of our sponsorship need in order to build our 12th home this coming spring in Richmond. The family for which we hope to provide a safe, decent home has two young children and is living in a dilapidated rental home. The front door is rotted and does not close, which poses a constant safety issue for the family. They also have mold in the kitchen and bathroom. You may drop your donation of at the parish office or in the collection basket. Please make your check payable to St. Laurence with "Habitat For Humanity" in the memo line. The need is very real and together our Parish family has been an important sustaining sponsor of the Habitat for Humanity mission. God bless you!

TEENS IN TOUCH CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT FBFP

The St. Laurence Teens in Touch celebrated Christmas with games and treats at Fort Bend Family Promise on Saturday, December 3. This event was held with the proceeds of the bake sale the teens hosted last spring. The residents enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while they decorated gingerbread houses, played bingo and had their face painted. Each family received a $10 gift card to a local restaurant. The teens were excited to provide this fun activity and spend time with the residents to brighten up a cold and rainy Saturday afternoon!

THANK YOU for your continued and overwhelming support of the Wish Upon A Star drive. Due to your generosity and kindness, we were able to provide over 2,000 Christmas gifts to those in need throughout our community. Thanks to **Frances Conway** and her team of volunteers for time spent sorting, wrapping and boxing the gifts. Thanks to **David & Rebecca Wells** with Victory Packaging for donating boxes to pack the gifts!

SUPPORT SOCIAL CONCERNS WITH AMAZON SMILE

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Laurence Social Concerns. Bookmark this link and support us every time you shop!

smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0157777

Ministry News

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

We at St. Laurence pray that all may know the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and be graced with the holy desire to spend time with our God in adoration. Please prayerfully consider the hours listed that we are in need of committed adorers and substitutes. Contact Denise MacDougall or Fran Magelssen at **adoration@stlaurence.org** or 281-224-6122(Fran) or 281-235-8008(Denise). ***NOTE:*** *There is no scheduled adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Christmas break from* ***2pm Friday, Dec 16*** *until* ***8am Monday, Jan 2****.*

ADORERS STILL NEEDED FOR THESE HOURS:

Friday 11am - 12pm

Saturday 10am - 11am

MEDICAL MISSION REPORT & THANKS

On the recent Laredo mission trip, we ministered to 1,333 patients in just under 5 days (not including all the people seen by the spiritual team). Our spiritual team of four worked the longest hours, starting with the Rosary and Liturgy of the Hours for the missionaries at 6:00am and ending at 9:30pm with an evening healing Mass each day. Our dental team of 4 dentists from Sugar Land (plus 2 Laredo dentists and 2 hygienists) saw 430 patients and managed 1,025 procedures. Our vision team, with the help of one optometrist, who was there 1-1/2 days, saw 709 patients. We had an amazing 8 doctors and 6 nurses that went with us and came from as far as Florida. We took numerous donations of medical supplies, walkers, crutches, and wheelchairs, which were all used.

Overall, the bonds and friendships formed are unforgettable. To the people of Laredo, we thank you for welcoming us and allowing us to touch your lives! To all the medical professionals, we thank you and pray that God will bless you for sharing your talents. And to all the missionaries and donors of MMDM you are "good and faithful servants"! *May God Bless you!* - Maria Jacobson, MMDM

JAN 25: PAT SUMNER SPEAKS AT PACT

PACT (Parenting Adolescents with Catholicism Together) invites you to mark your calendars now for a special meeting on **January 25, at 7:00pm**, when the group welcomes **Pat Sumner**, President of NAMI Fort Bend, as a guest speaker. Pat will present ***Parents & Teachers as Allies***. PACT is offered as a resource for parents of teens and tweens, held at the same time as EDGE, the middle school youth program. Upcoming topics include The Gospel in Action for Parents: Advent Focus, The Teenage Brain, and Social Justice for Adolescents and their Parents. No RSVP is necessary and all are welcome! Get details at www.stlaurence.org/pact or contact Steve Brown at stevecindyb@comcast.net.

JOIN THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The St. Laurence Young Adult Ministry exists for parishioners in their 20s and 30s, looking for a way to connect with other young adults in the parish to grow in Spirit and fellowship. Join us!

JAN 11: Wednesday Night Bible Study

7-8:45pm | AMC | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

NEW STUDY-- Acts: Spreading the Kingdom! Come experience how the first apostles were fully alive and animated by the Holy Spirit to start the Church!

JAN 5: Holy Hour, Happy Hour

Meet up in the Chapel of Divine Mercy at 8pm for Holy Hour, then off to the Flyer Saucer at 9pm for Happy Hour!

FALL 2017: Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Join the Young Adult Ministry on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic next year. Get connected with us on Facebook if you're interested and email Michaela Barta at mbarta@stlaurence.org.

ST. LAURENCE SINGLES IN DECEMBER

The St. Laurence Adult Singles Ministry serves adults of all ages who are widowed, divorced, separated or never married. For more event info, email us at ***st.laurencesingles@gmail.com.***

SUN, 12/18 @ 9:00AM—Mass at St. Laurence and Brunch at Otto's BBQ in the Fountains. Look for us in the elevated seats by the choir for Mass.

TUE, 12/27 @ 7:00PM—Planning meeting at Kathy's house. Address will be given to those who RSVP. Come give your suggestions on what you would like to do!

GIVE THE GIFT OF A RETREAT

FEB 10-12: Love and Be Loved

A Women's Retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House, Houston

God loves us, creates us, and wants to share life with us forever. During this retreat in contemplative silence, we will grow deeper in our relationship with God through prayerful reflections on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Laurence Spiritual Directors will facilitate this silent retreat at the Cenacle, from 7pm Friday, Feb 10 – 1:30pm Sunday, Feb 12. The Cenacle Retreat House is located at 420 N Kirkwood Rd., Houston. For more information and to register for this retreat, contact the Cenacle at 281-497-3131 or register online at www.cenacleretreathouse.org. Minimum Offering is $195. Consider this as a great Christmas gift for a loved one. Spots go quickly!

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Couples, want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. Some upcoming dates are **February 17-19** and **March 24-26**. Register early to reserve a spot. Go to www.houstonme.org for more information and to register online. Or contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-773-4014 with questions.

JAN 12: HOPE GRIEF PROGRAM STARTS

HOPE (Helping Our Pain Ease) is a 7-week structured series designed to help adults grieve successfully by accomplishing the 4 tasks of grieving also utilized by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. Consider attending if you have lost a loved one due to a sudden, tragic death or from a long term illness, either recently or in the past. Led by a hospice-trained facilitator, the group meets 6:30-8:30pm on Thursdays. The next one begins January 12. To register, call Annette Bisanz 281-980-1449 or Kathy Heinemann 281-468-0738.

JAN 16: WHAT IS UNBOUND PRAYER?

Have you ever felt stuck, bound up, unable to move forward? Do you long to experience the love, freedom, and abundant life that Jesus talks about in the Gospels? UNBOUND Ministry empowers people to take hold of the freedom they have been given in Christ. Unbound is a safe, loving, simple, and reproducible prayer model that helps people to respond to the Good News of the Gospel and apply the truth to their lives using five simple keys: Repentance & Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority, and the Father's Blessing, based on the book, *Unbound*, by Neal Lozano. Learn more at an information session on **Monday, January 16, 7:00-8:00pm** in the St. Clare Meeting Room (AMC) and contact Anne Marie Daniel at 281-265-5774 or adaniel@stlaurence.org.

PRAY WITH THE LEGION OF MARY

This Advent, the Legion of Mary invites parishioners to join them to **pray the Rosary before the daily Noon Mass**, each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Gather in the church at 11:30am. The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church whose purpose is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members. For more information, please contact Carmelita Kussad at cskussad@hotmail.com or call 713-922-2446.

JOY CLUB FOR SENIORS

The J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth) is for parishioners 55-and-up. The group typically meets at the Ave Maria Center on the 1st Monday of the month. Contact Anne Higgins at 832-755-5597.

JAN 9—Join the JOY Club on the 2nd Monday in January to FLOAT INTO THE NEW YEAR from 11am-1pm. Bring a sack lunch and we'll play games, with root beer floats or black cows for all!

JAN 24—Attend the Noon Mass together as a group on Tuesday, January 24, then get lunch afterwards.

"BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"

Join a ministry or group and allow Jesus to make something new in you!

Pastor's Challenge

Fr. Drew is giving his parish a new challenge! Recall that in September, Fr. Drew wanted each of us to **LEARN more about Jesus** with a challenge to read one of the Gospels straight through.

Today, Fr. Drew is challenging us to **GROW in greater communion with Jesus** through the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Drew's Challenge to all St. Laurence parishioners:

1) **Attend one COR Worship Night in the church, on Jan 9 or Feb 13**
   OR
2) **Spend a full hour in the Chapel of Divine Mercy before the Lord**
   OR
3) **Attend Heart of Worship on Saturday, February 25**

OR do all three!

Heart of Worship

Registration is open right now at www.stlaurence.org/how. This year, we welcome Deacon Alex Jones, Roland Millare, and Brother Peter Francis, who will speak on Faith, Hope, and Love. Includes Mass, Adoration, dinner, and great music. Don't miss it!

Eucharistic Adoration

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Divine Mercy. All are invited to enter and rest a while in the Real Presence of Jesus exposed in the monstrance on the altar. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your mind in this quiet time with Jesus.

COR Worship Night

90 minutes of praise and worship offered on the 2nd Monday each month, open to all people of all ages, no charge, and no RSVP required. Meet in the parish hall at 6:00pm for spaghetti dinner, the church for COR at 7:00pm, and you'll be on your way home by 8:30pm.

Will you take Fr. Drew up on his challenge?

Get more information about COR Worship Night, Eucharistic Adoration and Heart of Worship on our parish website stlaurence.org.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Baptism	Rose Davis | 281-980-9812
Confirmation (Teens)	Sara Sahlezghi | 281-265-5774
Confirmation (Adults)	Mary Visser | 281-265-5774
First Holy Communion	Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
First Reconciliation	Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Marriage Preparation	Theresa Rawls | 281-980-9812
Marriage Sponsor Couples	Sharon & John Harry | 281-980-8090

FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION

A.C.T.S. Retreat	Dcn. Don Burns | 281-734-8715
Adult Faith Formation	Justin Frato | 281-265-5774
COR Worship Nights	Danielle Noonan | 832-754-0567
Edge (Middle School)	Eric Painter | 281-265-5774
Elementary CCE	Joan Hastreiter | 281-265-5774
Family Faith	Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Life Teen (High School)	Kris Frank | 281-265-5774
Natural Family Planning	Jacob/Jillian Counts | 281-300-3704
Parish School (SLCS)	Suzanne Barto | 281-980-0500
Parish School Board	David Wells | 810-599-9896
Parish School PTO	Kristin Holy | 281-491-8236
	Suzanne Tice | 281-702-6869
RCIA	Justin Frato | 281-265-5774
Vacation Bible School	Joan Hastreiter | 281-265-5774
Vocations Committee	| 281-980-9812
Weekday Children's Prog.	Becky Wilkinson | 281-313-0329

PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Catholic Men	Jim Kij | 281-253-4800
Challenge Club for Girls	Monica Hager | 281-240-7672
Contemplative Prayer	Elaine Smith | 281-499-6660
Divine Mercy (AM)	Sally Flowers | 281-265-8360
Divine Mercy (PM)	Patti Kallemeyn | 281-438-0696
Hearts of Jesus & Mary	Margie Calo | 281-980-4711
Lay Apostle Prayer	Kay Quenan | 281-265-3238
Legion of Mary	Carmelita Kussad | 713-922-2446
Men's Bible Studies	Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873
St. Anthony of Padua	Joseph Ellankil | 832-282-3032
	Sunny Tom | 832-620-7417
Small Christian Comm	Genoveva Duque | 281-980-1014
Tuesday AM Bible Study	Regina Johnson | 281-403-1792

MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT

Annulments	Anne Marie Daniel | 281-265-5774
Bereavement Ministries:	
Grief Support Group	Sandy Barber | 281-633-9090
Grieving Families	Agnes Fernandes | 281-933-3721
H.O.P.E.	Annette Bisanz | 281-980-1449
Cancer Support	Angela Rankin | 832-945-2245
Caregivers Support Group	Lori Knowles | 281-261-5738
	Jane Jewell | 713-775-7172
DivorceCare	Janie Picou | 832-860-3398
NAMI	Pat Sumner | 281-265-1554
P.A.C.T. (Parenting Group)	Steve Brown | 832-471-6131
Pastoral Care for Sick	Ambrose Graham | 713-865-3729
Spiritual Direction	Anne Marie Daniel | 281-265-5774

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Correctional Ministry	Deacon Charles Plant | 281-300-3059
Funeral Receptions	Carol Giardina | 281-703-8615
Habitat for Humanity	Steve Pondell | 281-253-7088
Learn English Ministry	Wendy Moore | 713-208-5169
Learn Spanish Ministry	Adriana Gutierrez | 713-269-2851
Meals That Heal	Joan O'Daniel | 281-788-5430
Medical Missionaries	Herb Appel | 713-826-1017
	Maria Jacobson | 713-582-8424
Ministry of St. Joseph	Tim Beverick | 281-265-1533
Respect Life	Marie McCoy | 281-265-7749
Senior Rides & More	Annette Bisanz | 281-980-1449
Social Concerns	Pennie DeGroot | 281-980-9812
Society St. John DeMatha	Deacon Al Bothe | 713-582-3870

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Adoration	Denise MacDougall | 281-235-8008
	Fran Magelssen | 281-224-6122
Altar Linen Care	Rose Davis | 281-980-9812
Altar Servers	Joy Smith | 281-265-0839
Art & Environment	Michele Holbrooke | 281-265-8425
	Catherine Short | 713-628-3949
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Susan Choate | 281-682-3389
	Claire Gregory | 281-208-2715
Extraordinary Ministers	Tom Ruck | 713-855-2399
Liturgical Ministers	Theresa Rawls | 281-980-9812
Mass Hospitality	Hal Mechler | 281-543-9876
Music Ministry	Mary Thompson | 281-980-9812
	Dr. Kevin Klotz | 281-980-9812

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Discipleship Council	Marc Sherman | 713-962-0617
Finance Council	Bob Ladd | 281-980-3246
Financial Peace University	Jason Davalos | 832-876-9824
Pastoral Council	Tom Ruck | 713-855-2399
St. Paul Street Evangelization	Marta Alves | 713-569-3679
Welcome Ministry	Eva Fernandez | 832-633-5640

COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE

African Catholic Comm	Esther Iredia | 832-661-2945
Bazaar	Michele Dyogi | 713-447-8754
	Al Garcia | 281-725-2417
Boy Scout Troop 828	Craig Popp | 281-731-6140
Cub Scout Pack 1828	Danny Kliebert | 225-614-3148
Catholic Daughters	Lucia Dziadul | 713-416-4926
Council of Cath Women	Ginny Kazmierczak | 713-305-9845
Family Ministry	Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Filipino Community	Fe Vicerra | 713-248-1164
Hispanic Ministry	Francisco Rojas-Ayala | 281-690-3374
Knights of Columbus	Joe Chirco | 281-216-6896
Ladies Guild	Tina Dougherty | 713-859-6861
Moms & Tots	Chrissy Campbell | 310-926-7085
St. Laurence Singles	Kathy Gawlik | 281-980-2677
Seniors (JOY Club)	Anne Higgins | 832-755-5597
Vietnamese Group	Amy Le | 281-330-0565
Women of the Cloth	Margie Koenig | 281-313-3625
Young Adult Group	Michaela Barta | 281-265-5774

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