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
May 6 – In the Chapel
7:00 pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30 pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
May 7 – 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. Confesiones en Español antes de la misa de 6:00 a 6:45 pm.
Comunión a los enfermos, Irma Martinez Tel 281-313-2833

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

AVE MARIA PARISH LIFE CENTER
The Ave Maria Parish Life Center is located across the street from the church and is the site for all religious education classes, programs and offices. Inquiries and drop-ins are welcome during office hours: Monday thru Thursday 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.
SUNDAY OF
DIVINE MERCY

TODAY, Sunday, April 3, at 2:30pm

Divine Mercy Feast Day Celebration
Presided by Fr. Drew in the Church

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as the Sunday of Divine Mercy, named by Blessed John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. 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.  (Diary entry #699)

Here at St. Laurence, we are blessed to have a chapel designated for perpetual Eucharistic Adoration named the Chapel of Divine Mercy. All week since Good Friday, the faithful have gathered there each evening to pray the Divine Mercy Novena. Today, at 2:30pm, everyone is invited to the church for a special celebration of this Feast Day of mercy.

JESUS SAID: “Be always merciful as I am merciful. Love everyone out of love for Me, even your greatest enemies, so that My mercy may be fully reflected in your heart.”  (1695)

JESUS SAID: “And when it seems to you that your suffering exceeds your strength, contemplate My wounds, and you will rise above human scorn and judgment. Meditation on My Passion will help you rise above all things.”  (1184)

JESUS SAID: “He who trusts in my mercy will not perish, for all his affairs are mine.”  (723)

To obtain the graces on this day, go to Confession 8 days before or after Divine Mercy Sunday and go to Communion with complete Trust in His Mercy. Join us today at 2:30pm, as we implore God’s Mercy on us and the whole world.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, April 3 – DIVINE MERCY
(#1066 IN YOUR GATHER BOOK)
First Reading ACTS 5:12-16
Second Reading REV 1:9-11A, 12-13, 17-19
Gospel JN 20:19-31

Monday – Annunciation of the Lord
First Reading IS 7:10-14; 8:10
Second Reading HEB 10:4-10
Gospel LK 1:26-38

Tuesday
First Reading ACTS 4:32-37
Gospel JN 3:78-15

Wednesday
First Reading ACTS 5:17-26
Gospel JN 3:16-21

Thursday
First Reading ACTS 5:27-33
Gospel JN 3:31-36

Friday
First Reading ACTS 5:34-42
Gospel JN 6:1-15

Saturday
First Reading ACTS 6:1-7
Gospel JN 6:16-21

SUNDAY, April 10
First Reading ACTS 5:27-32, 40B-41
Second Reading REV 5:11-14
Gospel JN 21:1-19

PRAYING THE NEWS

April 3, 2016

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’
John 20:26

Divine Mercy, please come to us when the doors of our hearts are locked in fear. Be our peace in a world that is hurting after further attacks in Nigeria, Turkey, Mali and Belgium. Teach us to pray for those who hate us, who frighten us, those whose hearts are scarred and hardened, but who are nonetheless precious to you.

Lord, please increase our faith.

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:


Pray for Servicemen and Women

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
Spc David Ambrook, US Army
Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
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
LTIG 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 Jahnii Xavier George, US Army
Sgt. 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 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, US Army
2ndLt Taylor Rammo, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
ENS Kevin Stranksy, US Navy
LCpl Daniel Thesing, USMC
Capt. Michael Theising, USMC
Sgt. Bryce Whiteley, US Army

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Weddings
Gabriela Austen & Cody Moore
Lana Streich & John Morkovsky
Hannah Cutbirth & Zachary Hamblen

Funerals
Roger Nimno, father of Claire McMullin

Pray for Our Parishioners in Religious Formation

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

MASS INTENTIONS

April 2 – 10

Saturday, Apr 2
7:00 am Ann-Marie Landa (D)
5:00 pm

Sunday, Apr 3
7:30 am Dorothy Stefans (D)
9:00 am Frank Boneno (D)
5:00 pm

Monday, Apr 4
7:30 am Emelia Martinez (D)
12:00 pm Jim Macredie (D)

Tuesday, Apr 5
7:30 am Felicia Thomas (D)
12:00 pm Murto Pilor (I)

Wednesday, Apr 6
7:30 am Felicia Thomas (D)
6:30 pm Kevin Jaimon (I)

Thursday, Apr 7
7:30 am Ernesto Pigtoto (I)
12:00 pm Pedro & Aurora Elbit (D)

Friday, Apr 8
8:15 am Maria Agustina Cova (D)
12:00 pm Gloria Cosare (I)

Saturday, Apr 9
8:30 pm Felix Anthony Bellen (I)
5:00 pm Esperenza Sanchez (D)

Sunday, Apr 10
7:30 am Salvador Rosario (D)
9:00 am Edmee Gonzalez Rosalino (D)
11:00 am Patti Kelly (D)
12:45 pm Agnes Galati (D)
5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

TIME SCHEDULE

9:00 am to 11:00 am
12:00 noon to 2:00 pm
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next class: APRIL 4 & JUNE 6

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 class: MAY 14

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.
APR 4: Ennie Hickman at COR Worship Night

Our next COR Worship Night is TOMORROW, April 4, 7:00-8:30pm, at the Ave Maria Center and everyone is invited for 90 minutes of praise, teaching & adoration, open to people of all ages, free of charge. Ennie Hickman (one of our speakers from Heart of Worship) returns to St. Laurence to offer a talk on “Because He Lives” at this COR Worship Night; Danielle Noonan will lead us in great praise music. Come for some Easter joy! It costs nothing and there’s no need to RSVP.

APR 11: Christopher West at St. Laurence

Best-selling Catholic author, cultural commentator, and theologian Christopher West is coming to St. Laurence next Monday, April 11, to speak on “God, Sex and the Meaning of Life”. Presented as part of our Adult Faith Speaker Series and based on Saint John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, this event will begin at 7:00pm, in Marian Hall in the new Ave Maria Center. Entrance is $20 at the door, or just $15 if you register by April 8, online at www.stlaurence.org/christopherwest. Contact Justin Frato for more info at jfrato@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774.

APR 8-10: Retreat for Men at Holy Name

Men of St. Laurence are invited to retreat this weekend, April 8-10, at Holy Name Retreat Center, located at 430 Bunker Hill Road, in Houston. The theme is “Mercy: A Glimpse into the Heart of God”. Arrive any time after 4:00pm on Friday and the retreat concludes Sunday after lunch. The total suggested donation for the weekend, including lodging, meals and retreat is just $210 (or $195 for seniors). To register, call 713-464-0211 or go to www.passionist.org/holyname. Or call Earl Norra at 281-980-4416.

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, but must be a member of the parish. TWO $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 8th grade students who will attend a Catholic high school in the area for the first time in the fall of 2016. Also, TWO $2,000 scholarships will go to graduating high school seniors entering college for the first time in the summer or fall of 2016. Get the details & application at www.kofc11343.org. The deadline is Sunday, April 17; winners announced in late May. More info: Nathan Raun (nathan.raun@gmail.com).

FOR YOU: Our new Parish Library

Have you visited the new Parish Library at the Ave Maria Center? What are you waiting for? Stop by, apply for a library card, and look through our wide assortment of movies, CDs, and DVDs for the whole family. More items are being added every day! Plus, exciting things are in the works, like a Summer Reading Program for both kids and adults. For all the details, see www.stlaurence.org/parish-library, or please stop by. The Library is open whenever the Ave Maria Center is open and you can generally find Susan Mule, our Library Coordinator, there every Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm.
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, St. Anne Room 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
April 5: A New Heaven and a New Earth

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, 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
7:00-9:00pm
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.

Welcome Home!
“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

Couples Game Night
“Couples that play together, Stay together”
Saturday, April 16, 6:30-9:30pm, Marian Hall $40 per couple
Join us for a date night competing against other couples in various games. Burgers, beer & opportunities to win prizes!
Register and pay online by Apr 13: stlaurence.org/datenight

LAY APOSTLE PRAYER GROUP
Monday, April 4
Choose 10:30am-12:00pm, St. Anne Room, or
7:00-8:30pm, Ave Maria Center Room 205
For more info, contact Kay Quenan at 281-265-3238
Children’s Faith Formation

PRESCHOOL CCE MEETS TODAY!

ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK

Jesus Teaches Us to Love

God’s promise, or Covenant, established a loving and sacred relationship between Himself and His people. As the agent of Salvation, Jesus is God’s new and everlasting Covenant with mankind. This week in CCE we will learn how Jesus shows us to love God with all our being and how we are to love others as ourselves. As baptized Christians, or Christ’s disciples, we are called to freely choose to follow God’s ways because of our love for God and our trust in His faithfulness to the Covenant. We will begin CCE with our Large Gathering time praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a devotion to the selfless love of Christ.

Parents are invited to join us in Marian Hall during both CCE sessions for a PARENT NIGHT, to explore the implication of the Paschal Mystery in our own lives.

Vacation Bible School

June 6-10
Ave Maria Center

Contact Monica Doucet at mdoucet@stlaurence.org or Joan Hastreiter at jhastreiter@stlaurence.org or stop by the Ave Maria Center to inquire about spaces still available and for adult and youth volunteer opportunities.

www.stlaurence.org/vacation-bible-school

St. Laurence Catholic School

www.stlaurence.org/school

Discern for SLCS School Board

Interested in being a member of the SLCS School Board? Come to an information night on Thursday, April 14, at 7:00pm, in the school Dining Hall. Discernment will be held Saturday, April 16, beginning with Mass at 8:30am. Please note, the following persons may not be considered as candidates for the School Board: 1) spouses or siblings of 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 feel free to contact Michael Hurtado at Michael_Hurtado@bmc.com.

Congratulations, Class of 2016

We would like to congratulate our 8th grade students and their teachers who have been part of their education! All of our students who applied to Catholic high schools were accepted to one or more of the schools to which they applied! Way to go!

“ I WANT MY SLCS” 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.

Follow us on...

Social Media!

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

Website www.edline.net/pages/slcs
Facebook www.facebook.com/stlaurencescs
Twitter www.twitter.com/StLaurence_1992
Instagram www.instagram.com/stlaurencescs
Pinterest www.pinterest.com/stlaurencescs
YouTube www.youtube.com/user/SLCSaints/videos
Saints TV www.youtube.com/user/SLCSAV/feed

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.
Jerusalem outside the Christian community were awed by what the disciples were performing. And in the midst of all this amazement, many were being converted. Good stewards know of the evangelizing power emanating from their daily acts of love, compassion, mercy and generosity. They believe that if they stay focused on Christ each day, every act has the power to transform a broken world. What “signs and wonders” will we perform today?

In today’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear it proclaimed that many “signs and wonders” were performed in public by Christ’s followers, a demonstration that produced two results. First, the people of

Pope Francis, Evangeli Gaudium

Q.

How should we treat the environment?

A.

We fulfill God’s commission with regard to creation when we care for the earth, with its biological laws, its variety of species, its natural beauty, and its dwindling resources, as a living space and preserve it, so that future generations also can live well on earth. In the book of Genesis, God says, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Gen 1:28). Having “dominion over the earth” does not mean having an absolute right to dispose arbitrarily of animate and inanimate nature, animals, and plants. Because man is created in God’s image, he should care for God’s creation as a shepherd and steward. For the first book of the Bible also says, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Gen 2:15).

Dig Deeper: Read CCC sections 2414-2415 for more on this subject. This answer is reprinted from YOUCAT question 436.
When: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00-8:10pm (During EDGE) JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY!

Where: Guardian Angel Hall in the Ave Maria Center

Who: All parents and guardians of middle, high school and college age youth

Contact: Steve Brown at stevecindyb@comcast.net and 832-471-6131

We are a group of Catholic parents empowering one another through our love of Jesus Christ, sharing of parent wisdom and learning from information presented. We are focused on understanding the healthiest and most effective Catholic Christian behaviors to raise our adolescents during this critical stage in their development.

There is no RSVP, preparation or homework required. We do provide documents to our email group.

**Our mission includes:**

Parent Health – Spiritual and emotional

Parent Education – Simple, practical behavioral advice

Parent Networking – Parents support each other

“Let us be families which are a support for other families”. – Pope Francis.
Welcome to St. Laurence!

Following are the newest members of our parish family.

Gerardo & Ana Ardin  Jane Fusello  Richard & Mary Lewis  Ron & Nikki Puma
Andres Armenta & Mailan Nguyen  Kelly Gabriel  Agostinho & Anthoneta Lopes  Michael & Lindsey Rossi
Markus & Lauren Armstrong  John & Diane Gerwin  Francisco & Maria Lopez  Gary & Paula Sage
Geoffrey & Robin Beiermeister  Manuel & Victoria Gomez  Jose & MaryKutty Lukose  Rafael & Angelina Salas
Jennifer Benitez  Marcela Gonzalez  Andre-Marc & Susan Luyckx  Amir & Danielle Seliman
Alfred & Lena Boettcher  Orlando & Machelle Guitian  Leslie & Tina Mathias  Marvin & Jessica Serrano
Nicholas & Maura Bourgeois  Blake & Alicia Hanegan  Sharon Matthews  James & Veronica Sheives
Richard & Ashley Brockmeyer  Dustin & Katie Harris  John & Chidinma Mbawuike  Kevin & Jennifer Stucka
Vernon Chandler  Hafid & Melanie Hernandez  Tyler Meador & Jessica Knerr  Daniela Suarez
Obiora & Uduak Chiobi  Tracey Hicks  Joe & Peg Medeiros  Philip Thekkekara
Robert & Adria Cook  Devin & Jacci Hotzel  Edgar & Johana Montiel  Anna Thomas
Erin Corley  Liju & Lena James  Judiann Nainani  German & Ana Torres
Adrian & Amy Curiel  Kenneth & Julie Kerr  Alexander Nguyen  Minh & Mona Tran
Gregory & Valrita Dandridge  Travis & Jenna Kisner  Duc & Lisa Nguyen  Nicholas & Landy Tran
Jason & Brieanna Durham  Bruce & Renjitha Kolambel  Mike & Nancy Nugent  Nick & Rachel Webking
Benjamin & Allison Facker  Cenk & Shanna Koseoglou  Daniel & Alexandra Pepe  Jeff & Christine Wu
Kevin & Elizabeth Fleming  Gregory & Teresa Krynski  Maria Perez  James & Beth Wyble
Karen Flood  Joe & Mary Kurian  Charlene Phillips
Roberto & Gabriela Frausto  Jason & Jessica Legendre  Justin & Leslie Pond

HAPPY EASTER & WELCOME TO ST. LAURENCE!

We welcome these new families to our parish!

*Have you been thinking about joining, too?*

St. Laurence is a parish of 7,275 families, centered in the love of Christ and dedicated to glorifying God in all we do.

To join our parish, simply pick up a New Parishioner form from the Hospitality Desk and place in the offertory basket, submit at the Hospitality Desk, or bring to the parish office.

Then browse this bulletin and visit our parish website to learn how you can “serve the Lord with gladness” in one of our many parish groups and ministries at St. Laurence. *Welcome!*
**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.

**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!

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR EASTER**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!

Jesus Christ is risen!

Love has triumphed over hatred, life has conquered death, light has dispelled the darkness!

Out of love for us, Jesus Christ stripped himself of his divine glory, emptied himself, took on the form of a slave and humbled himself even to death, death on a cross. For this reason God exalted him and made him Lord of the universe. Jesus is Lord!

By his death and resurrection, Jesus shows everyone the way to life and happiness: this way is humility, which involves humiliation. This is the path which leads to glory. Only those who humble themselves can go towards the ‘things that are above’, towards God (Col 3:1-4). The proud look ‘down from above’; the humble look ‘up from below’.

On Easter morning, alerted by the women, Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found it open and empty. Then they drew near and ‘bent down’ in order to enter it. To enter into the mystery, we need to ‘bend down’, to abase ourselves. Only those who abase themselves understand the glorification of Jesus and are able to follow him on his way.

The world proposes that we put ourselves forward at all costs, that we compete, that we prevail… But Christians, by the grace of Christ, dead and risen, are the seeds of another humanity, in which we seek to live in service to one another, not to be arrogant, but rather respectful and ready to help.

This is not weakness, but true strength! Those who bear within them God’s power, his love and his justice, do not need to employ violence; they speak and act with the power of truth, beauty and love.

From the risen Lord we ask today the grace not to succumb to the pride which fuels violence and war, but to have the humble courage of pardon and peace. We ask Jesus, the Victor over death, to lighten the sufferings of our many brothers and sisters who are persecuted for his name, and of all those who suffer injustice as a result of ongoing conflicts and violence. There are so many of them!

May the marginalized, the imprisoned, the poor and the migrants who are so often rejected, maltreated and discarded, the sick and the suffering, children, especially those who are victims of violence; all who today are in mourning, and all men and women of goodwill, hear the consoling and healing voice of the Lord Jesus: ‘Peace to you!’ (Lk 24:36). ‘Fear not, for I am risen and I shall always be with you.’

Excerpt from Pope Francis I Message for Easter (4/5/2015)
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

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

Respect Life News

Brochure of the Month:  Children as Commodities?
“The church has compassion for couples suffering from infertility and wants to be of real help to them. At the same time, some reproductive technologies are not morally legitimate ways to solve the problems.” While parents almost always plan to accept and love the child created, the fact remains that the child came into existence through the use of technology and not through the expression of the parents’ love. Such a child can be treated as an object created for the fulfillment of the parents’ desires, rather than as a gift from God. Children deserve to be “begotten, not made.”

Medical assistance is available that is in full accord with Church teaching. Called NaProTechnology, see www.fertilitycare.org to find a doctor that offers it – we have one right here in Sugar Land. Not mentioned in the brochure is the fact that in vitro fertilization involves the creation of many more children than are ever born. For every 100 embryos created in vitro, 39 die outside the womb, 36 die in the womb, 14 remain frozen, and only 11 are born.

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.
BUILD A HABITAT HOUSE
Our Habitat for Humanity ministry is building the 12th house for a deserving family in need. Join the team next Saturday! You don’t need tools or experience, just be at least 16 years old and eager to work. Call Steve Pondell at 281-253-7088 or go to www.stlaurence.org/habitat-for-humanity. Want to help feed the hungry volunteer workers one Saturday? Sign up for a Saturday with Lawrence Perreau at lperreau@comcast.net.

LEARN SPANISH FOR YOUR MINISTRY WORK
Sign up for free (beginning, intermediate and advanced) Spanish classes this summer, offered through our Learn Spanish Ministry. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm and are open to priests, deacons, religious, missionaries and those active in parish ministries. Classes will be June 9-August 4. For more info, to register or to volunteer as a teacher, contact Adriana Gutierrez, Learn Spanish Ministry Coordinator at 281-265-5419 or LearnSpanishMinistry@gmail.com.

ENSEÑE ESPAÑOL ESTE VERANO
¡Clases de Español este verano! Necesitamos voluntarios que hablen español como lengua materna, para enseñar español para niveles principiante, intermedio y avanzado. Estas clases se ofrecen a voluntarios de diferentes ministerios de la iglesia, incluyendo sacerdotes, diáconos, ministros, religiosos y misioneros. Las clases serán de Junio 9 - Agosto 4, lunes y jueves de 7:00-8:30 pm. Para más información contactar a Adriana Gutierrez, Coordinadora de Learn Spanish Ministry, 281-265-5419 o LearnSpanishMinistry@gmail.com.

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 psunner1@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 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).

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 22: CHAMBER SINGERS IN CONCERT
Experience the power of choral music in a program entitled, How Can We Keep From Singing? on Friday, April 22, at 7:30pm, at Grace Presbyterian Church (10221 Ella Lane, Houston). This free concert features a variety of choirs from around the city, including the Houston Cecilia Chamber Choir, Paul Revere Middle School Choir, Grace Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir, and our own St. Laurence Chamber Singers! The evening includes music by Monteverdi, Beethoven, John Rutter, Eleanor Daley, Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Moses Hogan and more. Each choir will perform a solo segment, then combine for a mass choral performance of 100 singers! For info, call Grace Presbyterian Church at 713-781-7615.

APR 23: EXPERIENCE THE SHROUD OF TURIN
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Daughters invites everyone to Shroud Encounter, an unforgettable big screen experience about the ancient Jewish linen cloth believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus. Explore the mystery of the Shroud of Turin on Saturday, April 23, at 7:00pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 12627 W. Bellfort Ave, Sugar Land. A life-size replica of the Shroud will be on display. Russ Breault, the presenter, is founder of the Shroud of Turin Education Project and has appeared on History, Discovery, CBS and Good Morning America. Tickets are $10 (free to 18 and under), available at the parish office. For more info, contact the St. Thomas Aquinas church office at 281-240-6721.

MAY 31-JUNE 5: PASSION PLAY PILGRIMAGE
A group of parishioners will head to Branson, MO, and Eureka Springs, AR, May 31-June 5, to see live shows and exhibits of our faith. This unique travel package includes the Great Passion Play, Holy Land Tour, Parable of the Potter, Bible Museum, Christ of the Ozark, Sacred Arts Center and much more. Contact Margie Calo at 281-980-4711 or diomarg77@gmail.com for all of the information about this pilgrimage to nearby Missouri & Arkansas.
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS  April 3, 2016
FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday AM Bible Study</td>
<td>Regina Johnson</td>
<td>281-403-1792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Christian Comm</td>
<td>Genoveva Duque</td>
<td>281-980-1014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunny Tom</td>
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<td>832-620-7417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Bible Studies</td>
<td>Steve Ewbank</td>
<td>281-980-5575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Children's Program</td>
<td>Becky Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Vocations Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic 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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<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 Kallemyne</td>
<td>281-438-0696</td>
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<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>
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<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Carmelita Kussad</td>
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<td>St. Anthony of Padua</td>
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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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<tr>
<td>Adoration</td>
<td>Janice Swoboda</td>
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<td>Altar Linen Care</td>
<td>Rose Davis</td>
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<tr>
<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 Chaote</td>
<td>281-682-3389</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Ministers</td>
<td>Tom Ruck</td>
<td>713-855-2399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgical Ministers</td>
<td>Theresa Rawls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass Hospitality</td>
<td>Hal Mecher</td>
<td>281-543-9876</td>
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<td>Music Ministry</td>
<td>Mary Thompson</td>
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<td></td>
<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>
<td>281-343-1417</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>
<td>281-253-7088</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>713-269-2851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals That Heal</td>
<td>MaryAnne 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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<tr>
<td>Senior Rides &amp; More</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
<td>281-980-1449</td>
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<td>Social Concerns</td>
<td>Pennie DeGroot</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>
<td>Annulements</td>
<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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<tr>
<td>Cancer Support</td>
<td>Angela Rankin</td>
<td>832-945-2245</td>
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<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>Lorri Knowles</td>
<td>281-261-5738</td>
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<td>DivorceCare</td>
<td>Janie Picou</td>
<td>832-860-3398</td>
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<td>NAM</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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Discipleship Council</td>
<td>Marc Sherman</td>
<td>713-962-0617</td>
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<td>Evangelization Committee</td>
<td>Marie McCoy</td>
<td>281-265-7749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance Council</td>
<td>Bob Ladd</td>
<td>281-980-3246</td>
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<td>Financial Peace University</td>
<td>Jason Davalos</td>
<td>832-876-9824</td>
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<td>Pastoral Council</td>
<td>Tom Ruck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Ministry</td>
<td>Eva Fernandez</td>
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COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE

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<tr>
<td>African Catholic Community Bazaar</td>
<td>Esther Iredia</td>
<td>832-661-2945</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>
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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>
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<td>Filipino Community</td>
<td>Fe Vicerra</td>
<td>713-248-1164</td>
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<td>Hispanic Ministry</td>
<td>Francisco Rojas-Ayala</td>
<td>281-690-3374</td>
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<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>310-926-7086</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>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult Group</td>
<td>Steve Washer</td>
<td>585-410-4467</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ministry News

**APRIL: Consoling the Heart of Jesus**

Try this 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. **2 SESSIONS: 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 information and to sign up.

**LIBANGA: HOUSTON CATHOLIC CONGOLESE COMMUNITY**

Congoleses Catholics and all others interested in building community are invited to join Libanga. Members of this organization share a desire to *strengthen connections within the Congolese community* while integrating into American society, celebrate and promote their homeland’s culture, and live the joy of the Gospel. The organization has an *immediate need for a volunteer to start a Children’s Choir* and another to *coordinate fundraising activities* and special projects. Longer range, Libanga hopes to build a school and provide crisis assistance to single mothers, abandoned children and rape victims. For more information, please visit [www.libangacch.com](http://www.libangacch.com) or contact Fr. Simon Kipiti at skipiti@stlaurence.org.

**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. She will discuss natural ways to support the lymphatic system. When part of the lymph system is damaged or blocked, it causes swelling which can lead to lymphedema, a common side effect of cancer. 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.

**MAY 6: In the Heart of the Home**

Join other Catholic moms who home school for a casual evening of support, sharing, and refreshments. “In the Heart of the Home” will be offered on **Friday, May 6, 6:30-8:00pm** in the parish hall. If you have a friend who is thinking of educating children at home, please invite her. We will do a small craft to honor Our Lady for the month of May. **There is no cost to attend.** For more info, please contact Melissa Calcote at mcalcote@stlaurence.org.

**Calling Moms with Tots!**

Are you a mom who is home with your young child(ren) ages infant to pre-K on **Monday mornings**? Please join the Moms & Tots ministry for our weekly *Play and Pray Group!* We plan a variety of activities for our children as we support and encourage you in your vocation as a mother. Please contact Chrissy Campbell for more information at chrissyannecampbell@gmail.com or 310-926-7085.

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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.

**ADORERS STILL NEEDED FOR THESE HOURS:**

Monday 1am-2am and Monday 12pm-1pm

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**MONDAYS: Prayer & Praise Group**

**12:45-2:30pm in the Oratory of the Rosary**

You’re invited to gather with others in praise and worship of God *every Monday afternoon* in the Oratory of the Rosary, located in the new Ave Maria Center. We will *pray the Rosary*, worship God through music and reflect on God’s Word and spiritual writings. We also pray with each other and intercede for the needs of our Church, our community, families, and all who are in need of prayer. Contact Anne Marie Daniel at adaniel@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774 with questions regarding this new group.

**DivorceCare**

DivorceCare meets each **Wednesday 7:00-9:00pm** in the St. Francis Room. This week we will discuss stages of reconciliation. It does not have to entail restoration of the marriage. For more info, please contact Janie at 832-860-3398 and jpdivorcecare@aol.com.

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**APRIL 15-17: Go on a Marriage Encounter**

We are called to be a resurrection people and reflect God’s love and mercy in our own lives and relationships with others. Let your marriage sacrament truly reflect God’s love and mercy; sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on **April 15-17**, or **April 29-May 1**. Contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-773-4014 for more information, or go online to register now at [www.houstonme.org](http://www.houstonme.org).
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.

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.