St. Laurence CATHOLIC CHURCH

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo — Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:15am, 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
Jan 5 — *In the chapel*
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
Jan 6 — *In the Church*
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Dec 23 — *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

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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Truong Son Nguyen, tnguyen@stlaurence.org

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

Deacon: Albert Bothe, abothe@comcast.net

Deacon: Don Burns, don@donburns.com

Deacon: Dennis Henderson, dhenderson@stlaurence.org

Deacon: Charles Plant, stlaurencedeacon@aol.com

Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, toltremari@stlaurence.org

Liturgy: Rosemary Mascarenhas, rmascarenhas@stlaurence.org

Facilities: Sheila Stulak, sstulak@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

Young Adult Ministry: Michaela Barta, mbarta@stlaurence.org

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

Youth Ministry: Eric Painter, epainter@stlaurence.org
Maureen Bass, mbass@stlaurence.org
Sara Sahlezghi, ssahlezghi@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: Roger Peters, rogerwpeters@me.com

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

Discipleship Council: Shawn Kelly, shawn_kelly@oxy.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 thru Thursday 8am-9pm; Friday 8am-4pm; Saturdays 9am-Noon (scheduled events only). 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.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements must be submitted via email ***at least 12 days before the Sunday of the publication.***
Ron Martinez, Communications Coordinator
rmartinez@stlaurence.org

2nd Sunday of Advent

Good News Reflection

YOU HAVE A FRUITFUL FUTURE

Today's readings tell us to prepare for the Lord — for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives; he has a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential as children of our loving Father and as partners with Christ the Savior of the world.

We can only fulfill our wonderful potential if we unite ourselves to Christ by joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey. The way of holiness always produces good fruits. Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up our potential for fruitfulness.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas — and meeting the Lord anew — if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, Christmas will be less than it could be. Our lives will be barren of the strong faith we need during difficulties. And we will feel just as empty next year as we do now.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.

All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of God stands forever. What are your troubles and struggles this Advent? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.

What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem good and productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away in a drought? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact — a beneficial impact?

God has given you talents and a vocation — a calling, a special purpose — that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. We are all called to be like Mary giving birth to Jesus so that the world becomes a better place. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his eternal kingdom in our lives and in others.

Prepare yourself for the way of the Lord. He wants to make an eternal difference through you!

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What are you going to do this week to straighten a crooked path? What are you spending time on that is only going to wither up and wilt away?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
What good do you see in each other that will make an eternal difference? How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 10 — **(#995 in your Gather book)**
Second Sunday of Advent
First Reading IS 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading 2 PT 3:8-14
Gospel MK 1:1-8

MONDAY 11
First Reading IS 35:1-10
Gospel LK 5:17-26

TUESDAY 12 — **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
First Reading ZEC 2:14-17
Gospel LK 1: 39-47

WEDNESDAY 13
First Reading IS 40:25-31
Gospel MT 11:28-30

THURSDAY 14
First Reading IS 41:13-20
Gospel MT 11:11-15

FRIDAY 15
First Reading IS 48:17-19
Gospel MT 11:16-19

SATURDAY 16
First Reading SIR 48:1-4, 9-11
Gospel MT 17:9A, 10-13

SUNDAY 17 — **Third Sunday of Advent**
First Reading IS 61:1-2A, 10-11
Second Reading 1 THES 5:16-24
Gospel JN 1:6-8, 19-28

PRAYING THE NEWS | DECEMBER 10, 2017

"A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!"

ISAIAH 40:3

O God, may the example of Pope Francis in Myanmar and Bangladesh encourage all in the desert of religious intolerance and persecution to prepare the way of the Lord. That way is one of love, peace, forgiveness and hope. It is why your Son came to live with us on earth. May we also speak up to defend the rights of all people, and seek mercy for the times when we fail.

Come Lord Jesus, come! 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, Zade Ambeaux, John Argue, Linda Babin, Eden Bantigue, Wallace Barbay, Deborah Beck, Deacon Al Bothe, Eduardo, Caballero, Jun Castro, Bobby Castillo, Joe Celestain, Michelle Collins, Jim Cronin, John Cummings, Lupita de la Rosa, Brittany Dodson, Julie Donati, Terri Donovan, Judith Dupre, Evelyn Dyogi, Agnes Fagnant, Amelia Flores, Enrique Flores, Maggie Flores, Marina Flores, Sally Flowers, Robb Flynn, Connie Forbes, Cynthia Forgas, Lupe Fraga, Jerry Gabino, Alicia Garcia, Patricia Garmon, Delia Genova, Beth Gloff, Martha Harbin, Angelina Hernandez, Ramon Hernandez, Anne Higgins Rose Holbrooke, James Hrebenar, Shanthy Jayaprakash, Jeff Johnson, Regina Johnson, Paul Joseph, Brian Judice, John Judice, Sylvia Kauffman, Christine Kingerski, Cindy Kral, Charles Kramer, Chris Larkins, Mary Lavine, Lisa Lauve, Mike Lojo, Beverly Marcellus, Russ Marcellus, Anna Mathew, Victor Mendiola, Marina Monroy, Jim Murray, Patrick Navidad, Paul Vung Nguyen, Fr. Roy Oggero, Sandra Ortiz, Meena Outlaw, Catalina Padora, Fay Parker, Charles Pierson, Lauren Popeney, Angela Rankin, Frances Revelt, Melanie Robb, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Ivonne Ruiz, Provi Sabido, Gil Saenz, Ed Sabrsula, Kathleen Schroeder, Scotty Scott, Joan Sherman, June Sherman, Irma Soza, Steve Spaulding, Justin Stout, Lawrence Staszak, Adrianne Sturgis, Brian Teykl, Eugene Theobald, Todd Triggs, JD Tyler, Amy Visser, Doris Wagoner, Kylie Ward, Monica Williams

PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for... Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for... Isabella Flores, Adrian Zaldivar, Jessica Ayala, Lizette Trevino, Johnny Sanchez, Jr. Sonia Aguilar, Elizabeth Rojas, George Smith, Maria Zaldivar, Edward Martinez, Jr., Christopher James & Family, Frank Serrano, Sr. & Family, Nora Simonson & Family, Mosqueda Family, San Miguel Family, Portillo Family, Mary Simonson & Family, Rodriguez Family, Sanchez Family, Barbara Cantu & Family, Jolean Riojas & Family, Yvonne Serrano & Family, Frank Serrano, Jr. & Family, Gonzalez Family, Stockhousen Family, Munguia Family, Dave, David Lynn, Clarissa Stinke, Cheyenne, Keelie, Caitlyn, Tommy Jackson & Family, Teresa G Ruiz, Eva G Molina, Miko Cerrone, Licha G Barron, Linda Cameron, Daniel Lee, Dianna Ceker & Family, Donna Prda & Family, Cythnia Cameron & Family, Duana Reid, Colleen Rogers, Allison Percella, Laura Nelson & Family, Jeffrey Arrington. Kolbe A.C.T.S. Volunteers & Families, Chaplain Tom Lowe & Family, Al Bothe, the Society of St. John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3. *(11/20/17)*.

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*
LCpl Gordon Briggs, *USMC*
SPC Jordan Briggs, *US Army*
Maj. Michael Carroll, *USMC*
Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, *USMC*
Lt Matthew Chesney, *US Navy*
Maj. Christopher Coffman, *US Air Force*
Maj. Patrick Coffman, *USMC*
Lt Colin Day, *US Navy*
CPT 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 Reserve*
Derek Farias, *US Navy*
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, *USMC*
PFC Aaron Fox, *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 Font, *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*
SGT William Marcellus, *USMC*
TSGT David March, *Texas Air National Guard*
Capt. Brendan McPartland, *USMC*
CPT Alexander Morningstar, *US Army*
CB, Richard Pinard, *US Navy*
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*
Maj. Michael Thesing, *USMC*
1LT Kevin Wheeler, *US Army*
SGT Bryce Whitley, *US Army*
AM Troy Yelverton, *US Navy*

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC 9
5:00pm – Buddy Podraza (D)

SUNDAY, DEC 10
7:15am – Salvador Rosario (D)
9:00am – Bill & Lillian Guettner (D)
11:00am – Puthen Varghese (D)
12:45pm – John & Gertrude Knoebel (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, DEC 11
7:30am – Varughese Koreth (D)
12:00pm – Karoline Jaimon (I)

TUESDAY, DEC 12
7:30am – Remedios Bahia (D)
12:00pm – Thomas Flowers (D)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 13
7:30am – Joe Guarisco, Sr. & Family (D)
6:30pm – Communion Service

THURSDAY, DEC 14
7:30am – Doris Hudspeth (D)
12:00pm – Palmer Daniel (D)

FRIDAY, DEC 15
8:15am – Ken Anderson (D)
12:00pm – Eric Argao (D)

SATURDAY, DEC 16
8:30am – Fortunata Ceniza (D)
5:00pm – Gregorio Jimenez (D)

SUNDAY, DEC 17
7:15am – Donald Carso (D)
9:00am – Randy Newcomer, Sr. (D)
11:00am – William & Kathleen Lewis (D)
12:45pm – Thu & Thuan Lam (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Collin Brown, 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), Christopher Meyer, Tom Ruck, Margaret Uche

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

DEC 18: LA LECHE LEAGUE MEETING

10:30am in the Ave Maria Center, Youth Hall

"Looking for support for breastfeeding? La Leche League meetings will be on the 3rd Monday each month from 10:30-11:30am in the Youth Hall in the Ave Maria Center. These free meetings are open to all women interested in breastfeeding. Babies are always welcome! La Leche League (LLL) is an international, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization dedicated to providing education, information, support and encouragement to women who want to breastfeed their babies. Attending LLL meetings can help you learn from other nursing mothers. At these monthly meetings, mothers share not only their questions and concerns but also the benefits and joys of breastfeeding. Questions? Contact Laura Kasemervisz, 281.277.4989."

DEC 15-17: MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Have you ever thought about the priesthood! Consider attending this retreat at St. Mary's Seminary. December 15-17 – Men's Discernment Retreat – for men ages 18-35 who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This is an opportunity to set aside some time of silence to listen to the voice of God in your life, listen to inspiring talks and guidance for your discernment process, learn the tools of discernment, sharpen your discerning skills, and have a one-on-one visit with a priest and seminarian. For more info: houstonvocations.com/event/mens-discernment-retreat/ And of course feel free to contact Fr. Truong Son anytime. tnguyen@stlaurence.org or 281-980-9812

PORNOGRAPHY: REALITY IN MINISTRY AND FAMILIES

A resourceful workshop on ways we can help those we serve through our ministries and how we can equip ourselves and families to live in freedom from the newest addiction. Parish and school staff, clergy and any others interested in this topic are invited to attend. Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (9:00 am-2:00pm) St. Dominic's Chancery, 2403 Holcombe Blvd. $30, includes lunch. Click here for the flyer. To register, call 713-741-8778 or visit www.archgh.org/yacm.

JUN 8-20: 13 DAY MARIAN SHRINES

Spain, Portugual, France, Lisbon, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Avila, Burgos, Lourdes, Lisieux, Paris. $3,890 per person from Houston. Includes: Roundtrip Air Transportation from Houston, First Class Hotels, Double Occupancy, 2 Meals a day, Breakfast & Dinner, Daily Sightseeing, Airport Taxes, Entrance Fees, Tips to drivers and guides, and Fuel Surcharges — which are subject to change. Spiritual Director: Fr. Jaison P. Thomas, MSFS and Anne Marie Daniel at St Laurence Catholic Church. For further information contact Anne Marie Daniel at adaniel@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774. Early Registration is encouraged. First come - first serve basis.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION — WEEKLY OFFERTORY

December 3 Collection	$65,217
Registered Households	7,543
Envelopes Used	737
Loose Checks	210
2nd Collection: St. Laurence Catholic School	4,296
Monthly Offertory	$176,941
Participants	1031

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

2017 Parish Goal	$495,000
Amount Paid	$436,055
Amount Pledged	$450,218
Participants	961

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.

**not licensed by the state*

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next class: January 4, 2018

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 Rosemary Mascarenhas at 281-980-9812.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Next classes: JAN 13 & FEB 10, 2018

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

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS

Noah Henry Acorda, Paul Samuel De La Pena, Liam Christian Kelley, Leonel Zac Kochinsky, Franco Venturello, Nicholas Venturello

FUNERALS

Taryn Budd, *fiancé of Nicholas Milazzo*

E-GIVING: FAITH DIRECT

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing 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 St. Laurence Catholic Church, 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. Visit **www.faithdirect.net** and use our church code: **TX460**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

Family, Children & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

DEC 10: PRESCHOOL CCE MEETS TODAY!

DEC 12 & 13: ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK
Liturgical Lessons on Advent & Christmas

This week in CCE, we will take time to learn about the Liturgical Seasons of Advent and Christmas. Advent is the season of hope as well as a time to search our hearts in preparation for rededicating our lives to Christ. During this time, we should take action by serving others, spending additional time in prayer, reading Scripture, and participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to prepare our hearts for commemorating the coming of Christ at Christmas.

At Christmas, we celebrate the mystery of the Son of God becoming man through His Incarnation. The word incarnation means "putting on flesh." This word names our belief that the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, became fully human without giving up being fully God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Discuss with your families the deeper meaning of God becoming man, and what that means for Jesus' relationship with each of us. Give thanksgiving for this amazing gift with your continued Advent preparations in anticipation of the celebration of Christmas.

ST. LAURENCE
WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
FROM CRIB THROUGH 5 YEARS
Learn more and find the **WCP Calendar** at:
www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

Upcoming Events

December 15 Christmas Pageant

December 20 & 21 Christmas Carnival

& Noon Dismissal

December 22 Christmas Holidays Begin.

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
We Are Called

SLCS MISSION STATEMENT

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

STLAURENCESCHOOL.ORG

CELEBRATE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WITH US!
St. Laurence Catholic School invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at our School Mass on Friday, December 15, at 8:15 am. Learn the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the miracles and the image she left us almost 500 years ago — with a special sketch presented by the SLCS Spanish Culture Club. Enjoy the traditional song "Las Mañanitas" and other special songs to serenade Our Lady of Guadalupe along with Mariachi Music. Everyone is welcome to join us for this annual celebration!

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OUR BAND CONCERT
Please join us as our St. Laurence Catholic School Band presents their winter concert on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm in the school gym. It promises to be a wonderful evening with our musicians.

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NOTES!
We are compiling updates for the next edition of The Saints' Scoop, our Alumni Magazine! Share your news with us! Please send to agutierrez@stlaurence.org. ***"Once a Saint, Always a Saint"!***

Follow SLCS **STAY CONNECTED**

EDGE®
Catholic Middle School Ministry

EDGE WILL BE BACK IN JANUARY
SPRING 2018 — BEGINS JANUARY 10TH

NO EDGE (Christmas Break)
Jan - 10 Edge Night
Jan - 17 Edge Night
Jan - 24 Edge Night
Jan - 31 Edge Night

Life in the EDGE is fun and learning

LIFE TEEN
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

The WKND Retreat

All 9-12th grade youth are invited to join us for the best weekend of the year, our annual The WKND Winter Retreat. It'll be held 1/12/18-1/15/18 and will cost $175. For more information and to access permission slip, head to www.stlaurence.org/wknd or stop by the Ave Maria Center.

LIFE NIGHTS WILL RESUME ON JAN 7, 2018.

CONFIRMATION

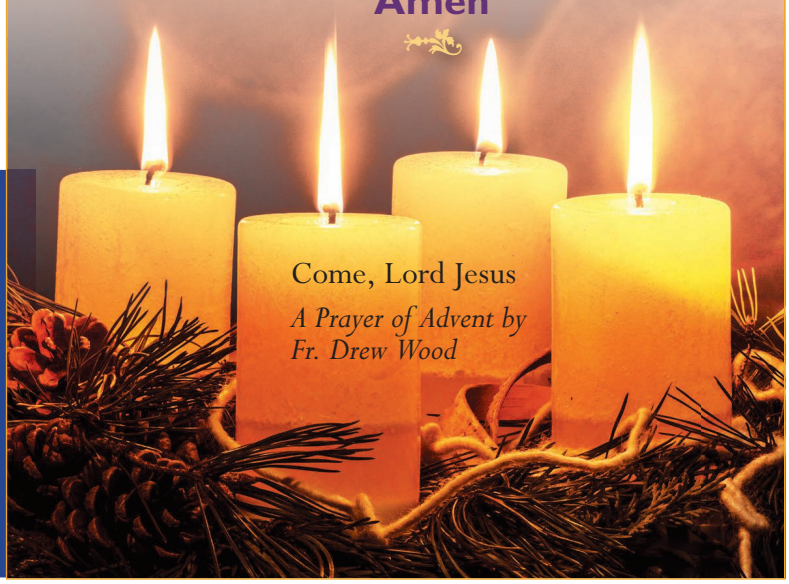
Confirmation at St. Laurence is part of Youth Ministry and Religious Education. We bring teens closer to Christ through this Sacrament of the Church. Contact Sara Sahlezghi at **ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org**. Confirmation is open to sophomores and juniors in high school. Teens who do not attend Catholic 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.

ADVENT PRAYER

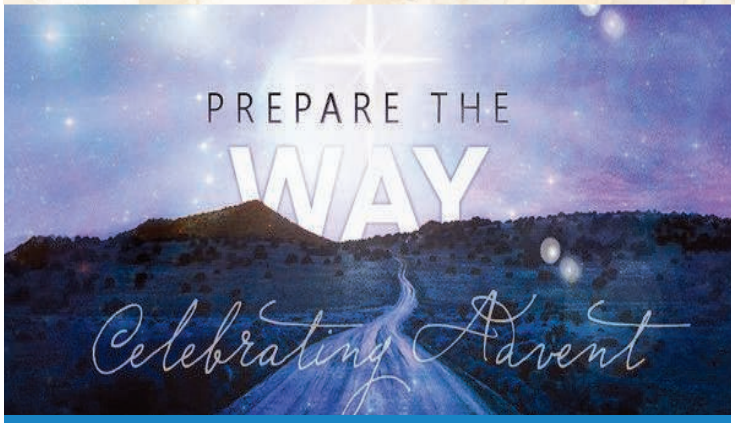
Come, Lord Jesus

Come, Lord, to heal
I am so wounded
Come, Lord, to teach
I am so confused
Come, Lord, to love me
I am so lonely
Come to strengthen
I am very weak
Come, Lord, to forgive
I am so ashamed
Help me forgive
I am so bitter
Come, Lord, to console
I am stricken with grief
Come to encourage
I am so tired
Come, Lord, to inspire
I am sad and listless
Come to bring peace
I am restless and anxious
Come, Lord, give me courage
I am afraid
Come to deliver me
I feel oppressed
Come, Lord, to reconcile
I am divided from those I love.

Amen



For Adults



THIS WEEK IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

MONDAY

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

Lay Apostle Prayer Group (2nd Monday, Jan 8, 2018)
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
6:15-7:15am, St. Francis Room
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:00-11:45am, Marian Hall, Contact: Joe Kanusky | 281-265-4084
Dec 12: Divided Kingdom Part 1 Israel

WEDNESDAY

Contemplative Prayer
9:30am-12:00pm 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: Suzan Bryan | 713-816-5859 | suzan.bryan@comcast.net

THURSDAY

Catholic Men Called to be Saints
5:30-7:30am, Guardian Angel Hall
Contact: Jim Kij | 281-253-4800 | jimkij@comcast.net

Christian Meditation Prayer Group
6:30-7:30pm, St. Anne Room
Contact: Patrick King | 713-444-6014 | patrickking50@gmail.com

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

Thursday Bible Study
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

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Office of Aging presents
Veterans' Benefits Seminar

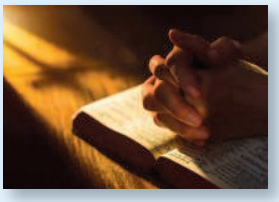
Save The Date

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
AVE MARIA PARISH LIFE CENTER

Do you have questions about your benefits? Inviting all veterans or spouses, 50 + years old to attend this free benefits seminar. Come learn more about specific veterans' benefits and services in health care, disability, spouse/ survivor and cemetery/pre-need. This informative seminar will help answer questions you may have and provide guidance in making decisions. Lunch will be provided. **RSVP by Dec 15** to Mark Ciesielski at 713-741-8712 or mciesielski@archgh.org.

Primavera 2018

Oficina de Evangelizacion Y Catequesis
Arquidiocesis de Galveston-Houston



Formacion Para El Ministerio Cristiano

Begins Thursday, Jan 11, 2018
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Marian Hall A

Formacion para el Ministerio Cristiano (FPMC) ofrece la base teologica y el crecimiento espiritual para todos aquellos catolicos adultos mayores de 18 anos que quisieran profundizar su compromise con Jesu-cristo y su Iglesia, fortaleciendolo en un discipulo maduro.

Es un programa de formacion teologica, espiritual y biblica, basado en la doctrina Catolica impartidos por instructores aprobados y calificados con grados de Maestria o Doctorado en las ramas de la Teologia.

Este programa esta abierto para todo adulto y ministerio que quiera crecer en la formacion de su fe en una forma solida, coherente e integral. Formacion Para el Ministerio Cristiano es un programa de tres semestres.

El costo para nuevos centros es de $50 dolares por participante.

Para registrarse y pagar con tarjeta de credito, por favor is a la pagina web: archgh.cvent.com/FPMC

Para mas informacion, llamar a Veronica Reinoso, 832-231-6988, veroreinoso62@gmail.com

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS

AN ADVENT NIGHT OF WORSHIP

THE VIGIL PROJECT

to save us all tour

Featuring live music,
dynamic speakers, and prayer

DECEMBER 11 @6:30PM

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
3100 SWEETWATER BLVD.
SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

TICKETS $10 A PERSON
AVAILABLE AT
WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/VIGILPROJECT

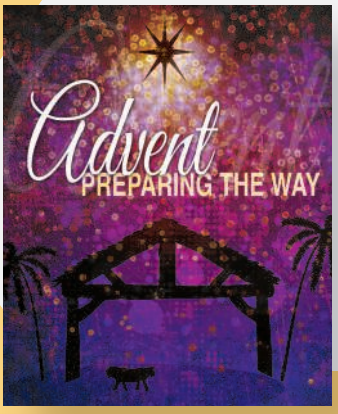
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VIGIL PROJECT, TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC, AND TO WATCH THE VIDEOS:

WWW.THEVIGILPROJECT.COM

Living as Disciples

LIVE TO GLORIFY GOD!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



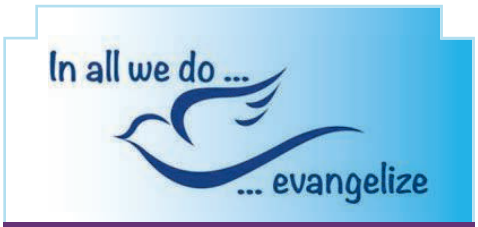
Today's second reading is about Christ's coming again, "The day of the Lord," Peter calls it, but that day isn't December 25th. It's that other day, that second-coming-day about which Peter is concerned. He waits with great hope and anticipation for God to remake the earth into a place of perfect justice and peace. And he sets some demanding goals for the Christian community as it awaits that final day of accounting and reconciliation: strive to be at peace, without spot or blemish. Christian stewards work for peace. As we await the coming of Christmas, what can we do to promote peace in our homes, workplaces, community and world?

www.catholicstewardship.com

STEWARDS AMONG US

OSVALDO MEDINA

Osvaldo Medina and his wife Patricia are originally from Mexico, but this is their home now, and they have been parishioners of St. Laurence for the past six years. From the very start, Osvaldo got involved in parish life. He decided to join the Hispanic Ministry and stepped up to serve as an Assistant Sacristan, Lector and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at the Spanish Mass, which is offered in the chapel at 7:00pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. What inspired Osvaldo to serve the parish in this way is his love for Jesus and His Church. He says, "'Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?' [James 2:20] I understand this Scripture to mean that our faith is best shown in our service to others. I am still in the process of growing in these ministries and I am sure that I will never finish growing in the love, service and knowledge of my Catholic faith. I feel blessed to be part of this community of faith and I want to give thanks to the Lord for all the opportunities I have by helping in these ministries of St. Laurence."



Science expresses its full dignity when it serves the integral development of the person and the human family

— Pope Francis

November 10, 2017
@Pontifex

Ask Paula

Q. **What's the Mass schedule for Christmas this year?**

A. I hope you guys are ready for this one. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday SO... we have to meet our Sunday obligation FIRST. Which means you have to go on Saturday night at 5:00pm or Sunday morning at 7:15am, 9:00am or 11:00am. These are the only three Masses on Sunday. THEN Christmas Eve Masses start on Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm, 4:15pm at the AMC (this is the one I'm going to), 6:30pm, 9:00pm and Midnight (music starts at 11:30pm). So YEP, you have to go to TWO Masses that weekend, just sayin. On Monday, Christmas Day, the Masses are at 8:00am, 10:00am and noon, all in the church. I know, it's a lot of Masses, *right?* 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.

HOMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

The community of St. Laurence Catholic Church invites you to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

Renew your faith and participate in the celebration in remembrance of the miracles and the image she has left us almost 500 years ago.

Come and enjoy great music and fellowship!

Celebrant:
Rev. Vincent Dulock

Program
Tuesday, December 12, 2017

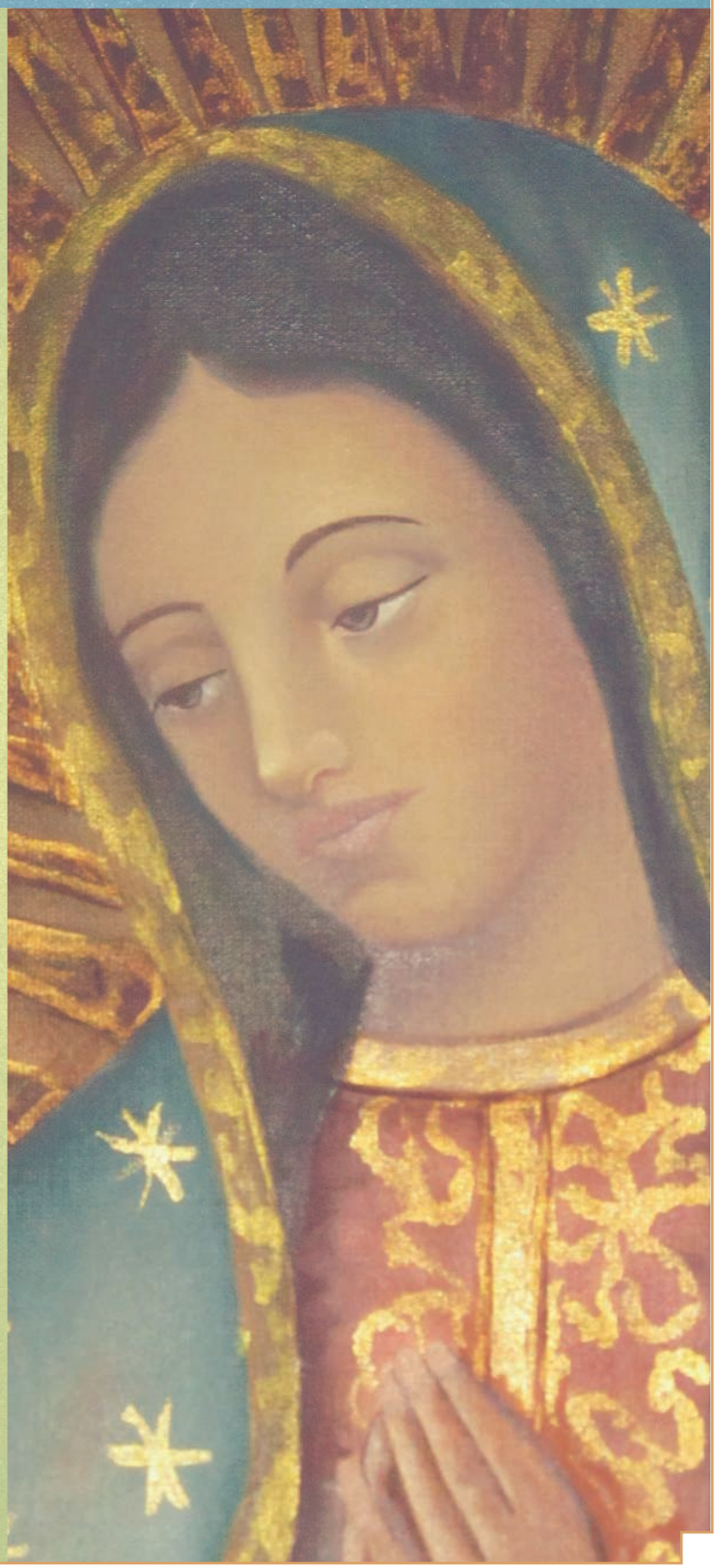
Morning:

5:30 a.m. Bilingual Rosary
6:00 a.m. Traditional song "Las Mañanitas" with Mariachi music
7:00 a.m. Procession and Mexican breakfast "Sweet Bread and Chocolate" at the Parish Hall.

Evening:

6:15 p.m. Traditional Matachines dance with children
6:30 p.m. Bilingual Holy Mass
Procession, fellowship, and musical program in the school gym.

Hispanic Ministry
St. Laurence Catholic Church
3100 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX. 77479



Evening Mass & Christmas Carols

Simbang Gabi

Main Celebrant:
Fr. Drew Wood

SATURDAY
December 16, 2017

Carols 6:30 pm
Mass 7:00 pm

St. Laurence Church
Sugar Land

Reception follows after the mass at St. Laurence School Gym

Presented by
Filipino Community of St. Laurence

To volunteer, to donate or for more information, please contact:
Deacon Rey Arrellano: 713-854-8804
Fe Vicerra: 713-248-1164
Margie Calo: 281-980-4711

All are welcome to celebrate this Filipino Christmas tradition!

DEC 11: SPECIAL ADVENT PROGRAM

In the place of our usual Arise Night of Worship in December, we are offering a very special program for the season of Advent. On Monday, December 11, 6:30-8:30pm in the church, come participate in the Vigil Project, an experience that is part Advent mission and part concert. The Vigil Project is a talented group of worship leaders who will help us dive more deeply into the themes of Advent with their collection of original songs of worship, dynamic speaking, and an inspiring experience of prayer. There is a charge of $10 per person to attend this event, which is open to everyone, young and old. Prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Please visit www.stlaurence.org/vigilproject to learn more about the Vigil Project and get tickets to the event. Contact Justin Frato with questions at jfrato@stlaurence.org and 281-265-5774.

QUILT RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to Vicky Hu, the winner of the beautiful "Silent Night" quilt created and raffled off by the Women of the Cloth. Thanks to everyone who supported the quilt raffle and annual Christmas Craft Sale. $1800 raised from the raffle is benefitting the Social Concerns Harvey Relief Fund.

WORK AT OUR PARISH SCHOOL

There are two great job opportunities at St. Laurence Catholic School, the largest school in the archdiocese, serving over 700 children in PreK through Grade 8. Our school is accepting applications for substitute teachers to serve as-needed in the classroom. Substitute teachers must be degreed, have classroom experience and be VIRTUS trained and approved. Additionally, the Before and After School Care (BASC) program is looking for college students and adults who enjoy working with children who are available to work before and after school hours. BASC staff supervise the students during homework and playtime. Please contact the school office at 281-980-0500 for more information about these job opportunities.

CARE FOR OUR PARISH PROPERTY

There have been three recent acts of vandalism to the playground at the Ave Maria Center – plus some inside of the church – which all appear to be done by children. Parents, while you are on parish property with your children, please keep them close by and under your supervision. Just as it is our responsibility to care for one another, it is our shared responsibility to care for this property with which we have been blessed, both for today and for the generations of parishioners who will follow us. Let us be grateful for our many blessings and let us all practice good stewardship of this holy place entrusted to our care. Please contact Parish Administrator Tony Oltremari with questions or concerns at 281-980-9812.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent – Dec 24
(Modified Sunday Mass Schedule)
Sat (Dec 23) 5:00pm Vigil
Sun 7:15, 9:00 and 11:00am
In the Church

Christmas Eve – Sunday, 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 – Monday, Dec 25
8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
In the Church

Holy Family – Sunday, Dec 31
(Regular Sunday Mass Schedule)
Sat 5:00pm Vigil
Sun 7:15, 9:00, 11:00am, and 12:45, 5:00pm
In the Church

Solemnity of Mary – Monday, Jan 1
Sun (Dec 31) 11pm - Holy Hour of Adoration with Mass to begin at Midnight

Mon (Jan 1) 9:00am, 12:00pm
In the church
NOTE: Since the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls on a Monday this year, our obligation to attend Mass is dispensed.

SCHOOL MASS DEC 21

8:15AM IN THE CHURCH

(Note: The 7:30am Mass in the chapel that day is cancelled.)

ADVENT ROSARY

Pray the Rosary before the 12:00pm Daily Mass in the Church

DEC 4 - DEC 22
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

Serving Others

LEARN ENGLISH MINISTRY – VOLUNTEER 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. Please contact Wendy Moore at learnenglishministry.slc@gmail.com

We also offer citizenship classes. Congratulations to Learn English Ministry students, (pictured above) Luis Rosero, Mery Oviedo, Ana Perez and Oscar Perez for becoming U.S. citizens! Also pictured are their volunteer teachers, Elaine Pascual and Zoriaida Ely.

In Thanksgiving to You! Part 3.

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 3 of our callout to all of those volunteers, with BIG THANKS from Pennie, Melanie and Monica in SCM…

Thank you to the **Correctional Ministry** led by **Deacon Al Bothe & Deacon Charles Plant** along with their dedicated volunteers: **Joe Guarisco, German Digoy, Sally Flowers, Myatt Hancock, Bob McKnees, Ann Marie Daniels, Duncan McKeever and Carlos Ludert** who bring Christ in Word and in Eucharist into jails and prisons. Another arm of the Correctional Ministry is **Bridges to Life**, coordinated by **Dana Cutbirth**. BTL is a 14-week program that meets once a week in small groups with extreme confidentiality. The groups consist of offenders, victims of crime, and trained facilitators.

Our **Coupons for a Cause** group spends several hours each week searching for the very best grocery deals, clipping the coupons and shopping. They purchased over $30,000 worth of groceries but spent only $14,218.00 for individuals in need, Park's Youth Ranch and Fort Bend Family Promise. These ladies know how to shop!

The **Day Old Bread** ministry, headed up by **Greg Arrell**, delivers baked goodies every Saturday to Ft. Bend Women's Center, Ft. Bend Garden apartments and St. John Fisher.

Thank you to **Janet Roberts** and **Meghan Frato** for everything you do to make the lives of the residents of **Sugar Land Health Care Center** brighter! Janet coordinates the weekend Bingo and Meghan coordinates the birthday parties and holiday celebrations. And thank you to the many volunteers that help with the Bingo and parties!

Twice a month volunteers shop for fresh food items and deliver to the St. John Fisher food pantry in Richmond through our **Fresh Food Program.** Thank you to the many volunteers that take time to help those in need at SJF!

Thank you to **Steve Pondell** and team for the work they do coordinating the St. Laurence build for **Ft. Bend Habitat for Humanity!** Thousands of hours are clocked each year by volunteers as they help build a home for a family in need.

The Learn English Ministry, coordinated by Wendy Moore and Scott Magelssen, teaches functional English to more than 100 people from all over the globe! During the summer months, you can find St. Laurence Catholic School teacher, **Adriana Gutierrez** hard at work two nights a week with the **Learn Spanish Ministry.** Adriana & her team of volunteers teach functional/conversational Spanish to those in ministry or mission work.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? CONTACT MELANIE IN THE SOCIAL CONCERNS OFFICE AT MHARTSHORN@STLAURENCE.ORG OR 281-980-9812.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

ROSARY FOR THE PREBORN: Please join members of the Respect Life ministry and the Knights of Columbus TODAY after the 11:00 Mass, in the rosary garden outside the Ave Maria Center. In case of bad weather, we pray inside in the oratory.

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.

WISH UPON A STAR

We are so thankful for your continued and overwhelming support of our 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. A very special thank you to **Frances Conway** and her team of volunteers for time spent sorting, wrapping and boxing the gifts.

HELP NEEDED

COORDINATOR NEEDED:
ELDERLY BIRTHDAY PARTIES

SCM is in search of a passionate and energetic individual, dedicated Small Christian Community or a 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 month (Friday at 2:30pm) for all the residents who have had a birthday, including serving cupcakes or cookies. Please contact Pennie DeGroot at pdegroot@stlaurence.org for more information. And THANK YOU to the Frato family for their dedication and for the love they have shown the seniors at SLHC

Who doesn't love BINGO? Teach your children the importance or serving others, have fun doing it together, and brighten the day for local senior citizens by calling BINGO at Sugar Land Health Care Center is old Sugar Land. This is a GREAT family or small group service opportunity. For more info or to volunteers, please contact Janet Roberts at jroberts3207@gmail.com.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

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

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, GO TO

www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns

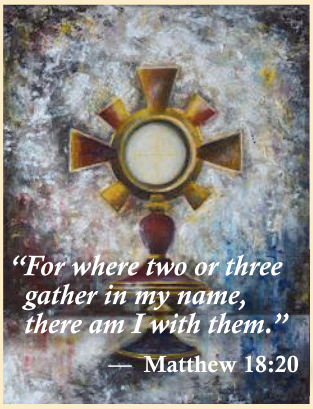
WHAT WE NEED

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, toothpaste & 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
- Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, disinfectant spray cleaners for PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

Ministry News

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL



The first commandment is to love God. What better way to love God than to spend time with Him in the chapel? ***The Archdiocese guidelines for Eucharistic Exposition require that 2 or 3 persons be present at all times.*** We are adding a second adorer whenever only one is currently in place. **Are you that second person?**

URGENT NEEDS: Sundays, 1pm to 2pm

Adoration will be paused from Thursday, December 21st at 2pm until Monday, January 8th at 8am after morning mass concludes.

Please check online: **stlaurence.org/adoration** or pick up a card at the back of the church for a list of days and times available and prayerfully consider the hours listed where we need committed adorers. Contact us via email: **adoration@stlaurence.org -or- 281-224-6122 (Fran Magelssen) 281-235-8008 (Denise MacDougall)**

ST LAURENCE SINGLES EVENTS

Wednesday, December 13, 6:00pm Book Club Dinner at Cafe Goo Goo Yen on Williams Trace near Lexington. For the December meeting, please bring a wrapped book that you enjoyed reading for a book exchange. There will also be a discussion about favorite Christmas memories, so come tell us about your family's Christmas traditions!

Sunday, December 17, 4:00pm Houston Choral Showcase show at the Houston Christian High School on West Sam Houston Parkway N in Houston. We will meet at 3:00 pm in the Ava Maria Center parking lot to car pool. Tickets are $16 if purchased online or $20 at the door. To buy tickets, go to https://houstonshowchoir.org/upcoming/.

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00pm Planning meeting in the Trinity room at St. Laurence adjacent to the Parish Hall. Come join us to give your suggestions on what you would like to do!

Friday, December 29, 6:00pm Dinner at Berryhill in Sugar Land at Dairy Ashford/Sugar Creek. Let's go back to one of our favorites! We'll be in the back room.

Welcome to our new members that joined this month – Anabel D, Debbie D and Ornella Z! For more event info, email us at st.laurencesingles@gmail.com

UNBOUND PRAYER MINISTRY AT ST. LAURENCE

Unbound Prayer is for anyone bound by past hurts, needing hope in finding freedom, struggling with the same sin, needing deliverance. Unbound is a safe, loving, effective prayer model that helps people to respond to the good news of the Gospel and discover their freedom in Christ. The Unbound Prayer model is based on the Five Keys for freedom in the book "Unbound" by Neal Lozano. Individual prayer sessions are offered by trained facilitators on Saturdays by appointment. For more information, please contact Rita & Steve McCarthy at ritamccarthy10@aol.com, 561-699-5800.

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

YOUNG ADULT MEN'S GROUP

3rd Thursday night of the month

Study on St. Peter starting Jan 18th. Email Robert Schiller for more details: rbschiller@earthlink.net.

JAN 13: YOUNG ADULT KICKBALL

2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30-11:30am

Going back in time to our childhood with friends for some kickball. Come on out for fellowship, fun, and fly balls. Meet at the AMC and we will walk over to the fields at across the street. Lunch after? Of course! At Torchy's. Email Chris Koeppen for more info: c.m.koeppen@gmail.com

DEC 13: BIBLE TIMELINE — STORY OF SALVATION HISTORY

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, at 6:30-9pm (appetizers provided!). December 13, is the final meeting for the year in the AMC, St. Clare room. Questions: mbarta@stlaurence.org

DISCOVERING LOVE WITH CLARITY

Knowing One's Soul to Discover One's Soul Mate! Choosing from multiple soul mates is not an easy task for singles, dating or engaged couples. Join other young adults of Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston in "Discovering Love with Clarity" series that will change your life and how you understand relationships. September-March, 7 to 9 p.m., St. Laurence Catholic Church Jan. 17, 2018, Feb. 21, 2018, and March 21, 2018. Information: www.archgh.org/yacm or call Michaela Barta, 281-265-5774.

SUMMER 2018 MISSION TRIP

Be on the lookout for our 2nd Young Adult Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic!!! We will go again with Sr. Lisa Valentini, Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (most likely in June!). Email Michaela for more information mbarta@stlaurence.org.

JOY CLUB FOR SENIORS

MON 1/8 11:30am - 1pm, in the AMC, Float into the New Year: brown bag lunch, games and root beer floats.

THUR 1/18 noon Mass and Lunch

FRI 1/26 Veterans Benefits Seminar sponsored by Archdiocese Office of Aging with support of the JOY Club. 10:00am - 2:00pm in the AMC, lunch will be provided. . More info, contact *J.O.Y. Club, Anne Higgins at nannyhiggs@gmail.com or 832-755-5597*

VOCATION NEWS

GATHERING IN THE UPPER ROOM – AN INTERLUDE WITH GOD

January 6-7, 2018

Retreat for Single Women, ages 18 and older discerning religious life. Enjoy a quiet day with God, other women, and sisters of the Archdiocese. The day will include guided and private prayer, reflection and sharing, plus Mass and Lunch. Sponsored by Vocations office and sisters of the Archdiocese. Dominican Sisters' Spirituality Center on Almeda Rd. in Houston. FREE EVENT, Deadline: Dec. 30th, 2017. Details and registration at houstonvocations.com/upper-room. More info: vocations@archgh.org/713-652-8239

WOMEN SEEKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Thursdays from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Dec. 14

A monthly discernment gathering for women ages 18 and older who are discerning a vocation to religious life. Meet in different convents around the Archdiocese every second Thursday of the month from September to May. Program includes supper, a brief presentation and time for sharing, followed by prayer. Sisters from several religious orders who live and minister in the Archdiocese will be present. Gatherings will take place with the Dominican Sisters of Houston (Sept.), Cenacle Sisters (Oct.), Brothers and Sisters of Charity (Nov.), and Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (Dec). Free event. Register at www.houstonvocations.com/women-seeking

DISCOVER THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Dec. 14

A monthly discernment gathering at St. Mary's Seminary for single young adult men ages 18 and older. Join priests and seminarians for fellowship, prayer, music, dinner and talks about the discernment process for priesthood and religious life. The seminary is located on Memorial Dr. in Houston. Free event. Register at www.houstonvocations.com/discover

COPING WITH GRIEF THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Dec 12 at 6:30pm, St. Laurence Catholic Church
Ave Maria Center

Holidays and holy days are times to gather with family & friends. If you have suffered the loss - of a loved one, or experienced loss and anxiety from events like Harvey - the holidays can be filled with apprehension, sorrow and grief. You may feel as though everyone has joy but you. Grief can be raw during the holidays.

Join the Grief Support Ministry for a two-hour session: Dec 12, at 6:30pm, Ave Maria Center, St. Laurence Catholic Church, St. Clare Room

We will feature video interviews with specialists in grief counseling who will offer tools in dealing with expectations of family and friends during these most difficult times. We will share experiences in navigating the first year, as well as subsequent years, following the death of a loved one or loss due to destructive events. All are welcome to bring a friend or refer a relative, friend or co-worker who might be experiencing the pain of grief. These sessions are free and are open to everyone, Catholic or non-Catholic. The session will be held at St. Laurence Catholic Church – Ave Maria Center, St Clare Room.

You can join the Grief Support Ministry Support Group any Tuesday evening at the same location and time every Tuesday evening! Please contact for information/registration: Sandy Barber by phone at 832-451-9117 email: help2grieve@hotmail.com

DIVORCE CARE WEDNESDAYS

7:00-9:00pm in the St. Francis Room, Divorce Care completes the Fall series and prepares for the Spring 2018 session.
Session Topics:
December 13- Reconciliation
December 20 - Moving On, Growing Closer to God

Spring Session 2018 begins January 10.
The first topic is "What's Happening To Me"

DIVORCE Care®

If you have been suffering from the effects of divorce or separation, seek support with the Divorce Care group. Join us at any point in the program to receive help in rebuilding your life, focused on God's love for you. For info, please contact Janie at 832-860-3398 or jpdivorcecare@aol.com

TURN BACK MY SOUL TO YOUR REST

2017-2018

This Advent pray & listen where God may be calling you to serve… Join a ministry today!

PRIMER SEMESTRE

ARQUIDIÓCESIS GALVESTON - HOUSTON

OFICINA DE EVANGELIZACIÓN Y CATEQUESIS

FORMACIÓN PARA EL MINISTERIO CRISTIANO

PARROQUIA ST. LAURENCE
3100 Sweetwater Blvd.
Ave Maria Parish Life Center
Sugar Land, TX. 77479

Nombre del Curso	JUEVES	Horario
Introducción a la Biblia	11, 18, 25 de Enero, 1 y 8 de Febrero	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Antiguo Testamento	15 y 22 de Febrero, 1, 8 y 22 de Marzo	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Nuevo Testamento	5, 12, 19 y 26 de Abril y 3 de Mayo	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Día de Reflexión: Rezando con la Sagrada Escritura	Sábado 12 de Mayo	9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registro: Formación para el Ministerio Cristiano - **PRIMAVERA 2018**

Nombre:_____ **Correo electrónico:**_____

Dirección:_____ **Ciudad:**_____ **Z.P:**_____

Teléfono: (c)_____ **(t)**_____ **(cel)**_____ **Texto:** **SI** ☐ **NO** ☐

Parroquia:_____ **Ministerio:**_____

COSTO por participante: $50 dlls.

archgh.cvent.com/FPMC

PARROQUIA ST. LAURENCE

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
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Marriage Sponsor Couples	Sharon & John Harry | 281-980-8090

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COR Worship Nights	Danielle Noonan | 832-754-0567
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Elementary CCE	Joan Hastreiter | 281-265-5774
Preschool CCE	Cindy Martin | 281-265-5774
Family Faith	Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
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Parish School Board	Nora Sessions | 713-443-6958
Parish School PTO	Jennifer Reyes | 817-845-7627
	Cheryl Aramburo | 281-989-4936
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Vocations Committee	Nia Sepe | 281-980-9812
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Divine Mercy (PM)	Suzan Bryan | 713-816-5859
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Small Christian Comm	Genoveva Duque | 281-980-1014
Tuesday AM Bible Study	Regina Johnson | 832-440-7914

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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
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P.A.C.T. (Parenting Group)	Steve Brown | 832-471-6131
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Spiritual Direction	Anne Marie Daniel | 281-265-5774
UNBOUND Prayer Ministry	Rita McCarthy | 561-699-5800

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Respect Life	Marie McCoy | 281-265-7749
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Social Concerns	Pennie DeGroot | 281-980-9812
Society St. John DeMatha	Deacon Al Bothe | 713-582-3870

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	Fran Magelssen | 281-224-6122
Altar Linen Care	Julie Rodriguez | 281-980-9812
Altar Servers	Joy Smith | 281-265-0839
Art & Environment	Michele Holbrooke | 281-265-8425
	Catherine Short | 713-628-3949
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	Claire Gregory | 281-208-2715
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Greeters	Pam White | 281-265-3070
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Music Ministry	Mary Thompson | 281-980-9812
	Dr. Kevin Klotz | 281-980-9812
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Pastoral Council	Roger Peters | 713-857-8386
New Evangelization Ministry	Marta Alves | 713-569-3679
Welcome Ministry	Eva Fernandez | 832-633-5640

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African Catholic Comm	Esther Iredia | 832-661-2945
Bazaar	Michele Dyogi | 713-447-8754
	Al Garcia | 281-725-2417
Boy Scout Troop 828	Michael Hurtado | 281-635-0926
Cub Scout Pack 1828	David Mikel | 713-859-2730
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	Duong Nguyen | 281-248-3798
Ladies Guild	Tina Dougherty | 713-859-6861
Moms & Tots	Chrissy Campbell | 310-926-7085
St. Laurence Singles	Kathy Gawlik | 281-980-2677
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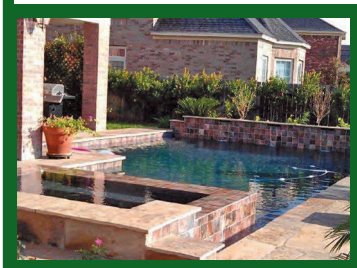

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