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 jaisonthomas@stlaurence.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Simon Kipiti skipiti@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Renato (Rey) Arellano deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Albert Bothe deaconal@ssjd.org
Deacon: Don Burns don@donburns.com
Deacon: Charles Plant stlaurence-deacon@aol.com
Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari toltremari@stlaurence.org
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HOLY WEEK
AT ST. LAURENCE

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.
Victimae Paschali Laudes: Easter Sequence

HOLY THURSDAY – MARCH 24
Liturgy of the Hours
7:30am (in the chapel)

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

GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 25
Liturgy of the Hours
8:15am (in the chapel)

Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Devotion
12:00pm

Solemn Good Friday Liturgies
3:00pm and 7:00pm (wear RED)

EASTER VIGIL – MARCH 26
Liturgy of the Hours
8:30am (in the chapel)

Easter Vigil Mass
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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, March 20 – PALM SUNDAY
(#1038 IN YOUR GATHER BOOK)
First Reading IS 50:4-7
Second Reading PHIL 2:6-11

Monday
First Reading IS 42:1-7
Gospel JN 12:1-11

Tuesday
First Reading IS 49:1-6
Gospel JN 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday
First Reading IS 50:4-9A
Gospel MT 26:14-25

Holy Thursday – Mass of Lord’s Supper
First Reading EX 12:1-8, 11-14
Second Reading 1 COR 11:23-26
Gospel JN 13:1-15

Good Friday
First Reading IS 52:13—53:12
Second Reading HEB 4:14-16,5:7-9
Gospel JN 18:1—19:42

Easter Vigil
First Reading GN 1:1—2:2
Second Reading GN 22:1-18
Third Reading EX 14:15—15:1
Fourth Reading IS 54:5-14
Fifth Reading IS 55:1-11
Epistle ROM 6:3-11
Gospel LK 24:1-12

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27
First Reading ACTS 10:34, 37-43
Second Reading COL 3:1-4
Gospel JN 20:1-9

PRAYING THE NEWS
March 20, 2016
…they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed.
Luke 23:23

O God, voices in the news are very powerful. They can spread misinformation as truth, condemn people without proof, and sway public opinion toward unjust attitudes and action. Help us Lord, to listen to those voices with spiritual discernment – to sift true from false, just from unjust, hard-hearted from merciful. And then Lord, grant us the courage and strength to raise our voices as your ambassadors – in support of compassion, generosity and peace. 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:


**PARISH CELEBRATIONS**

**Baptism**
Oliver Tang

**First Eucharist & Confirmation**
Powl Brown, Joel Castillo II, Akeshia Gutierrez, David Ingro, Denaire Mouton, Alex Sowell, Jose Acosta, Andrew Haley, Lauren Mathiasen, Scott Meador, Carlos Rodriguez, Mia Valdepenas, Valentina Rahim

**Funerals**
Michael White, father of Anne Marie Cervenka
Ramon Simeon, husband of Elizabeth Simeon
Henry Kwiatkowski, father of Michael Kwiatkowski

**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 Army
P.O. S Debra Barrette, US Navy
LCpl Trevor Bello, USMC
PFC John Blair, US Army
Maj. Michael Carroll, USMC
Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, USMC
Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy
Maj. Christopher Coffman, US Air Force
Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC
LTJG Colin Day, US Navy
1stLt Andrew DeSplinter, 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 Jahnell Xavier Garcia, US Army
Sgt. Phillip Graham, US Army
1stLt Spencer Henry, US Army
Daniel Hines, US Navy
SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
2LT Michelle Horstman, US Army
SFC 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 McPartland, USMC
1stLt Todd Miller, US Army
Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
Sgt. Santiago Ramirez
2ndLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
ENS Kevin Stranksy, USN
LCpl Daniel Thesing, USMC
Capt. Michael Thesing, USMC
Sgt. Bryce Whiteley, US Army

**MASS INTENTIONS**

*March 19 – 27*

**Saturday, Mar 19**
5:00 pm Buddy Podraza (D)

**Sunday, Mar 20**
7:00 am Todd Musselman (D)
9:00 am Ross Greco, Jr. (D)
11:00 am Catherine Carter Byrne (D)
1:00 pm Innocent Opara (D)
5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

**Monday, Mar 21**
7:30 am Patrick Whitehead (I)
12:00 pm Kevin Hinguillo (D)

**Tuesday, Mar 22**
7:30 am Adesua Weginya & Family (I)
12:00 pm Tony Pavlick (D)

**Wednesday, Mar 23**
7:30 am Felix Charles Korenek (I)
6:30 pm Michael Oliver (D)

**Holy Thursday, Mar 24**
7:00 pm Dae Louise Seitz (D)

**Good Friday, Mar 25**
(No Masses)

**Holy Saturday, Mar 26**
8:30 pm Mr. & Mrs. Crispin Sangalang (D)

**Easter Sunday, Mar 27**
7:00 am Shirley Nora (D)
9:00 am Mike Wemer (D)
9:15 am Fr. Drew Wood (I)
11:00 am Rosa Nirappil (D)
11:15 am Alex Herrera (D)
1:00 pm Jude Nwaokobia (I)
5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

**Parish for Our Parishioners in Religious Formation**

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

**Pray for those in Prison**

Followed are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for...

Patricia LaFleur, Debbie Green & family, James Wehagen & family, Jesus Martinez & family, Robert Lee Martinez, Leucha Baron, Eva Molina, Teresa Ruiz, Miklo Kraezer Cerrone, Jacinto, Rita & Louie Gonzalez, Raul Gonzalez, Melinda Kraezer, Blanca family, Irma Lucio, Tatiana Soby, Carlos Espendez, Edward Lopez, Eva Metcalf, Kristal G, Deacon Al Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3.

**KINGDOM CARE**

**Sunday Morning 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 & HOMEBOUND**
If you or someone you know in our parish is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office at 281-980-9812. To volunteer, call Ambroise Graham at 713-865-3729.

**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 Teresa Rawls at 281-980-5669.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Next class: APRIL 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.
**MAR 24:** Bilingual Vigil on Holy Thursday
Accompany Jesus and our Blessed Mother during their time of sorrow and suffering in a bilingual (English/Spanish) Vigil in the Chapel of Divine Mercy, beginning at midnight after the Holy Thursday Mass on March 24, through 6:00am on the morning of Good Friday. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Nellyna Christiansen at 281-536-6537 or Anne Marie Daniel at 281-265-5774.

**MAR 25:** Begin the Divine Mercy Novena
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.

**MAR 21:** Caregivers Support Group Art as Prayer
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.

**APR 17:** Annual KC Scholarship Contest
The Reverend John T. Weyer Knights of Columbus Council 11343 is offering FOUR scholarships to the students of our parish. You do not have to be enrolled in Catholic school at this time to qualify, just a member of the parish. TWO $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 8th grade students of St. Laurence parish who will attend ANY Catholic high schools in the area for the first time in the fall of 2016. Also, TWO $2,000 scholarships will go to graduating high school seniors who are members of St. Laurence parish entering college for the first time in the summer or fall of 2016. Get all the details and application at www.kofc11343.org. The deadline is Sunday, April 17; winners announced in late May. Please contact Nathan Raun (nathan.raun@gmail.com) with questions.

**APR 14:** Discern for SLCS School Board
Interested in being a member of the St. Laurence School Board? Plan to attend an information night on Thursday, April 14, 7:00pm, in the School Dining Hall. A day of Discernment will be held Saturday, April 16, beginning with Mass in the church at 8:30am. Open to parishioners whether or not they have children attending the school, the following persons may not be considered as candidates for School Board: 1) spouses or siblings of current School Board members; 2) employees of the School or parish or their spouses, children, or siblings; 3) PTO officers or spouses; and 4) board members or professional educators of another school or school system. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Hurtado at Michael_Hurtado@bmc.com.

**GOOD FRIDAY**
**Fasting & Abstinence**
On Good Friday, fasting & abstinence are observed. Abstinence from meat is required of anyone over the age of 14. Fasting is observed by those between the ages of 18-60, and allows for one full meal. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk & fruit juices are allowed.

**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, April 4)
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 22:  NO MEETING due to Holy Week

WEDNESDAY
Contemplative Prayer  (Weekly)
9:30-11:00 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, jimkij@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 presents:
Christopher West

GOD, SEX and the MEANING OF LIFE

Monday, April 11
7:00-9:00 pm
Marian Hall

What if our desires are more important than our thoughts? Join best-selling author Christopher West as he explores the ancient but forgotten truth that our deepest desires of body and soul are meant to lead us to the infinite, to God. Desire: discover why as human’s we feel this universal “ache” for something more. Design: learn what the very design of our bodies as male and female tells us about God. Destiny: find out how we are created for bliss and why our hearts know this somehow. Cost: $15 online thru April 8, or $20 at the door. Register and info: www.stlaurence.org/christopherwest

Christopher West is a Catholic author and speaker, best known for his work on Pope John Paul II’s series of audience addresses entitled Theology of the Body. West has been delivering lectures since 1997, mostly on topics such as Christian anthropology, the Creed, morality, sacraments, marriage, sexuality, and family life. He is one of the main educators in the Theology of the Body Institute.

WELCOME

the following people who are receiving their First Eucharist and Confirmation today at the 1:00 Mass:
Powel Brown, Joel Castillo II, Akesha Gutierrez, David Ingro,
Denaire Mouton, Alex Sowell, Jose Acosta, Andrew Haley,
Lauren Mathiasen, Scott Meador, Carlos Rodriguez,
Mia Valdepenas, Valentina Rahim
Join us at a reception in the Parish Hall after the 1:00 Mass!

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, artmarilyn2@att.net
Children’s Faith Formation

NO PRESCHOOL CCE until April 3
due to Holy Week & Easter.

ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK

No Elementary CCE this week!
Have a Blessed Holy Week and Easter Sunday!
See you back at CCE on March 29/30.

Lenten Challenge
Attend one of the Triduum services, on Holy Thursday or Good Friday, as a family. Check the website or this bulletin for times and details. This is a beautiful way to bring the reality of Holy Week alive for your children through these vivid liturgies and tie them back to what they are learning in CCE.

Vacation Bible School
June 6-10
Ave Maria Center

We have had an overwhelming response for VBS 2016!
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.

Vacation Bible School
www.stlaurence.org/vacation-bible-school

St. Laurence Catholic School
www.stlaurence.org/school

For Children

Praying for you this Holy Week
Your parish school will be praying for our parish and all parishioners this week as we celebrate the holiest week of the year and walk along with our Lord and Savior as He journeys to Calvary.

Dear Lord Jesus,
You laid down Your life willingly and gave up everything for us. Your body was broken and fastened to a cross, and Your clothing became the prize of soldiers. Stretched out on the cross, deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid, You had accomplished the work given to You, and You committed into His hands, as a perfect gift, the little life that remained in You. Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example You have given. Take hold of me with Your love, that same foolish love that knew no limits, and let me offer myself to the Father with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life. Amen.

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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**Live to Glorify God!**

Meditation for Palm Sunday

www.catholicstewardship.org

In the prelude to today’s great Passion Narrative, Saint Paul reminds us that we find our hope in the “emptiness” and “humility” of Christ Jesus; a life that led to the cross, but through the cross, to glory and exaltation. The way is not easy. Good stewards know that it requires a willingness to lay aside all rights of personal privilege; emptying ourselves in the service of others; embracing values different from the values of the world. It requires an understanding that to be “in Christ” means to be a servant because Christ came into the world, not as Lord but as servant. What crosses are we willing to carry? What worldly values are we willing to forego in order to share Christ’s glory?

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**STEWARDS AMONG US**

*Kirk & Jane Hill*

Kirk and Jane first got involved in ministry as a way to get to know people when they moved to the area as members of another parish. Going on an ACTS Retreat shaped their whole view of living as a disciple. Kirk says, “I first went on an ACTS Retreat because it was something that sounded very exciting and I have not been the same since. ACTS is a movement that is experiential and unique to every person who participates. It helped me to connect to my faith in a more intimate way.” Today as parishioners of St. Laurence, Kirk and Jane are part of the team that is bringing ACTS to our parish. “Being part of the first ACTS Retreat at St. Laurence was an amazing and humbling experience. Amazing that I was asked to be the co-director of the retreat, and humbling that God would use me to bring men into a more intimate relationship with God.” Work on this year’s Men’s retreat and the first-ever Women’s retreat is now underway. “I hope that the ACTS movement continues to provide a conduit to all of the ministries and concerns that our parish supports. Just as I became involved in my old parish through ACTS, I hope that others choose to do that as well.”

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**Catechism Corner**

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

**Q.** What does God’s grace do to us?

**A.** God’s grace brings us into the inner life of the Holy Trinity, into the exchange of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It makes us capable of living in God’s love and of acting on the basis of this love. Grace is infused in us from above and cannot be explained in terms of natural causes (supernatural grace). It makes us, especially through Baptism, children of God and heirs of heaven (sanctifying or deifying grace). It bestows on us a permanent disposition to do good (habitual grace). Grace helps us to know, to will, and to do everything that leads us to what is good, to God, and to heaven (actual grace). Grace comes about in a special way in the sacraments, which according to the will of our Savior are the preeminent places for our encounter with God (sacramental grace). Grace is manifested also in special gifts of grace that are granted to individual Christians (charisms) or in special powers that are promised to those in the state of marriage, the ordained state, or the religious state (graces of state).

**Dig Deeper:** Read CCC sections 1999-2004 for more on this subject. This answer is reprinted from YOUCAT question 338.

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**ASK PAULA**

**Q.** Can you dispose of my old palms?

**A.** Ah... NO! Every year around Palm Sunday, people try to drop off last year’s palms. Please don’t bring them to the church office. You can dispose of them yourself – you can burn them and spread the ashes in your garden or place them in a running stream of water – you know, so they go back into the earth. Now, I know I always ask, but can someone please make me a cross out of palms? I would really like three: one for me and Mark and Corey, just saying. Maybe come drop them off at the church office? Thanks. So, palms are given out at the Saturday Vigil Mass and on Sunday. You would be surprised how many people call the office on Monday and say they didn’t make it to Mass... and do you have any leftover palms? Really? It’s not Palm Monday!

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.
DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION  
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Jesus told St. Faustina: I desire the Feast of Mercy be a shelter for all souls, especially poor sinners. On that day I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

**Good Friday, March 25, 2016 - 11:30AM In the Church**

- Divine Mercy Devotion and Stations of the Cross

**Novena in the Chapel**

- Saturday, March 26  
  *Do Privately*

- EASTER SUNDAY, March 27  
  7:00PM - Divine Mercy Reflection

- Monday, March 28  
  7:00PM - Fr. Roy Oggero

- Tuesday, March 29  
  8:30PM - Fr. Chacko Puthumayil

- Wednesday, March 30  
  7:00PM - Deacon Charles Plant

- Thursday, March 31  
  7:00PM - Fr. Simon Kipiti

- Friday, April 1  
  7:00PM - Divine Mercy Reflection

- Saturday, April 2  
  7:00PM - Deacon Rey Arellano

**SOLEMN DIVINE MERCY FEAST DAY DEVOTION**

**APRIL 3, 2016**

**FR. DREW WOOD & DEACON CHARLES PLANT**

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

Novena / Chaplet / Music / Reflection
GOD, SEX AND THE MEANING OF LIFE

Join best-selling author Christopher West as he explores the ancient but forgotten truth that our deepest desires of body and soul are meant to lead us to the infinite, to God.

DESIRE
Discover why as human beings we feel this universal “ache” for something more.

DESIGN
Learn what the very design of our bodies as male and female tells us about God.

DESTINY
Find out how we are created for bliss and why our hearts know this somehow.

MONDAY APRIL 11, 2016
7-9 P.M.
TICKETS: $15 THROUGH APRIL 8
$20 AT DOOR

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH - AVE MARIA CENTER
MARIAN HALL  3103 SWEETWATER BLVD., SUGAR LAND, TX
MORE INFORMATION/REGISTRATION: WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/CHRISTOPHERWEST
**What is EDGE?** It's way more than effective catechesis. It's Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry that helps young people with life's most challenging years.

**Edge Nights** take place Wednesday evenings from September - April in the school gym. All 6th - 8th graders are invited and encouraged to attend. Questions? Interested in helping out? Contact Eric Painter at epainter@stlaurence.org.

**JULY 18-23: Camp Hidden Lake**
Edge will be joining hundreds of other middle school youth from around the country for an unforgettable week-long Catholic camp experience, July 18-23. Spots are limited. Please head to www.stlaurence.org/camphiddenlake for more info.

**Open Youth Room & Bible Study**
Our brand new Youth Room is open every Thursday 4-6pm for all middle school youth! We eat, play games, and end with a Bible Study. Open to all, feel free to bring a friend!

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

**THIS SEMESTER IN LIFE TEEN**
January – March
FUTURE // PAST
a series on church history

Sometimes we have to look to the past to enlighten our future. This series takes a look at Church History thru the eyes of the saints.

**REGISTER NOW**

**Steubenville**
Over 200 teens from our parish will go to this annual conference in Alexandria, Louisiana, June 24-26. Go to www.stlaurence.org/steubenville-south for all the details and to register. Open to all rising 9-12th graders.

**Covecrest**
Join us July 25-30 in Tiger, Georgia, for one of the best weeks of your life. Contact Kris or Sara for more info.

**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**

**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 9:30 am, SCM Workroom

WEDNESDAYS: Coupons for a Cause 1:00 pm, 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

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

VOLUNTEERS BRING EASTER JOY TO SENIORS
Parishioners had a great time making Easter cards, stuffing eggs and filling treat bags to spread Easter joy to senior residents at Sugar Land Health Center. Thanks to everyone who helped, and special thanks to the Frato family for delivering the bags to the residents!

Respect Life News

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.

Good Friday Service for Preborn Children
Join with others in remembrance of preborn children on Good Friday, March 25, at 8:00 am, at the Co-Cathedral. There will be a Good Friday service followed by a rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet on the steps of the old cathedral.

Christian Voices for Life
Did you know? …that birth control pills can actually cause early abortions? …that “pregnancy” has been re-defined to begin at implantation (when the young embryo imbeds itself in the mother’s womb to begin receiving nutrition from her) rather than fertilization (when egg and sperm unite) in order to be able to claim that certain products (IUDs and the Morning After Pill) only “prevent” pregnancy? Read about the abortifacient effect of birth control and other life topics at www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org.

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 6: Call to Family, Community and Participation
The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Personal Actions:
1. Pray regularly as a family, or in a faith sharing community, with prayer for your community, state, nation and world. Join a Small Christian Community here at St. Laurence!
2. Keep in regular contact with an aging relative; take them to appointments, shopping and on outings.
3. Be a volunteer in your community, a community organization, be a member of a decision-making group such as school board or a nonprofit board.
4. Become a Sponsor Couple at St. Laurence. Make a difference in other couples’ lives by sharing your marriage with an engaged couple in the privacy of your home in a series of 5-6 meetings. Contact Sharon Harry at sharonharry@comcast.net.
5. Sign up for the SCM newsletter and keep updated on opportunities to help those less fortunate in our community. To sign up to receive this, email pdegroot@stlaurence.org.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
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.namiftx.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 psumner1@comcast.net.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Volunteers are needed to call weekend BINGO at Sugar Land Health Care Center in old Sugar Land. This is a GREAT family or small group service opportunity. For more info or to volunteer, please contact Janet Roberts at jrob3207@comcast.net.

Around the Archdiocese

APR 2: IN-SIGHT RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN
High school girls are invited to an InSight Retreat on Saturday, April 2, from 8:30am-5:00pm at the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate (5250 Gasmer, Houston). This retreat gives girls the opportunity to visit a convent, interact with Sisters from several congregations, pray together, build friendships, learn about religious life and ask questions. Registration and permission slips are available at www.houstonvocations.com/insight.

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 Molidor at campouttx@texasconquest.com, 512-420-7545.

APR 9: PORTUGUESE SEMINAR ON HOLY SPIRIT
The Portuguese speaking Catholic community of Houston will gather at St. Laurence for a one-day retreat on Saturday, April 9, from 7:30am-7:30pm, at the Ave Maria Center. Invite your Portuguese-speaking friends to register at www.orahouston.com under the tab Seminário de Vida no Espírito Santo. For more information about this group or the April 9 seminar, please call Carminha (281-779-9562) or Jose Octavio (281-777-9305).

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.
Find more information about all our parish groups and ministries at www.stlaurence.org.

### SACRAMENT PREPARATION

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<tr>
<th>Sacrament</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptism</td>
<td>Rose Davis</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation (Teens)</td>
<td>Sara Sahleizghi</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
</tr>
<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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<td>First Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage Preparation</td>
<td>Theresa Rawls</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage Sponsor Couples</td>
<td>Sharon &amp; John Harry</td>
<td>281-980-8090</td>
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### FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION

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<tr>
<td>A.C.T.S. Retreat</td>
<td>Dcn. Don Burns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td>Justin Frato</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>Joan Hastreiter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Teen (High School)</td>
<td>Kris Frank</td>
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<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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<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>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<td>Vacation Bible School</td>
<td>Monica Doucet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocations Committee</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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### PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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<tr>
<td>Cath Men Called to Be Saints</td>
<td>Jim Kij</td>
<td>281-253-4800</td>
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<tr>
<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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<td>Divine Mercy (AM)</td>
<td>Sally Flowers</td>
<td>281-265-8360</td>
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<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>
<td>281-980-4711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Apostle Prayer</td>
<td>Kay Quenan</td>
<td>281-265-3238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Carmelita Kussad</td>
<td>713-922-2446</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Bible Studies</td>
<td>Steve Ewbank</td>
<td>281-980-5575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua</td>
<td>Joseph Ellankil</td>
<td>832-282-3032</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua</td>
<td>Sunny Tom</td>
<td>832-620-7417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Christian Comm</td>
<td>Genoveva Duque</td>
<td>281-980-1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday AM Bible Study</td>
<td>Regina Johnson</td>
<td>281-403-1792</td>
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### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoration</td>
<td>Janice Swoboda</td>
<td>281-980-8481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Linen Care</td>
<td>Rose Davis</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Servers</td>
<td>Joy Smith</td>
<td>281-265-0839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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 Choaete</td>
<td>281-682-3389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Ministers</td>
<td>Tom Ruck</td>
<td>713-855-2399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Ministers</td>
<td>Theresa Rawls</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass Hospitality</td>
<td>Hal Mechler</td>
<td>281-543-9876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Ministry</td>
<td>Mary Thompson</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kevin Kiotz</td>
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### SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bridges to Life</td>
<td>Dana Cutbirth</td>
<td>281-343-1417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Ministry</td>
<td>Dcn. Al Bothe</td>
<td>713-582-3870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dcn. Charles Plant</td>
<td>281-300-3059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funeral Receptions</td>
<td>Sue Kulha</td>
<td>281-265-8332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Steve Pondell</td>
<td>281-253-7088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn English Ministry</td>
<td>Wendy Moore</td>
<td>713-208-5169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn Spanish Ministry</td>
<td>Adriana Gutierrez</td>
<td>713-269-2851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals That Heal</td>
<td>MaryAnne Talab</td>
<td>281-438-2381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Missionaries</td>
<td>Cordell St. Cvr</td>
<td>832-449-3759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of St. Joseph</td>
<td>Tim Beverick</td>
<td>281-265-1533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respect Life</td>
<td>Marie McCoy</td>
<td>281-265-7749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Rises &amp; More</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
<td>281-980-1449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Concerns</td>
<td>Pennie DeGroot</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society St. John DeMatha</td>
<td>Deacon Al Bothe</td>
<td>713-582-3870</td>
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### MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annulements</td>
<td>Anne Marie Daniel</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>H.O.P.E.</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
<td>281-980-1449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Support</td>
<td>Angela Rankin</td>
<td>832-945-2245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>Lori Knowles</td>
<td>281-261-5738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DivorcesCare</td>
<td>Lorrie Kehoe</td>
<td>281-980-2431</td>
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<tr>
<td>DivorceCare</td>
<td>Janie Picou</td>
<td>832-860-3398</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td>Pat Sumner</td>
<td>281-265-1554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care for Sick</td>
<td>Ambrose Graham</td>
<td>713-865-3729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>Anne Marie Daniel</td>
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### EVANGELIZATION, STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP

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<tr>
<td>Come &amp; See</td>
<td>Art &amp; Marilyn Ramponi</td>
<td>832-945-2110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipleship Council</td>
<td>Marc Sherman</td>
<td>713-962-0617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelization Committee</td>
<td>Marie McCoy</td>
<td>281-265-7749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Council</td>
<td>Bob Ladd</td>
<td>281-980-3246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Peace University</td>
<td>Jason Davalos</td>
<td>832-876-9824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Council</td>
<td>Tom Ruck</td>
<td>713-855-2399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Ministry</td>
<td>Eva Fernandez</td>
<td>832-633-5640</td>
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### COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Catholic Community</td>
<td>Esther Iredia</td>
<td>832-661-2945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazaar</td>
<td>Tom Barry</td>
<td>281-545-4112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Fuchs</td>
<td>832-360-3104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 828</td>
<td>Craig Popp</td>
<td>281-731-6140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cub Scout Pack 1828</td>
<td>Danny Klieber</td>
<td>225-614-3148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters</td>
<td>Pam White</td>
<td>281-265-3070</td>
</tr>
<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>Filipino Community</td>
<td>Fe Vicerca</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>
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<tr>
<td>St. Laurence Singles</td>
<td>Kathy Gawlik</td>
<td>281-980-2677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors (JOY Club)</td>
<td>Pennie DeGroot</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Group</td>
<td>Amy Le</td>
<td>281-330-0565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women of the Cloth</td>
<td>Margie Koenig</td>
<td>281-313-3625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Group</td>
<td>Steve Washer</td>
<td>585-410-4467</td>
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</table>
**Ministry News**

**APR 6:** Next Divorce-Care Meeting on Forgiveness
DivorceCare meets each Wednesday in the St. Francis Room from 7:00-9:00pm. The group will NOT during Holy week, but next week we will focus on forgiveness. (The MOST important topic we cover!) Learn to free yourself from the effects of carrying the burden of unforgiveness. Contact Janie: 832-860-3398; jpd divorcercare@aol.com.

**APRIL 7:** Cancer Support Group Meeting
The Cancer Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 7, at 10:00am in the St. Clare Room to hear cancer survivor Theresa Buede on nutrition and living cancer-free. If you’re a survivor or a caregiver, this group is for you! Call Angela Rankin at 832-945-2245. If you have cancer, don’t deal with it by yourself. Share your journey with others and find out you’re not alone.

**HOPE (Helping Our Pain Ease) begins April 7**
This structured series helps adults grieve successfully through the four tasks of grieving (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 (281-980-1449) or Kathy (281-468-0738).

**APRIL 13:** Extraordinary Minister Training
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are members of the parish who are commissioned to help with the distribution of communion at Mass. Others bring communion to the sick and homebound. NEW minister training will be held Wednesday, April 13, at 7:15pm in the church. To register and to learn more, contact Theresa Rawls at 281-980-9812, trawls@stlaurence.org.

**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 (sannahrose22@msn.com), or Susan Herrington (sherrington14@gmail.com).

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**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 available, we provide a Communion Service.

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**Consoling the Heart of Jesus’ in April**
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, guides a 10-week Ignatian retreat combined with the wisdom of St. Faustina. 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 (adanield@stlaurence.org, 281-265-5774) for info and to sign up.

**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.

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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 until 8am on Monday, March 21.

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

**MAR 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 Tuesday 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 nannyhiggs@gmail.com and 832-755-5597.

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**Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord**

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**Consoling the Heart of Jesus’ in April**
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, guides a 10-week Ignatian retreat combined with the wisdom of St. Faustina. 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 (adanield@stlaurence.org, 281-265-5774) for info and to sign up.
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.