



Fourth Sunday of Easter

GO TO MASS! A RECORDING OF THIS MASS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE **STLAURENCE.ORG**



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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: Rey Arellano, deacon.rey@stlaurence.org

Deacon: Albert Bothe, deaconal@ssjd.org
Deacon: Don Burns, don@donburns.com

Deacon: Dennis Henderson, dhenderson@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Charles Plant, DeaconCharles@outlook.com

Deacon: Tom Ruck, truck@stlaurence.org

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: Christine Dunn, cdunn@stlaurence.org
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RCIA/Adult Faith Formation: Justin Frato, jfrato@stlaurence.org
Young Adult Coordinator: Lucia Jackson, ljackson@stlaurence.org
Children's Faith Formation: Joan Hastreiter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org

Youth Ministry: Christine Dunn, cdunn@stlaurence.org
Maureen Bass, mbass@stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-980-0500

Principal: Suzanne Barto, sbarto@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Suzanne Byrne, sbyrne@stlaurence.org

WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-313-0329

Director: Becky Wilkinson, bwilkinson@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Christine Novia, cnovia@stlaurence.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCILS 281-980-9812

Pastoral Council: Nick Noe, nick.noe@outlook.com
Finance Council: Bob Ladd, robert.ladd@haynesboone.com
Discipleship Council: Julie Borque, borquej@yahoo.com

OUR MISSION:

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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 8am-9pm; Friday 8am-4pm; Saturdays 8:30am-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



Pray: My Lord, do not let me wander away from the path You have shown, and if I have not yet found it, take me to it by Your Divine Mercy. Amen.

DO YOU NEED A BREAKTHROUGH?

Are you at an impasse in your spiritual growth or emotional healing or a difficult relationship? Do you need a breakthrough? Do you feel stuck behind a fence that's keeping you on the outside of peace, joy, satisfaction, or healing?

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is the gate in that fence. He helps us reach the heavenly side of the gate, outside the realm of earthly restrictions not only when we die and enter eternal life, but also here and now in our earthly life, so that we might always "have life and have it more abundantly."

When our path seems blocked, we can only make progress by letting Jesus shepherd us around and through and over the obstacles. If people shut a door on something that God wants us to do, Jesus is still our open gate and no one can close him out of our lives. He will lead us into a new opportunity for accomplishing the plans of God. If he's given us a frustrated holy desire or a passion for which there seems to be no outlet, instead of complaining or quitting, we must look at Jesus and see him as a gate that opens into a new direction or location.

Remember, however, that until we get all the way through this gate, we must stick close to him like dumb sheep. There's a journey to take before we can reach the other side of the fence.

The thief that comes to steal and slaughter can only reach us when we stray away from Jesus and we take our eyes off of him.

Despair and worry are two common thieves, robbing us of peace, joy, satisfaction, and healing. But they're not as powerful as they pretend to be. We defeat them easily by remembering that they do not speak the full truth. The truth is: Jesus is our Good Shepherd safely guiding us into a life of abundant victory!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MAY

SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 2:14A, 36-41 Second Reading | I PT 2:20B-25 JN 10:1-10

MONDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 11:1-18 IN 10:11-18

TUESDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 11:19-26 IN 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 12:24—13:5A IN 12:44-50

THURSDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 13:13-25 IN 13:16-20

FRIDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 13:26-33 IN 14:1-6

SATURDAY

First Reading Gospel

ACTS 13:44-52 IN 14:7-14

SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Second Reading | I PT 2:4-9 Gospel

ACTS 6:1-7 IN 14:1-12

OUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What breakthrough are you hoping for? What's frustrating you and seems hopeless?

What's causing you to think that a problem you're facing might lead to disaster and destruction? What will you do this week to follow Jesus more closely so that you can get through this with more peace?

OUESTIONS FOR GROUP FAITH SHARING:

Share the story of a time when you experienced obstacles and Jesus provided a breakthrough that led to victory.

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PRAYING THE NEWS | MAY 3, 2020

"...the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

JOHN 10:3

Dear Lord, we thank you for your wise, patient and compassionate voice that never leads us astray, whether in good or troubled times. Help us hear your voice amid the many in the news. Please grant our earthly leaders wisdom, strength of character, and courage to speak the truth while making right but tough decisions. Help them lead us out to green pastures and restful waters. Jesus, we trust in you. Amen, Alleluia! &

STAY CONNECTED, ST. LAURENCE!

Now, more than ever, it is essential that we all stay connected. While it is impossible for us to congregate at church, we can still be community and be present to one another.

Flocknote: If you aren't receiving regular Flocknote messages via email from St. Laurence, sign up now. Flocknote allows us to reach the members of our huge parish flock through email and text messages. Look for the sign up right on the home page of our parish website (stlaurence.org). Provide your first name, last name, email address and mobile number, and you're all set!

Sunday Mass: Thanks for tuning into the beautiful Holy Week Liturgies and Sunday Masses! We are united in a Spiritual Communion every time we "attend" Mass in this way. We have received messages of gratitude from parishioners – and even former parishioners who now live halfway around the world and are happy to celebrate Mass with St. Laurence in this way.

Pray for One Another: There are some parishioners who are struggling with serious health issues, some who are ill with the coronavirus, and many who are experiencing difficulties adjusting to this new-normal. If you have a specific prayer intention, please email adoration@stlaurence.org to have your intentions prayed for.

Call One Another: Do you miss seeing that nice person who sits next to you at Mass each Sunday? What about that family down the street that you haven't seen in a while? Give them a call, check on your neighbors, surprise someone with a call or a card in the mail to let them know you're thinking of them.

Help One Another: Thanks for helping, even during this time of social distancing. The Women of the Cloth have collaborated with members of the Hispanic Ministry and Loving Creations to sew and donate over 300 masks in just the past two weeks. If you'd like to participate in this effort, contact Pat Pondell at ppondell@comcast.net. Also, the Knights of Columbus have offered to run errands for prescriptions and food for parishioners who are shut in or most vulnerable. Please contact Grand Knight JD Gutierrez at gutijoed3371@aol.com for assistance.

VIRTUAL BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG FOR THE PREGNANCY CENTER



Baby Bottle Fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Medical Center Baby Bottle time is here! Of course we cannot give out bottles, but PRMC is still helping women as much as possible and still has bills to pay. So please support their mission to help women with the choice for life!

You can give through their website, www.prmcfortbend.org. (Click on Partner With Us (upper right) and then Donate.

OR Mail a check to Marie McCoy at 4007 Oak Grove Ct, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Make checks payable to Pregnancy Resource Medical Center.

If you would like to make the donation in honor of your mother (or anyone) in time for Mother's Day, send Marie the name and address of the honoree and either check or email receipt, and she will send the cards.

If you would like to collect coins or cash in a jar or other container, they can also be brought to Marie; contact her at 281-265-7749 or MarieMcCoyPRC@gmail.com



Nearly 9,000 people are signed up to get St. Laurence Parish Flocknotes. It's the best way to stay up-to-theminute on parish news. Sign up at stlaurence.org/parish-communications

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A mailed letter to parishioners from Tony Oltremari may be viewed at stlaurence.org/contribute-to-our-parish

EASTER FLOWERS



Thank you to all who remembered a loved one this Easter by donating to the Easter Flower Fund. Names of the people in whose memory or honor your donations are here: stlaurence.org/easter-flowers

PRAY THE ROSARY

Pray the Glorious Mysteries with Fr.

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stlaurence.org/pray-the-rosary



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