His Mercy Endures Forever
2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

Christ calls us to reach those who are sick or in need, to bless them, serve them, and show them mercy. The thousands of people served by the ministries of our Archdiocese need your compassion and generosity. Your gift to the DSF enables us to reach out to people across the archdiocese through more than 60 programs. If you haven’t already done so, please pray about your commitment and donate online at www.archgh.org/dsf.

Also, donation envelopes are located at the Hospitality Desk. If everyone gives something, we will easily meet our parish goal of $480,000. Thank you!
The glorious mission

If you knew you were about to die, what wisdom would you impart to your loved ones in your final moments? What's most important for them to learn from you?

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus knows that his time is short. The first thing he says to his friends is words of praise for God (the Father) while equating himself with God. He even calls his friends 'children' as if he himself is God the Father! In so doing, he makes it clear that he is one with the Father – so totally that the lines between Father and Savior are blurred. And he does it humbly. He could have said, “Hey guys, in case you're not sure, I am divine. I am God. Worship me.” But instead, he focuses on the glory of God.

Glory is the radiating light of God's presence: his love, his joy, his holiness, his peace, his wisdom, his creativity, and everything else that he imparts on those who want to bathe in his glory. When we glorify God, we are reflecting back to him this same glory. How much of this glory is illuminating your life?

After describing the exchange of glory between Father and Son, Jesus imparts to his disciples the highest wisdom of the universe: The key to successfully joining Jesus in the glory of God is to love as he loves.

Love is not love unless it unselfishly gives itself to others. Jesus unselfishly gave himself to us completely, even in death. Followers of Jesus are not true followers, disciples are not true disciples, priests are not true priests, lay leaders are not true leaders, unless they serve with love, in love, and through love.

The glory of God is love that gives itself completely, even sacrificially. Why does the Gospel reading give us a scene from the Passion of Christ while we're celebrating the season of Easter? The other readings are full of Easter: “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5a). And yet here is Jesus preparing for betrayal, torture, and death. Why?

This Gospel reading is Jesus imparting to us today the key to continuing the mission of sharing God’s glory, which Jesus began and now calls us to do. By loving one another in a spirit of sacrifice, we are showing the world that Jesus is real, he is risen, and he is alive in us.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
Whom do you not love? If you were able to give that person a gift of yourself as an act of love for the glory of God, what would that gift be?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
How do sacrificial acts of love glorify God? Name a good deed you did recently. How was it self-giving (sacrificial)? How was it also a gift from Jesus, a sign that he was working through you?
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

Baptisms

Luis Romero-Barrera, Kaila Rae Woodard, Dominic Gonzales, Madeline Salas, James Zuniga, McKinley Haney, Madelyn Gimenez, Audrey Washy, Yvonne Anderson, Easton Brame

Weddings

Michelle Hendrix & Joshua Treat

Funerals

Martha Fernandez, mother of Maky Abello

Lynn Williams, mother of Larry Williams

Janie Becerra, sister of Joe Becerra

Pray for Servicemen and Women

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
Spc David Ambrock, US Army
Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
P.O. S Debra Barnette, US Navy
LCpl Trevor Bello, USMC
PFC John Blair, US Army
Maj. Michael Carroll, US Army
Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, US Army
Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy
Maj. Christopher Coffman, US Air Force
Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC
LTG Colin Day, US Navy
1Lt 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 Jonah Xavier George, US Army
SSgt Philip Graham, US Army
1LtT 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 Kingerski, 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
1LtT Todd Miller, US Army
Capt. Alexander Mestas III, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Army
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
2ndLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SRA Jonathan Susser, US Air Force
ENS Kevin Stransky, US Navy
LCpl Daniel Thesing, USMC
Capt. Michael Thesing, USMC
Sgt. Bryce Whiteley, US Army

Pray for Our Parishioners

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

MSS INTENTIONS

April 23 – May 1

Saturday, Apr 23
5:00 pm Evelyn Haller (D)

Sunday, Apr 24
7:30 am Rebecca Trewitt (D)
9:00 am Angela Rankin (I)
11:00 am Sylvestre Kabore (D)
12:45 pm Chaut Darlene Pham (A)
5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

Monday, Apr 25
7:30 am Robert & Leslie Ledet (D)
12:00 pm Timothy Peter Kogan (D)

Tuesday, Apr 26
7:30 am Maria Gallagher (I)
12:00 pm Tom Lokay (D)

Wednesday, Apr 27
7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Carrington (D)
6:30 pm Leigh Anne Goerland (I)

Thursday, Apr 28
7:30 am Briana Tankersley (I)
12:00 pm Carolyn MacDougall (D)

Friday, Apr 29
8:15 am Charles Osamor (D)
12:00 pm Michelle & Tony Gray (A)

Saturday, Apr 30
8:30 pm Mary Magdaline Guidry (D)
5:00 pm Agnes Galati (D)

Sunday, May 1
7:30 am Romeo Calo (I)
9:00 am Robert E. Kempen, III (D)
11:00 am L.J. Reaux (D)
12:45 pm James Richard Mora (D)
5:00 pm St. Laurence Parishioners

Mass Intentions in Religious Formation

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.
MAY 1: Catholic Daughters Spring Bake Sale

The St. Laurence Catholic Daughters will be on the plaza next weekend for their annual Spring Bake Sale! What a great way to provide fresh home-baked desserts and breakfast breads for you and your family, or store them for First Communion and Mother’s Day celebrations the following weekend. Look for them after Mass on Saturday, April 30, and on Sunday, May 1, at all morning Masses, until they sell out. All funds raised support the Catholic Daughters in their many charities and works of mercy. Thank you for your patronage!

MAY 2: Easter COR Worship Night

Our next COR Worship Night is Monday, May 2, from 7:00-8:30pm, at the Ave Maria Center and everyone is invited for 90 minutes of pure praise, teaching & adoration. It’s like a mini-morsel of Heart of Worship! We will hear a brief teaching from Brittany Barraza and Danielle Noonan will lead the music. Open to people of all ages, free of charge, and no need to RSVP. Just come and join others in praising God!

Learn Spanish – for your ministry work

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

MAY 14: Growth in the Holy Spirit Seminar

Come to a life-changing Growth in the Holy Spirit Seminar on Saturday, May 14, from 9:00am-5:00pm, in Marian Hall B. Dynamic speakers, including Fr. Drew, Fr. Paulissen, Fr. Salen, Barbara Mackie and Sherry Burns, will talk on the Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, growing in the Spirit and how the Holy Spirit has influenced their lives. The seminar will end with a powerful healing service. This is a free event with lunch provided, sponsored by the Hearts of Jesus & Mary Prayer Group and the Filipino Community of St. Laurence. For more info or to register in advance, call Deacon Rey (713-854-8804), Margie Calo (281-980-4711), Fe Vicerra (713-248-1164), Teddy Bentulan (281-529-5338).

JUNE 9-12: ACTS Retreat just for men

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. For info and to register, go to www.stlaurence.org/mens-acts-retreat. Space is limited. Please contact Larry Stryk (832-520-4044), Greg Cordova (832-457-3011) or Mick Coady (314-565-1949) with any questions you may have.

NEWS

TODAY!

Coffee & Donut Sunday

Come to the parish hall following the Sunday morning Masses (7:30-9:00-11:00) for Coffee & Donuts, hosted by our Hispanic Ministry. While you’re down there, pick up some info on a couple of great ministries and buy a pound of St. Basil Coffee from St. Agnes students to benefit the children at Our Lady of Grace School in Kisumu, Kenya.

Special Needs Faith Formation

Our parish embraces all children and is blessed to offer faith formation (CCE) and Sacrament preparation classes dedicated especially to those students who have learning and/or developmental differences or needs. If you have a child who may benefit from such a program – or if you have a passion for working with children challenged by learning differences – please contact the following at 281-265-5774: Joan Hastreiter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org Melissa Calcote, mcalcote@stlaurence.org

Baby Bottle Boomerang

For Pregnancy Resource Medical Center

Thanks to all who took home a baby bottle! Please fill it with coins, cash or checks and return it tomorrow, April 25, to have your donation made in the honor or memory of a special MOM in your own life!

IN THE KNOW!

See the most essential parish news at a glance each week by signing up to receive the parish eblast! www.stlaurence.org
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, May 2)
10:30am-12:00pm, St. Anne Room OR
7:00-8:30pm, Ave Maria Center Rm 205
Contact: Kay Quenan, 281-265-3238

Come and See
7:15-9:00pm, Ave Maria Center, St. Anne Room
Contact: Art & Marilyn Ramponi, 832-945-2110
April 25: Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

NEW - Tuesday Evening Bible Study (Weekly)
7:30-9:00pm, Marian Hall, Contact: Joe Kanusky 281-265-4084
BEGINs MAY 3 – REGISTER NOW

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 Hall
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:
Barbara Elliott

STREET SAINTS:
Renewing America’s Cities through the Works of Mercy
Monday, May 9
7:00-9:00 pm
Marian Hall

We are called to reveal the mercy of the Father to this hurting world through the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy. Join Barbara Elliott as she shares the inspirational stories of those around America who are living out this call by serving “the least ones” in our society.

Barbara J. Elliott is the founder of the Center for Cultural Renewal, a resource center for faith-based organizations working to renew the cities of America, and founder of WorkFaith Connection that exists to provide disadvantaged job seekers with the skills and beliefs to gain employment to lead healthy, productive and spiritually rich lives. President George W. Bush awarded her the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in 2001, recognizing her work with refugees and the poor. Barbara is currently a professor in the Honors College of Houston Baptist University and is the author of several books including “Street Saints: Renewing America’s Cities.”
Children’s Faith Formation

PRESCHOOL CCE MEETS TODAY!

ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK

Jesus’ Ascension and the Holy Spirit, Our Advocate
For 40 days after his Resurrection on Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times, sharing meals with them and continuing to teach them. Promising to send his Holy Spirit to remain with them and guide them, Jesus left his disciples as he returned to his Father in Heaven through his Ascension. Through the Holy Spirit’s continuing presence, Jesus’ work continues in the world today through his Mystical Body, the Church, each member a temple of his Spirit to serve as His hands and feet. This week as a family, discuss how you have experienced the action of the Holy Spirit in your own lives and how you are called to be Christ’s hands and feet.

OPEN NOW: 2016-2017 CCE Registration

Registration for the upcoming CCE program year (starting in September) is now open. Register early, as many classes fill up fast! A registration packet was sent home with the youngest child of each family currently in CCE. If you are new to the CCE program, please register online or pick up information at the AMC.

SIGN UP NOW TO BE A CATECHIST

Consider volunteering your time as a Catechist or an assistant in the CCE program. No experience is necessary, just a passion for your faith and a desire to share that with our youngest church members. Training and materials are provided. Don’t want to teach? We need you too! We have other opportunities for involvement during all CCE sessions. Please contact Joan Hastreiter at jhastreiter@stlaurence.org. This is an incredibly rewarding experience that you will never regret!

WCP SUMMER CAMP

Open to children age 6 months - entering 5th grade

“Experience Different Cultures”

Session 1: June 13-June 17 Pack Your Bags
Session 2: June 20-July 1 Hola, Mexico
Session 3: July 11-July 22 Aloha, Hawaii
Session 4: July 25-August 5 Ni Hao, China

REGISTRATION INFO:
See www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Contact Peggy Finch at 281-313-0329 or stop by the Ave Maria Center to learn more about this early childhood program.

For Children

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

Big SLCS Auction THANK YOU!

Thank you for making our Annual Auction Gala such an amazing success. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Auction chairs, who worked on this event for the entire year: Jenna Coda, Kristin Holy, Aleini Lacombe & Elizabeth McLaughlin-Garcia worked with an army of parent volunteers to ensure the night’s success! We are grateful to be blessed with such dedicated parents and supportive friends in the parish. Thanks, too, to these Corporate Sponsors who generously donated to the success of the event:

Family Retreat Prayers…

Please pray for our school families attending the annual Family Retreat this weekend. May the Holy Spirit work in powerful ways as you take time as a family to pray and play, together building the domestic Church!

Coach Middle School sports!

St. Laurence Catholic School is looking for adults interested in coaching middle school sports. We are looking for help with volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, basketball and tennis. If you have a background in coaching and would like to help students learn new skills, please contact Betsy Brown at bbrown@stlaurence.org or Glen Fucik at gfucik@stlaurence.org.

Happy 43rd Anniversary, Fr. Drew!

We are so thankful that Fr. Drew said “YES” to the priesthood 43 years ago this Thursday! May the Lord continue to shine through you for many years to come! We love you, Fr. Drew!
In today’s Gospel, we return to the Last Supper to hear Jesus’ new commandment to love one another. Good stewards, as the recipients of God’s unending love, take this commandment seriously. Though we are reminded of his love throughout the year, it is Jesus’ actions and words during the feast of Passover that show us the extent of his love and the way we too can live a life of stewardship: “...love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34). Can we accept this commandment from Jesus? Are we able to embrace this kind of discipleship? Can we humbly offer ourselves in loving service to one another?

**Catechism Corner**

**Q.** Why does the Old Testament forbid images of God, and why do we Christians no longer keep that commandment?

**A.** In order to protect the mystery of God and to set the people of Israel apart from the idolatrous practices of the pagans, the First Commandment said, *You shall not make for yourself a graven image* (Ex 20:4). However, since God himself acquired a human face in Jesus Christ, the prohibition against images was repealed in Christianity; in the Eastern Church, icons are even regarded as sacred. The knowledge of the patriarchs of Israel that God surpasses everything (transcendence) and is much greater than anything in the world lives on today in Judaism as in Islam, where no image of God is or ever was allowed. In Christianity, in light of Christ’s life on earth, the prohibition against images was mitigated from the 4th century on and was abolished at the Second Council of Nicaea (787). By his Incarnation, God is no longer absolutely unimaginable; after Jesus we can picture what he is like: *He who has seen me has seen the Father* (JN 14:9).

**Dig Deeper:** Read CCC sections 2129-2132 for more on this subject. This answer is reprinted from YOUCAT question 358.

**STEWARDS AMONG US**

**Audra Warden**

Audra Warden is an 8th grade ELA teacher at our parish school who also shares her gift of music, singing in the 9:00 Mass Choir and in Chamber Singers. She says, “I came to St. Laurence seeking God, solace, and something special, perhaps a sense of fellowship with fellow Catholics. I found it here — in the Mass, in the Music Ministry, and in St. Laurence Catholic School. My journey with St. Laurence began in the summer of 2012, after the simultaneous loss of both my mother and my husband. The music at the 9:00 Mass at St. Laurence offered me a pathway to find hope and strength in the liturgy, and I knew that I wanted to become part of the ministry. This was a big step for me...and the prayer and sense of belonging has been a blessing. Bringing people closer to their role in the liturgy through the music of the choir is a humbling experience. In 2013, God opened a door and I became a teacher at SLCS. Through praying and learning with the students and connecting with our faith through literature, I found strength, peace, and a newly found understanding of what it means to have a vocation.”
Dear brothers and sisters,

Thank you, St. Laurence parish family, for your love, acceptance and care that I experience from each one of you, as I am far from my own home and family. Next weekend at all Masses, I appeal to you for your loving generosity in the second collection to support the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in the construction of a formation house for seminarians called La Feuillette, at Ngoya, in the Diocese of Obala, Cameroon, Africa.

After 18 years of our mission in Chad and 16 years in Cameroon, we now have 9 total parish missions: 7 in Cameroon and 2 in Chad; we have 3 Cameroonian priests, 25 seminarians, and there are good many candidates who are expressing their willingness to become a missionary in the congregation of MSFS! But we desperately need a facility, so I come before you for your help in this mission.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, of which Fr. Santy and I are members, is an international religious congregation founded in France in 1838, by Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. We have over 1,300 professed religious priests and seminarians in 28 countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, the U.S. and Africa. We serve God and His people in many ways: building new faith communities, planting churches, educating the youth, parish ministries, retreats, caring for the orphans, street children, the elderly, and offering counseling and spiritual direction.

We invite you to share in our ministry through your prayers, support and financial contribution. I will share more details at Mass next weekend. My sincere thanks and appreciation to our beloved pastor, Fr. Drew, for giving me this opportunity.

Fr. Jaison P. Thomas, MSFS

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few, so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”
Mt 9: 37-38
UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

An Engaging 8-Part Study Featuring Jeff Cavins

Date, Times, Location
Tuesday Evenings
May 3-June 28
7:30-9 p.m.
Ave Maria Center

Cost/Registration
Register online at stlaurence.org/biblestudies
Cost: $17.95 + shipping and handling

For More Information
Contact Joe Kanusky at jkanusky@aol.com
or 281-265-4084

This study provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so that you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it’s all about. The Bible is a story about the Father’s unfailing love for you, a love that you are now called to share with others.

“The effect on my parishioners has been wonderful: a deeper love for Christ, a deeper experience with the sacraments, and continued love for the Scriptures.”

—Fr. Becker, Minnesota

Visit BibleStudyForCatholics.com to learn more.
**Peter Ran to the Tomb**

**EASTER 2016 HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

What thoughts crossed Peter’s mind and stirred his heart as he ran to the tomb? The Gospel tells us that the eleven, including Peter, had not believed the testimony of the women, their Easter proclamation. Quite the contrary, “these words seemed to them an idle tale” (v. 11). Thus there was doubt in Peter’s heart, together with many other worries: sadness at the death of the beloved Master and disillusionment for having denied him three times during his Passion.

There is, however, something which signals a change in him: after listening to the women and refusing to believe them, “Peter rose” (v. 12). He did not remain sedentary, in thought; he did not stay at home as the others did. He did not succumb to the somber atmosphere of those days, nor was he overwhelmed by his doubts. He was not consumed by remorse, fear or the continuous gossip that leads nowhere. **He was looking for Jesus, not himself.** He preferred the path of encounter and trust. And so, he got up, just as he was, and ran towards the tomb from where he would return “amazed” (v. 12). This marked the beginning of Peter’s resurrection, the resurrection of his heart. **Without giving in to sadness or darkness, he made room for hope:** he allowed the light of God to enter into his heart, without smothering it.

We, like Peter and the women, cannot discover life by being sad, bereft of hope. Let us not stay imprisoned within ourselves, but let us break open our sealed tombs to the Lord — each of us knows what they are — so that he may enter and grant us life. Let us give him the stones of our rancor and the boulders of our past, those heavy burdens of our weaknesses and falls. Christ wants to come and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish. **This is the first stone to be moved aside this night: the lack of hope which imprisons us within ourselves.** May the Lord free us from this trap, from being Christians without hope, who live as if the Lord were not risen, as if our problems were the center of our lives.

**The Lord is alive and wants to be sought among the living.** After having found him, each person is sent out by him to announce the Easter message, to awaken and resurrect hope in hearts burdened by sadness, in those who struggle to find meaning in life. This is so necessary today. However, we must not proclaim ourselves. Rather, as joyful servants of hope, **we must announce the Risen One by our lives and by our love; otherwise we will be only an international organization full of followers and good rules, yet incapable of offering the hope for which the world longs.**

Dear brothers and sisters, **Christ is risen! And we have the possibility of opening our hearts and receiving his gift of hope.** Let us open our hearts to hope and go forth. May the memory of his works and his words be the bright star which directs our steps in the ways of faith towards that Easter that will have no end.

Excerpt from Pope Francis I Homily on Easter Vigil (3/26/2016)
Serve Others

WEEKLY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
MONDAYS:  Our Daily Bread  9:30am, SCM Workroom

WEDNESDAYS:  Coupons for a Cause  1:00pm, SCM Workroom

OTHER GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
Bingo  Call weekend Bingo games for nursing home residents at Sugar Land Health Care Center
Birthday Celebrations  Organize bi-monthly birthday/holiday celebrations at Sugar Land Health Care Center
Caring Creations  Meets first 3 Fridays each month to create crafts to donate to Mamie George & other Fort Bend agencies
Child Advocates Snack Bags  Monthly assembly of 100+ snack bags for children
Fresh Food Delivery  Twice a month, purchase and deliver fresh food St. John Fisher food pantry
Learn English Ministry  Teach English to non-English-speaking adults; no teaching or foreign language experience necessary
Lunches of Love  Decorate lunch bags; over 1,000 brown bag meals provided each week to children in Richmond-Rosenberg
Village Program  Matches parish families with families that struggle each month to make ends meet

For more info about these and other great ways to serve others, go to www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns

Respect Life News

Spiritual Adoption: Eight Months!
Your adopted baby is close to being ready to be born! He or she can open and close their eyes at will, and has been gaining weight fast, adding muscle tissue and fat. Weight is now close to 4 pounds and he or she is about 16 inches long. Your prayers have given mom the grace she needs to make a good plan for her baby.

The Gabriel Project at St. Laurence
Since the Gabriel Project started at St. Laurence 9 years ago, our parish has generously helped 77 women who were pregnant and in need of assistance. Next weekend, you can be a part of it by picking up a tag for the 9th Annual Parish Baby Shower after Mass! This fun event will take place on Sunday, May 22, and everyone is invited! Pick up a tag – we are in need of big items as well as small – and drop in the designated donation bins. Please contact Barbara Pane with questions at Barbara@Panefamily.com.

May 6-8: One Million Rosaries for the Unborn
St. Michael the Archangel Organization invites all Catholics to pray at least one rosary May 6 thru 8, for the intention of an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of pre-born children. Please sign up by contacting Marie McCoy at mariemccoyprc@gmail.com or 281-265-7749 to pledge rosaries, and she will register the total number for the parish with St. Michael the Archangel Organization.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? NEED SERVICE HOURS?
Visit the Social Concerns page on the parish website: www.stlaurence.org/volunteer-service-opportunities

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.

NAMI MEETINGS AT ST. LAURENCE
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. For more information, please contact Ken or Pat Sumner at 281-265-1554 or psumner1@comcast.net.

SUNDAY, MAY 1: May Day Celebration
Join Fort Bend Family Promise for a May Day Celebration filled with family fun at their new Day Center, located at 4645 Cartwright Road, in in Missouri City. The event is free and open to the public. Families are invited to drop by between 2:00 and 5:00pm on Sunday, May 1st, to enjoy games, crafts, music, Maypole dancing and delicious treats. Family Promise is a non-profit that mobilizes churches in Fort Bend County to provide shelter, meals and comprehensive support to families experiencing homelessness.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DORN HOME

The build in Richmond is progressing nicely. We’ve had beautiful weather and wonderful, dedicated volunteers come out to help us build our 11th home for the Dorn family. Please consider helping us as the work moves into painting and trimming the outside and inside of the home. Call Steve Pondell at 281-253-7088 or go to www.stlaurence.org/habitat-for-humanity to sign up!

AND THANKS TO THE H4H LUNCH VOLUNTEERS!
Lunch is a highlight for the Habitat for Humanity volunteers each Saturday. Workers take a break from building to enjoy good food and fellowship with one another. The lunches are so appreciated by the volunteers, as well as the prospective owners, who also participate in the build throughout the constructions period. Thank you to each and every volunteer for putting your faith into action!

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 their website at www.fortbendhabitat.org/restore/restore_donation_guidelines.

Around the Archdiocese

TODAY: ST. THERESA ANNUAL BAZAAR
Plan to attend St. Theresa’s Annual Bazaar this weekend, located right here in Sugar Land! Activities include 10 prize drawings, silent auction, live auction, huge garage sale, over 50 booths including food booths, Czech kolaches, cake walk, cotton candy, music, entertainment, vendors, children’s area with lots of games and toys to win, train rides, rock wall and much more! The hours are 6-11pm on Saturday and 11am-7pm on Sunday. Get all the details at www.sugarlandbazaar.com.

MAY 7: MEDICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE
Catholic health care professionals often face very difficult ethical dilemmas. To address these challenges, the St. John Paul II Foundation will hold its first Converging Roads Conference in Houston on Saturday, May 7. Renowned experts in medicine and ethics will present on the theme of Human Dignity at the End of Life. CMEs and CNEs are available. The base fee for this full-day conference is $55 (scholarships available for medical and nursing students). For info and to register: www.convergingroads.com

MAY 14: FUNDRAISER FOR POOR IN NICARAGUA
The Houston Chapter of the John Paul II Technical Institute is holding its Bella Notte Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser at St. Theresa in Memorial Park on Saturday, May 14, 7:00-11:30pm. The event will feature entertainment, raffle, auction and a 3-course dinner and hors d’oeuvres by Candelaris Restaurant. The mission of the Institute is to give impoverished and destitute children & youth in Nicaragua the opportunity to build a future through education. Tickets are $50 per person. Contact Brenda Maymi-Luna for info and tickets at 281-658-1634 / bmaymiluna@cs.com.

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 diomargo77@gmail.com for all of the information about this pilgrimage to nearby Missouri & Arkansas.

LIBANGA: CATHOLIC CONGOLESE COMMUNITY
Congolese Catholics and others interested in building community are invited to join Libanga. Members 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 or contact Fr. Simon Kipiti at skipiti@stlaurence.org.
Find more information about all our parish groups and ministries at www.stlaurence.org.

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrament</th>
<th>Contact</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 Sahlezghi</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation (Adults)</td>
<td>Mary Visser</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
<td>Melissa Calcote</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Reconciliation</td>
<td>Melissa Calcote</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Preparation</td>
<td>Theresa Rawls</td>
<td>281-980-9812</td>
</tr>
<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>Tuesday AM Bible Study</td>
<td>Regina Johnson</td>
<td>281-403-1792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Christian Comm</td>
<td>Genoveva Duque</td>
<td>281-980-1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Tom</td>
<td>832-620-7417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekday Children's Program</td>
<td>Becky Wilkinson</td>
<td>281-313-0329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the Word</td>
<td>Claire Gregory</td>
<td>713-857-5504</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>RCIA</td>
<td>Justin Frato</td>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation Bible School</td>
<td>Monica Doucet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocations Committee</td>
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**PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cath Men Called to Be Saints</td>
<td>Jim Kij</td>
<td>281-253-4800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Club for Girls</td>
<td>Monica Hager</td>
<td>281-240-7672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemplative Prayer</td>
<td>Elaine Smith</td>
<td>281-499-6660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Mercy (AM)</td>
<td>Sally Flowers</td>
<td>281-265-8360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Mercy (PM)</td>
<td>Patti Kallemeyn</td>
<td>281-438-0696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearts of Jesus &amp; Mary</td>
<td>Margie Calo</td>
<td>281-980-4711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Apostle Prayer</td>
<td>Kay Quenan</td>
<td>281-265-3238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Carmelita Kussado</td>
<td>713-922-2446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's Bible Studies</td>
<td>Steve Ebanks</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. THERESE</td>
<td>Sunny Tom</td>
<td>832-620-7417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday AM Bible Study</td>
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**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Susan Chaste</td>
<td>281-682-3389</td>
</tr>
<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>
<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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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Klotz</td>
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**SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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<th>Ministry</th>
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<tbody>
<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>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. Ccy</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 Rides &amp; More</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
<td>281-980-1449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Concerns</td>
<td>Pennie DeGroot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society St. Joseph DeMatha</td>
<td>Deacon Al Bothe</td>
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**MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT**

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<th>Ministry</th>
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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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grieving Families</td>
<td>Agnes Fernandes</td>
<td>281-933-3721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.O.P.E.</td>
<td>Annette Bisanz</td>
<td>281-980-1449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Support</td>
<td>Angela Rankin</td>
<td>832-945-2245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>Lorie Knowles</td>
<td>281-261-5738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DivorceCare</td>
<td>Janie Picou</td>
<td>832-860-3398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td>Pat Sumner</td>
<td>281-265-1554</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td>281-265-5774</td>
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**EVANGELIZATION, STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP**

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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Ministry</td>
<td>Eva Fernandez</td>
<td>832-633-5640</td>
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**COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE**

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<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>Boy Scout Troop 828</td>
<td>Craig Popp</td>
<td>281-731-6140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cub Scout Pack 1828</td>
<td>Danny Kliebert</td>
<td>225-614-3148</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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 Vicerra</td>
<td>713-248-1164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic Ministry</td>
<td>Francisco Rojas-Ayala</td>
<td>281-690-3374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
<td>Gary Arrington</td>
<td>713-882-9567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies Guild</td>
<td>Joan O’Daniel</td>
<td>281-788-5430</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors (JOY Club)</td>
<td>Anne Higgins</td>
<td>832-755-5597</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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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; Tuesday 4am-5am; Saturday 12pm-1pm

MAY 14: Mary, Universal Mother
The Hispanic Ministry and Legion of Mary invite all members of St. Laurence to Mary, Universal Mother, a multicultural event on Saturday May 14, from 1:00-4:00pm in Guardian Angels Hall. This special annual event begins with the Children's Living Rosary in 5 languages and exhibit of the various Marian Advocations from countries around the world. Hear presentations, celebrate the universality of our devotion to the Blessed Mother, make friends and enjoy refreshments at this free event. For more info, contact Vicky Hu: 281-236-3634, illimanihu1@yahoo.com.

July 21-24: Women’s ACTS Retreat
An ACTS retreat is designed to strengthen your Catholic faith and community by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The retreat is staffed and run by lay people. Please prayerfully consider deepening your faith by attending this retreat.

Already been on an ACTS Retreat? Join our team!
Team meetings are 6:30-9:00pm on Tuesdays at Sacred Heart in Richmond. For more info, please contact Susan Herrington (sherrington14@gmail.com) or the St. Laurence website at www.stlaurence.org/womens-acts-retreat.

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.

FOR SENIORS: St. Laurence J.O.Y Club
APR 27 (Weds) Meeting of the Southwest Senior Senate of the archdiocese at 9:30am at St. Cyril’s. Call Anne Higgins at 832-755-5597 if you would like to attend this quarterly meeting.
APR 29 (Fri) Sing-a-Long in the Park at the Meadows. Contact Lesley Smith for details at 832-457-2774.

Ministry News

Knights of Columbus Annual Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, May 8, in Parish Hall
Served after the 7:30am and 9:00am Masses
No charge! Just a big THANK YOU for moms from KC Council 11343

MAY 5: CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
Are you a cancer patient, survivor or caregiver? Come to the next meeting of the Cancer Support Group on Thursday, May 5, from 10:00-11:30am in the St. Clare Room. We will make Mother’s Day cards for patients at Sugar Land Health Center – all art supplies are provided to bring a smile to those moms who cannot be in their homes on this special day. Also, we’ll plan our June BBQ, our last event before a summer break. Call Angela Rankin for more info at 832-945-2245.

MAY: 5 SPIRITUALITY & HEALING SERIES
Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Conditions
Thursday, May 5, 7:00-8:30pm Ave Maria Center
Presenter: Pat Sumner, NAMI
Join us for this informative session focusing on the signs and symptoms of mental health conditions.
Nutrition & Spirituality: Restoring a Healthy Body Rhythm
Thursday, June 2, 7:00-8:30pm Ave Maria Center
Presenter: Laura Laine, Sophia Grace Center for Nutrition
This talk is about rediscovering the Sacred Rhythm/Holy Order that nourishes, keeping us healthy and balanced.
INFO: Anne Marie Daniel, 281-265-5774, adaniel@stlaurence.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.