ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE
3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX  77479  281-980-9812

Pastor:  Fr. Drew Wood
Parochial Vicar:  Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS
Parochial Vicar:  Fr. Simon Kipiti
Deacon:  Renato (Rey) Arellano
Deacon:  Albert Bothe
Deacon:  Don Burns
Deacon:  Charles Plant
Parish Administrator:  Tony Oltremari
Liturgy:  Theresa Rawls
Facilities:  Deanna Ennis
Social Concerns:  Pennie DeGroot
Communications:  Sharon Ehrenkranz

jaison@stlaurie.org
skipiti@stlaurie.org
deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
deraconal@ssjd.org
don@donburns.com
stlaurencedeacon@aol.com
toltremari@stlaurence.org
trawl@stlaurence.org
dennis@stlaurence.org
pdegroot@stlaurence.org
sehrenkranz@stlaurence.org

Director Religious Education:  Laura Stephens
Religious Education Registrar:  Ruba Kaiser
Adult Faith Formation:  Justin Frato
Children’s Faith Formation:  Joan Hastreiter
Youth Ministry:  Kris Frank
Sara Sahlezghi
Eric Painter
lstephens@stlaurence.org
rkaiser@stlaurence.org
jfrato@stlaurence.org
jhastreiter@stlaurence.org
kfrank@stlaurence.org
ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org
epainter@stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX  77479  281-265-5774

Principal:  Debra Haney
Registrar:  Marie Brown

Dhaney@stlaurie.org
mbrown@stlaurence.org

WEEKDAY CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX  77479  281-313-0329

Director:  Becky Wilkinson
bwilkinson@stlaurie.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCILS
281-980-9812

Pastoral Council:  Tom Ruck
Finance Council:  Bob Ladd
Discipleship Council:  Marc Sherman
ruckt@ gmail.com
robert.ladd@haynesboone.com
MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
May 15 Collection  $  50,963
Registered Households  7,275
Envelopes Used  805
Loose Checks  177

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory  $  164,572
Participants  865

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal  $  495,000
Amount Paid  $  278,845
Amount Pledged  $  369,338
Participants  845

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!

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

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
June 3 – In the Chapel
7:00 pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30 pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
June 4 – In the Church
7:45 am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30 am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Mayo 28 - 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.
Good News Reflection
Sunday, May 22, 2016
Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity

What don't you know that you hope God will reveal to you? What have you been asking Jesus to tell you that is still unanswered? What teaching of the Church don't you understand or agree with? In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus explains that there is more he'd like to tell us but we can't handle it yet.

Why aren't we ready for it? Because we have to first let the Holy Spirit prepare us. We have to let God transform something within us, and until we surrender to that process, the truth is more of a burden than a blessing, which we readily reject.

Everything that Jesus said and did came from the Father through the Holy Spirit. God gave us that same Spirit, that same Wisdom, that same Truth, but the gift is useless unless we submit to the Spirit's purifying activity.

Of the Trinity, it's the Father who forgives sins. It's Jesus who delivers the forgiveness. And it's the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us and empowers us to go and sin no more.

In the confessional, the priest is the presence of Jesus and the whole Body of Christ (the Church). Absolution is an action of his Holy Spirit, but it's more than just the removal of guilt; it replaces the sinful vice with the virtue that will help us avoid that vice in the future. The Sacrament of Confession is a direct contact with the Holy Trinity who embraces our repentance and transforms us to increase our holiness.

To receive this grace, we only have to be open to it and interested in cooperating with God. Humility is necessary to be teachable and transformable.

The unanswered questions in our lives become personal revelations when we earnestly seek to do the Father’s will in unity with Jesus while growing in holiness through the indwelling presence of his Holy Spirit.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
Write a list of questions you have for Jesus. What do you have trouble understanding? After making the list, ask the Holy Spirit to become your Teacher. Ask Jesus to help you become teachable.

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
What gift of the Holy Spirit do you find most helpful in guiding you through life’s difficulties? How does it help you to figure out and/or do the Father's will?

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus explains that there is more he'd like to tell us but we can't handle it yet.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
SUNDAY, May 22 – HOLY TRINITY
(#1088 IN YOUR GATHER BOOK)
First Reading PRV 8:22-31
Second Reading ROM 5:1-5
Gospel JN 16:12-15

Monday
First Reading 1 PT 1:3-9
Gospel MK 10:17-27

Tuesday
First Reading 1 PT 1:10-16
Gospel MK 10:28-31

Wednesday
First Reading 1 PT 1:18-25
Gospel MK 10:32-45

Thursday
First Reading 1 PT 2:2-5, 9-12
Gospel MK 10:46-52

Friday
First Reading 1 PT 4:7-13
Gospel MK 11:11-26

Saturday
First Reading JUDE 17, 20B-25
Gospel MK 11:27-33

SUNDAY, May 29 – CORPUS CHRISTI
First Reading GN 14:18-20
Second Reading 1 COR 11:23-26
Gospel LK 9:11B-17

PRAYING THE NEWS
May 22, 2016
…then was I beside him as his craftsman... and I found delight in the human race.
Proverbs 8:30-31

O loving Creator and Holy Spirit, thank you for fashioning humanity in your image and in beautiful diversity. News about genocide, intolerance, discrimination, and even restrooms, can distract our attention from what is truly good, loving, courageous, and honorable in each other. May we not let the world’s fears and conflicts prevent us from being kind, compassionate and respectful to all we encounter.

Jesus, we trust in you.
Amen. †
**PARISH CELEBRATIONS**

**Baptisms**
Abigail Armstrong, Valentin Rodriguez

**Weddings**
Caylin Howell & Kris Holmes

**Funerals**
Betty Conroy, *wife of Dick Conroy*
Peter Anthony Blessinger, son of Peter Blessinger
Alicia Garcia, *mother of Felicia Whitford*
Francisco Arriaga, *father of Victor Arriaga*

**Pray for Servicemen and Women**
CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
Spc David Ambrocie, US Army
Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
P.O. S Debra Baki, US Navy
LCpl Trevor Bello, USMC

**PPC John Blair, US Army**

**Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, USMC**

**Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy**

**Major Christopher Coffman, US Air Force**

**Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC**

**LTG Colin Day, US Navy**

**1stLt Andrew Desplinter, US Army**

**Sgt. Nicholas Dockum, US Army**

**Capt. Brandon Driscoll, USMC**

**Major James Dumphy, USMC**

**2ndLt Michael Eberhardt, US Army**

**Capt. Stacey Eberhardt, US Army**

**Derek Farias, US Navy**

**Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC**

**Pvt Jahninleelievery George, US Army**

**Sgt. Philip Graham, US Army**

**1stLt Spencer Henry, US Army**

**Daniel Hines, US Navy**

**SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve**

**1LT Michelle Horstman, US Army**

**Sgt. Joshua Keenan, US Army**

**Joseph Kingerski, USMC**

**EM4 James Locus, US Navy**

**PFC Philip Loera, US Army**

**PFC John Lundgreen, US Army**

**Sgt. Joseph Marcellus, USAF**

**LCpl William Marcellus, USMC**

**Cpl Kevin McGinnis, USMC**

**Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC**

**1stLt Todd Miller, US Army**

**Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army CB**

**Capt. Richard Pinard, US Navy**

**LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC**

**Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army**

**2ndLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army**

**Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC**

**SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force**

**ENS Kevin Stransky, US Navy**

**LCpl Daniel Thesing, USMC**

**Capt. Michael Thesing, US Army**

**Sgt. Bryce Whiteley, US Army**

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**PRAY FOR INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON**

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

- Tatiana Sobey, Serena & Autumn Salvato
- Jerry Coburn, Ginger Gonzales, Jace Laws
- LaRhonda Tucker, Silvia & Ezquiel Lucio
- Gonzalez family, Stockhausen family, Mungia family
- Phillip Perez, Cristian Perez, Makayla Mendez, Miko Gamez, Teresa Ruiz, Adrian Zaldvir, Jessica Ayala, Liz Trevino, Debbie Green & family, Metcalf family, Patricia LaFleur, Deacon Al Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3.*

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**KINGDOM CARE**

**Sunday Morning Masses: 9:00 & 11:00**

Childcare is provided through Kingdom Care, a loving, Christian, and safe environment for young children while their parents attend Mass and other parish programs. Register in advance at the parish office with Christy Delamaro, at 281-980-9812.

**PASTORAL CARE TO SICK & HOMEBOUND**

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

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**May 21 – 29**

**Saturday, May 21**
10:00am  Mark Gomilla (D)
5:00 pm  Robert Winzerling (D)

**Sunday, May 22**
7:30 am  Ron McGinty (D)
9:00 am  Frank Boneno (D)
11:00 am  Norman Jones (D)
12:45 pm  Bill Bunch (D)
5:00 pm  St. Laurence Parishioners

**Monday, May 23**
7:30 am  Napoleon Henriquez (D)
12:00 pm  Jack Acosta (D)

**Tuesday, May 24**
7:30 am  Ruth Kaezmarek (D)
12:00 pm  Helen & Chuck Howell (D)

**Wednesday, May 25**
7:30 am  Alex & Kathy Tello (I)
6:30 pm  Yoly Lopez (D)

**Thursday, May 26**
7:30 am  Jerry Nirappil (D)
12:00 pm  Yoly Matute de Lopez (D)

**Friday, May 27**
8:15 am  Yolanda Ramponi (D)
12:00 pm  Thanksgiving for St. Joseph

**Saturday, May 28**
8:30 pm  Paul & Henrietta Fernandes (D)
5:00 pm  Jose Estrella (D)

**Sunday, May 29**
7:30 am  Dr. Granwell Esteban (D)
9:00 am  Frank Boneno (D)
11:00 am  Judeylis Del Carmen (D)
12:45 pm  Christine Jaimon (I)
5:00 pm  St. Laurence Parishioners

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**PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS in Religious Formation**

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

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**WEDDING PREPARATION**

*Next class: 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.

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**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

*Next class: JUNE 11*

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.
**Today! Come to the Parish Baby Shower**

The *Legion of Mary and Respect Life Ministry* are hosting the 9th Annual Parish Baby Shower today, Sunday, May 22, in the parish hall following the 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. Everyone is invited for kolaches, donuts, cake & coffee, and all the donated baby gifts to support moms in crisis pregnancies is on display. Thank you for your support of the St. Laurence Gabriel Project. If you didn’t get a chance to participate, we can always use your support and gifts of all sizes! Contact Barbara Pane at barbara@panefamily.com.

**Now: Register for CCE, Edge & Life Teen**

It's time to register your children for religious education classes for next school year! Go to the parish website at www.stlaurence.org for all the info and registration materials or stop by the Ave Maria Center. Classes fill up fast, so be sure to register early! Please note the NEW ELEMENTARY CCE TIMES (due to the change in FBISD school dismissal times): **Tuesday 4:30pm, Tuesday 6:30pm, and Wednesday 5:15pm**.

Registration deadline is August 15. Please consider serving as a faith-sharer or catechist. We can use help at all grade levels. Core members lead small groups of middle or high school students; catechists teach in a classroom setting to elementary and preschool aged children. You get all the materials and training you need – you just need a heart to share your faith with our young parishioners! Plus, there are lots of additional ways to help in other supporting roles to make this large program work. Contact the Religious Education Office at 281-265-5774. Thank you!

**June 3: Deadline to Register for Mens ACTS**

Just a few spots remain for the upcoming Men’s ACTS Retreat! All men 21 and over, regardless of religious affiliation, are welcome to sign up for this retreat which 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. The retreat will give you the chance to spend time with God, focus on your faith and cultivate friendships. **REGISTER BY JUNE 3** to reserve your spot at www.stlaurence.org/mens-acts-retreat. Contact Larry Stryk (832-520-4044), Greg Cordova (832-457-3011) or Mick Coady (314-565-1949) with any questions you may have.

**Pray the Rosary!**

Our Blessed Mother serves as a guide and inspiration for all of us who seek to serve God and one another. Pray the Rosary on your own or gather with others: The Legion of Mary leads the Rosary in the church before the daily Noon Mass (at 11:30am) throughout the entire month of May (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). **Every Friday morning at 6:30am**, Fr. Drew leads the Rosary in the church. And on Monday afternoons, a group meets in the Oratory of the Rosary from 12:45-2:30pm at the Ave Maria Center. All are welcome to join the *Respect Life Ministry* and *Knights of Columbus* across the street in the Rosary Garden on the **second Sunday of each month** to pray the Rosary for the protection of the unborn.

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**Congratulations to SLCS Graduates!**

Attention all SLCS Alumni and Parents! Join your alma mater for a special end-of-the-year Mass on Friday, May 27, at 8:15am. Fr. Drew will bless the graduating 8th graders, PLUS the SLCS Class of 2012 (2016 graduating seniors). After Mass, come to the school for a reception, tour of the school and chance to reconnect with old friends. RSVP by May 24 to sbyrne@stlaurence.org.

**¿HABLA ESPAÑOL?**

**LEARN SPANISH FOR YOUR MINISTRY WORK THIS SUMMER**

FREE Spanish classes for priests, deacons, religious, missionaries and those active in parish ministries

**Classes offered June 9-August 4**

Monday / Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

To register or volunteer, contact: Adriana Gutierrez at 281-265-5419, LearnSpanishMinistry@gmail.com

**Next Weekend**

The entire offertory on Corpus Christi is for St. Mary Seminary. In thanksgiving, Fr. Trung Nguyen, who once served at our parish and is now Rector of the Seminary, will return to St. Laurence to preach at all Masses!

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**Spirituality & Healing Series**

**Nutrition & Spirituality: Restoring a Healthy Body Rhythm**

**Thursday, June 16**

7:00-8:30pm, Ave Maria Center

**Presenter: Laura Laine**

Rediscover the Sacred Rhythm that nourishes, keeping us healthy and balanced.

INFO: Anne Marie Daniel, 281-265-5774, adaniel@stlaurence.org
For Adults

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS
May 22, 2016

SPEAKER SERIES presents:

Arland Nichols

Freedom to Serve:
The Connection between Religious Liberty and the Works of Mercy

Monday, June 13
7:00-9:00 pm
Marian Hall

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is a call for the Catholic Church to live out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The Church in America and abroad, however, is being restricted in serving others because she cannot comply with immoral governmental mandates (such as the HHS Contraception Mandate). Arland will help us understand the Church’s call to religious liberty and what we can do to uphold this right so that we are free to bring mercy to a world in need.

Arland Nichols is founding President of the John Paul II Foundation, which seeks to proclaim the gospel of life and form families as intimate communities of love. He writes, speaks, and consults in Houston & across the nation in the areas of bioethics, family and religious liberty. He resides in Katy with his wife, Cindy, and their six children.

Still time to join “Beloved” Series!

Weds evenings: May 25–June 29, 6:30-9:00pm, Marian Hall

Join couples in strengthening your marriage through a 6-week series, Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage. Enjoy getting to know other couples over dinner, followed by a dynamic video presentation, small group discussion, and one-on-one time as a couple. Choose one of two tracks to attend following dinner: Beloved Part I: The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage (understanding theological foundations of marriage) or Beloved Part II: Living Marriage (focuses on practical life skills needed in marriage). Bring a dish to share with eight others.

Cost: $40 per new couple, $20 returning couple

Register and pay online at stlaurence.org/beloved

RETROUVAILLE: A Lifeline for Marriages

June 17-19, North Hyatt Hotel, Houston

The word Retrouvaille (pronounced re-tro-vi) is a French word meaning rediscovery. This program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship, which has helped thousands of couples in trouble or headed for divorce. The program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6-12 sessions over 3 months. Two weekends are offered each year in the Houston area – the next one is in June. Couples MUST register in advance by calling 713-529-6242.

For more information, please visit www.retrouvaille.org.
Children’s Faith Formation

**ELEMENTARY CCE**

**HAPPY SUMMER!** Preschool and Elementary CCE classes are completed for this school year. Classes will begin again for all registered students in the 2016-2017 school year:

- **SEPT 13-14:** Elementary CCE Begins
- **SEPT 18:** Preschool & Kindergarten CCE Begins

**OPEN NOW: 2016-2017 CCE Registration**

Registration for the upcoming CCE program year (starting in September) is now open through August 15. Forms for the CCE and First Sacraments preparation programs may be picked up in person at the AMC or may be found on the parish website under EDUCATION/Registration. Register early – classes fill up fast!

**WE NEED YOU**

Please remember, our large CCE program is an entirely volunteer-based ministry, which relies on the time and talents of adults JUST LIKE YOU. Availability of space for your children in weekly classes is completely dependent upon finding loving and faithful volunteers wishing to share their love of Jesus with children. Prayerfully consider stepping out in faith this year by becoming a catechist or assistant. No experience is necessary, just a passion for your faith and a desire to share that with our youngest church members. Training and materials 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 and 281-265-5774.

**THIS WEEK: First Holy Communions**

*Please pray for:*
- Madelyn Holy, Nathan Tran,
- Austin Castro, Sydney Lundstrom...
- and all 226 of our children who are making their First Communion this Easter Season!

**WEEKDAY CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

**WCP End-of-the-year FUN!**

- **MAY 26/27** Splash Days
- **JUNE 1/2** Prayer Celebration & Last Days of School
  11:30am Early Dismissal

**WCP SUMMER CAMP**

Open to children age 6 months - entering 5th grade
“Experience Different Cultures”

**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.

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**For Children**

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

**Behind every great school is a caring Principal!**

Our school community has been very blessed with Mrs. Haney’s leadership and service for the last 10 years. This summer, she moves on to serve as Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Thank you for your love and dedication. You have worked tirelessly toward St. Laurence Catholic School’s mission and you will be missed!

**Our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Haney…**

**❤️ I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Haney,** and bid one of the most superb principals I have known a respectful farewell. As you leave the administration of the school, my heart is filled with sadness, but pleasant memories. My time as a school board member under your leadership has been remarkable and inspiring. I know the other school board members, parents and students feel the same way, even though we might have often forgotten to tell you how much we appreciate you. What stands out most to me is that your friendly disposition and your inspirational presence are loved by one and all. Patience, love and sincerity are just a few of the qualities that everyone in this school will miss about you when you leave. Our school is definitely a better place because you have been here. I wish you good luck for your future and bid you goodbye! **Svenya Marie Elackatt, School Board Member**

**❤️ I wish the best for you! Hope you will be happy in your new job! We will be praying for you! Go out in the world and do great things!** Morgan Leaman, 5th Grade student

**❤️ Thank you for being our Principal. Thank you for saying prayers for us! I will miss you and I love you!** Jackson Gilliam, PreK Student

**FAREWELL RECEPTION**

Thursday, June 2
8:15am Mass in the Church
Reception following Mass in the Parish Hall

Everyone is invited for cookies and lemonade in the parish hall to share memories and wish Mrs. Haney all the best in her new assignment that will benefit children across the Archdiocese!

**ALL ARE WELCOME**
Live to Glorify God!
Stewardship Reflection for Most Holy Trinity
www.catholicstewardship.org

In today’s Gospel Jesus talks about life with his Father and the Spirit. He tells his disciples that what belongs to the Father belongs to him, and that the Spirit will take from what is his and give it to them. Jesus helps us understand that the relationship between Father, Son and Spirit is one of perfect sharing and loving generosity. This shared life is the foundation for what we now understand as part of living life in the Trinity. The abundant generosity of those who are good stewards of the gifts entrusted to them gives us a glimpse into the love of the Triune God. Does the generosity with which we live our lives bear witness to God’s extraordinarily generous life within us?

STEWARDS AMONG US
Bianca Orcutt

Bianca’s parents, Genoveva & Augusto Duque, helped to found this parish 30 years ago. Today, Bianca is a mother to two sons and active in a variety of parish ministries, such as Respect Life, Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Grief Support, Singles, Young Adults, EDGE, NAMI and PACT. What started it all was an invitation from her mom years ago to attend the Parish Retreat. “I was at a very low point in my marriage and busy with work and kids, so I really needed to be reminded of God’s grace. And I was! There I received so much beautiful theology and love, the next step was to try to keep God at the center of my life. A few months later, I attended the Ministry Fair and joined Respect Life.” If you’re looking for a way to connect, Bianca offers this bit of wisdom, based on her own experience: “God’s already written His plan for you, so when the time is right, things will conveniently fall into place. I think you just have to notice. Whatever interests you and seems like a natural fit, probably is. Adoration in the chapel helps me quietly discern, but so do nature walks and talking to my spiritual director. I also think you can get involved by recognizing what you are lacking, and not always what you can give.”

Catechism Corner

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

Q. Why does the Catholic Church have her own social teaching?

A. Because all men, as children of God, possess a unique dignity, the Church with her social teaching is committed to defending and promoting this human dignity for all men in the social sphere. She is not trying to preempt the legitimate freedom of politics or of the economy. When human dignity is violated in politics or economic practices, however, the Church must intervene. “The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well” (2nd Vatican Council, GS). In her social teaching, the Church makes this statement specific. And she asks: How can we take responsibility for the well-being and the just treatment of all, even of non-Christians? What is a just organization of human society, of political, economic, and social institutions supposed to look like? In her commitment to justice, the Church is guided by a love that emulates Christ’s love for mankind.

Dig Deeper: Read CCC sections 2416-2420 for more on this subject. This answer is reprinted from YOUCAT question 438.

ASK PAULA

Q. Who are the talented pianists & organists who play for all the Masses?

A. Let’s start with my good friend Larry Fontana. Larry has been playing here since 1998! He plays at the Saturday 5:00pm Mass and Sundays at 7:30am (the one I attend) and 11:00am. When Larry’s not playing the piano, he’s a lawyer with the Landry’s Corporation. Up next is Milbert “Bert” Tumaluan. In 2011, Bert played the piano here for his cousin’s wedding. Bert did such a great job that a short while later he was hired and he plays at some Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday 7:30am Masses, switching with Larry sometimes. Bert is a graduate of the UH Moores School of Music. He also teaches private piano lessons and is looking into going back for his Master’s in Music. Check next week’s column for the other piano players, just saying. Thanks Leigh for this question!

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

The Church is good for the family, and the family is good for the Church.

Pope Francis, AMORIS LÆTITIA
April 2016
BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

On Saturday, May 7, more than 50 people from five different faith communities in Sugar Land joined together to work at the St. Laurence Habitat House build site in Richmond. These faith communities—Christ Church, the Ismaili Center, Congregation Beth El, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and St. Laurence—are part of an initiative called the Fort Bend Interfaith Council. This group is working together to help foster a spirit of friendship and respect between Fort Bend’s diverse faith communities by means of social action projects, prayer services, and fellowship gatherings throughout the community.

Together at the Habitat build, the interfaith group cleared and leveled the lot, laid sod, and planted trees & flower beds. Everyone enjoyed getting to know one another while pitching in to build a new home for a wonderful family!

If you are interested in taking part in future interfaith & ecumenical activities, please contact Mary Thompson at mthompson@stlaurence.org and 281-980-9812.
It’s time to register!
St. Laurence Women’s ACTS Retreat
JULY 21-24, 2016

Why an ACTS Retreat?
An ACTS Retreat is a parish-based event, organized by parishioners for parishioners. This weekend retreat gives participants the chance to spend time with God, focus on their faith journey and cultivate friendships. New to St. Laurence, the ACTS Mission is recognized and supported by bishops and priests worldwide. Through ACTS, we the laity understand and respond to our baptismal call and the apostolic mission of the Church to ‘go and make disciples of all nations.’

Here’s more...

- All women 21 and over, regardless of religious affiliation, are welcome!
- Transportation will be provided for the retreatants to-and-from the retreat center.
- The first-ever St. Laurence Women’s ACTS Retreat will begin on Thursday, July 21 at 5:00pm, and ends Sunday, July 24, after a luncheon following the 11:00am Mass at St. Laurence.
- The retreat cost to each participant is $225. Reserve your spot with a $75 deposit. (Balance due by July 15.)

Registration opens TODAY!

- Meet the team on the plaza after Mass today to learn more and sign up.
- Spaces are limited, so early registration is encouraged.
- Register online at www.stlaurence.org/acts-retreat.
- Contact the team with any questions you may have:  
  * Director: Beth Kugler (832) 344-8390  
  * Co-Director: Susan Herrington (832) 656-4477  
  * Co-Director: Jane Hausler (281) 633-1644
**Help Send a Teen to Steubenville**

Want to make a donation that will directly benefit a young person in our parish? We are gratefully accepting donations for need-based scholarships for the **Steubenville South Conference** in Louisiana. Over 200 high schools from St. Laurence are going this June and about 10 of them are unable to afford the full $300 fee (conference admission, hotels, transportation, food and tshirts). **If you can help, please contact Kris Frank** at kfrank@stlaurence.org and 281-265-5774. Your generosity could help bring a teen into a lasting relationship with Christ!

**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.

**Flood Relief**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are working together with our parishes to offer emergency relief and recovery for our neighbors in need who have been impacted by the recent flooding.

**Assistance Provided**
- Basic needs assistance
- Clothing and furniture vouchers for SVDP Thrift Store
- Food pantry assistance
- Help in applying for benefits
- Counseling
- Case management to create a long-term recovery plan
- Referrals for other services: legal, home repairs, clean up

**Ways You Can Help**

**Cash Donations**
To give online, please go to [www.svdphouston.org/donate](http://www.svdphouston.org/donate) or [www.catholiccharities.org/donate](http://www.catholiccharities.org/donate)

**Volunteer**
The needs are great and the workers are few. [www.VolunteerHou.org](http://www.VolunteerHou.org)

**Lead Teens Closer to Christ**

**Be a part of something BIG.**
Be a part of the team that helps disciple and lead middle and high school youth closer to Christ.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry for the upcoming academic year, please call Eric, Kris or Sara at 281-265-5774.

**Life Teen**

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

**EDGE**

What is EDGE? It’s way more than effective catechesis. It’s Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry that helps young people with life’s most challenging years. Edge Nights take place Wednesday evenings from September-April in the school gym. All 6th-8th graders are invited and encouraged to attend. Questions? Interested in helping out? Contact Eric Painter at epainter@stlaurence.org.
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

You can help our many ministries in a variety of ways, but the simplest is through donations! Easier yet, you may have many of these items at home. Items may be dropped off at the parish office or in the SCM Donation bin in the church.

- 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

WHAT A WAY TO END THE YEAR!
Catechists Ricci Kelly & Ruby Norris challenged their 2nd grade CCE students to do something extra special this year. Instead of buying traditional teacher appreciation gifts, the class held a donation drive for Lunches of Love on the last day of class. Through the generosity of their families, the students collected $250, which will sponsor five children’s lunches all summer long!

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

BLACK BAG COLLECTION TODAY!
Today’s black bag collection will be used for our People in Crisis fund which is now averaging more than $9,000 a month in financial assistance to individuals who come to Social Concerns for help or are referred to us by our community partners.

Respect Life News

COME TO THE PARISH BABY SHOWER TODAY
Join the Respect Life Ministry and the Legion of Mary for the 9th Annual Parish Baby Shower in the parish hall today after the three morning masses (7:30, 9:00, 11:00am). Kolaches, donuts, cake and coffee will be served and all the baby items that have been donated to the St. Laurence Gabriel Project will be on display. Everyone is welcome in the parish hall for food and fellowship as we celebrate the gift of life.

THANK YOU, BABY BOTTLE DONORS!
As of May 9, St. Laurence parishioners contributed $19,954 to the Pregnancy Resource Medical Center through the annual Baby Bottle Boomerang. Bottles are still being accepted at the church office. Thank you so much for partnering with PRMC to help women with the choice for life!
SUMMER SERVICE
St. Laurence Social Concerns Ministry

Each Tuesday, beginning June 7, the Social Concerns Ministry will offer a new service opportunity in the SCM Workroom (unless noted otherwise). Space is limited, pre-registration is required!

JUNE SCHEDULE
June 7 (1:30-3:30pm) Rice & Beans for day laborers
June 14 (1:30-3:30pm) Father’s Day gifts for SLHC
June 21 (9:00-11:00am) Lunches of Love at FUMC in Rosenberg
June 28 (1:30-3:30pm) Treats for seniors at SLHC & MGCC

Register via Sign Up Genius at www.signupgenius.com. Click on “Find A Sign-Up”, then type in SocialConcerns@stlaurence.org. This will bring up a listing of all the service opportunities that are available. **Signup for Summer Service is available now.**

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels!

Want to make a difference in the life of a senior this summer? Volunteers are needed to deliver meals between the hours of 10:30am – 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. Routes take about 90 minutes. There are flexible schedules for volunteers (once a week, every other week, once a month, whatever you can do!). Meals are picked up in Sugar Land or Rosenberg. For more information or to fill out a volunteer application, visit www.fortbendseniors.org, email volunteers@fortbendseniors.org or call 281-633-7049.

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.

Around the Archdiocese

MAY 22: SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY
The Secular Franciscan Fraternity meets at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sugar Land at 1:30pm on the 4th Sunday of each month, in Rosary Room #6. Members must be a practicing Catholic and at least 21 years of age to participate. Come join us this Sunday, May 22, to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order and this great Saint. Our Blessed Mother is the Patroness of the Franciscan Family. For more info, please contact Connie Zocco at 281-498-5464, connie.zocco@yahoo.com.

JUNE 7-9: EXPLORE RETREAT FOR YOUNG MEN
This retreat is offered at St. Mary Seminary for high school boys, ages 15-18, who desire an opportunity to explore seminary life and learn about the call to holiness and the priesthood. The retreat consists of music, games, faith sharing, outdoor activities, creative prayer experiences and more. **Registration deadline is June 3, for the Explore Retreat on June 7-9.** For more info, please go to www.houstonvocations.com/explore-retreat or call any of our priests at 281-980-9812 to discuss with them.

JUNE 24-25: GOSPEL OF DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE
The Fullness of Truth Ministries will present a very special conference at Prince of Peace Catholic Church featuring Scott Hahn, John Bergsma and Michael Barber on Friday, June 24 (6:30-9:30pm) and Saturday, June 25 (7:30am-5:00pm). The Gospel of Divine Mercy is the theme for this conference and all presentations focus on an aspect of God’s Mercy. Don’t miss this chance to see these great speakers in person. General admission tickets are available for $45 and family passes are $110, which includes a box lunch. Limited childcare is available. Get all the information and register at www.fullnessoftruth.org.
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS May 22, 2016
FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION
ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH  MOST HOLY TRINITY

Tuesday AM Bible Study  Regina Johnson  281-403-1792
Small Christian Community  Genoveva Duque  281-980-1014
Sunny Tom  832-620-7417
Weekday Children's Program  Becky Wilkinson  281-313-0329
Vacation Bible School  Monica Doucet  281-265-5774
Men's Bible Studies  Steve Ewbank  281-980-5575
RCIA  Justin Frato  281-265-5774
Susan Crockett  713-857-5504
Elementary CCE  Joan Hastreiter  281-265-5774
Contemplative Prayer  Elaine Smith  281-499-6660
Challenge Club for Girls  Monica Hager  281-240-7672
Cath Men Called to Be Saints  Jim Kij  281-253-4800
First Holy Communion  Melissa Calcote  281-265-5774
First Reconciliation  Melissa Calcote  281-265-5774
Marriage Preparation  Theresa Rawls  281-980-9812
Marriage Sponsor Couples  Sharon & John Harry  281-980-8090

SACRAMENT PREPARATION
Baptism  Rose Davis  281-980-9812
Confirmation (Teens)  Sara Sahlezghi  281-265-5774
Confirmation (Adults)  Mary Visser  281-265-5774
Life Teen (High School)  Kris Frank  281-265-5774
Natural Family Planning  Jacob/Jillian Counts  281-300-3704
Parish School (SLCS)  Debra Haney  281-980-0500
Parish School Board  Michael Hurtado  281-635-0926
Parish School PTO  Kristin Holy  281-491-8236
Susan Crockett  713-857-5504
RCIA  Justin Frato  281-265-5774
Vacation Bible School  Monica Doucet  281-265-5774
Vocations Committee  281-980-9812
Weekday Children's Program  Becky Wilkinson  281-313-0329

PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
Cath Men Called to Be Saints  Jim Kij  281-253-4800
Challenge Club for Girls  Monica Hager  281-240-7672
Contemplative Prayer  Elaine Smith  281-499-6660
Divine Mercy (AM)  Sally Flowers  281-265-8360
Divine Mercy (PM)  Patti Kallemeyn  281-438-0696
Hearts of Jesus & Mary  Margie Calo  281-980-4711
Lay Apostle Prayer  Kay Quenan  281-265-3238
Legion of Mary  Carmelitta Kussad  713-922-2446
Men's Bible Studies  Steve Ebwank  281-980-5575
St. Anthony of Padua  Joseph Ellankil  832-282-3032
Sunny Tom  832-620-7417
Small Christian Community  Genoveva Duque  281-980-1014
Tuesday AM Bible Study  Regina Johnson  281-403-1792

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES
Adoration  Janice Swoboda  281-980-8481
Altar Linen Care  Rose Davis  281-980-9812
Altar Servers  Joy Smith  281-265-0839
Art & Environment  Michele Holbrooke  281-265-8425
Children's Liturgy of the Word  Susan Choate  281-682-3389
Extraordinary Ministers  Tom Ruck  713-855-2399
Liturgical Ministers  Theresa Rawls  281-980-9812
Mass Hospitality  Hal Mechler  281-543-9876
Music Ministry  Mary Thompson  281-980-9812
Kevin Klotz  281-980-9812

SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE
Bridges to Life  Dana Cutbirth  281-343-1417
Correctional Ministry  Dcn. Al Bothe  713-582-3870
Dcn. Charles Plant  281-300-3059
Funeral Receptions  Sue Kulha  281-265-8332
Habitat for Humanity  Steve Pondell  281-253-7088
Learn English Ministry  Wendy Moore  713-208-5169
Learn Spanish Ministry  Adriana Gutierrez  713-269-2851
Meals That Heal  MaryAnne Talab  281-438-2381
Medical Missionaries  Cordell St. Cyr  832-449-3759
Ministry of St. Joseph  Tim Beverick  281-265-1533
Respect Life  Marie McCoy  281-265-7749
Senior Rides & More  Annette Bisanz  281-980-1449
Social Concerns  Pennie DeGroot  281-980-9812
Society St. John DeMatha  Deacon Al Bothe  713-582-3870

MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT
Annulments  Anne Marie Daniel  281-265-5774
Bereavement Ministries:  
Grief Support Group  Sandy Barber  281-633-9090
Grieving Families  Agnes Fernandes  281-933-3721
H.O.P.E.  Annette Bisanz  281-980-1449
Cancer Support  Angela Rankin  832-945-2245
Caregivers Support Group  Lori Knowles  281-261-5738
Divorce Care  Janie Picou  832-860-3398
NAMI  Pat Sumner  281-265-1554
Pastoral Care for Sick  Ambrose Graham  713-865-3729
Spiritual Direction  Anne Marie Daniel  281-265-5774

EVANGELIZATION, STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP
Come & See  Art & Marilyn Ramponi  832-945-2110
Discipleship Council  Marc Sherman  713-962-0617
Evangelization Committee  Marie McCoy  281-265-7749
Finance Council  Bob Ladd  281-980-3246
Financial Peace University  Jason Davalos  832-876-9824
Pastoral Council  Tom Ruck  713-855-2399
Welcome Ministry  Eva Fernandez  832-633-5640

COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE
African Catholic Community  Esther Iredia  832-661-2945
Bazaar  Tom Barry  281-545-4112
Les Fuchs  832-360-3104
Boy Scout Troop 828  Craig Popp  281-731-6140
Cub Scout Pack 1828  Danny Kleiber  225-614-3128
Catholic Daughters  Pam White  281-265-3070
Council of Catholic Women  Mary Ann Brenner  713-306-6410
Family Ministry  Melissa Calcote  281-265-5774
Filipino Community  Fe Vicerra  713-248-1164
Hispanic Ministry  Francisco Rojas-Ayala  281-690-3374
Knights of Columbus  Gary Arrington  713-882-9567
Ladies Guild  Joan O’Daniel  281-980-2431
Lorrie Kehoe  281-980-2431
Ladies Guild  Joan O’Daniel  281-980-2431
 Parish Council  Tom Ruck  713-855-2399
Welcome Ministry  Eva Fernandez  832-633-5640

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

We will not have scheduled adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the Memorial Day holiday from 2 pm on Friday, May 27, until 8 am Tuesday, May 31.

ADORERS STILL NEEDED FOR THESE HOURS:
Monday 1am-2am; Tuesday 4am-5am; Thursday 7-8pm; Friday 4am-5am; Saturday 2am-3am

Meet at the Parish Library

Have you applied for a library card? Come pick it up! It’s waiting for you at the Main Reception Desk at the Ave Maria Center. If you haven’t yet filled out an application or checked out our amazing library, stop by and take a look. The library is turning into a pretty exciting place to be! Coming in June: Story Time for Children and a new St. Laurence Parish Library Summer Reading Program! For more information, please contact Susan Mulé at 281-255-5774 or smule@stlaurence.org.

St. Laurence Adult Singles Group

The St. Laurence Adult Singles Ministry serves adults of all ages who are widowed, divorced, separated or never married. For more event info, email us at st.laurencesingles@gmail.com.

SUN, 5/22 @ 9:00AM – Mass & Brunch. Meet in the elevated seats by the choir for Mass, then go get brunch at Skeeters.
TUE, 5/24 @ 7:00PM – Monthly Meeting. Meet us in the Trinity Room (near the parish hall) for our monthly planning meeting!
FRI, 5/27 @ 6:00PM – Dinner at Japaniero’s. Let’s get some sushi and Latin food together on Sugar Land Town Center.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Laurence Cancer Support Group is winding down for the summer and will be taking a break for the months of July and August. We will pick up again in September. Plan to join us! We meet on the first Thursday of every month and the group is open to all cancer patients, survivors and caregivers. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 1, and call Angela Rankin (832-945-2245) if you have any suggestions for speakers. We hope that the summer months will be happy and HEALTHY ones for everyone. See you in September!

St. Laurence Women’s Retreat

Register for the St. Laurence Women’s Retreat “Vessels of Grace”, to be held at Camp Allen Retreat Center in Navasota the weekend of September 16-18. There are limited spots for this popular retreat, so register early to secure your spot. Led by Laura Laine, this retreat is inspired by the lives of the Women of the Bible. Their stories of grief, sorrow, joy, triumph, acceptance & rejection give hope to women of today. Register at www.stlaurence.org or pick up a brochure at the Hospitality Desk.

Spiritual Direction at St. Laurence

Is your heart restless? Are you experiencing a longing to grow closer to God? Are you experiencing life’s transitions and feeling like God is distant? Spiritual directors are available at St. Laurence to walk with you on your spiritual journey in the process of coming home to your deepest self and discovering God in the midst of daily living. Contact Anne Marie Daniel at 281-265-5774 or adaniel@stlaurence.org.

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 Joan Hastreiter or Melissa Calcote at 281-265-5774.

JOIN OUR HABITAT TEAM!

Spend a Saturday with our Habitat for Humanity ministry to build their 11th house for a family in need. No tools or experience needed, 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 Lawerre Perreau at lperreau@comcast.net, 832-525-8717.
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.