SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am,
11:00am, 12:45pm, 5:00pm

DAILY MASSES
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
7:30am, 12:00pm
Wednesday 7:30am, 6:30pm
Friday 8:15am, 12:00pm
Saturday 8:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday after morning Mass
Saturday 4:00pm–4:45pm
Wednesday 5:30pm–6:20pm
Monday–Thursday after morning Mass

ROSARY
Friday 6:30am

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
August 5 — In the Chapel
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
August 6 — In the Church
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Julio 23 — 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

Mary Has Chosen the Better Part
PARISH OFFICE
3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-9812
Pastor: Fr. Drew Wood
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS, jaisonthomas@stlaurence.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Simon Kipiti, skipiti@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Renato (Rey) Arellano, deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Albert Bothe, deaconal@ssjd.org
Deacon: Don Burns, don@donburns.com
Deacon: Charles Plant, stlaurencedeacon@aol.com
Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, toltremari@stlaurence.org
Liturgy: Theresa Rawls, trawls@stlaurence.org
Facilities: Deanna Ennis, dennis@stlaurence.org
Social Concerns: Pennie DeGroot, pdegroot@stlaurence.org
Communications: Sharon Ehrenkranz, sehrenkranz@stlaurence.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-265-5774
Director Religious Education: Laura Stephens, lstephens@stlaurence.org
Religious Education Registrar: Ruba Kaiser, rkaiser@stlaurence.org
Adult Faith Formation: Justin Frato, jfrato@stlaurence.org
Children’s Faith Formation: Joan Hastreiter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org
Youth Ministry: Kris Frank, kfrank@stlaurence.org
Sara Sahlezghi, ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org
Eric Painter, epainter@stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-0500
Principal: Suzanne Barto, sbarto@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Marie Brown, mbrown@stlaurence.org

WEEKDAY CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-313-0329
Director: Becky Wilkinson, bwilkinson@stlaurence.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCILS
281-980-9812
Pastoral Council: Tom Ruck, rucktg@gmail.com
Finance Council: Bob Ladd, robert.ladd@haynesboone.com
Discipleship Council: Marc Sherman, MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com

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.

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 through Thursday 8:00am-9:00pm and Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. The Weekday Children’s Program is offered for infants through pre-school 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, July 17, 2016
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Don’t worry, be fearless

In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to us about our anxieties and worries. They distract us. They’re harmful to us if we let them control our lives, because they take our eyes off of our Lord and focus us on what’s going wrong and how it might get worse.

Mary chose the “better part”; she didn’t let anything distract her from being a disciple learning avidly from Jesus. When we make the time to put aside the busyness of life to sit quietly and learn from Jesus, we discover reasons why our worries aren’t really so worrisome.

Only as we sit quietly at the feet of Jesus do we find hope that overcomes despair, peace that conquers anxiety, and wisdom that gets us through trials. Even the littlest worry, such as Martha’s concern that her kitchen chores wouldn’t get done, is a sin when it takes our eyes off of Jesus. Nothing that distracts us from Jesus is ever good for us.

We cannot grow in holiness when we’re not watching Jesus and learning from him how to be holy. We cannot love as he loves nor receive all the love he gives us unless we have a prayer life that includes quiet time alone with him, drinking up his lessons and his loving embrace. Prayers said while driving and while listening to homilies isn’t enough.

Anxieties and worries are varying degrees of fear: We’re afraid that something bad is going to happen. Even when there’s a legitimate reason to worry, fear blocks our view of Jesus, because it turns us away from him. We need to recognize fear as a warning flag telling us to slow down, quiet down, and sit down with Jesus for a good discussion on whatever it is that’s bothering us. He’s got the answers, the encouragement, and the affirmation that will bring us peace.

Questions for Personal Reflection:
What has been worrying you lately? What are you anxious about? What are you fearing might happen? Write them on a list and take them to Jesus in a quiet prayer time. What lesson is Jesus trying to teach you in those situations? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn from Jesus. Search the Bible for additional inspiration.

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:
What are some of the ways we can slow down our lives and improve our prayer times? Tell the story of an experience you had when quiet prayer relieved an anxiety or solved a problem.

PRAYING THE NEWS | JULY 17, 2016

One who…thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue. Psalm 15:2-3

Oh God, the news has been filled with fear, mistrust and anger - and the deeds that come forth from them. So much sorrow and pain on all sides because we fail to see and treat each other as brothers and sisters. Lord, as the national conventions approach, please help current and prospective leaders speak in truth, justice and peace. May we each examine our hearts and minds to do the same. Jesus, We Trust in You. Amen. †
In Our Prayers...

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for these members of our parish family and all our loved ones listed in the Book of the Sick:


PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

- CV2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
- Spc David Ambrocik, US Army
- Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
- SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
- P.O. 5 Debra Barnette, US Navy
- LCpl Trevor Bello, USMC
- PFC John Blair, US Army
- Maj. Michael Carroll, USMC
- Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, USMC
- Sgt. Matthew Chesney, US Navy
- Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
- LTJG Colin Day, US Navy
- 1stLt Andrew DeSplinter, US Army
- Sgt. Nicholas Dockum, US Army
- Capt. Brandon Driscoll, USMC
- Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
- 2ndLt Michael Eberhards, US Army
- Capt. Stacey Eberhards, US Army
- Derek Farias, US Navy
- Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
- Pvt. Jahnell Xavier George, US Army
- SSgt. Philip Graham, US Army
- 1stLT Spencer Henry, US Army
- PVT Liam Hill, US Army
- Daniel Hines, US Navy
- SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
- 1LT Michelle Horstman, US Army
- SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
- Joseph Kingersers, US Navy
- EM4 James Locus, US Navy
- PFC Philip Loera, US Army
- PFC John Lundgren, US Army
- Ann 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, Richard Pinard, US Army
- LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
- Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
- 1stLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army
- Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
- SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
- LTJG Kevin Stransky, US Navy
- Cpl Daniel Thesing, USMC
- Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
- 1stLt Kevin Wheeler, US Army
- Sgt. Bryce Whitley, US Army
- AM Troy Yelverton, US Navy

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 16
5:00pm – Timi Beeler (D)

SUNDAY, JULY 17
7:30am – Jeremiah Pascual (D)
9:00am – Lorenz Minicome (D)
11:00am – John & Thomas Mekkette (D)
12:45pm – Dave Gilner (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, JULY 18
7:30am – Lorna Somballi (I)
12:00pm – Frank Reina (D)

TUESDAY, JULY 19
7:30am - Henry & Catherine Rumbarger (D)
12:00pm – Froilan & Felicisima Parodo (D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20
7:30am – William Roasa (I)
6:30pm - Diosdado & Manuela DelRosario (D)

THURSDAY, JULY 21
7:30am – Feliciano Capili Macalino (D)
12:00pm – Jose Altamirano (D)

FRIDAY, JULY 22
8:15am – Betty Conroy (D)
12:00pm – Benedicta Ifudu (I)

SATURDAY, JULY 23
8:30pm – Walter & Ann Spann (D)
5:00pm – Jean Snyder Martin (D)

SUNDAY, JULY 24
7:30am – Pablo & Jose Crescini (D)
9:00am – Mary Nell Henderson (D)
11:00am – Alex Herrera (D)
12:45pm – Victoria Canlas (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Marc Fryer, Brother Peter Francis (Brian Kelsch), Chad Henry, Bryan Williams, Sister Philomena (Krystle Cagandahan), Sister Daniela (Megan Bennett), Sister Rachel Marie of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary (Rachel Gosda), Collin Brown, Margaret Uche, Dennis Henderson
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

JULY 21: LOVING EMBRACE INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP
Loving Embrace is a Catholic educational support group for couples who have endured or are presently enduring the pain and suffering of infertility. The group provides support for coping with infertility and explores resources, methods, and options that are morally faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Meets 3rd Thursday, each month, 7:30-9:00pm, monthly meeting rotation: Couples Dinner, Ladies Dinner, and Couples Discussion. For details, please contact Shannon Lassen at 832-978-6716 or infertilitysupporthouston@gmail.com.

AUGUST 14: WEDDING ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE MASS
The Archdiocese joins with couples celebrating their 25th anniversary of their marriage at a special Anniversary Jubilee Mass celebrated by Cardinal DiNardo on Sunday, August 14, at 3:00pm at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Registrations to participate in this celebration is now open at www.familylifeministryhouston.org. Please register online and print your confirmation and bring it with you to the check-in table. Happy Anniversary!

JULY 23: ARCHDIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER
Prince of Peace Catholic Community is hosting the Archdiocesan Day of Prayer on Saturday, July 23, from 8:00am-1:00pm, featuring Fr. John Keller, Michael Gormley and Deacon Tom Vicknair as speakers, with Mass celebrated by Cardinal DiNardo. The event will be held at Prince of Peace, 19222 Tomball Pkwy, Houston, and the doors open at 7:30am. The cost to attend is $10. Get more information and register at http://staoptw.org/dop2016.

JULY 22-24: LIFE AWARENESS WEEKEND
Life Awareness Weekend is a discernment retreat offered for young people at Holy Name Retreat Center, beginning Friday, July 22, at 6:00pm and concluding Sunday, July 24, after lunch. There is no charge to attend, but a short interview is required before July 18. The weekend includes presentations, prayer, group discussions, silent reflection and guidance from priests and sisters. Since 1983, 1150 men and women have attended and 13% have entered religious life. Go to www.houstonvocations.com/life-awareness or contact Deacon Gary Hilbig, gary.hilbig@allsaints.us.com, 832-549-4140 for more information.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
July 10 Collection $ 60,239
Registered Households 7,275
Envelopes Used 735
Loose Checks 208
2nd Collection—St. Vincent de Paul $ 13,889

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory $ 163,017
Participants 913

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal $ 495,000
Amount Paid $ 340,566
Amount Pledged $ 413,331
Participants 943

Diocesan Services Fund  
His Mercy Endures Forever

Christ calls us to reach those  
who are sick or in need, to  
bless them, serve them, and  
show them mercy. Your gift to  
the DSF enables us to reach  
out to people across the arch-  
diocese through more than 60  
programs. Help us reach our  
parish goal of $495,000  
with a pledge today. Donate online at  
www.archgh.org/dsf or pick up a donation envelope at the  
Hospitality Desk.

THANK YOU!

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

WEDDING PREPARATION
Next class: AUGUST 8
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: AUGUST 13
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.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS
Ella Barran, Ariel Guzman, Jaxon Guzman, Marco Curiel, Lincoln Messer, Hector Leon, Luke Kamenszky, Catherine Weihe

WEDDINGS
Sarah Landry & Michael Hickl

FUNERALS
Cordell St Cyr, husband of Doris St Cyr
Earl Norra, father of Chip, Mike, Robbie, Leslie Norra, & Ann Dyess
Antonio Hernandez, husband of Nancy Hernandez
Kristofer Stanley, son of Janet Stanley
Tom Sigoski, son of Marie Sigoski
Connie Forbes, mother of Julie Anzaldua

On summer vacation?
Please include St. Laurence in your vacation plans! Sign up today for eGiving through Faith Direct to make it easy to remember your gifts to St. Laurence Catholic Church while you're off enjoying your summer vacation. Enrolling is easy – just go to www.faithdirect.net and use our church code TX460. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time and talents, as well as treasure!
**CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION**

**ELEME N TARY CCE**

**Summer Faith Challenge:** Kids already complaining that they are B O R E D? Find some great faith based activities at [www.catholicmom.com](http://www.catholicmom.com) or a family activity ‘bucket list’ at [www.motherhoodandmiscellany.com](http://www.motherhoodandmiscellany.com) to beat those summer boredom blues while connecting with our Catholic faith.

**Registration for the upcoming CCE year** is open through **August 15**. Forms for CCE and First Sacraments prep programs may be picked up in person at the Ave Maria Center or may be found on the parish website under EDUCATION/Registration. Register early! Many classes fill up fast!

**Consider serving as a CCE catechist** or assistant. No experience is necessary, just a desire to share your faith with our youngest church members. **Training and materials provided.** Please contact Joan Hastreiter at jhastreiter@stlaurence.org for these and other opportunities to get involved. This is an incredibly rewarding experience which you will never regret!

**THIS WEEK: FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

Please pray for:

Kaitlyn Raj & Jonathan Grove…

and all 226 children making their First Communion this year!

**SLCS ALUMNI, STAY IN TOUCH!**

Please join us in congratulating the **SLCS Class of 2012** on their graduation from HIGH SCHOOL! Your SLCS family will keep you in our prayers as you move on to the next exciting phase of your life!

**SLCS celebrates its 25th anniversary next school year!** All alumni are invited to be a part of the fun. If you are an SLCS alum or are the parent of one, please take a moment to complete this form, so we can keep you in the loop on all the great things we have planned for next year: [http://goo.gl/forms/8Sm500CEit](http://goo.gl/forms/8Sm500CEit).

**ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.
EDGE is 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, September through April at the Ave Maria Center. All 6th-8th graders are invited and encouraged to attend. Interested in helping out? Contact Eric Painter at epainter@stlaurence.org.

SUMMER EDGE
Any and all incoming 6-8th graders are invited to spend some time hanging out with Edge this Summer!

Mass // Open Gym
Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm (JUNE 22 – JULY 27)
Meet for Mass, then OPEN GYM at the school!

Movie Night
JULY 21
7:00-9:30pm in the Youth Hall, Ave Maria Center
Come watch a movie with us. We’ll even cook you breakfast!
Get more at www.stlaurence.org/summeredge.

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

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.

Calling Future Coogs!
Whether you’re a freshman or a transfer, starting out can be hard. Join us for a smooth transition to the University of Houston with the FRESH retreat at the Catholic Newman Center.

Saturday, August 27
10:00am-6:00pm
This day retreat will be filled with interactive games, food, dynamic talks and personal stories of transitioning and staying close to the Faith in college. You will also get the chance to meet other freshmen and transfer students, gain insight from current Catholic Coogs, and hang out with our director, Fr. John Paul, and campus minister Claire McMullin.

INFO: Claire McMullin at c.mcmullin2003@gmail.com or check out www.facebook.com/CatholicCoogs/find FRESH in the events.

HOUSTON AGGIE CATHOLICS!
Come to an Aggie Catholic Maroon Mass to welcome new Aggie Catholic freshmen, transfer students and their families and learn about all the great things happening at St. Mary’s!

Date: Saturday, July 30
Mass Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston, 77002

Light dinner and program will follow at Cathedral Centre. RSVP to Beth Ogden 979-846-5717 (ext 110), bogden@aggiecatholic.org.
For Adults

THE Alexander’s are Returning to St Laurence to present…

Strong Catholic Marriage Workshop
Saturday August 27
9:00am-4:00pm
Ave Maria Center - Marian Hall

Join us for an all-day event where you and your spouse will learn how putting God at the center of your marriage can help you do the seemingly impossible. Cost per couple is $100, includes a light breakfast, lunch and materials.

REGISTER: www.stlaurence.org/marriageworkshop

Daily Challenge for Married Couples

Pope Francis’ Amoris Laetitia (Joy of Love) came out on April 8. How much have you read? Join AL Bootcamp, read a small bit from Chapter 4 (Love in Marriage) and ask you to do something related to it for your marriage every day! www.foryourmarriage.org

“My summoned them and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave’” (Mt 20:25-27).

Pope Francis: It is important for Christians to show their love by the way they treat family members who are less knowledgeable about the faith, weak or less sure in their convictions… In family life, the logic of domination and competition about who is the most intelligent or powerful destroys love” (Amoris Laetitia, no. 98).

Today: Families are always a “mixed bag” in terms of the practice of the faith. Think about the last time that you were with your extended family. Did you treat people kindly, even if they disagree with you or the Church? (This doesn’t mean watering down your love for your faith.) Are you approachable and gentle in your conversations?
14 FREE Movies - Family Movie Night

A few months ago we announced that we have a gift for you and your family - a FREE subscription to Formed.org so you and your family can enjoy great movies, audio presentations, ebooks, Bible studies and more.

We are pleased to announce that 14 new inspiring movies have been added for your viewing pleasure.

Here's how easy it is to get started:

1. Go to Formed.org
2. First time users, type in the parish access code 012fc (middle of the home page) to create your account.
3. Returning users, log in top right with your username/ email and password.
4. You're in! Start watching, listening and reading.

We hope you and your family enjoy this FREE subscription and grow in Faith with FORMED.

Augustine Institute™
FORMED®

Formed.org
Martha and Mary are the focus of this weekend's Gospel, which abounds with rich themes about hospitality, service, and finding the right balance between action and prayerful attention to the Lord. Christians who are good stewards of their faith life realize that if they are too busy to enjoy peaceful, private time with the Lord, then something is out of balance in their spirituality. If we make time for Mass, but then carry on with our busy schedules without prayer, meditation and reflection, we are missing out. If we find ourselves anxious and harried by life’s routines, could it be a sign that something in our spiritual life needs some serious attention?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARDS AMONG US

SUSAN HERRINGTON

As a full-time working single parent, Susan would squeeze in her ministry work where and when she could, primarily at SLCS and in the 11:00am Choir. However, once the kids were grown, she felt a tug to reconnect with her parish family and serve in a new way. In 2013, Susan attended her first A.C.T.S. Retreat and her life has never been the same. She says, “I always knew Our Lord was with me during all the challenges I faced over the years, but I never allowed myself to truly feel His presence until this retreat. I wanted to give back, using the talents He has blessed me with, to help others. I changed career paths, place my entire trust in the Lord and became a more active part of my parish. I joined the Catholic Daughters of America and am now serving as a co-director on the first Women’s A.C.T.S. Retreat at St. Laurence. Through both of these ministries, I have been blessed with so many wonderful friends for a lifetime. Now when I attend Sunday Mass, I seem to always see someone I know! Get involved... start small and let Him lead you, He has a plan for each of us.”

Mercy overcomes every wall, every barrier, and leads you to always seek the face of the man, of the person.

And it is mercy which changes the heart and the life, which can regenerate a person and allow him or her to integrate into society in a new way.

Pope Francis

September 10, 2014

Ask Paula

Q.
Do you ever hear from Fr. Tommy?

A.
Yes! He is the pastor at St. Anne’s in Tomball. He just celebrated his 4 year anniversary there on July 1. WOW! He does not have a parochial vicar, or a housekeeper, but he does have a roommate named Bandit. Bandit is his 6-year-old dog who he loves very much. Per Tommy, Bandit likes to go to Petsmart and the church office. (You know, Take Your Child to Work Day, right?) When he is able to take some time off, he usually goes on a cruise out of Galveston. Tommy has lost 70 pounds... the hard way... diabetes! Don’t worry, it’s under control now. When he first walked into the church office, I thought he was Fr. Phil! Doesn’t he look great?? I told him when FD retires (not any time soon), maybe he can be pastor here! Just saying.

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.
THIS MONDAY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

CAFÉ CATHOLICA
FREE EVENT

“AWAKE, 0 SLEEPER, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL SHINE ON YOU.”
EPHESIANS 5:14

REAWAKEN MERCY
JOIN HUNDREDS OF YOUNG ADULTS MONDAYS
JULY 11 | 18 | 25 | 2016

July 11: Compassion, Community, Christ
Deacon Preston Quintela
(Priesthood Ordination on June 2016)

July 18: Endless Mercy, Lasting Joy
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

July 25: Walk Humbly, Love Mercy
Monsignor William L. Young

LOCATION: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
6800 BUFFALO SPEEDWAY HOUSTON, TX 77025

Limited FREE child care RSVP privera@svdp-edu.org

The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston
HUSBANDS, FATHERS & SONS OF GOD

An Evening with
Cardinal DiNardo
Thursday, July 21, 2016
7:00-8:00 p.m.
St. Laurence
Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land

Ask most men what is expected of them at their place of employment. Chances are, they can tell you. But when it comes to expectations of men as husbands, fathers and sons of God, the answer may be less clear. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will shine a light on the unique and essential role of men as spiritual leaders. Men (and the women who love them) are invited to this very special presentation.

Come, be inspired, be challenged and be the man God created you to be!

All are welcome • No cost to attend • No RSVP required
Seating available, first come, first served

INFORMATION:
www.stlaurence.org/men
Justin Frato | 281-265-5774 | jfrato@stlaurence.org
**JULY 21: CARDINAL DINARDO AT ST. LAURENCE**

Want to be a great husband, great father, and a man of God? Cardinal DiNardo is coming to St. Laurence on **Thursday, July 21, at 7:00pm**, to speak on the importance of the man's role in marriage, as fathers, and as engaged members of the parish community. This very special presentation is free and **open to everyone**, offered in Marian Hall at the Ave Maria Center. Mark your calendars now for this extraordinary opportunity to **hear directly from our bishop**, as he shares his expectations of, and challenge to, the men of St. Laurence! For more information, please visit the parish website or contact Justin Frato at 281-265-5774 and jfrato@stlaurence.org.

**20s & 30s: JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**CAFÉ CATHOLICA: Mondays in July**
The St. Laurence Young Adult Ministry is getting things rolling again! We are joining hundreds of other young adults to attend Cafe Catholica every Monday night in July starting July 11. If you're interested in carpooling, we will meet in the Ave Maria parking lot at 6:15pm, to head to St. Vincent de Paul. Free dinner starts at 7:15pm, followed by a fantastic speaker. The event ends by 9:30pm.

**ENCOUNTER: Steubenville Young Adult Conference**
This conference is for Young Adults in their 20s & 30s to come together and enjoy three days of relaxation, worship and lifegiving Encounter with Jesus. It will be held at La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa, in Conroe, the weekend of Friday, SEPT 30 (all day) through Sunday, OCT 2. The cost is $219/person, but if you register through St. Laurence by 7/25, you get a $20 discount! Find out more about Encounter at www.encounterhouston.com and contact Young Adult Coordinator Michaela Barta at mbarta@stlaurence.org to register with the St. Laurence group.

**JULY 28: INTRO TO NA-PRO TECHNOLOGY**

We are happy to welcome Brooke Jemelka to St. Laurence on Thursday, July 28, to speak on “Unleashing the Power of a Women’s Cycle: An Introduction to NaProTECHNOLOGY”, from 7:00-9:00pm in the St Francis Meeting Room. Brooke Jemelka, MD FACOG, is from St Luke’s Medical Group Caritas Women’s Care, located in Sugar Land. She will introduce NaProTECHNOLOGY, a major breakthrough in monitoring and maintaining a women’s reproductive and gynecological health. It provides effective holistic solutions to real problems. Emily Hickman, FCPI from Renew FertilityCare, will also give an overview of the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. For more information, go to www.stlaurence.org/fertility.

**VIRTUS CLASSES**
Anyone who serves at the parish, in our parish school or Weekday Childrens Program, working with or around children, must first be VIRTUS trained, to be in accordance with Archdiocesan policy. Go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) to register for classes offered throughout the archdiocese. Following are dates for classes scheduled here at St. Laurence. **Questions?** Please contact Tony Oltremari at 281-980-9812.

**PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN**
Initial VIRTUS training - 3-hour course
Saturday, 8/13 (8:00-11:00am)
Saturday, 9/17 (8:00-11:00am)

**KEEPING THE PROMISE ALIVE**
Refresher after 5 years - 90-minute course
Tuesday, 8/16 (6:00-7:30pm)
Wednesday, 9/7 (6:00-7:30pm)

**A SPECIAL NEED**
St. Laurence Catholic School is accepting applications for a SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) teacher. Qualifications include: Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in special education (EC-8); experience in educating special needs students and mastery of effective classroom and student behavior management skills. Qualified applicants should complete the online archdiocesan application at www.choosecatholicschools.org/employment-opportunities/ and send a letter of interest and resume to Suzanne Barto at sbarto@stlaurence.org.

**PRAY FOR THE TEAM AND THOSE ATTENDING THE 1ST ST. LAURENCE ACTS RETREAT FOR WOMEN.**

July 21-24, 2016
Serving Others

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY WEEK AT ST. LAURENCE

MONDAYS: Our Daily Bread 9:30am, SCM Workroom

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

OTHER GREAT 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 Community Center and 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 4,100 brown bag meals provided each DAY during the summer months 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, please go to www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOE DRIVE

Visit the tag line after Mass this weekend!

Help provide a NEW PAIR OF SHOES to local Fort Bend children as they return to school this August. We hope to collect over 900 pairs of shoes this year. Shoe tags and monetary donation envelopes will be on the plaza after Mass starting THIS weekend. Tags may also be picked up in the parish office and Social Concerns Office.

Additionally, we will be accepting new school supplies to benefit children in Fort Bend County who are living in poverty. School supplies will be distributed to students at the Fort Bend County Back to School Event which will take place on Saturday, August 13. A complete list of the needed supplies is available on the Social Concerns web page on the parish website. Donations can be dropped off in the parish or Social Concerns offices or with the shoe drive collection. Thank you for your support of our community and the Social Concerns Ministry!

July 24-30 is NFP Awareness Week

Love, Mercy, Life

Natural Family Planning Opening the Heart of Marriage

Do you understand WHY the Church teaches that artificial birth control is wrong? Are you aware of the dangers of hormonal birth control as well as the fact that children can be conceived and then aborted while using it? Pick up a brochure at the Hospitality Desk on the topic. Two free CDs are also available at the parish library: Contraception: Cracking the Myths and Prove It, God…And He Did!

Who doesn’t love BINGO? Teach your children the importance of serving others, have fun doing it together, and brighten the day for local senior citizens by calling BINGO at Sugar Land Health Care Center in old Sugar Land. This is a GREAT family or small group service opportunity. To volunteer, please contact Janet Roberts at jrob3207@comcast.net.

NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Millions of Americans face the day-to-day reality of living with mental illness. We get it. We’ve been there. We offer help. We offer hope. For info, contact Pat Sumner, 281-265-1554, psumner1@comcast.net.

General Meeting: 1st Thursday of each month (except summer)

Support Group (English): 2nd and 4th Thursday each month

Support Group (Spanish): 3rd Tuesday each month

Support Group (Chinese): Last Sunday each month

Family to Family Classes: Begins September 12

Family-to-Family is a 12-session educational course for family, caregivers and friends of individuals living with mental illness.

Peer to Peer Classes: Begins September 19

Peer-to-Peer is a 10-session recovery-focused educational program for adults with mental illness who wish to establish and maintain wellness.
WHAT WE NEED

You can help with these simple donations. Look around the house and see what you have to share and drop 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, jackets.
- baby wipes, mini-toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, mini Gold Bond foot powder for 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), new/gently used children’s books & small fleece blankets 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
- Black pens, mints, business thank you cards, book marks, small packages tissues for the WORK-FAITH bootcamp students. WorkFaith Connection empowers disadvantaged job seekers to find and keep meaningful employment.

SUMMER SERVICE IN SOCIAL CONCERNS

Each Tuesday during the summer, the Social Concerns Ministry offers service opportunities in the Social Concerns Workroom, unless noted otherwise. SPACE IS LIMITED and pre-registration is required.

Upcoming schedule:

- July 19 (9:00-11:00am) Lunches of Love at FUMC, Rosenberg
- July 26 (1:30-3:30pm) Owl toppers for Share God’s Bounty
- Aug 2 (1:30-3:30pm) Annual Shoe Drive – shoe sort
- Aug 9 (1:30-3:30pm) Cancer awareness ribbons for MDAnderson Children’s Cancer Hospital

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. Signups are available now.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

SUPPORT OTHERS WITH ENCOURAGEMENT AND LOVE

We learned about an organization doing great work at the AFF Speaker’s Series in May. Barbara J. Elliott spoke on the subject of STREET SAINTS, the people who are renewing America’s cities through the works of mercy. She founded WorkFaith Connection, an organization that empowers disadvantaged job seekers to find and keep meaningful employment. Since 2006, the WorkFaith Connection has helped over 3,600 people gain the skills and confidence they need to change their lives through work and faith. WorkFaith’s model begins with an 8-day boot camp where students learn how to interview, fill out a job application, and describe their strengths while speaking honestly about their past. We wanted to find a way to help and so we came up with the idea of providing a few simple items that the students might need during boot camp. One of our wonderful volunteers, Jean Bauer, learned about our plans and said she would try and get some items donated. A few days later, she showed up with a big smile on her face and over 50 beautifully decorated bags, along with bottles of water, flash drives, pens, handmade bookmarks, granola bars, tissues and mints. Thank you for your generosity, Jean, and for the love of Christ you show to others!

SCM is collecting these items now! See the WHAT WE NEED box, above, to help.

SUPPORT SOCIAL CONCERNS WITH AMAZON SMILE

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price back to St. Laurence Social Concerns. Bookmark this link:

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0157777

and support the outreach efforts of the parish every time you shop!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? NEED SERVICE HOURS?

Visit the Social Concerns page on the parish website:

www.stlaurence.org/volunteer-service-opportunities
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 substitutes. Contact Janice Swoboda at 281-980-8481, 832-816-4660 or adoration@stlaurence.org.

The sadness that comes from experiencing the loss of a loved one can leave us frozen in place, just trying to cope with everyday life. Support groups are an important tool for finding hope and coping tools on this journey. The Grief Support Ministry meets in the Ave Maria Center, every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30pm, as well as every Wednesday morning from 10:00am-12:00noon. We are a group of compassionate lay people who also have experienced the death of someone we dearly loved. Join us, because no one should grieve alone! Please contact Sandy Barber, 281-633-9090, help2grieve@hotmail.com.

The St. Laurence Cancer Support Group is winding down for the summer and 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 suggestions for speakers. We hope that the summer months are happy and HEALTHY for you!

Coping with the sudden or tragic death of a loved one can be very difficult. Survivors are often overwhelmed by the grief that follows this unexpected death, complicating the grieving process. Connect with others who are also grieving the sudden death of loved ones. The Grieving Families Support Group is for those who are grieving the death of loved ones through murder, suicide, accident, or any sudden death. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday each month from 1:00-2:30pm in the St. Francis Room. For more information, please contact Agnes Fernandes, 281-933-3721, agnesffernandes@gmail.com.

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! NEW THIS SUMMER: Story Time for Children and a new St. Laurence Parish Library Summer Reading Program! For more info, please contact Susan Mulé at 281-255-5774 or smule@stlaurence.org.

Lots of fun activities are planned for August with our J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth). Learn all about it from Anne Higgins at nannya@gmail.com or 832-755-5597. This group welcomes anyone over the age of 50 who wishes to make a stronger parish connection.

AUG 1—we meet every First Monday 1:00am-1:00pm. Join us in August in the Social Concerns workroom for a fun service project. Bring a brown bag lunch!

AUG 5—Get together with J.O.Y Club friends for the Battle of the Bands and Food Fest in Meadows Place Park, from 7:00-10:00pm.

AUG 15—Meet for a delicious lunch at 12:30pm at Brandanis. Make some good friends over a great lunch!
LITTLE FLOWERS GIRLS’ CLUB

2nd Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm, AMC 206-208

Have your daughter (Grade K-5) join the St. Laurence Little Flowers Girls’ Club. The group helps girls grow in virtue and fellowship with others and meets from 4:00-5:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Ave Maria Center Room 201. At each meeting, girls learn about a different saint and virtue, along with making a fun craft. Membership costs $12 and can be paid at the AMC front desk. To learn about Little Flowers, email Christina or Jenny at sugarlandlittleflowers@gmail.com.

NEW! BLUE KNIGHTS BOYS CLUB

2nd Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm, AMC 2nd floor

St. Laurence will be hosting a Blue Knights Boys’ Club for all boys in grades K-5 this year! Our group helps boys grow in virtue and fellowship with others. Join us for our first meeting on July 14, from 4:00-5:00pm, on the 2nd Thursday of each month on the Ave Maria second floor. At each meeting we will learn about a different saint and virtue, play games and make a craft. Yearly membership costs $12 and can be paid at the AMC front desk. For more info, please contact Christina at sugarlandblueknights@gmail.com.

TUESDAYS: WOMEN OF THE CLOTH

Join the Women of the Cloth on Tuesday mornings from 9:00am to noon in the St. Francis Room at the Ave Maria Center for fellowship, sewing, knitting, crocheting and crafting. Bring your talent and help us make wonderful things to sell or donate in support of Habitat for Humanity and other local charities. Donations of fabric, yarn and other supplies are always welcome! For more information, please call Eileen Scamardo (281-242-0183) or Margie Koenig (281-313-3625).

TUESDAYS: LEGION OF MARY

Personal sanctification by prayer and service is the goal of members of the Legion of Mary. Through cooperation with the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin, members meet this objective by active participation in the Church’s evangelizing work. Active and Auxiliary memberships are available. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Corpus Christi Room. For info, please contact Carmelita Kussad at 713-922-2446, cskussad@hotmail.com.

JOIN CHALLENGE CLUB FOR GIRLS!

Calling all girls grades 5th to 9th! Praising God and having fun is what the Challenge Club for Girls is all about! We invite you to grow in virtue, friendship, and the Catholic Faith with us at our Club Night on August 4, from 6:30-8:30pm in the Youth Room. All girls in Grade 5-9 are welcome, no registration necessary. We will begin Challenge Club registration for the 2016/2017 year the first week of August. For more information, contact Monica Hager at 832-867-2824 or slcc1213@gmail.com. See you soon and be sure to follow us on Instagram @st.lchallengeclub.

MONDAYS: PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP

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

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

CALLING ALL COOKS & BAKERS!

Are you looking for ways to get involved, but you’re happiest in the kitchen? Check out these ways we can use your help!

Meals That Heal
We provide meals to parishioners who need a little help during times of illness, after surgery, or the birth of a baby. Get on their list by emailing ladiesguildmth@gmail.com.

Treats for Park’s Youth Ranch
Each Thursday, we deliver homebaked goodies to Park’s Youth Ranch, a homeless shelter for teens. To sign up for this service, go to www.stlaurence.org/volunteer-service-opportunities and follow the prompts to SignUpGenius.

Funeral Reception Ministry
Members of this group prepare and serve food for funeral receptions, seeing to the details involved in creating a reception for family and friends of the deceased. To learn more, contact Carol Giardina at 281-703-8615 or lfguneral@gmail.com.

Sunday Meals for Priests
Sundays are NOT a day of rest for our priests! Sign up to make our wonderful priests a delicious homecooked dinner and drop it off at the rectory on Sunday morning. Contact Sheri Fasching at sheri.fasching@gmail.com to get on this list.
Do you know about Natural Family Planning?

NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife.

→ SAFE AND HEALTHY
→ TRUE FAMILY PLANNING
→ EFFECTIVE IN POSTPONING PREGNANCY
→ MORALLY RIGHT
→ GOOD FOR MARRIAGES AND FOR CHILDREN

A testimonial: In the classes I learned the effectiveness of NFP and its scientific basis. I was amazed. I also loved that from the beginning Mike didn’t want me to submit my body to any harmful side effects that the chemical alternatives like the pill might have. Most importantly I learned that the pill had the ability to act as an abortifacient; no one had EVER told me that! I can honestly say that my real trust in God came when we started to live NFP after our first child was born. I started to give up control of the issue, which made it increasingly easier to trust Him in all other areas of our lives. NFP has seen me through the journey from fear, to acceptance, to a great joy in my fertility. Sharon, San Antonio

Whatever the reasons we hold back from the gospel’s calling to us as married couples, Christ will move us past them if we simply trust. “Trust! But that’s hard!” Yep, until you realize that you’re trusting someone to take care of your family. That someone is probably yourself, and I think if we look back at the panorama of our own lives honestly, and if we’ve had any experience of answered prayer, we’ll admit that God is a far more reliable basis for hope than we are. Mike (Sharon’s husband)

JULY 24 - 30 is NFP Awareness Week. Learn more about it at www.stlaurence.org/natural-family-planning

ST. LAURENCE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE #11 IS COMPLETE!

Thanks to your financial and physical stewardship, we have completed our 11th house for another deserving family. As a parish, we raised over $70,000 last fall to begin the work. Many parishioners offered their time on Saturdays (and more) to perform the hard work of constructing the building. We even had an interfaith building day, partnering with other religious organizations to share God’s love.

This house is located in Richmond, next to another Habitat house. The family is a young mother with two children, ages 7 and 3, with a third child on the way. Thanks to you, this family will have an opportunity to grow up with a solid roof over their heads and the stability to make even more of themselves. You have given them a hand up, not a handout. Our ministry will take a “breather and then start to plan for our 12th house. With God’s grace and your support, we will raise funds for another house this fall and begin construction in the new year. Thank you again, St. Laurence parishioners, for your support.

Yours in Christ, The St. Laurence Habitat for Humanity Ministry