**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

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**FIRST FRIDAY MASS**

**October 7 — In the Chapel**

7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions  
7:30pm - Mass

**FIRST SATURDAY MASS**

**October 1 — In the Church**

7:45am - Meditation & Rosary  
8:30am - Mass

**MISA EN ESPAÑOL**

**Septiembre 24 — 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

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**STARTS SEPTEMBER 14**

Every Wednesday Morning  
5:30 - 7:00 AM  
Ave Maria Center

**REGISTER TODAY AFTER MASS**
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
Parish Life & 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.
What’s in it for You?

If you choose to be part of the That Man Is You program starting Sept 14th, you will receive great spiritual leadership training. Male leadership is addressed in relation to God, our spouses and our children. No question, it is a really great program, and if you want to know more, go to the website.

Now for the rest of the story…

When guys get together early in the morning to share their lives with one another, you become really great friends. The friendships you make in That Man Is You will be friendships that last the rest of your lives. You might make friends with guys that have similar size and age family to yours. Your families may grow up together. What a blessing that would be.

You might have just moved into the St Laurence parish and really don’t know anyone yet. You will get to know a lot of new friends in this program.

You may have issues in your life that you need help to work through. Maybe you want your relationship with your spouse to be “better”. Maybe it is your child that you are struggling to relate to. You will make friends that you can count on to be there when you need them. They may already have gone through it. They can help.

Guys, face it. Generally we are not the best at going out and making new friends. Some are, most are not. Too many of us, when asked who is our best friend will still say it is someone from high school. Come out and make some new best friends.

So who should sign up today for this program?

That Man would be You!

Steve Ewbank
That Man Is You Coordinator
ewbanksix@gmail.com
281-703-3873

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SEPTMBER

SUNDAY 11
First Reading EX 32:7-11, 13-14
Second Reading 1 TM 1:12-17
Gospel LK 15:1-32

MONDAY 12
First Reading 1 COR 11:17-26, 33
Gospel LK 7:1-10

TUESDAY 13
First Reading 1 COR 12:12-14, 27-31 A
Gospel LK 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY 14
Exultation of the Cross
First Reading NM 21:4B-9
Second Reading PHIL 2:6-11
Gospel JN 3:13-17

THURSDAY 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
First Reading 1 COR 15:1-11
Gospel JN 19:25-27

FRIDAY 16
First Reading 1 COR 15:12-20
Gospel LK 8:1-3

SATURDAY 17
First Reading 1 COR 15:35-37, 42-49
Gospel LK 8:4-15

SUNDAY 18
First Reading AM 8:4-7
Second Reading 1 TM 2:1-8
Gospel LK 16:1-13

PRAYING THE NEWS | SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

What man among you...would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? Luke 15:4

O Jesus, we live in a world today where people often take the sure thing and cut their losses. During the run up to the elections – local, state and national – may we, like you, choose not only with the ninety-nine in mind, but also the one who has strayed, been injured, or left behind. Thankfully, no one is disposable in your sight.

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

- CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
- Spc David Ambrocik, US Army
- Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
- SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
- P.O. S Debra Barnett, 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
- 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
- PVT Liam Hill, US Army
- Daniel Hines, US Navy
- SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
- I1T Michelle Horstman, US Army
- SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
- Joseph Kingerski, US Navy
- EM4 James Locus, US Navy
- PFC Philip Loera, US Army
- PFC John Lundgren, US Army
- Amn Joseph Marcellus, USAF
- LCpl William Marcellus, USMC
- Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
- I1stLt Todd Miller, US Army
- Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army
- CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
- QMSN Bryce Prochazka, USNavy
- LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
- Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
- 1stLt Taylor Ramrath, US Army
- Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
- Ssgt Joseph 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
- PVT Adrian Zaldivar, USMC

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPT 10
5:00pm – Alvaro Gonzalez family (I)

SUNDAY, SEPT 11
7:30am – Clara & Vincent Poslusny (D)
9:00am – Mike Werner (D)
11:00am – Quinn Vu (D)
12:45pm – Dave Giltnor (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, SEPT 12
7:30am – Estelita Virtudazo (D)
12:00pm – Thanksgiving for Perpetual Health

TUESDAY, SEPT 13
7:30am – Cristian Rivas (I)
12:00pm – Elvira Zenteno (D)

WEDS, SEPT 14
7:30am – Fletcher Kuhnel, Jr. (I)
6:30pm – Frank Reina (D)

THURSDAY, SEPT 15
7:30am – Alice & Thomas Muricken (D)
6:30pm – Tony Pavlick (D)

FRIDAY, SEPT 16
8:15am – Zandra Lozada (D)
12:00pm – Christopher Anthaume (D)

SATURDAY, SEPT 17
8:30pm – Bryan & Marylou Spann (I)
5:00pm – Carol Siwierka (D)

SUNDAY, SEPT 18
7:30am – Salvador Rosario (D)
9:00am – Doan Demonia Daniel (D)
11:00am – Tu & San Nguyen (D)
12:45pm – Thomas Ward (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

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Pray for:

- Shane Tuttle family, Debbie Green family, Liz Trevino, Jessica Ayala, Adrian Zaldivar, Isabella Flores, Carlos Ortiz, Steven Garner, Antonio Lopez, Cristal G, David Martinez, Anna & Leanne Pounds & family, my brothers, Parole Board, FACRS Rodriguez, Arnoldo, Manuel, Blanca, Lucio, Brother Metcalf, Enis Alegría, Marina & Matthew, Tatiana & Thomas Sobey, Teresa Ruiz, Rita Gonzalez, Norma Espino, Stephen Reed & family, Jesus Robles Ronald Bussey, Diego Granja, Patricia LaFleur, Paul Ramirez, Angelic Marie Ramirez, Jocelin Ramirez, Roland Bergara, Robert Crenshaw, Chaplain Tom Lowe, Deacon Al Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3.

5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners
BAPTISM PREPARATION
Next class: SEPTEMBER 17
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.

WEDDING PREPARATION
Next class: OCTOBER 10
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.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

BAPTISMS
Sebastian Holgado, Mateo Alvarez, Chase Augustin, Alice Eagletowers

WEDDINGS
Natasha Inamdar & Ryan Wenc
Diane Barry & John Gerwin

FUNERALS
Mary Ann Fries, mother of David Fries
Tobie Medina, grandmother of Jason and Pam Villarreal

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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!

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
August 28 Collection $ 56,768
Registered Households 7,275
Envelopes Used 804
Loose Checks 230
2nd Collection: SLCS Plaid Bag $ 12,368

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory $ 177,706
Participants 887

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal $ 495,000
Amount Paid $ 378,715
Amount Pledged $ 431,804
Participants 1,007

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.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

SEPT 25: ST. BASIL COFFEE IS BACK!
Make a Social Justice commitment to drink coffee that provides Catholic education to orphan children in Kenya. St. Basil Coffee is great tasting Fair Trade Coffee that donates $5 of every bag sold to the orphans at Our Lady of Grace School in Kenya. Switch to St. Basil Coffee this year, and make your every cup of coffee a BLESSING CUP for children who need your help! The Dominican Sisters and students from St. Agnes Academy will be selling St. Basil Coffee at Sunday Coffee & Donuts in the parish hall following the 3 morning Masses on Sunday, September 25.

REGISTER NOW: 2ND ANNUAL CRIMSON & GOLD RUN
Registration is open now for the 2nd Annual Crimson and Gold 10K, 5K, and Kids K! Visit www.runcrimsonandgold.com to register for the race on Saturday, November 5. Runners, walkers, and strollers are all welcome! All proceeds benefit St. John XXIII College Preparatory tuition assistance program.

OCT 3-9: PILGRIMAGE ACROSS SOUTHWEST U.S.
You are invited to go on pilgrimage to the tallest cross in the U.S., located in Groom, TX, plus the Shrine of St. Frances Cabrini in Colorado, Santo Cristo De Equipulas in Chimayo, Miracle Staircase in Santa Fe and the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque! This trip will be made in a comfortable motor coach from October 3-9. For pricing and more details, contact Margie Calo at 281-980-4711 or diomargo77@gmail.com.

SEPT 23: SEE THE MOVIE “THE VESSEL” AT AMC THEATER
The Vessel is a new movie starring Martin Sheen as a Catholic priest who is trying to restore the faith of his small community. The movie is directed by Julio Quintana, who grew up at St. Laurence and whose parents, Julio & Lisette, are still active members of our parish. The movie is scheduled to be at the AMC First Colony Theater beginning Friday, September 23. Make a point of seeing the movie that weekend, since AMC will use attendance as a factor in continuing to run it. For more information and to see the trailer and meet the cast/crew, please visit www.thevesselmovie.com.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

THIS WEEK

BAPTISMS
Sebastian Holgado, Mateo Alvarez, Chase Augustin, Alice Eagletowers

WEDDINGS
Natasha Inamdar & Ryan Wenc
Diane Barry & John Gerwin

FUNERALS
Mary Ann Fries, mother of David Fries
Tobie Medina, grandmother of Jason and Pam Villarreal

FAITH DIRECT
inspiring secure giving since 2003

Your active participation in the life of our parish helps us to fulfill our vision and mission. 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 & PRE-K CCE

Starts This Week! Elementary CCE classes start Sept 13/14, with a Catechist Meet & Greet and Parent Information Session during CCE class time. Look for an email with all the details. Class rosters are posted in the church courtyard and also in the AMC lobby, so come look up your name and classroom number, since students will not be individually notified of their placements.

Please note that Preschool and Elementary CCE registration has officially ended for this academic year, with only limited space available in some grades/days. However, Home Study CCE is always available as a beautiful alternative, allowing you to grow in your faith together with your child.

Preschool CCE resumes NEXT Sunday, September 18, for all registered and placed children. If your child has not been placed yet due to the lack of volunteer catechists, please prayerfully consider helping out this special ministry by serving our youngest members. Contact Monica at mdoucet@stlaurence.org for info.

CCE Home Study Kickoff is Monday, September 19, from 7:00-8:00pm in Marian Hall. Registered Home Study students and their parents will have an opportunity to pick up their materials, hear about our program, and meet other Home Study families.

Calling ALL PARENTS! Want to help out during CCE class times? We can use adult volunteers to monitor hallways. All volunteers must be VIRTUS trained. Interested in learning more? Please contact Joan Hastreiter at jhastreiter@stlaurence.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

SEPT 14-15: Kid Yoga
SEPT 16: Parent Mixer: Join us for a fun evening and meet other WCP parents at 7:00pm in Guardian Angels Hall!

Weekday Children’s Program still has a few openings in the program for Academic Year 2016-17. Contact Peggy Finch at 281-313-0329 to find out what is currently available.

Find the WCP Calendar for 2016-17 school year on the parish website: www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

SLCS ANNUAL FUND

Did you know your parish school just kicked off its Annual Fund? The monies raised during this campaign benefit every student and immediately provides funds for curriculum resources, faculty compensation, professional development, and maintenance of our facilities. We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting this campaign to help us continue our daily commitment to educating all of God’s children. We also welcome company matching gifts. If you wish to contribute, please contact the Advancement Office at 281-980-0500 or visit stlaurencesschool.org to contribute through Paypal.

NOV 11: SPICE LUNCHEON

All are invited to the annual Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE) Luncheon and Silent Auction on Friday, November 11, at 11:30am in the Parish Hall. We welcome Charlene Katra, Associate Director from the Archdiocese, as speaker, with catering by Pappas BBQ and auction items featuring Disneyland and our very own Houston Texans. Tickets are $60 and reservations may be made through the Advancement Office at 281-980-0500.

PASTRIES WITH THE PRINCIPALS

Please join us after the School Mass this Friday, September 16, for Pastries with the Principals. Come meet new friends, share your insights and experiences, and enjoy some refreshments after Mass. Meet in the Corpus Christi Room immediately after the 8:15am Mass and please RSVP to advancement@stlaurence.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St. Laurence Catholic School is celebrating Grandparents’ Day on Friday, September 23, from 8:15 - 11:00am. We are always excited to share with grandparents and special friends the wonderful things our students are doing.

GET READY, GOLFERS

The Annual St. Laurence Golf Tournament is set for Monday, October 31, at Sweetwater Country Club! Sponsorships are available and registration is open for this popular event, open to the community! Contact the Advancement Office at 281-980-0500 or advancement@stlaurence.org to register or for sponsorship opportunities.
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.

EDGE KICK-OFF
WEDS, 9/14  7-815pm  Ave Maria Center
All middle school youth are invited and encouraged to join us. If you haven't registered yet, you can find the forms online or at the Ave Maria Center.

HELP NEEDED
If you're able or interested in helping in any of the following ways, please contact Eric at 281-265-5774.

Edge Core Team: (greatest need!) Adults who lead middle school youth into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

HS Teen Assistant: Sophomores or older who help to lead small groups and disciple just as our Core Team does.

Carpool Volunteer: Rather than sitting in your car, help to keep our carpool line moving quickly and safely.

Hallway Monitor: Help direct youth to their small group locations, keeping the area safe and controlled.

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.

LIFE TEEN KICK-OFF
SUN, 9/18 630-815pm Ave Maria Center
The fall semester is “I Am”, a series on Jesus, where we will take a look at the character, motives and interactions of Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS
TUESDAYS, 600-730pm Youth Hall
Discipleship Groups offer teens an opportunity to dig even deeper. Open to all high school students.

LEGACY
2ND/4TH TUESDAYS, 800-900pm Youth Hall
Open to Juniors and Seniors.

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.

WHAT A CELEBRATION!
On August 28, we held our annual Celebration of Ministries at St. Laurence, a perfect chance for learning about the various groups and ministries that make this parish so living, loving and vibrant! If you missed it, then take a tour through our parish website, www.stlaurence.org. Go there or leaf through this bulletin to find information about prayer groups, bible studies and programs, ways to serve those in need and ways to lead others to Christ. There is something for everyone here at St. Laurence. So, if you haven’t yet connected to a group, Fr. Drew invites you to find one thing that matches your needs or interests and give it a try!

This quarter, we are focusing as an entire parish on expanding our knowledge and understanding of the faith, so maybe start by signing up for a bible study or attend one of the Speaker Series for adults or offer to serve as a Core (small group leader) for teens or Catechist for elementary kids—and learn along with them while filling an essential parish need.

And behold! You will open yourself up to all things new.

JOIN THE CHILDRENS CHOIR
St. Laurence Children’s/Youth Choirs are starting rehearsals on Monday September 12. Come get your kids involved in the music of our parish - and in serving their parish in this wonderful ministry!

Kids in Grades 2-4 meet from 4:30-5:30pm
Youth in Grades 5-8 meet from 5:45-6:45pm

Rehearsals will be held in the Music Room in the courtyard near the church, but this FIRST REHEARSAL will be in the Guardian Angel Hall of our new Ave Maria Center! Parents, plan to stay for this first rehearsal if you can. Please contact Mary Thompson at 281-980-9812 and mthompson@stlaurence.org to get all the details. Come and sing with Mary!
COMING SOON...

Moms GIFT Group

WED: Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 2016
9:30-11:30 am, Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall B
Facilitated by Rachelle Dooley OR
7:30-9:00 pm, St Anne Meeting Room
Facilitated by Erin Linton

GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) is a small group book study for moms seeking a deeper faith, a holier family, and the support of other moms. This semester we will read, “Beautiful Mercy” by Matthew Kelly. The book focuses on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy inspiring readers to realize that extraordinary acts of love are possible for all, no matter where we are in life. For more information, contact: Rachelle Peters at bernadettetepeters@mac.com.

Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy

THU: Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17
1:00-2:00 pm, Ave Maria Center, St Anne or
7:15-8:30 pm, Ave Maria Center Room 205

In the Threshold Bible Study, “Divine Mercy” Stephen Binz helps individuals open the door to the heart of Scripture—the heart of Divine Mercy. The God revealed in Scripture suffers with His creatures and has a heart for the poor and the lost. God demonstrates faithful love for the world and calls people to a joyful and abundant life. For more information contact, Julie Evett at jevett@comcast.net.
Are you a Fan …

or a Follower

of Jesus Christ

Discovering Christ

Mondays, Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 3, Nov 7, 2016
7-9 pm, Ave Maria Center, Guardian Angel Hall

In Discovering Christ, you will have an opportunity to spend time understanding the difference between admiring Jesus as a great historical figure and the founder of the Catholic Church and entering into a personal relationship with him. Join others in this seven-week journey as we unpack the basic questions of life. We will meet each week for a potluck meal, followed by a video presentation, and a small group discussion. A one day, life-changing retreat on Saturday, October 29 will also be part of the experience. The deadline to register is September 21.

For more information and to register go to stlaurence.org/discoveringchrist
Among the primary themes in today's gospel when we hear Jesus' well-known parable of the Prodigal Son is forgiveness and the need to repent. But from a stewardship point of view what is also interesting is one of the secondary themes: the failure to use responsibly the gifts that have been so generously bestowed. The youngest son who demanded his inheritance and left home, broke no laws or religious commandments. His wrongdoing was that he wasted his inherited wealth, the abundant gifts given to him. His sin was in his extravagant living; squandering his gifts in pursuit of selfish pleasures. Good stewards acknowledge that everything they have comes from God, and they are required to cultivate these gifts responsibly. What are our God-given gifts? Do we use them responsibly? Do we exercise good stewardship over them?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARDS AMONG US

DEACON AL BOTHE

Deacon Al was ordained a permanent deacon on July 11, 1994, dedicating his life to being “a servant in a servant-Church.” You have seen him proclaim the Gospel and preach at Mass. Perhaps he has baptized your child, witnessed your marriage or served at the vigil or funeral of a loved one. But in addition to these, Deacon Al has been a dedicated minister to those in need, seeking out injustices and bringing the love of Christ to the most marginalized. His years of serving those in prison led him to establish the Society of St. John DeMatha in 2013, as a way to assist ex-offenders make a successful transition to a life outside of prison. Within two years, Cardinal DiNardo blessed the opening of Rosary House which serves as a safe haven for ex-offenders and is supported today by a volunteer Board of Directors and dozens of dedicated men and women from our parish who teach and mentor the ex-offenders. He has served on the Discipleship Council since its inception, served our Cardinal in numerous capacities and served our country for 8½ years in the United States Marine Corps. As he retires from his diaconate duties, we thank him for the gift he has made of his entire life.

The dynamic of faith, hope and charity thus leads us to embrace the concerns of all men and women on our journey towards that city "whose architect and builder is God," for "hope does not disappoint."

Pope Francis
June 29, 2013

Ask Paula

Q. Who cleans all the white cloths on the altar used at Mass?

A. You mean the purificators and corporals. The purificator is the one used to wipe the chalice and the corporal is the square one on the altar... FYI. The Altar Linen Care Ministry washes and irons these linens every week. Rose Davis who works in the church office has grown this ministry from 20 to 50 volunteers (“Linen Angels” as she calls them). These volunteers wash linens once every 8 weeks. Not bad, right? The linens are picked up Monday morning and due back Friday by noon. Now, there is a method to washing these, but it's not complicated, just saying. You can watch a video on the St. Laurence website on how it's done. If you are interested in joining this ministry (or doing my laundry), call Rose at the church office.
BEHOLD! THE BAZAAR IS BACK!

Since 1992, the St. Laurence Bazaar has been put on by our parish almost every fall to bring people together on our campus for fun, friendship and entertainment for the whole family. Due to construction of the Ave Maria Center, we were not able to hold the bazaar for two years… but now it’s BACK! As always, there will be plenty of food, games, activities, rides, bingo, live music and a raffle to entertain young and old alike… plus some exciting new additions!

BE A SPONSOR

Sponsorships help to underwrite the cost of putting on the bazaar and our parish is so grateful for the generosity of individuals and businesses that help in this way. Want to be a sponsor? There are a variety of sponsor levels, starting at just $50, which come with perks like free dinner tickets, your logo on the drink cups, and even VIP parking! Check it out at www.stlaurence.org/sponsorship, but act now! The deadline to sponsor (to ensure your name appears on printed materials) is this Friday, SEPTEMBER 16.

VOLUNTEER AT THE BAZAAR

It takes hundreds of people to make this bazaar happen and there are lots of ways to get involved. Sign up to work a shift at a booth, bake a cake for the Cake Walk, donate a plant for the Plant Booth—whatever you do, it will be appreciated! Click on the VOLUNTEER NOW link at www.stlaurence.org/parish-bazaar to see the complete list of opportunities and sign up via Sign Up Genius.

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET

This year, we are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a new Mini Cooper Convertible, from Momentum Mini of Houston! Raffle tickets are just $2/each or $20/book of 12 tickets. Books of tickets are available for pickup soon at the parish office. In addition to the grand prize of the Mini Cooper, other prizes include $1500 gift card, $1000 gift card, $500 gift card, and $250 gift card.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ART GALLERY

Calling artists of all ages! Do you like to paint, draw, design or photograph? Submit your original artwork that depicts Fr. Drew’s theme for the year, Behold, I Make All Things New, and yours may be selected to be displayed in the Bazaar Art Gallery inside the Ave Maria Center. Artwork must be sized 4x6, 5x7, 8x10 or 11x14, and submitted to the parish office by September 30. Please be sure to include your name and contact information on your creation.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need more information, please contact Bazaar Chairs Tom Barry (281-545-4112) or Les Fuchs (832-360-3104).
Last September, 3,800 parishioners participated in the Gallup ME25 (Member Engagement Survey), as a way of measuring the emotional connection people have with their parish community. Over the past year, ministry leaders analyzed the responses and identified four priority focus areas. The first is LEARN, which we will concentrate on together as a parish family during the next 12 weeks.

**QUESTION:** In my parish, I have opportunities to learn and grow.

**SURVEY RESPONSE:** 45% strongly agreed, 34% agreed, 16% neither agreed or disagreed, and 4% disagreed/strongly disagreed.

So, why focus on this area, when it clearly looks like the majority of parishioners already recognizes that St. Laurence offers opportunities to learn and grow in our faith?

Two reasons: First, recognizing that we have programs, classes and speakers is a good start, but we need to take advantage of these opportunities—and secondly—the more you learn, the more you realize you need to learn!

The great Catholic speaker and evangelizer Matthew Kelly says, “Jesus doesn’t just want followers. He wants disciples. To be a Christian disciple begins by sitting at the feet of Christ to learn. We all sit at the feet of someone to learn. Whose feet do you sit at? For some it is a talk show host and for others it is a politician; for others still it is a musician, an artist, a pastor, or a business leader. But none of these are a substitute for Jesus. [Disciples] are keenly interested in learning from Jesus and about Jesus. More than just a historic figure, he is seen as a friend, coach, mentor, and Savior. They believe that Jesus teaches them through the Scriptures, Christian tradition, and the Church... Highly engaged Catholics read Catholic books, listen to Catholic CDs, watch DVDs about the faith, and tune in to Catholic radio and television programs. They go on retreats more regularly than most Catholics and attend spiritual events and conferences. They are hungry to learn more about the faith. They are continuous learners.”

So, wherever you are on your faith journey, take another step today and look through this bulletin—or better still—go to www.stlaurence.org/aff to view the entire lineup of classes, programs, bible studies and other offerings for adults. Then select something that interests you and continue your journey in becoming a true disciple of Jesus!
THE GIFT OF HIS SERVICE

Retirement Reception for Deacon Al Bothe
TODAY, Sunday, September 11
12:45 pm—Mass in the Church
Cake & Coffee Reception immediately following in the parish hall

Everyone is invited to celebrate the gift of service that Deacon Al Bothe has provided our parish and across the Archdiocese, especially to those in prison and ex-offenders trying to re-enter society. All are welcome!

FUNDRAISER FOR FR. SIMON’S COMMUNITY

The KCs invite everyone to attend a fundraiser on Saturday, September 17, at 7:00pm, in the Parish Hall, to support the Libanga Catholic Congolese Community. Fr. Simon provides leadership for this group whose mission is to preach the Gospel and help others from the Democratic Republic of the Congo become acclimated to the U.S. The evening will consist of a sit down dinner, prepared by Chef Kevin King. Tickets are $50 per person or $500 for a sponsorship table of 10, with preferred seating. All proceeds from the evening benefit the Libanga Catholic Community (www.libangacch.com). Please contact Gary Arrington at gary77@windstream.net or 713-882-9567, for information and to purchase tickets, or go to www.kofc11343.org and purchase online.

MONDAY: COR WORSHIP NIGHT RETURNS

It’s 90 minutes set aside from your usual routine and you’ll leave refreshed and feeling like new! If you’ve never been to a COR Worship Night, you owe it to yourself to try it. It’s part teaching, part praise and part adoration. COR Nights are offered almost every month, on the 2nd Monday of the month, from 7:00-8:30pm, in the church. The next one is Monday, September 12, and we are in for a treat! Our own high school youth minister, Kris Frank, will lead the teaching, with Danielle Noonan and her band providing exceptional music, and Fr. Drew leading us in Eucharistic Adoration. COR Worship Nights are open to everyone of all ages. There is no charge and no RSVP is required. Just come and see how Jesus makes all things new!

SEPT 22: CHALLENGE CLUB KICK-OFF MEETING

Girls in Grades 5-9 are invited to the Kick-Off event for Challenge Club on Thursday, September 22. Parents, please plan to attend the Kick-Off event, too, so we can share with you our Challenge plans for the year. The meeting will be held in the Youth Room at the Ave Maria Center from 6:30-8:30pm. Challenge Club registration is now open. The registration form can be found on parish website or contact Monica Hager at 832-867-2824 or slcc1213@gmail.com for more info. Also, be sure to follow us on Instagram @st.lchallengeclub.

LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 2
2:00-3:30 pm

This year, plan to join St. Laurence parishioners and friends from other local faith communities for LIFE CHAIN, a witness for the sanctity of life, along Hwy 6 from 2:00-3:30pm on Sunday, Oct 2. Be one of the hundreds of people to hold a sign promoting life and a the sad truth about abortion. Sign up next week on the plaza after Mass and get all the details.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY MIXER

Saturday, Sept 24  |  6:30-8PM
Guardian Angels Hall @ Ave Maria Center

Come hang, eat FREE BBQ, meet new people and enjoy outdoor games like frisbee golf, ladder ball & more!

For info, contact Michaela Barta at mbarta@stlaurence.org | 281-265-5774

OUR LADY OF COROMOTO MASS

Saturday, September 24
6:00pm: Reconciliation, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet (Chapel of the Divine Mercy)
7:00pm: Bilingual Mass with processional entrance of Marian Advocations (Church)

We will collect medicines and disposable hospital products to be sent to Venezuela through ‘Saludos a Venezuela’

www.ParroquiaVirtualVenezolana.org
**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 to 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

**KROGER REWARDS**

Please remember to RE-ENROLL in the Kroger Community Rewards Program by linking your Kroger card to the Social Concerns Ministry. SCM Coupons for a Cause shoppers use these funds to purchase food for various local shelters and pantries. Go to www.kroger.com or call 1-800-576-4377 and a Kroger representative will assist you. After you enroll, check the bottom of one of your Kroger receipts to ensure that your enrollment was successful. Your receipt should say, At your request, Kroger is donating to St. Laurence Catholic Church Social Concerns. Thank you!

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**THANK YOU, ST. LAURENCE!**

The Fort Bend County Back to School Bash was a huge success, serving over 800 children in need! Because of your generosity in donating school supplies, St. Laurence contributed 80 bags loaded with new back-to-school supplies! Here are a few notes we received from some very thankful children:
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.

INFORMATION & HOPE

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
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.

A YEAR IN SOCIAL CONCERNS

A fiscal year end report with a few of the highlights of our activity in Social Concerns:

- Over $343,000 donated to SCM (through monthly black bag collections, Faith Direct, gold envelope and drives)
- Over $106,000 went to direct assistance (rent, utilities, medical, etc.) for more than 494 individuals throughout the county
- Approximately 170 individuals were assisted with food, cleaning supplies and other household items
- Over $235,000 went to assist more than 50 agencies/organizations, 20 ministries and 6 Catholic churches
- Over 25,000 hours were donated by our volunteers which are valued at over $535,000
- More than $336,000 was donated as gifts-in-kind, including 800+ Thanksgiving meals, 2,000 Christmas gifts, 800 pairs of new school shoes, plus furniture, donations for the military, seniors, children and more!
- Finally, it is impossible to put a dollar value on the impact of your generosity on those in need in our community!

Want to experience the joy we do in working directly with those in need? Join Social Concerns and sign up to get our e-newsletter. To give you a feel for the impact our parish outreach has on others, read this note that we received recently:

During our trials, we need to ask for the grace to carry our crosses. Being able to come to a loving and caring church has helped our family to keep going with hope in the midst of our current situation. With a grateful and humble heart,

A St. Laurence Parishioner

SERVANT LEADERS IN TRAINING

Thanks to our awesome volunteers who helped to pack over 1,000 bags of school supplies for the Project Smile back-to-school outreach program at Bethel Ministries.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, Social Concerns donated over $600 in school supplies to this beautiful ministry which helps disadvantaged students in Fort Bend County.
ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

We at St. Laurence pray that all may know the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and be graced with the holy desire to spend time with our God in adoration. Please prayerfully consider the hours listed that we are in need of committed adorers and substitutes. Contact Janice Swoboda at adoration@stlaurence.org or 281-980-8481 or 832-816-4660 for more information.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children’s Liturgy of the Word returns Sunday, SEPT 18, offered during the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses.

Children in grades K-4 are encouraged to follow the faith sharers and lectors (banner carriers) to the Trinity Room and Parish Hall on designated Sundays for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. Here they listen to the liturgy using language they can better understand, then rejoin their families for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (Please note, this program is targeted for school aged children, so we ask that you keep their younger preK siblings in the church with you.) If you are interested in joining our ministry or just curious about how your child is participating in this part of the Mass, you are welcome to observe our sessions. For more information, please call Susan Choate (281-682-3389) or Claire Gregory (281-208-2715).

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

It’s really hard to care for others when you are tired and the tank is empty. Come join the Caregivers Support Group for a refreshing luncheon at 11:30am on Monday, Sept 12. We will meet at Mia Bella to share encouragement, friendship, special needs resources, and spiritual sustenance; there's always laughter and fun, too. Whether the loved one you are caring for is an infant or an older adult, you will find understanding and hope. Members care for loved ones with a variety of diagnoses, including autism, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and dementia. Newcomers are always welcome. We hope you can join us! Please let us know you’re coming and RSVP to Jane Jewell (ejcomp@aol.com) or Lori Knowles (knowlesml5@gmail.com).

HELP FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

The Grieving Families Support Group is for you. This support group is specifically for those who are grieving the death of loved ones through murder, suicide, accident, or any sudden death. Survivors are often overwhelmed by the grief that follows this unexpected death, thus, complicating the grieving process. The group now meets twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday, 1:00-2:30pm, in the St. Francis Meeting Room at the Ave Maria Center. The next meeting is September 15. Join them as they continue to read and discuss the book “Harvesting Our Tears.” For more info, please contact Agnes Fernandes at 281-933-3721 or agnesffernandes@gmail.com.

JOY CLUB FOR SENIORS

The J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth) is for parishioners 55-and-up. The group normally meets at the Ave Maria Center on the first Monday of each month, plus other activities as planned. For more info, contact Anne Higgins at 832-755-5597, nannyyiggs@gmail.com.

SEPT 12—Due to Labor Day, we will meet on the 2nd Monday in September, 11:00am-1:00pm, at the Ave Maria Center. Bring an item for a potluck lunch and we’ll welcome guests from St. Angela Merici and Brookdale to hear speaker Mike Zimmer from the Missouri City Police Department.

SEPT 27—Attend Mass together at noon followed by lunch (location to be determined). Maybe we can talk Fr. Jaison into joining our group for lunch!
HELP ADULTS LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 12

The Learn English Ministry offers free English language lessons to adults. Our students come from 30+ different countries and speak a variety of languages. We teach conversational English: those basic skills needed to talk on the phone, get directions, open a bank account or talk to a child’s teacher. We can use lots of volunteer teachers! You don’t need to speak any language other than English to teach. No experience is needed and we will train you. Come join this rewarding ministry. Contact Wendy Moore at learnenglishministry.slc@gmail.com.

MONDAYS: PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP

Please join us on Mondays from 1:00-2:30pm, at the Ave Maria Center’s Oratory of the Rosary, as we gather to praise and worship God. We 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. Please contact Anne Marie Daniel for more information at 281-265-5774 or adaniel@stlaurence.org.

GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

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 at 281-633-9090 or help2grieve@hotmail.com.

MONDAYS: MOMS AND TOTS GROUP

Are you a mom who is home with young child(ren) ages infant to pre-K on Monday mornings? Please join Moms & Tots for our weekly Play & Pray Group! We plan a variety of activities for our children as we support and encourage one another in our vocation as mothers. Our meetings are casual, and kids and moms get a chance to make new friends and grow closer to Christ. Come every week or just when you can! Contact us at stlaurence.momsandtots@gmail.com or call Chrissy Campbell at 310-926-7085 for details.

SEPT 15: LADIES GUILD ROUND UP!

Ladies of the parish are invited to the kickoff meeting for a new year of Ladies Guild as they go BACK ON THE TRAIL! Head over to the parish hall on Thursday, September 15, at 6:30pm, and meet some friendly women who like to serve and have fun doing it! This group welcomes all women of the parish, whether they’re Catholic or not, as they fulfill their mission “To Serve, Not To Be Served”. The group meets September-May on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The kickoff is one not to miss—complete with a BBQ meal, beverages, and dessert. Come learn about the Guild and meet some new friends. If you just want to check it out, please pay a $7 meal charge—or pay your yearly dues of $30 and the cost of the meal is included! Come enjoy the round-up as they begin on the trail of a new year and contact Tina Dougherty at 713-859-6861 for more information.

FUN WITH THE ST. LAURENCE SINGLES

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

SUN, 9/11 @ 9:00PM—Mass & Brunch. We sit in the elevated seats by the choir and after Mass, we will go to brunch at Café Express in Town Center.

WED, 9/14 @ 6:00PM—Book Club Dinner at Cafe Goo Goo Yen. The September book is The Devil in the White City.

SAT, 9/24 @ 6:00PM—Mia Bella Dinner. Let’s have some awesome Italian food! Near First Colony Mall.

WED, 9/27 @ 7:00PM—Planning meeting in the Trinity Room. Come join us to give your suggestions.

“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”

Join a ministry or group and allow Jesus to make something new in you!
Points on Good Stewardship for Students

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
Director of Parish Community and Engagement &
author of Everyday Stewardship: Reflections for the Journey

1. God has given you the gift of intellect and it should be used wisely. Do not try just to get by in your classes. Offer your best effort and cultivate your intellect so you can become the best student possible.

2. The work you do in class is your gift to God. At this time in your life, you are called to be a student. What you do in class is your unique offering to God.

3. Don’t waste the gift of time. For generations, students have put off studying or class projects until the last-minute. That is being a poor steward of one of God’s greatest gifts: time. Learn to manage this precious resource.

4. Always remember you are a part of a community, even if you don’t feel like it. Unless you are homeschooled, other students trying to make sense of growing up and the need for school surround you, and at that, even homeschooled have communities that they see periodically. You are never alone in the jungle of school and there are peers, parents, and school staff that are willing to help you discern what is best for you.

5. Be grateful for the chance to be in school. Millions of children all around the globe have had the chance to attend school taken from them. Their futures are severely compromised because they are missing the chance to learn basic knowledge that will allow them to prosper in the world. Never take your ability to attend school for granted.

6. God is calling you today in your classroom. Perhaps it is through a classmate, a teacher, or a circumstance, but somehow God is asking something of you each day. Be aware and stay mindful of all those who cross your path each day. Something or someone very important might cross your path, never to return again.

7. Hold yourself accountable. Don’t fall into the temptation of slacking off, not doing your work, or even worse, cheating. Integrity is a precious gift that should never be tossed away. No one else is responsible for your actions except for YOU.

8. Embrace the entirety of your life as a student. Growth in school is about more than books and subjects. God has filled this world with people to meet, sports to play, and moments to rejoice in life. Don’t let this time pass you by and get involved.

9. Begin and end each school day with prayer. When you awake, offer the day and all your efforts of the day to God, and then when the day is over, spend time with God reflecting on how you succeeded and how you failed as a good steward and disciple of Jesus. Allow God to walk with you throughout your day by creating bookends of prayer for your day.

10. Stay committed. The school year can be long. Make a commitment to stay focused and not fall behind. The good thing about the times we fail in that commitment is that we can recommit ourselves and begin again.

Have an awesome school year and always keep God as the main thing!
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