ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE 3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-980-9812
Pastor: Fr. Drew Wood
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Simon Kipiti
Deacon: Renato (Rey) Arellano
Deacon: Albert Bothe
Deacon: Don Burns
Deacon: Charles Plant
Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari
Pastoral Council: Tom Ruck
Finance Council: Bob Ladd
Deacon: Charles Plant
Liturgy: Theresa Rawls
Facilities: Deanna Ennis
Social Concerns: Pennie DeGroot
Communications: Sharon Ehrenkranz
Parish Office Administrator: Tony Oltremari
dtolremari@stlaurence.org
Pastoral Council:	Tom	Ruck	 rucktg@gmail.com
Finance Council:		Bob	Ladd 	 robert.ladd@haynesboone.com
Deacon:		Charles	Plant 	 stlaurencedeacon@aol.com
Parish Administrator:		 Tony	Oltremari	 toltremari@stlaurence.org
Discipleship Council:		 Marc	Sherman	 MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com
Registrar:		Marie	Brown 	 mbrown@stlaurence.org
Deacon:		Albert	Bothe	 deaconal@ssjd.org
Deacon:		Renato	(Rey)	Arellano 	 deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
Deacon:		Don	Burns	 don@donburns.com
Parochial Vicar:		Fr.	Simon	Kipiti	 skipiti@stlaurence.org
Pastor:		Fr.	Drew	Wood
Deacon:		Charles	Plant
Registrar:		Marie	Brown

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2630 Austin Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-980-0500
Principal: Debra Haney
dhaney@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
bwillkinson@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
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 Lise 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 8:00am-9:00pm and Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. The Weekday Children’s Program is offered for infants through preschool 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.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEkLY OFFERTORY

March 6 Collection $ 59,001
Registered Households 7,201
Envelopes Used 835
Loose Checks 215
2nd Collect: Cath Relief Service $ 17,022

AUTOMATED GIVING

Monthly Offertory $ 175,323
Participants 874

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

2016 Parish Goal $ 495,000
Amount Paid $ 145,407
Amount Pledged $ 234,787
Participants 585

His MercyEnduresForever
2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

Christ calls us to reach those who are sick or in need, to bless them, serve them, and show them mercy. The thousands of people served by the ministries of our Archdiocese need your compassion and generosity. Your gift to the DSF enables us to reach out to people across the archdiocese through more than 60 programs. Please pray about your personal commitment and return the pledge card you received in the mail or donate online at www.archgh.org/dsf. If everyone gives something, we will easily meet our parish goal of $495,000.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
April 1 – In the Chapel
7:00 pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30 pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
April 2 – In the Church
7:45 am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30 am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Abril 9 - En la Capilla
Segundo y cuarto sábado de cada mes a las 7:00pm. Confeiones en Español antes de la misa de 6:00 a 6:45 pm.
Comunión a los enfermos, Irma Martínez
Tel 281-313-2833
“Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God”

John 11:27

The words above come from the Gospel proclaimed this Sunday for the special rite called a “Scrutiny” for those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. They capture the essence of what it is that the Elect and Candidates are preparing for as they approach Easter. As they encounter God in the Sacraments, it is an outward affirmation of their interior act of faith in Jesus Christ. Let us continue to pray and fast this Lent not only for the deepening of our own relationship with Christ, but also for our Elect and Candidates, so that they persevere on this final part of their journey into the Catholic Church.

Please pray for the following people as they are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church:

- Gregory Rahim
- Gregory Rahim, Jr.
- Valentina Rahim
- Alex Anekwe
- Johira Bolden
- Daniel Crespo
- Emilie Efendy
- Robert Gillis
- Kaela Gisser
- Marcus Peirson
- Angela Aleman
- Tanya Carlson
- Savannah Garza
- Huan Huynh
- Anita Kavarthapu
- Stacy Landry
- Ada Castro
- Quinee Liu
- Tammy Luc
- Sue Nguyen
- Christopher Thorburn
- Christian Vega
- Paige Wang
- Nick Webking

ST. LAURENCE HOLY WEEK 2016

PALM SUNDAY – March 20

Saturday 5:00pm Vigil (March 19)
Sunday at 7:00am 9:00am 11:00am
1:00pm 5:00pm
(Blessing of palms & procession before the Saturday 5:00pm Mass)

HOLY THURSDAY – March 24

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
7:00pm
(Bilingual prayer vigil begins 12midnight, through 6:00am Good Friday)

GOOD FRIDAY – March 25

Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Devotion
12:00pm
Solemn Good Friday Liturgies
3:00pm and 7:00pm (wear RED)

EASTER VIGIL – March 26

8:30pm in the Church

EASTER SUNDAY – March 27

In the Church
7:00am 9:00am 11:00am 1:00pm 5:00pm
At the Ave Maria Center
9:15am and 11:15am

READDINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, March 13
 (#1030 IN YOUR GATHER BOOK)
First Reading IS 43:16-21
Second Reading PHIL 3:8-14
Gospel JN 8:1-11

Monday
First Reading DN 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
Gospel JN 8:12-20

Tuesday
First Reading NM 21:4-9
Gospel JN 8:21-30

Wednesday
First Reading DN 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
Gospel JN 8:31-42

Thursday
First Reading GN 17:3-9
Gospel JN 8:51-59

Friday
First Reading JER 20:10-13
Gospel JN 10:31-42

Saturday–Solemnity of St. Joseph
First Reading 2 SM 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
Second Reading ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22
Gospel MT 1:16, 18-21, 24

SUNDAY, March 20 – PALM SUNDAY
First Reading IS 50:4-7
Second Reading PHIL 2:6-11

PRAYING THE NEWS

March 13, 2016

“So what do you say?”
They said this to test him...
John 8:5-6

Dear Lord, the scribes and Pharisees tested you as a judge of the law. You considered much more than the letter of that law. Please watch over and guide the Supreme Court as it considers important decisions remaining in this term. And please guide the selection of a replacement for Justice Scalia. May those with this responsibility bear in mind your Word and the highest ideals upon which our beloved country is based.

Jesus, we trust in you.

Amen. †
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
- Louis Ambeaux
- Zade Ambeaux
- John Argue
- Linda Babín
- Deborah Beck
- Alan Black
- Deacon Al Bothe
- Bob Brenner
- Eduardo Caballero
- Jan Casey
- Jun Castro
- Joe Celestain
- Michelle Collins
- John Deathe
- Lupita de la Rosa
- Julie Donati
- Terri Donovan
- Joyce Dunham
- Judith Dupre
- Rene Elias
- Agnes Fagnant
- Amelia Flores
- Enrique Flores
- Maggie Flores
- Maxima Flores
- Sally Flowers
- Robb Flynn
- Lupe Fraga
- Jerry Gabino
- Alicia Garcia
- Patricia Garmon
- Delia Genova
- Beth Gloff
- Doris Wagoner
- Marie Walsh
- Kylie Ward
- Charles Kramer
- Kelley Lamendola
- Chris Larkins
- Lisa Laue
- Mary Lavine
- Mike Lojo
- Beverly Marcellus
- Carol McDonough
- Lavonne McFarland
- Elsa Mendiola
- Marina Monroy
- Jim Murray
-ProductId
- John White
- Monica Williams
- Jan Casey
- Jun Castro
- Funerals

PARISH CELEBRATIONS
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. S Debra Barnett, 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
- Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC
- LTJG Colin Day, US Navy
- 1Lt Andrew DeSipluter, US Army
- Sgt. Nicholas Dockum, US Army
- Capt. Brandon Driscoll, USMC
- Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
- 2ndLt Michael Eberhardt, US Army
- Capt. Stacey Eberhardt, US Army
- Derek Farias, US Navy
- Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
- Pvt John Xavier George, US Army
- SSgt. Philip Graham, US Army
- 1stLt Spencer Henry, US Army
- Daniel Hines, US Navy
- SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
- 2Lt Michelle Horstman, US Army
- SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
- Joseph Kingserski, US Navy
- EM4 James Locus, US Navy
- PFC Philip Loera, US Army
- PFC John Lundgren, US Army
- PFC William Marcellus, USMC
- Cpl Kevin McGinnis, USMC
- Capt. Brendan McPortland, USMC
- 1stLt Todd Miller, US Army
- Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army
- CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
- LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
- Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
- 2ndLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army
- Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
- SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
- ENS Kevin Stranksy, US Navy
- LCpl Daniel Thesing, USMC
- Capt. Michael Thesing, USMC
- Sgt. Bryce Whiteley, US Army

KINGDOM CARE
Sunday Masses: 9:00 & 11:00
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.

PASTORAL CARE TO SICK & HOUSING
If you or someone you know in our parish is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office at 281-980-9812. To volunteer, call Ambrose Graham at 713-865-3729.

MASS INTENTIONS
March 12 – 20

- Saturday, Mar 12
- 5:00 pm Patsy D’Souza (I)
- Sunday, Mar 13
- 7:30 am Dina DiMatteo (D)
- 9:00 am Frank Boneno (D)
- 11:00 am Robin Wolfley (D)
- 12:45 pm Souriamma Galia (D)
- 5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners
- Monday, Mar 14
- 7:30 am Jeremiah Pascual (D)
- 12:00 pm Anita D’Souza (I)
- Tuesday, Mar 15
- 7:30 am Kevin Hinguillo (D)
- 12:00 pm Oscar Alanaza (D)
- Wednesday, Mar 16
- 7:30 am Elizabeth Lopez (D)
- 6:30 pm Alfredo, Remedios & Josefa Aquino (D)
- Thursday, Mar 17
- 7:30 am Justina Crescini (D)
- 12:00 pm Ed Streich (D)
- Friday, Mar 18
- 8:15 am Norman Riebe (D)
- 12:00 pm Pierce Hairston (I)
- Saturday, Mar 19
- 8:30 am Rosario Olea (D)
- 5:00 pm Buddy Podraza (D)
- Sunday, Mar 20
- 7:30 am Todd Musselman (D)
- 9:00 am Ross Greco, Jr. (D)
- 11:00 am Catherine Carter Byrnes (D)
- 12:45 pm Innocent Opara (D)
- 5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

Pray for Our Parishioners in Religious Formation

Marc Fryer, Br. Peter Francis (Brian Kelsch), Chad Henry, Bryan Williams, Sr. Philomena (Kristy Cagandahan), Sr. Rachel (Gosda), Sr. Daniela (Megan Bennett)
Margaret Uche, Dennis Henderson

PRAY FOR INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON
Following are the prayer intentions of people visiting our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for...

- Patricia LaFleur
- Debbie Green & family
- James Wehagen & family
- Jesus Martinez & family
- Robert Lee Martinez
- Lecha Baron
- Sharon Pelton
- Lauren Popeney
- Lily Belle Pyle
- Sandra Ortiz
- Meena Outlaw
- pasta
- Robert Lee Martinez
- Lecha Baron
- Sharon Pelton
- Lauren Popeney
- Lily Belle Pyle

WEDDING PREPARATION
Next class: APRIL 4
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: MAR 12 and APR 2
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.
Grief Ministries of St. Laurence

HOPE (Helping Our Pain Ease) begins April 7
This structured series helps adults grieve successfully by accomplishing the four tasks of grieving also utilized by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved, Inc. Consider attending if you have lost a loved one, either recently or in the past. Led by a hospice-trained facilitator, the group meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. To register, call Annette Bisanz 281-980-1449 or Kathy Heinemann 281-468-0738.

‘Harvesting Our Tears’ with Grieving Families on March 17
Grieving Families support group is for those grieving the death of loved ones through murder, suicide, accident, or any sudden death. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday each month from 1:00-2:30pm, in the St. Francis Room. Join them this Thursday, March 17, for a new program called “Harvesting Our Tears”. Contact Agnes Fernandes at 281-933-3721 or agnesffernandes@gmail.com for additional information.

Grief Support Group Meetings each Tuesday PM and Wednesday AM
The Grief Support Ministry peer support group meets weekly, every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30pm and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30am in the St. Clare Room. We are a group of compassionate laypeople who also have experienced the death of someone we dearly loved. Join us to listen and share, because no one should grieve alone! For more information please contact Sandy Barber at 281-633-9090.

Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday
We are in the midst of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, called by Pope Francis to share the message of mercy with the world. Prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Laurence with the Novena, which begins Good Friday. From March 25 through April 2, join with others in the Chapel from 7:00-8:00pm, for nine days of prayer and speakers on the message of Divine Mercy. Then celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 3, at 2:30pm in the church. Go to www.stlaurence.org/divine-mercy for the complete schedule.

Art as Prayer with Caregivers Support Group
The Caregivers Support Group will offer “Art as Prayer” on Monday, March 21, at 11:45am in the St. Francis Room. Spiritual Director Jane Jewell will lead this session for people who care for loved ones of any age with special needs (e.g., autism spectrum, cerebral palsy, dementia, Down syndrome, etc.). Discover a new way to pray with visual journaling and spend a peaceful hour praying and playing with images. If you can cut, paste, and color, you can do this! Contact Lori Knowles (knowlesml5@gmail.com) or Lorrie Kehoe (jklksl@aol.com) for more information and to RSVP.

Consoling the Heart of Jesus
Consoling the Heart of Jesus provides a beautiful, yet practical path into the Heart of Jesus, especially suited for men and women who are living busy, demanding lives. Fr. Michael Gaitley, author of Consoling the Heart of Jesus, will guide us on a 10-week retreat, based on 10 teaching videos and discussion sessions. The material is an abbreviated Ignatian 30-day retreat modernized with the wisdom of St. Faustina. Purchase the book from Mary Regina in Sugar Land. Two sessions available: Thursday Mornings (April 14-June 16, 10:00-11:30am) and Monday Evenings (April 11-June 20, 6:30-8:00pm). Contact Paul Cranley (pecranley@hotmail.com, 979-236-5906) or Anne Marie Daniel (adaniel@stlaurence.org, 281-265-5774) for info and to sign up.

Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday
We are in the midst of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, called by Pope Francis to share the message of mercy with the world. Prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Laurence with the Novena, which begins Good Friday. From March 25 through April 2, join with others in the Chapel from 7:00-8:00pm, for nine days of prayer and speakers on the message of Divine Mercy. Then celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 3, at 2:30pm in the church. Go to www.stlaurence.org/divine-mercy for the complete schedule.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAY – In the Church
6:30pm: Liturgy of the Hours
7:00pm: Stations of the Cross
All ages welcome - booklets provided

EASTER FLOWERS
Remember a loved one this Easter by donating to the Easter Flower Fund. Names of the people in whose memory or honor your donations are made will appear on our parish website.
For Adults

Coming up in Adult Faith Formation
www.stlaurence.org/aff
facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith

MONDAY
Men’s Bible Study (Weekly)
7:30-9:00pm, St Francis Rm, Contact: Steve Ewbank 281-980-5575, stevee@pcdltd.com

Lay Apostle Prayer Group (First Monday, Mar 7)
10:30am-12:00pm, OR 7:00-8:30pm, Ave Maria Center Rm 205 Contact: Kay Quenan, 281-265-3238

TUESDAY
Men’s Bible Study (Weekly)
6:30-7:30am, St Francis Rm, Contact: Steve Ewbank 281-980-5575, stevee@pcdltd.com

Tuesday Bible Study (Weekly)
9:15-11:45am Marian Hall, Contact: Regina Johnson 281-403-1792

March 15: NO MEETING due to Spring Break

WEDNESDAY
Contemplative Prayer (Weekly)
9:30-11:30 am, Return to the Corpus Christi Room
Contact: Elaine Smith, 281-499-6660

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

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

Divine Mercy Study & Book Study (Weekly)
9:00am/12:00pm, St Clare Room
Contact: Sally Flowers at 281-799-0331

Spanish Bible Study (Weekly)
9:30-12:00pm, Marian Hall A, Contact: Veronica Reinoso, 281-980-1194, veronicareinoso62@gmail.com

Thursday Scripture Study (Weekly)
2 OPTIONS: 1:00-2:30pm, St Anne Rm OR 7:15-8:30pm, Ave Maria Center Rm 205. Contact: Julie Evett, jevett@comcast.net

SPEAKER SERIES
Father Tom Hawxhurst
Experiencing the Lord’s Mercy through Reconciliation
Monday, March 14
7:00-9:00 pm
Marian Hall

There is no better time to experience the forgiveness and healing of the Lord than the Year of Mercy! Welcome back Fr. Tom, our former parochial vicar, as he reveals to us the depths of the Lord’s mercy available to us each time we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For more info, call 281-265-5774 or go to www.stlaurence.org/speakerseries.

RCIA NEWS
Scrutinies – The Heart of Lent
TODAY at the 9:00 am Mass
Please pray for the children, youth, women and men in our RCIA process who have been called to the Easter sacraments. As part of the Elect’s final preparation they will continue to celebrate the Scrutinies today on the 5th Sunday of Lent. May they be strengthened, along with our candidates, by the Holy Spirit as they move forward in their relationship with Christ and his Church.

BEEN AWAY?
We welcome you back
“COME AND SEE” is a spiritual renewal program for those who feel alienated, estranged or distant from the Church, or for those who want a more genuine experience of Catholic community.

COME and See starts April 4
6 Mondays, 7:15-9:00pm
Ave Maria Center, St Anne Room
Contact Art & Marilyn Ramponi for more info:
832-945-2110, artnmarilyn2@att.net

Are you an adult who has been baptized Catholic, 18 years of age or older, graduated from high school and received First Eucharist, but has not yet been confirmed?
There is still time to register for our sessions!
March 15 – May 10, 7:00-9:00pm, Marian Hall B
Register at www.stlaurence/adultconfirmation or call Mary Visser for more information at 281-265-5774.
**Children’s Faith Formation**

NO PRESCHOOL CCE until April 3 due to Spring Break, Holy Week and Easter.

**ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK**

No Elementary CCE this week or next! Due to Spring Break and Holy Week. See you back at CCE on March 29/30.

Lenten Challenge
Travelling this Spring Break?
Attend Mass in your favorite vacation spot by checking times and locations near you at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).

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**Vacation Bible School**

June 6-10
Ave Maria Center

We have had an overwhelming response for VBS 2016! At this time, most grade levels are full with very limited availability remaining for incoming Kindergarten and 1st grade students. Youth volunteer positions are also very limited and any new applicants will only be taken on a wait-listed basis. Questions? Contact Monica Doucet at mdoucet@stlaurence.org or Joan Hastreiter at jhastreiter@stlaurence.org or stop by the Ave Maria Center to inquire and/or register.

[www.stlaurence.org/vacation-bible-school](http://www.stlaurence.org/vacation-bible-school)

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**WHAT’S NEW AT THE WCP**

MAR 14-18 Spring Break
MAR 24 HMNS – “Bugs on Wheels”
MAR 25-28 Easter Holiday
MAR 29-30 Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny Visit

**2016-17 REGISTRATION**

Contact Peggy Finch at 281-313-0329 or stop by the Ave Maria Center to learn more about this early childhood program. Limited openings in 2 year olds and pre-school!

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**St. Laurence Catholic School**

www.stlaurence.org/school

**Spring Break is HERE!**

SLCS will be on Spring Break from March 14-March 18. We wish all families in the parish restful days and safe journeys during this time. The school will be open again on March 21. Come see us!

**March 23 – Living Stations of the Cross**

The SLCS 7th graders will present the Living Stations of the Cross at 8:30am on Wednesday, March 23, in the Church. This moving display depicts the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The entire parish community is invited to be a part of this Holy Week tradition at St. Laurence and see the Passion depicted with such reverence and prayerfulness of our students. All are welcome!

“I WANT MY SLCS” – 24th Auction & Dinner

SLCS is excited to present their 24th annual dinner and auction on Saturday, April 23, at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square. The theme for this year’s fundraising event is “I Want My SLCS!” and will benefit St. Laurence Catholic School, which educates students from four years of age through 8th grade. Please contact the Advancement Office of the school at 281-980-0500 for more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

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Follow us and witness the amazing things happening in our school!

[Website](http://www.edline.net/pages/slics)
[Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/stlaurencecs)
[Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/StLaurence_1992)
[Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/stlaurencecs)
[Pinterest](http://www.pinterest.com/stlaurencecs)
[YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/user/SLCSSaints/videos)
[St. Laurence TV](http://www.youtube.com/user/SLCSAV/feed)

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**ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 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.
Live to Glorify God!
Meditation for the 5th Sunday of Lent
www.catholicstewardship.org

Strong words come from Saint Paul in today’s second reading. He reveals in no uncertain terms that life in Christ is our goal. Everything else, he maintains, is “rubbish.” Junk. Trash. Garbage. Is that true? Is everything else “rubbish” compared to deepening our relationship with the Lord? What about putting recreational activities ahead of attending Mass? Or preferring uninterrupted hours playing the latest video games or watching TV to spending time in a bible study group, choir practice or serving in a soup kitchen? Or keeping late hours at work over sharing the gospel with friends and neighbors? To what extent do we exercise stewardship over our relationship with Christ?

God’s patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life.

Pope Francis, April 2013

STEWARDS AMONG US
Duong Nguyen

Duong Nguyen was born in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, the 8th of 11 children. His family evacuated Vietnam during the fall of Saigon in 1975, and emigrated to the United States. Today, he and his wife Crystal and their two children, Chris (17) and Amanda (15), have happily made St. Laurence their home-away-from-home. Duong is very intentional about how he serves the Lord: “Serving others is a sacrifice we choose to make. Our ministries not only touch the less fortunate, but they also touch us and all those around us. When God calls you, respond by saying, Here I am.” Among his favorite ways to serve are the Knights of Columbus, Pastoral Council, Habitat for Humanity and the Society of St. John DeMatha Rosary House. He says, “Believe me... I’m way out of my comfort zone! But getting spiritually engaged and finally accepting God’s calling has allowed me to overcome my excuses and fears. Don’t be afraid of not knowing everything and MAKE yourself available to God’s calling.” Duong cautions, it’s not enough just to sign up: “When you do join... GET INVOLVED in the ministry.”

Catechism Corner

Answers to your questions from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Q. What are the characteristics of Christian prayer?

A. Christian prayer is prayer in the attitude of faith, hope, and charity. It is persevering and resigns itself to the will of God. Someone who prays as a Christian steps at that moment out of himself and enters into an attitude of trusting faith in the one God and Lord; at the same time he places all his hope in God that HE will hear, understand, accept, and perfect him. St. John Bosco once said, ”To know the will of God, three things are required: prayer, waiting, taking counsel.” Finally, Christian prayer is always an expression of love, which comes from Christ’s love and seeks the divine love.

Dig Deeper: Read CCC sections 2655-2658 for more on this subject. This answer is reprinted from YOUCAT question 493.

ASK PAULA

Q. How can I become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion?

A. We get calls for this ALL the time. Good news, we are having a training for NEW ministers ONLY on Wednesday, April 13, 7:15-9:00pm in the church. Here’s the important part, you MUST register online for this training. Just go to the Parish Life tab on the St. Laurence website and select Liturgical Ministry. So far so good right? Next, on the right hand side, select Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and complete the form. You don’t have to call the church office for this, just saying. Me, I couldn’t be a Eucharistic Minister. I would either trip, drop or spill and I would definitely be talking to people as they come up to receive, right?

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for over 19 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.
Father Tom Hawxhurst

“Experiencing the Lord’s Mercy Through Reconciliation”

Monday, March 14, 7-9 pm
Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall A & B

There is no better time to experience the forgiveness and healing of the Lord than the Year of Mercy! Welcome back Fr. Tom as he reveals to us the depths of the of the Lord’s mercy available to us each time we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Father Tom Hawxhurst was born in New Orleans and came to Houston for college. He studied at the University of St Thomas. After college, he had a lot of fun, taught at Incarnate Word Academy and rode an ambulance, among other things. Seeking to know God more deeply, he applied to the Archdiocese and was accepted into formation for the priesthood and studied at St Mary’s Seminary. Fr Tom was ordained a priest on 2012. He served at St Laurence as parochial vicar and is now assigned to St Patrick in Houston.
Family Fun on St. Patrick’s Day

Thursday, March 17
6:30-8:00 pm
Guardian Angels Hall at the Ave Maria Center

RSVP by March 15 at www.stlaurence.org/family-nights

Join other St. Laurence families for a fun evening celebrating the feast day of St. Patrick! Sandwiches and cookies will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

Please bring one empty shoebox for your family.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Calcote at mcalcote@stlaurence.org.
**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.

**The Works of Mercy on the Road of the Jubilee**

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**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2016**

“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13)

The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride. These domestic images — as in the case of Hosea (Hos 1-2) — show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people.

This love story culminates in the incarnation of God’s Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him “mercy incarnate” (Misericordiae Vultus, 8). As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel; he embodies that perfect hearing required of every Jew by the Shema, which today too is the heart of God’s covenant with Israel: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Dt 6:4-5). As the Son of God, he is the Bridegroom who does everything to win over the love of his bride, to whom he is bound by an unconditional love which becomes visible in the eternal wedding feast.

This is the very heart of the apostolic kerygma, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is “the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead” (Evangelii Gaudium, 36), that first proclamation which “we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment.” Mercy “expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe” (Misericordiae Vultus, 21), thus restoring his relationship with him. In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way he hopes to soften the hardened heart of his Bride.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favorable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God’s mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (Lk 1:48) and to call herself the Lord’s humble servant (Lk 1:38).

Excerpt from Pope Francis I Message for Lent 2016

www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent
Serve Others

WEEKLY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
MONDAYS:  Our Daily Bread  9:30am, SCM Workroom
WEDNESDAYS:  Coupons for a Cause  1:00pm, SCM Workroom

OTHER GREAT SERVICE 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 & 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 1,000 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

Respect Life News

24/7 Pregnancy Help Line
If anyone you know has a problem with an unplanned pregnancy, let them know that they can call the Option Line: 800-712-HELP (4357) to speak with someone who cares, 24/7. They will also be referred to their nearest pregnancy help center.

Risks of Artificial Contraception
The pill and other hormonal methods of artificial contraception may have serious health risks. Sometimes they allow conception to take place and then cause an early abortion of a newly conceived child. See www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org/contraception for info.

Baby Boy Clothes Needed Now
The Gabriel Project is in need of new or gently used baby boy clothes, size 0-6 months. Please consider helping a mother-to-be in need and drop your donations in the SCM bin in the narthex or the parish or Social Concerns office. Mark bags Gabriel Project.

For info, call 800-712-HELP (4357) or visit www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org/contraception

What We NEED

- 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 and jackets. There are 18 to 20 residents at the home.
- baby wipes, mini-toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, mini Gold Bond foot powder for the MILITARY & HOMELESS
- 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) Birthday in a Bag Ministry, new or very gently used small children’s books, and small fleece blankets (Nighttime Cuddle Kits) 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

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 the link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0157777 and support us every time you shop! Thanks for your help.

HELP THE FORT BEND HABITAT RESTORE
Donations of furniture, ceiling fans, light fixtures and appliances are welcomed and needed at the Fort Bend Restore located in Stafford. Every donation helps toward providing adequate housing for those in need. Call 281-403-0708 ext. 301 to schedule a pickup. For more information and donation guidelines, visit www.fortbendhabitat.org/restore/restore-donation-guidelines.
Weekly Lenten Challenge
The Social Concerns Ministry invites you to incorporate SOCIAL JUSTICE into your Lenten practices with small personal changes based on Catholic Social Teaching.

**Week 4: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**
A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. By providing means of nutrition to the hungry and vulnerable in our society, we are responding to this call.

**Personal Actions:**
1. **Buy locally grown produce** from area farmers year round on Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Farmer’s Market at Imperial, located at Hwy 90/Brooks Street (198 Kemper in Sugar Land).
2. Become a member of a community-based, self-help project and **work together with low-income people** to help break the cycle of poverty. Join us as we build our 11th Habitat for Humanity home every Saturday in Richmond. Details for signing up can be found on the Habitat for Humanity page on our website.
3. **Donate your time, talents, money or other resources to a local food pantry, soup kitchen or homeless shelter**. Mâmie George Community Center in Richmond has several volunteer opportunities to serve those in need. Go to www.catholiccharities.org/fortbendvolunteer or contact Dana Deats at ddeats@catholiccharities.org.
4. **Pick up a Homeless Hope bag** from the Social Concerns office to keep in your car and give to the homeless.
5. **Join your efforts with others around the nation by joining the Catholics Confront Global Poverty initiative** by CRS. Go to www.crs.org to find out about how this and other programs support the poor and hungry in the world.

**Giving Tree donations are still being accepted. Donations may be dropped off in the parish office or Social Concerns office this week. Thank you!**

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)**
Please join our Awareness Fundraiser – **First Annual Walk-Run to Overcome** at 8:00am on Saturday, April 9, at the Sugar Land Memorial Park. Go to www.namifortbendtx.org to register to walk, run or volunteer for this event that will educate the community and open doors to talk about brain disorders that affect 1 in 4 Americans. There are several volunteer spots open!

Join the **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group** on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Social Concerns Workroom. If you care for someone with mental illness, you can gain support and learn of resources that are available to help our loved ones and ourselves. The NAMI Spanish Support Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. A Chinese Support Group is also available. There are no charges for the services. Contact Ken or Pat Sumner at 281-265-1554 or pssumer1@comcast.net.

**Thank you from Catholic Charities!**
“...I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God”

**Around the Archdiocese**

**APRIL 21-24: WOMENS JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS**
The Journey to Damascus is an ecumenical 3-day weekend retreat held at Circle Lake Retreat Center in Pinehurst, TX. The weekend is meant to **equip, inspire and challenge** you on your faith journey. It is a Catholic-based retreat, open to all Christian faiths. A few openings are still available for the next Women’s Retreat, the **weekend of April 21-24**. The retreat starts at 5:30pm Thursday evening until 2:00pm on Sunday. The cost is $180, which includes room & board, wonderful meals and a life-changing retreat experience. If needed, you may ask about the possibility of a partial scholarship. For more information or to sign up, please contact Cokey Clark at 281-652-6973 or cokeyclark@gmail.com.

**APRIL 1-3: CONQUEST FATHER-SON CAMPOUT**
Dads, come and spend quality time with your son ages 5 and up at the Texas Conquest Father-Son Campout in Buda, Texas (between Austin and San Antonio) the weekend of April 1-3. There are lots of family team based activities, Guided Way of the Cross & meditations, sports & swimming and Mass & Confession. All meals are provided, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Get all the details including cost info at www.texasconquest.com or contact Mike Moldor at campouttx@texasconquest.com, 512-420-7545.

**GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**
We are called to extend the same love & compassion of Jesus to others, especially in our marriage. The next two Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are **April 15-17** and **April 29-May 1**. Register today! Contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-773-4014 for more information, or visit www.houstonme.org.

**HOST A CATHOLIC EXCHANGE STUDENT NEXT YEAR**
The ICES high school exchange program is looking for Catholic families to **host students, who are Catholic, arriving in August** to study in the local public high school. The mission of ICES is to promote world peace through international friendships. Guillermo, age 15, from Spain, is a happy, responsible and musically talented, who enjoys church activities. He is passionate about music and plays the electric guitar and enjoys studying science. Oto, age 17, from Slovakia, is a sports fan of soccer, skiing, swimming, cycling, floorball and ice hockey. Oto likes to help his mother in the garden and his teachers say he is kind and sensible. For more information about hosting, please contact Jennifer Wells at jwells@icesusa.org.

**Texas Conquest Father-Son Campout in Buda, Texas**
Between Austin and San Antonio, the Texas Conquest Father-Son Campout is for Dads and sons ages 5 and up. The weekend of April 1-3 offers family team based activities, Guided Way of the Cross & meditations, sports & swimming and Mass & Confession. All meals are provided, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Get all the details including cost info at [www.texasconquest.com](http://www.texasconquest.com) or contact Mike Moldor at campouttx@texasconquest.com, 512-420-7545.
### SACRAMENT PREPARATION

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<tr>
<th>Sacrament</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baptism</td>
<td>Rose Davis</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation (Teens)</td>
<td>Sara Sahlezghi</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation (Adults)</td>
<td>Mary Visser</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
<td>Melissa Calcote</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Marriage Preparation</td>
<td>Theresa Rawls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage Sponsor Couples</td>
<td>Sharon &amp; John Harry</td>
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### FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION

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<td>Tuesday AM Bible Study</td>
<td>Regina Johnson</td>
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<td>Small Christian Comm</td>
<td>Genoveva Duque</td>
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<td>Sunny Tom</td>
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<td>832-620-7417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Children's Program</td>
<td>Becky Wilkinson</td>
<td>281-313-0329</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.C.T.S. Retreat</td>
<td>Dcn. Don Burns</td>
<td>281-734-8715</td>
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<td>Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td>Justin Frato</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<td>Edge (Middle School)</td>
<td>Eric Painter</td>
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<td>Elementary CCE</td>
<td>Joan Hastreiter</td>
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<td>Family Faith</td>
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<td>Life Teen (High School)</td>
<td>Kris Frank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Family Planning</td>
<td>Jacob/Jillian Counts</td>
<td>281-300-3704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish School (SLCS)</td>
<td>Debra Haney</td>
<td>281-980-0500</td>
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<td>Parish School Board</td>
<td>Michael Hurtado</td>
<td>281-635-0926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish School PTO</td>
<td>Kristin Holy</td>
<td>281-491-8236</td>
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<td>RCIA</td>
<td>Justin Frato</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation Bible School</td>
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<td>Vocations Committee</td>
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### PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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<td>Cath Men Called to Be Saints</td>
<td>Jim Kij</td>
<td>281-253-4800</td>
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<td>Challenge Club for Girls</td>
<td>Monica Hager</td>
<td>281-240-7672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemplative Prayer</td>
<td>Elaine Smith</td>
<td>281-499-6660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divine Mercy (AM)</td>
<td>Sally Flowers</td>
<td>281-265-8360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divine Mercy (PM)</td>
<td>Patti Kallemyen</td>
<td>281-438-0696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearts of Jesus &amp; Mary</td>
<td>Margie Calo</td>
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<td>Lay Apostle Prayer</td>
<td>Kay Quenan</td>
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<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Carmelitta Kussad</td>
<td>713-922-2446</td>
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<td>Men's Bible Studies</td>
<td>Steve Ewbank</td>
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<td>St. Anthony of Padua</td>
<td>Joseph Ellankil</td>
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<td>St. Anthony of Padua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoration</td>
<td>Janice Swoboda</td>
<td>281-980-8481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Linen Care</td>
<td>Rose Davis</td>
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<td>Altar Servers</td>
<td>Joy Smith</td>
<td>281-265-0839</td>
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<td>Art &amp; Environment</td>
<td>Michele Holbrooke</td>
<td>281-265-8425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Susan Choate</td>
<td>281-682-3389</td>
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<td>Extraordinary Ministers</td>
<td>Tom Ruck</td>
<td>713-855-2399</td>
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<td>Liturgical Ministers</td>
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<td>Mass Hospitality</td>
<td>Hal Mechler</td>
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<td>Music Ministry</td>
<td>Mary Thompson</td>
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<td>Kevin Klotz</td>
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### SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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<tr>
<td>Bridges to Life</td>
<td>Dana Cutbirth</td>
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<td>Correctional Ministry</td>
<td>Dcn. Al Bothe</td>
<td>713-582-3870</td>
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<td>Dcn. Charles Plant</td>
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<td>Funeral Receptions</td>
<td>Sue Kulha</td>
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<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Steve Pondell</td>
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<td>Learn English Ministry</td>
<td>Wendy Moore</td>
<td>713-208-5169</td>
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<td>Learn Spanish Ministry</td>
<td>Adriana Gutierrez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals That Heal</td>
<td>Mary Anne Talab</td>
<td>281-438-2381</td>
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<td>Medical Missionaries</td>
<td>Cordell St. Cyr</td>
<td>832-449-3759</td>
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<td>Ministry of St. Joseph</td>
<td>Tim Beverick</td>
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<td>Respect Life</td>
<td>Marie McCoy</td>
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<td>Senior Rides &amp; More</td>
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<td>Social Concerns</td>
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<td>Society St. John DeMatha</td>
<td>Deacon Al Bothe</td>
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### MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT

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<tr>
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<td>Anne Marie Daniel</td>
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<td>Bereavement Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grief Support Group</td>
<td>Sandy Barber</td>
<td>281-633-9090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grieving Families</td>
<td>Agnes Fernandes</td>
<td>281-933-3721</td>
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<td>H.O.P.E.</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
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<td>Cancer Support</td>
<td>Angela Rankin</td>
<td>832-945-2245</td>
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<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>Lori Knowles</td>
<td>281-261-5738</td>
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<td>Divorce Care</td>
<td>Janie Picou</td>
<td>832-860-3398</td>
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<td>Pastoral Care for Sick</td>
<td>Ambrose Graham</td>
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<td>Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>Anne Marie Daniel</td>
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### COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE

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<tr>
<td>African Catholic Community</td>
<td>Esther Iredia</td>
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<td>Bazaar</td>
<td>Tom Barry</td>
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<td>Les Fuchs</td>
<td>832-360-3104</td>
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<td>Boy Scout Troop 828</td>
<td>Craig Popp</td>
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<td>Cub Scout Pack 1828</td>
<td>Danny Kliebert</td>
<td>225-614-3148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters</td>
<td>Pam White</td>
<td>281-265-3070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council of Catholic Women</td>
<td>Mary Ann Brenner</td>
<td>713-306-6410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Ministry</td>
<td>Melissa Calcote</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filippino Community</td>
<td>Fe Vicerra</td>
<td>713-248-1164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic Ministry</td>
<td>Francisco Rojas-Ayala</td>
<td>281-690-3374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
<td>Gary Arrington</td>
<td>713-882-9567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies Guild</td>
<td>Joan O’Daniel</td>
<td>281-788-5430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moms &amp; Tots</td>
<td>Chrissy Campbell</td>
<td>310-926-7085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Laurence Singles</td>
<td>Kathy Gawlik</td>
<td>281-980-2677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors (JOY Club)</td>
<td>Pennie DeGroot</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Group</td>
<td>Amy Le</td>
<td>281-330-0565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women of the Cloth</td>
<td>Margie Koenig</td>
<td>281-313-3625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult Group</td>
<td>Steve Washer</td>
<td>585-410-4467</td>
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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 subs. Call Janice Swoboda at 281-980-8481 or 832-816-4660.

There is no scheduled adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Spring Break from 2pm Friday, March 11 until 8am Monday, March 21.

ADORERS STILL NEEDED FOR THESE HOURS:
Monday 1am-2am; Tuesday 1pm-2pm;
Tuesday 11pm-12am; Friday 6pm-7pm

St. Laurence Correctional Ministry
The St. Laurence Correctional Ministry has more than 30 volunteers, most of whom are fellow parishioners, plus clergy from St. Laurence and other parishes. Together, we provide RCIA classes for offenders who want to learn about and come into our Catholic Faith. We also provide Mass and Confession twice monthly, and when a priest is not available, we provide a Communion Service. Through the Society of St. John DeMatha, we provide structured courses in social values, peer relationships, skills for successful living, and substance use. All these activities are viewed as positive markers by the Parole Review Board. If interested in learning more about this important ministry work, contact Joe Guarisco (713-504-7910) or Bob McNees (281-494-6075). Must be 18 years and older with no criminal charges pending. Go to www.tdcj.state.tx.us and click on “Volunteer with the TDCJ” to see all restrictions that may apply.

Mar 17: St. Patrick’s Day with Ladies Guild
Do you have the Luck of the Irish? (Well, if you belong to St. Laurence, you’ve already found your Pot of Gold!) Ladies, come see how lucky you are at the Ladies Guild St. Patrick’s Day Party this Thursday, March 17, at 6:30pm in the parish hall. We will play a fun game for “Pots of Gold” (prizes) and enjoy some Irish food and drinks. Bring a festive dish or dessert to share plus GREEN canned goods to donate to Social Concerns. For more info, contact President Joan O’Daniel at jzdaniel@yahoo.com.

March 22: Joy Club Holy Door Pilgrimage
The Joy Club invites other senior members of the parish (50+) to join them for Noon Mass at St. Laurence on Monday March 22. After Mass, they will head over to nearby St. Theresa to go through the Door of Mercy, designated by Cardinal DiNardo for this Year of Mercy. Then, they’ll get lunch at a place TBD. Bring a friend and make this special “pilgrimage” in this Year of Mercy. Contact Anne Higgins for info at nannyaigg@gmail.com and 832-755-5597.

The Big Comeback: St. Laurence Bazaar
October 15-16, 2016
Yes! We will have a Bazaar this fall! Who wants to help? It takes hundreds of volunteers to make our parish bazaar a success and we need you! Check www.stlaurence.org/parish-bazaar for the most up-to-date news and contact Bazaar Chairs Tom Barry (281-545-4112) or Les Fuchs (832-360-3104) for more information.

Ministry News
The ME25 Parish Survey results are in! Visit www.stlaurence.org/get-engaged to see the full report.

In the last month, I have received recognition or praise from someone in my parish.
This ME25 item isn’t so much about receiving praise as it is about knowing that our contributions are of value to our parish. So, when you know someone has done something kind or helpful or meaningful within our parish or beyond it, thank them!

Peregrinación Polonia y la Divina Misericordia
Los miembros del Ministerio Hispano viajaran a Polonia/Praga y quieren invitarte. Visitaran todos los sitios y santuarios asociados con la Divina Misericordia, St. Faustina y St. Juan Pablo II. 10 días, de Septiembre 18 al 28. $3200 incluye vuelos, hotel, comidas, transporte y más. Para información favor de comunicate con Mayela Chapman al chapmmr@entouch.net, 281-630-9460.

Serve as an Usher or Greeter!
Every Sunday we rely on our Mass Hospitality ministers to make people feel welcome at Mass. We can always use more help, especially at Easter. It’s a simple, but important, way to get involved. Give Hal Mechler a call at 281-543-9876 to get involved.

Make an ACTS Retreat!
June 9-12: St. Laurence Men’s ACTS Retreat
All men 21 and over, regardless of religious affiliation, are welcome to attend the next St. Laurence Men’s ACTS Retreat. The retreat begins Thursday, June 9, with check-in at St. Laurence at 5:00pm, and ends Sunday, June 12, after a luncheon following the 11:00am Mass at St. Laurence. This weekend retreat gives you the chance to spend time with God, focus on your faith and cultivate friendships. Go to www.stlaurence.org/mens-acts-retreat for all the info and to register. Space is limited and this retreat is filling up quickly. Got a question? Please contact Larry Stryk (832-520-4044), Greg Cordova (832-457-3011) or Mick Coady (314-565-1949).

July 21-24: St. Laurence Women’s ACTS Retreat
Save the date and register in May! An ACTS retreat is a gender-specific, 4-day retreat beginning on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon, designed to strengthen your Catholic faith and community by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The retreat is staffed and run by laypeople. Women, prayerfully consider deepening your faith by attending this retreat. Contact Beth Kugler (sheba_rufus@yahoo.com), Jane Haulser (savannahrose22@msn.com), or Susan Herrington (sherrington14@gmail.com).
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, passing through a Holy Door is part of the pilgrimage that all Catholics are encouraged to make, whether during a trip to Rome or a trip to the cathedrals or specially designated churches in their own dioceses. These pilgrimages come with special graces, and they allow each of us to share in the many blessings of the Holy Year.

Eight Catholic churches in the Archdiocese will serve as pilgrimage sites during the Holy Year of Mercy:

**ST. MARY CATHEDRAL BASILICA**
2011 Church St., Galveston, 77550 (409)762-9646

**CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART**
1111 St. Joseph Pkwy., Houston, 77002 (713)659-1561

**ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH**
15500 El Camino Real, Houston, 77062 (281)486-0337

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH**
2405 Navigation Blvd., Houston 77003 (713)222-0203

**OUR LADY OF LAVANG CATHOLIC CHURCH**
12320 Old Foltin Rd., Houston, 77086 (281)999-1672

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**
5100 Dabney St., Houston, 77026 (713)672-7773

**ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
7810 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, 77379 (281)370-3401

**ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH - SUGAR LAND**
705 St. Theresa Blvd., Sugar Land, 77498 (281)494-1156

For visiting information, please contact these parishes directly.

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Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. 

*Amen.*