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
Agosto 13 — 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

3100 Sweetwater Blvd. | Sugar Land, Texas 77479 | 281-980-9812 | www.stlaurence.org
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.
PRAY FOR PEACE

Our families are torn by violence. Our communities are destroyed by violence. Our faith is tested by violence. We have an obligation to respond. Violence -- in our homes, our schools and streets, our nation and world -- is destroying the lives, dignity and hopes of millions of our sisters and brothers. Fear of violence is paralyzing and polarizing our communities. The celebration of violence in much of our media, music and even video games is poisoning our children.

Beyond the violence in our streets is the violence in our hearts. Hostility, hatred, despair and indifference are at the heart of a growing culture of violence. Verbal violence in our families, communications and talk shows contribute to this culture of violence. Pornography assaults the dignity of women and contributes to violence against them. Our social fabric is being torn apart by a culture of violence that leaves children dead on our streets and families afraid in our homes.

Our society seems to be growing numb to human loss and suffering. A nation born in a commitment to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is haunted by death, imprisoned by fear and caught up in the elusive pursuit of protection rather than happiness. A world moving beyond the Cold War is caught up in bloody ethnic, tribal and political conflict. It doesn’t have to be this way. It wasn’t always this way. We can turn away from violence; we can build communities of greater peace. It begins with a clear conviction: respect for life.

Respect for life is not just a slogan or a program; it is a fundamental moral principle flowing from our teaching on the dignity of the human person. It is an approach to life that values people over things. Respect for life must guide the choices we make as individuals and as a society: what we do and won’t do, what we value and consume, whom we admire and whose example we follow, what we support and what we oppose. Respect for human life is the starting point for confronting a culture of violence. The Catholic community cannot ignore the moral and human costs of so much violence in our midst.

These brief reflections are a call to conversion and a framework for action. They propose neither a sweeping plan nor specific programs. They recognize the impressive efforts already underway in dioceses, parishes and schools. They offer a word of support and gratitude for those already engaged in these efforts. We believe the Catholic community brings strong convictions and vital experience which can enrich the national dialogue on how best to overcome the violence that is tearing our nation apart. We know these reflections are not enough. Words cannot stop weapons; statements will not contain hatred.

Yet commitment and conversion can change us and together we can change our culture and communities. Person by person, family by family, neighborhood by neighborhood, we must take our communities back from the evil and fear that come with so much violence. We believe our faith in Jesus Christ gives us the values, vision and hope that can bring an important measure of peace to our hearts, our homes, and our streets.

Pastoral Message of the U.S. Catholic Bishops (1994)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JULY/AUGUST

SUNDAY 31 (#1145 in your Gather book)
First Reading ECC 2:1-2; 2:21-23
Second Reading COL 3:1-5, 9-11
Gospel LK 12:13-21

MONDAY 1
First Reading JER 28:1-17
Gospel MT 14:13-21

TUESDAY 2
First Reading JER 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22
Gospel MT 14:22-36

WEDNESDAY 3
First Reading JER 31:1-7
Gospel MT 15: 21-28

THURSDAY 4
First Reading JER 31:31-34
Gospel MT 16:13-23

FRIDAY 5
First Reading NA 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Gospel MT 16:24-28

SATURDAY 6
Feast of the Transfiguration
First Reading DN 7:9-10, 13-14
Second Reading 2 PT 1:16-19
Gospel LK 9:28B-36

SUNDAY 7
First Reading WIS 18:6-9
Second Reading HEB 11:1-2, 8-19
Gospel LK 12:32-48

PRAYING THE NEWS | JULY 31, 2016

Take care to guard against all greed… Luke 12:15

Dear Lord, you warn us about love for money, power or fame. Greed inspires choices that harm, disappoint and lead us away from you. The upcoming Olympics remind us as well – with banned athletes, polluted waters, and public financing on the backs of the poor. Please touch the hearts and minds of all who are tempted by greed. May the Rio Games remain safe and a hopeful sign of peace to a watching world.

Jesus, We Trust in You. Amen. †
PRAY FOR THE SICK

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


PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CV2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
Spc David Ambrozie, 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
Lt. Matthew Chesney, US Navy
Maj. Christopher Coffman, US Air Force
Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC
LTJG Colin Day, US Navy
1stLt Andrew DeSplinter, US Army
Sgt. Nicholas Dockum, US Army
Capt. Brandon Driscoll, USMC
Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
2ndLt Michael Eberhardt, US Army
Capt. Stacey Eberhardt, US Army
Derek Farias, US Navy
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
Pvt. Jahnell Xavier George, US Army
Ssgt. Philip Graham, US Army
1stLt Spencer Henry, US Army
PFC Daniel Hines, US Navy
SGG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
1LT Michelle Horstman, US Army
SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
Joseph Kingserski, US Navy
EM4 James Locus, US Navy
PFC Philip Loera, US Army
PFC John Lundgren, US Army
LTJG Kevin Stransky, US Navy
Cpl. Daniel Thesing, USMC
Cpl. Kevin McGinnis, USMC
Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
1stLt Todd Miller, US Army
Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
1stLt Taylor Rammmuth, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SRA Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
LTJG Kevin Stransky, US Navy
Cpl. Daniel Thesing, USMC
Maj. Michael Theising, USMC
1stLt Kevin Wheeler, US Army
Sgt. Bryce Whitley, US Army
AM Troy Yelverton, US Navy
PVT Adrian Zaldivar, USMC

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 30
5:00pm – Sierra Vela (I)

SUNDAY, JULY 31
7:30am – Marciano Cruz (D)
9:00am – Sonny Pace (D)
11:00am – Eliza Trevino (D)
12:45pm – Clarence Ifudu (I)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, AUGUST 1
7:30am – Charlie & Martha (D)
12:00pm – Regina Mary (D)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2
7:30am – Francis Bede (D)
12:00pm – Jodi Jablonski (D)

WEDS, AUGUST 3
7:30am – Francis D’Souza (I)
6:30pm – Susairaj Irudayam (D)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4
7:30am – Linda Olvera (D)
12:00pm – Souls In Purgatory

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
8:15am – Vera Barretto (D)
12:00pm – Norman Jones (D)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
8:30pm – Adela Yater (D)
5:00pm – Fr. Cyriac K. (D)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
7:30am – Jim Holzhasser, Sr. (D)
9:00am – Jorgie Luceno (I)
11:00am – Laurine Helen Schuler (D)
12:45pm – Trang Doan (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 Cagandan), 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

AUGUST 4-7: JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS
There is an upcoming Journey to Damascus Weekend for men August 4-7. JDT is an ecumenical Catholic effort to promote mutual Christian values, partnership in promoting God’s kingdom and servant leadership in church communities. Many men have stated that the Journey was a life changing weekend for them. The passage for this weekend is, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.” The weekend begins on a Thursday evening and ends Sunday afternoon. It is a program built around 13 presentations that are interspersed with periods of discussion, worship and meditation. Contact Kevin Clark at kevin@riveroakscouriers.com or call 281-652-6974.

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!

OCTOBER 14-16: HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE
Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on Oct 14-16, call 713-529-6242, email retroviDJ@sbcglobal.net or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

AUGUST 28: HOUSTON CATHOLIC RADIO FAMILY DAY
Houston Catholic Radio (AM 1430) is throwing a party for their listeners, just to say thanks for being awesome. It’s free, family-oriented, centrally located, and conveniently timed on Sunday, August 28, 2:00-5:30pm, indoors at the University of St. Thomas. There will be free food, games, bounce houses, music, and prizes. All the details are online at GRNonline.com/FamilyFun. Or email tim@grnonline.com.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS
Chloe Caddick

FUNERALS
Clory Lunn, sister of Tino Ferrufino
Ronnie Dyogi, husband of Evelyn Dyogi

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
July 24 Collection $ 52,663
Registered Households 7,275
Envelopes Used 769
Loose Checks 186

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory $ 163,017
Participants 913

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal $ 495,000
Amount Paid $ 352,484
Amount Pledged $ 421,003
Participants 967

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 archdiocese 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
Chloe Caddick

FUNERALS
Clory Lunn, sister of Tino Ferrufino
Ronnie Dyogi, husband of Evelyn Dyogi

Thank you for being a part of our St. Laurence Catholic Church family. All that you do for our parish and community by sharing your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure is appreciated. Your active participation in the life of our parish helps us to fulfill our vision and mission. This summer, we pray that you will have some quiet and restful time that includes the love, joy and peace of being with family and friends. Please consider that St. Laurence continues to be open for Mass, numerous activities and the Sacraments. Your generosity through Faith Direct helps to provide consistent resources to operate our parish and ministries. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code (TX460). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!
CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

ELEMENTARY CCE
Registration deadline for religious education is AUG 15
www.stlaurence.org/registration

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. 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!

SUMMER FAITH CHALLENGE
The Saints are people like us who distinguished themselves by
listening to God’s call and saying “yes” to His plan for their lives.
Use your summer activities to incorporate their stories into
your family’s lives. Working in the garden or taking a nature walk
this summer? Talk to your children about the Blessed Mother
and plant a Marian garden in her honor or discuss St. Francis’
love of nature by reading his Canticle of Brother Sun before
going on a hike together. Go to these resources:

NOW HIRING AT SLCS
St. Laurence Catholic School is now hiring dependable, mature,
and energetic adults (must be 18 years or older) who enjoy
working with children for Before and After School Community
(BASC) Program Staff and a BASC Shift Supervisor. The position
includes supervising children, preparing snacks, and completing
paper work as needed. VIRTUS training is required. Hours are
6:30-7:45am and 2:00-6:30pm, Monday- Friday. (Schedules will
vary.) Shift Supervisor requires additional responsibilities. Inter-
ested candidates for these part-time job opportunities should
send resumes to Lindsey Vainstein at lvainstein@stlaurence.org.

SLCS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!
Our parish school marks its 25th anniversary next school year!
Everyone is invited and all alumni are encouraged 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: http://goo.gl/
forms/8Sm500CEit.

SLCS MISSION STATEMENT
As a pastoral instru-
ment of the Church,
St. Laurence Catho-
lic School educates
and develops the
whole Christian
person in body,
mind, and spirit
through the trinity
of parent, child, and
educator.

A PARENTS’ PRAYER
Lord, please surround my kids with friends
and adults who point them to you.
Amen.
Romans 15:1-7
EDGE Catholic Middle School Ministry

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.

BE A PART OF EDGE

Lead young people closer to Christ and sign up to be a Core member, to walk alongside our young people as they grow in their relationship with Christ. Contact Eric for more info at epainter@stlaurence.org.

Youth Ministry Parent Info Night on August 31

Save the date of 8/31, 7-8pm, and join us in the Youth Hall for an informational parent meeting. We’ll introduce ourselves, explain what the year will look like, introduce our vision for youth ministry at St. Laurence, answer any questions you may have, and show you how you can help. See you there!

Get more at www.stlaurence.org/edge.

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.

SUMMER IN LIFE TEEN

OPEN YOUTH ROOM:
Mondays & Thursdays (1-3pm) Join us for Mass @ noon!

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS:
Tuesdays (6-7:30pm) in the Youth Room

SUNDAY LIFE NIGHTS:
Following the Sunday 5pm Life Teen Mass 
TONIGHT, July 31

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.

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.

ENCOUNTER 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. 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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

As KRAKOW 2016 World Youth Day concludes, please pray for the young people, especially those from our parish, that they may travel safely home and share the joy of the Risen Christ in their homes, in their parishes, and at their schools and places of work.
Greg & Julie Alexander return 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

“Love is not rude” (1 Cor 13:5).

Pope Francis: “To be open to a genuine encounter with others, ‘a kind look’ is essential… [it] helps us to see beyond our own limitations, to be patient and to cooperate with others, despite our differences. Loving kindness builds bonds, cultivates relationships, creates new networks of integration and knits a firm social fabric… In our families, we must learn to imitate Jesus’ own gentleness in our way of speaking to one another” (Amoris Laetitia, no. 100)

Today: It can be very difficult to look kindly at a child who is acting out, or at our spouse when he/she doesn’t hear what you said for the nth time. Today, look at your family members and say to yourself, “Jesus is looking at them right now too.” That can help change the way that you see them.

THIS WEEK IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

MONDAY
Men’s Bible Study (Weekly)
7:30-9:00pm, St Francis Room
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

Lay Apostle Prayer Group (1st Monday, August 1)
10:30am-12:00pm OR 7:00-8:30pm, St. Anne Room
Contact: Kay Quenan | 281-265-3238 | kquenan@icloud.com

TUESDAY
Men’s Bible Study (Weekly)
6:15-7:15am, St Francis Room
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY
Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
7:30-9:00pm, Corpus Christi Room
Contact: Patti Kallemeyn | 281-438-0696

THURSDAY
Catholic Men Called to be Saints (Weekly)
6:00-7:30am, Guardian Angels Hall
Contact: Jim Kij | 713-855-0108 | jimkij@comcast.net

Interested In Becoming Catholic?
RCIA is for those who have never been baptized, those baptized in another Christian faith tradition interested in joining the Catholic Church, and Catholics who were baptized but have not celebrated all of their Sacraments. Please come to one of the following sessions to get your questions answered.

Inquiry Sessions: Sundays, August 21 & 28
10:30am in the Corpus Christi Room
Contact Justin Frato, 281-265-5774 / jfrato@stlaurence.org
More info: stlaurence.org/rcia

LAY APOSTLE PRAYER GROUP
Monday, August 1

A lay apostle walks closely with Jesus throughout each day with a goal of unity with Jesus. This group gathers once a month to pray the Luminous mysteries and to read Jesus’ message for personal reflection, as given to Anne, a lay apostle.

Choose 10:30am-12:00pm OR 7:00-8:30pm
St. Anne Room
For more info, contact Kay Quenan at 281-265-3238

WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/AFF
facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith
Strong Catholic Marriage Workshop
Saturday, August 27, 2016
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall

Presenters: Greg and Julie Alexander

The Alexander’s are returning to St Laurence!
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. Greg and Julie will draw from the Church’s teaching and their personal experience to help married couples grow in areas such as communication, healing, sexuality, and prayer.

Cost per couple: $100
Includes a light breakfast, lunch, and materials.
Register today at www.stlaurence.org/marriageworkshop. Registration deadline-Aug 24th

The founding of The Alexander House is Greg & Julie’s response to God in appreciation for having brought them through the crisis that they experienced in their marriage. When they hit “rock bottom”, they instinctively turned to their parish looking and searching for help and guidance. Fortunately the Holy Spirit intervened and a visiting priest took the time to listen and offer direction to them. They responded to his direction and were able to rebuild their marriage. Grateful to God for a second chance, they committed to help build better marriages in the Church and have been doing so for the past 16 years.
In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers a warning to those who pursue leisure and pleasure as their goal in life without concern for the poor and less fortunate. He tells the parable of the wealthy landowner who, upon yielding an exceptionally profitable harvest one year, determines that he will live the rest of his days in relaxation; to eat, drink and be merry. God calls the miser a “fool” and lets him know that his greed and self-indulgence will not bring him the security he seeks. Good stewards acknowledge that the money and possessions entrusted to them are to be used to further the mission of Jesus Christ. This week let us reflect on our own daily consumption habits. Do we spend money on articles that make us better ambassadors of Christ? Does our personal lifestyle bring “good news to the poor” (Luke 4:18)?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARD AMONG US

KATHY HENSLER

Kathy Hensler is one of those people you see around the parish helping behind the scenes to make our parish such a warm and welcoming place. And you’d never know she and her husband Tom were raising triplet daughters the whole time! Soon after moving here 20 years ago, Kathy joined the Ladies Guild and in no time was asked to head up the Funeral Reception Committee. Today, that committee has grown into a ministry of its own, and Kathy still helps out, insisting the service is “one of the most beautiful things St. Laurence provides for its parishioners.” Ladies Guild, Social Concerns and the Charity Guild of Catholic Women (where she volunteers at their resale shop) have filled Kathy’s need to serve others and grow in her faith. With favorite projects like Meals that Heal, Daily Bread, and Sunday Priest Meals, Kathy jokes that she’s all about the food! So, go ahead and match your interests to a ministry at St. Laurence! Kathy says, “Just read the bulletin every week and I think you’ll find an opportunity that will fit your schedule and personality. Each ministry is so welcoming, you will immediately feel at home whatever you choose.”

Ask Paula

Q. Who does the receptions after a funeral?

A. The very generous ladies who belong to the Funeral Reception Ministry! Here’s how it works: The church office notifies them when there is a funeral and this group sends out an email to all their members asking for food donations (‘cause the receptions are free to the families) or to help serve. Now, when they ask for food donations it’s usually fruit, cheese, cold cuts, desserts (like brownies) and sometimes pasta salad. Nothing too complicated, just saying. You can also volunteer to help serve, which includes making sandwiches, fruit salad, sweet tea, etc. This is a rewarding ministry, always open to new people, and you don’t have to be in Ladies Guild to join! Want more info? Call Carol Giardina. Her number is in the bulletin.

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.

It is impossible for peace to exist without dialogue. All the wars, all the strife, all the unsolved problems over which we clash are due to a lack of dialogue. When there is a problem, talk: this makes peace.

Pope Francis
August 21, 2013
If YOU hear His Voice,
harden not YOUR hearts!

Each year over 1,700 children and youth participate in St. Laurence Religious Education programs in order to grow in their faith and to learn to love the Lord more each day. These children and youth depend on volunteers who take time out of their own day to share their faith by teaching faith formation classes. These dedicated volunteers know that time must be spent building a life beyond our earthly possessions. They are working on being rich in what matters to God—more disciples preparing to enter Heaven!!

God is calling, You are needed! Will you respond to His call?

We have the answers to your questions of “BUT I...”

⇒ don’t have all the answers — You are HIS tool to share so you don’t have to know everything! Grow with your class!
⇒ don’t have the time — It just takes a couple hours a week!!
⇒ don’t feel I can do it alone — We strive to pair volunteers up in a class!
⇒ don’t know what to do — We provide training, support and resources!

Okay, still not sure?

⇒ What’s the catch? — No catch, just a tremendous growth in your faith!!
⇒ What do I need? — A love for the Faith and a willingness to share it!!
⇒ Where do you need the help? — Honestly, help is needed at all grades levels from our * 3–5 years on Sunday am, *1st-5th graders on Tuesday and Wednesday pm, *6-8th graders on Wednesday pm or *9-12 graders on Sunday pm. We have a place for you to share the Faith!

MORE QUESTIONS?? READY TO SHARE??
Call the RE staff at 281-265-5774.
That Man is You! is an interactive men’s program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of a man fully alive. By honestly addressing the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, That Man is You! seeks to form men who will be capable of transforming homes and society.

www.thatmanisyou.org

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART

DISCOVER

- The scriptural vision of man and the overwhelming scientific evidence that supports this vision.
- The four leadership roles that have been entrusted to men and the five personal traits necessary for fulfilling these leadership roles.
- How and why Satan always attacks the union of man and woman.
- The three main obstacles to living as authentic men and the means for overcoming them.
- The wonderful renewal God is offering to men and their families through the Church.

PROGRAM DEVELOPER

Steve Bollman
Developer That Man is You!
Founder & President Paradisus Dei

During the Great Jubilee, Steve Bollman experienced a personal call to found a ministry dedicated to the renewal of marriage and family life. In 2002, he set aside his professional interests as an energy derivatives trader in Houston, Texas to found Paradisus Dei. In 2004, Steve developed the That Man is You! men’s program, which quickly moved across the country transforming men, marriages and families. Independent research by a Faith Advisor to The Gallup Poll identified it as one of the most life transforming programs ever studied.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Wednesday Mornings
St. Laurence Ave Maria Center
3103 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Beginning September 14, 2016

SCHEDULE

5:30am - Breakfast
6:00am - Video Presentation
6:30am - Small Group Discussion
7:00am - Session Ends

REGISTRATION

Register for this free program by calling Steve Ewbanks at 281-703-3873 or emailing your name, email address and phone number to Steve at ewbanksix@gmail.com
WE NEED CATECHISTS & CORE MEMBERS

Calling all Adults! Our religious education program is an entirely volunteer-based ministry which depends upon the generosity of parents, grandparents, college students and other adults just like you, sharing the gift of their time. How many children we can serve in our PreK & Elementary CCE classes is entirely dependent on the number of people willing to step forward as catechists. Life Teen (high school) and Edge (middle school) need adults, called Core members, to lead small groups. Please prayerfully consider serving the parish in this way. No experience is necessary and training and materials are provided. For more information, please look under the EDUCATION tab of the parish website or call 281-265-5774.

REGISTER FOR CCE, LIFE-TEEN & EDGE BY AUGUST 15

MEN: REGISTER NOW FOR THAT MAN IS YOU

Our families, our parish and our world need strong disciples of Jesus to serve as witnesses of His love and mercy. Recently, Cardinal DiNardo challenged the men of our parish to READ THE GOSPELS and grow in their faith. One way to connect with other men and grow in knowledge and awareness is by attending THAT MAN IS YOU, a 90-minute session offered early Wednesday mornings (5:30-7:00am) beginning September 14. Join other men of St. Laurence for breakfast and a focus on Scripture and leadership to become “a man after God’s own heart.” More information is available at www.stlaurence.org/tmiy. THAT MAN IS YOU is FREE and we ask that you register in advance. To register, please contact Steve Ewbank at ewbanksix@gmail.com or 281-703-3873.

HEAR CARDINAL DINARDO’S TALK: www.stlaurence.org.

HELP CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES

In July 2013, John Drake, representing the Lingap Children’s Foundation, visited St. Laurence to share his compelling story of seeing and responding to the plight of abused, abandoned and neglected children in the Philippines. Please join us in continuing to help this remarkable ministry with a Place at the Table sponsorship or by joining them in August 2017 on a Kruise for Kids. This unique fundraiser is an Avalon Waterways riverboat cruise, roundtrip, from Paris to Normandy on the Seine River. 100% of proceeds go to the benefit of the children. To learn more about how you can help support this effort, please contact Brian Borque at 832-689-8333.

MORE ABOUT LINGAP: www.lingapcenter.org

READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES!
Sign up to get involved in our fun parish bazaar. There are lots of ways to help.
www.stlaurence.org/parish-bazaar

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 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)

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

On the plaza today
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.

www.stlaurence.org/natural-family-planning
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

DONATIONS DUE NOW

If you haven’t yet dropped off your donations, please bring to the parish office on MONDAY. Volunteers are coming in to sort and deliver the shoes on Tuesday. Thanks to you, over 900 school children in Fort Bend County will have new shoes for the first day of school. THANK YOU!!

Additionally, we are 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!

Save your gently worn shoes. The Used Shoe Drive is next month!

AUGUST 17:  MISCARRIAGE MASS

The loss of a child in the womb is a unique loss of a unique child. The 6:30pm Mass on Wednesday, August 17, will be a special Mass to recognize that loss and bless those mothers who have lost children to miscarriage or stillbirth. Please spread the word and join us that evening.

FABRIC NEEDED FOR HOPE BAGS

We can use children’s themed fabric to make Hope Bags for the children served by our Medical Mission in Laredo. We also need volunteers to help sew and cut the bags. Drop by the SCM office between 8:30am and 4:30pm to pick up fabric. For more information, contact Monica at mhager@stlaurence.org.

VOLUNTEER:  MEALS ON WHEELS

Make a difference in the life of a senior! 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, etc). Meals are picked up in Sugar Land or Rosenberg. For more information or to fill out a volunteer application, visit www.fortbendseniors.org or email at volunteers@fortbendseniors.org or call at 281-633-7049.

SUPPORT SOCIAL CONCERNS WITH AMAZON SMILE

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price back to Social Concerns. Support the outreach efforts of the parish every time you shop by bookmarking this link:

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0157777
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:
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
Aug 16 (9:00-11:00am) Bethel Ministries Project Smile at 3015 5th St. in Stafford

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.

BLACK BAG COLLECTION TODAY

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

A portion of this week’s Black Bag collection will benefit Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, a program at the Catholic Charities Mamie George Community Center in Richmond. In the last 30 years, there has been a significant increase in the number of grandparent-headed families. The common reasons for custodial grand-parenting include everything from parental substance abuse, incarceration, mental or physical abuse, abandonments, divorce, and death. Many challenges face aging grandparents caring for their grandchildren including difficulties related to obtaining guardianship, limited financial resources due to retirement and a low fixed income. Grandparents may experience difficulty providing adequate housing, food, and clothing. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program is a once a month support group/workshop. This program will provide support and resources to help grandparents navigate the many challenges of raising children. During the same time, the grandchildren receive tutoring and homework help, art activities, etc. To learn more about this unique program and how to help, please contact Pennie DeGroot in our Social Concerns office at 281-980-9812.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? NEED SERVICE HOURS?

Visit the Social Concerns page on the parish website: www.stlaurence.org/volunteer-service-opportunities

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Find Help. Find Hope.

 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 Thursdays (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
12-session educational course for family, caregivers and friends of individuals with mental illness

Peer to Peer Classes
Begins September 19
10-session recovery-focused educational program for adults with mental illness who wish to establish and maintain wellness.
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.

Attention vendors!
We are now accepting vendor applications for the popular annual “Shop Till You Drop” event, organized by the St. Laurence Ladies Guild. This year’s event will be held on Thursday, November 17, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Ave Maria Parish Life Center. The monies raised each year go towards helping various organizations in our community and our parish. If you have a business and would like to purchase space in our event, please contact STUD Coordinator, Deb Hernandez, debhernandez31@gmail.com.

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 nannyhiggs@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 11:00am-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!

Thank you for the many donations to the Parish Library! Our parish has been so generous that our librarian is unable to process all of the donations fast enough. So, for the time being, the library is unable to accept any more donations except religious/spiritual themed DVDs, hardback religious children’s picture books and religious themed novels for adults, children and teens. For more info, please contact Susan Mulé at 281-255-5774 or smule@stlaurence.org.

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.

**ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL**

**ADORERS STILL NEEDED FOR THESE HOURS:**
Monday 1am-2am, Monday 2am-3am, Wednesday 10pm-11pm, Thursday 9pm-10pm, Saturday 3pm-4pm

**DONATIONS TO THE PARISH LIBRARY**

**GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY**

**GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY**

**LADIES GUILD SHOP TILL YOU DROP**

**LADIES GUILD SHOP TILL YOU DROP**
GIRLS, ARE YOU FREE THIS THURSDAY?

You don’t want to miss the Challenge Club Night! The Challenge Club would like to invite all girls grades 5th to 9th to join other girls for a night of FUN, FRIENDS and FAITH at our Club Night on August 4th, no registration needed, JUST COME! Praising God, serving God, loving God and having fun while doing it is what the Challenge Club for Girls is all about and we would love for you to join us. This Club Night is Aug 4, 6:30-8:30pm in the Youth Room, Ave Maria Center. Seriously, don’t miss it! Registration opens the first week of August. For more info, follow us on Instagram @st.lchallengeclub and contact Monica Hager at 832-867-2824 or slcc1213@gmail.com. See you soon!

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).

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 lfgeneral@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.

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.

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.
FUN FOR FAMILIES

Family Olympics

Friday
August 12
6:30-8:00 pm
Guardian Angels Hall
Ave Maria Center

Pizza & Drinks provided.
Bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP by
Wednesday, August 10
www.stlaurence.org/family-nights

Fun for the whole family!

6:30pm Gathering Prayer & Pizza Dinner

7:00pm Family Games

Blindfolded Obstacle Course—Walk by Faith Not by Sight
Discus Throw—As Far as the East is From the West
Dress-up Relay—Clothed With Power from on High
Three legged race—All One in the Body of Christ
And MORE!

8:00pm Closing of the Games

Contact Melissa Calcote at mcalcote@stlaurence.org for more information.
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