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

ROSARY
Friday 6:30am

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
December 2 — In the Chapel
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
December 3 — In the Church
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Noviembre 26 — 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 Martínez
Tel 281-313-2833
**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**PARISH SCHOOL & CHAPEL**

St. Laurence Catholic School provides strong academics in a Christian environment to 720 students enrolled in PreK4 through Grade 8. Office Hours: Monday-Friday are 8:00am-4:00pm.

Adjacent to the school is the Chapel of the Divine Mercy which offers Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and serves as the site for smaller liturgies.
Good News Reflection  
Sunday, November 20, 2016  
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

What the authority of Jesus looks like

In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, one of the criminals hanging next to Jesus on the cross represents us. Jesus is our king and we want to spend eternity with him in his kingdom. As long as we have this attitude, there is no reason to doubt that when we die we will join Jesus in Paradise.

As the king of heaven, Jesus has the right and the authority to choose who is allowed into his kingdom. And as this Good Friday thief shows us, Jesus says, “Yes, come in, welcome!” to anyone who recognizes his authority.

Let’s look at what the authority of Jesus is like. At the Last Supper, when he washed the feet of his disciples, he made it clear that the heavenly king exerts his authority by serving those who belong to his kingdom.

The next day, he took a crown of thorns instead of a crown of gold, because the glory of his kingship is not represented by earthly treasures but by riches that are given to others, the personal sacrifices that are motivated by love, even for those who don’t deserve it.

After his resurrection, although he’d been healed from the destruction of death, his five crucifixion wounds were not healed. To this day, he still bears those wounds as a continual reminder to us that he does not use his authority for his own benefit, but for ours. Earthly kings wear expensive rings on their hands; our heavenly king wears the marks of sacrifice.

We belong to God’s kingdom when we lovingly serve others with Christ, when we understand the glory of giving generously to others, of making personal sacrifices, and of loving those who don’t deserve our love.

If we offer to Jesus our sufferings because we realize that they have value, we wear the five wounds of Jesus in our souls. Of course we will join Jesus in Paradise -- we have already united ourselves to him!

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Reflect on a time when you submitted yourself to Christ’s authority by obeying a difficult teaching of the Church or by doing something Christ-like that you didn’t want to do. Did you feel loved by God? Did you feel served? What will you do to become more aware of his service to you? What are you holding onto today that does not belong to his kingdom? What will you do this week to allow Jesus to be your king in every area of your life?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Name some of the ways that Jesus serves us. Does he do it directly to you or through other people in his kingdom? When you serve others, how is this a recognition of the kingship and authority of Christ?


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READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
NOVEMBER

| Sunday 20 | (#1193 in your Gather book) | First Reading RV 14:1-3, 4B-5  
| Monday 21 | 2 SM 5:1-3  
| Tuesday 22 | COL 1:12-20  
| Wednesday 23 | LK 23:35-43  
| Thursday 24 | First Reading RV 14:14-19  
| Friday 25 | Gospel LK 21:5-11  
| Saturday 26 | RV 15:1-4  
| Sunday 27 | LK 21:12-19  

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PRAYING THE NEWS | NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Let us give thanks to the Father…
He delivered us from the power of darkness.  
Col 1:12-13

Thank you, O God, for all your blessings, especially the past Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let it never end in our hearts. Help us go forward, ever grateful for your infinite mercy, and ever willing to extend mercy to those around us. May eyes that have been opened, hearts - softened, hope - renewed, doors - unlocked, remain so, to welcome and to love. Jesus, we trust in you. Amen. †
In Our Prayers...

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

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


**PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Navy, AV
Spc David Ambrocik, US Army
Pvt Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
P.O. 5 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
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 Army
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
Daniel Hines, US Navy
SSgt. Matthew Hohlaub, US Navy Reserve
1LT 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
TSGT David March, Texas Air National Guard
Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
1stLt Todd Miller, US Army
Capt. Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
QMSM Bryce Prochazka, US Navy
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
Sgt. Santiago Ramirez, US Army
1stLt Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SSgt Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
LTJG Kevin Stransky, US Navy
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, 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, NOV 19**
5:00pm – Jesus Acosta (D)

**SUNDAY, NOV 20**
7:30am – Mora Family (I)
9:00am – Goldie Kovar (D)
11:00am – Robin Wolfley (D)
12:45pm – Villano & Carmen de Guzman (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

**MONDAY, NOV 21**
7:30am – Sylvia Silva (D)
12:00pm – George Herring (D)

**TUESDAY, NOV 22**
7:30am – Luis Penagos (D)
12:00pm – Ben Marinas (D)

**WEDS, NOV 23**
7:30am – Carl & Margaret Tolles (D)
6:30pm – Mari Grayek (D)

**THURSDAY, NOV 24**
9:00am – Francisca Unoka (D)

**FRIDAY, NOV 25**
8:15am – Brooke Tankersley (D)
12:00pm – Clarence Champion (D)

**SATURDAY, NOV 26**
8:30pm – Romy Arias (D)
5:00pm – Cooter Larrieu (D)

**SUNDAY, NOV 27**
7:30am – Marie Walsh (D)
9:00am – Deceased Legionnaires
11:00am – Mike Beeler (D)
12:45pm – Arielle Napolitano (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 M. Philomena (Krystle Cagandan), Sister Daniela (Megan Bennett), Sister Rachel Marie of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary (Rachel Gossda), Collin Brown, Christopher Meyer, Margaret Uche, Dennis Henderson
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

DEC 1: STRAKE JESUIT OPEN HOUSE
Based on over 450 years of Jesuit tradition, Strake Jesuit forms young men into intellectual, compassionate, spiritual and responsible Men for Others. Find out what makes Strake Jesuit more than just a school at an Open House on Thursday, DEC 1, at 7:00pm. Take a guided tour of the school, meet members of the faculty, and learn more about the many academic, extracurricular, and spiritual activities available to Strake Jesuit students. For more info, go to www.strakejesuit.org.

DEC 4: ST. JOHN XXIII COLLEGE PREP OPEN HOUSE
St. John 23 is holding an Open House on Sunday, December 4, 1:00-3:00pm. See why this small school makes a big difference! A strong Catholic identity with daily sacraments offered, a unique House System that promotes school spirit, and a college prep curriculum which provides a rotating college block schedule & AP Courses, St John 23 is family-oriented and provides a warm, friendly, and safe environment for learning. Register to attend the Open House on the Admissions Page at www.sj23lions.org.

DEC 7: MILITIA IMMACULATA CONSECRATION
Join others in a Marian consecration through St. Maximilian Kolbe’s Militia of the Immaculata on the vigil of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 7, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church (1731 Blalock Road, Houston). The Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Alvaro Interiano at 7:00pm, and the Consecration Ceremony will follow the homily at Mass. Call 281-793-3394 to RSVP.

DEC 10: ‘CARDINAL’S CHRISTMAS’ FUNDRAISER
A Cardinal’s Christmas will be held at River Oaks Country Club on Saturday, Dec 10, 12:00-2:00pm. Each table purchase includes a Christmas activity bag for each child, a 2016 commemorative gift, and a scrumptious menu for children and adults. Tables at the $5,000 level include a keepsake family portrait with His Eminence. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities’ children and family services. For details and to purchase tickets, go to www.catholiccharities.org or call 713-874-6629.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 13 Collection</td>
<td>$54,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Households</td>
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<td>Envelopes Used</td>
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<td>Loose Checks</td>
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<td>2nd Collection: Social Concerns</td>
<td>$9,732</td>
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AUTOMATED GIVING

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<td>Monthly Offertory</td>
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<td>Participants</td>
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DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

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<td>2016 Parish Goal</td>
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<td>Amount Paid</td>
<td>$426,498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount Pledged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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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!

INCREASED OFFERTORY

Our gratitude is extended to all who returned their Commitment Card in response to Fr. Drew’s request to prayerfully consider an increase in your Offertory giving. Please know that the return of these cards is an important step in properly budgeting for the operations of our parish. If you have not yet returned your card, please do so as soon as possible, whether you are able to increase your gifts or not. Thanks to each of you for examining how God has blessed you and for your conscious decision to make a return to God through your support of the Church and its mission.

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 classes: DEC 13 and JAN 12
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 classes: JAN 14 and FEB 11
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays each month. To schedule a baptism call Rose Davis at 281-980-9812.

BAPTISMS
Esteban Velazquez, Laynie Batenhorst, Aeden Cuchapin, Jacob Ngo, Amethyst Villero, Amelia Gonzalez, Adriel Lopez, Esteban Velasquez, Robyn Fowler

WEDDINGS
Emily Prince & Steven Hawk

FUNERALS
Loretta Wehmeier, wife of Martin Wehmeier

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Thank you!
Due to Thanksgiving break...

NO PRESCHOOL CCE TODAY
We will see you back in class next Sunday, November 27.

NO ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK
This week, let us direct our hearts and minds with gratitude towards our Heavenly Father by invoking the following prayer: “This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God’s gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing. Amen.”

May you enjoy your holiday with family and friends!

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
Offered during the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses

Children grades K-4 are invited to follow faith sharers on designated Sundays for Children’s Liturgy of the Word to hear the readings in language they can better understand. For more info, please call Susan Choate (281-682-3389) or Claire Gregory (281-208-2715).

HOLIDAY FUN AT WCP
NOV 21-25: Thanksgiving Holidays
NOV 29: Fancy Nancy from Main Street Theater
DEC 9: Annual Christmas Pageant
DEC 15/16: Christmas Carnival & Santa Visit Noon dismissal

Find the WCP Calendar on the parish website: www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

A GREAT GOLF TOURNAMENT!
We are so grateful to everyone that supported our golf tournament for tuition assistance. Because of the love of our parish and community, we are able to serve the children of God. A special thank you to our sponsors that made the big day possible:

- Solvay Specialty Polymers & Solvay Chemicals
- Rev John T. Weyer Council #11343 Knight of Columbus
- Tykes to Teens Pediatrics/ Allergy & Asthma Care Houston
- Nectron International
- Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- Memorial Hermann Surgical, First Colony
- Merc Medical Supply Company
- Hettig Corporation
- MRP, Ventures, LLC
- Newmark Homes
- Hettig Construction
- Sun Air Conditioning
- Martha and Carlos Abello
- Bright Star of Sugar Land
- Fairway Square Apartments
- Joe Ochoa Roofs & Even More
- Southwest Surgical Assoc, LLP

SLCS MISSION STATEMENT
As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.
EDGE is way more than effective catechesis. It’s Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry that helps young people with life’s most challenging years. Edge Nights take place Wednesday evenings, September through April at the Ave Maria Center. All 6th-8th graders are invited and encouraged to attend. Interested in helping out? Contact Eric Painter at epainter@stlaurence.org.

NO EDGE NIGHT THIS WEEK
Happy Thanksgiving!

NOV 30 & DEC 7: 700-815pm, Edge in Marian Hall
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.

NO LIFE TEEN TONIGHT
NOV 27 and DEC 4 630-815pm  Ave Maria Center
Current focus is “The Summit” a series on the Mass. Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass changes everything!

LIFE TEEN
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.

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.

WKNDE Retreat
Jan 13-16, 2017
$175
All high schoolers invited
Contact Kris Frank

SACRED QUIET
Churches can become so familiar and comfortable that we sometimes forget how we are meant to behave in this sacred space. The space inside a church is sacred not only because we gather for the communal purpose of celebrating the Eucharist there, but also because we believe that God is present in the Eucharist reserved in the Tabernacle (Real Presence). The church is never meant to be a stadium or a concert hall, and one of the ways we remind ourselves that we are standing in sacred space is by developing a sense of sacred quiet.

Sacred quiet reminds us that we are in the presence of a loving God. Sacred quiet reminds us to be mindful of those who are praying in this space and not threaten their quiet with needless conversation or frivolous behavior. Sacred quiet helps us to distinguish between necessary conversation and unnecessary noise. Necessary conversation might be the inquiries about the health of a parishioner or a cordial greeting extended to those around us. Unnecessary noise might be the discussion of dinner plans, the score of last night’s big game, or the frivolity associated with telling a joke.

The presence of children is God’s gift to our Church. They are members of this Christian community—a reminder that our parish and Church are alive and growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents, who are struggling with the tough job of parenting in today’s world. During Mass, parents are encouraged to quietly explain what is happening. Sing the hymns, voice the responses—children learn liturgical behavior by imitating you. If you need to take your child out to the narthex or the cry room for a moment, that’s okay, but please come back. We want your children and you in community with us. And when the rest of us notice the good Mass behavior of young children seated nearby, please share a compliment with the family. Your kind words will be appreciated… and remembered.

All of us are called to a sense of sacred quiet, particularly inside the church, a space that we consider sacred. In this spirit, let us all do our best to be respectful of this place and the people around us, each and every time we gather here. For when we find ourselves in sacred space, we are called to a sense of sacred quiet.
What does Christmas preparation look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorating the inside of our homes. But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we’ve ever been given? Check out the FORMED ADVENT STUDY and experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas, through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus.

Visit FORMED.org to claim your free content. Log in using our parish code 012fc.
2016-2017 AFF SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS

Experiencing New Life this Advent

Fr. Christopher Plant

Thursday, December 1, 2016
7-9 pm
Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall A

Join us for an Advent Evening of Reflection where we will prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Christmas. Come and discover where Jesus wants to make “all things new” in your life.

For more information:
www.stlaurence.org/speakerseries
Or contact Justin Frato at 281-265-5774
jfrato@stlaurence.org

St. Laurence Catholic Church | PG 9
Today we listen to the humble confession of Saint Dismas, the good thief, a confession that brought him mercy, forgiveness and great favor by the Lord. What can his humility teach those who seek to be good stewards? That we must give up our self-importance, our self-centeredness, and learn to give ourselves over to God? That God has entrusted us with everything we have as gift to be used in God’s service? That we treat others not with arrogance, sarcasm or put down, but with reverence and respect as gifts from God? Is it by recognizing that God is the center of the universe, not us, and that only Christ the King can bring us genuine peace and salvation?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARDS AMONG US
KEITH BROUSSARD

If you dropped off a donation Saturday morning for Share God’s Bounty, chances are you saw Keith in the parking lot, controlling traffic. It’s an annual gig for Keith, who enjoys being a part of this annual Thanksgiving food drive. He and his wife Miche have been a part of the parish since 1985, and like many of our founding parishioners, they got involved from the very start. One of the original organizers of Boy Scout Troop 828, Keith is also a 3rd degree Knight. “I joined the KCs because of all the service they do and to develop fellowship with other men of the parish. I originally joined the Social Concerns Ministry Board to help my wife, who worked in the SCM office, but I have stayed on the board because of all the good work SCM does for the community helping people in crisis. Meeting some of the recipients of these good works can be eye-opening and humbling. Sometimes it’s easy to forget that those needs exist in the area we live in, even in our own parish. And the recipients are always so appreciative.” To get involved, Keith suggests, “Just pick something that interests you and give it a shot. There are no long-term commitments required and if you find that it’s not your calling, then try a different group. There are so many to choose from at St. Laurence.”

Q.
Hey Paula, when is your anniversary at St. Laurence?

A.
I can’t believe that on December 8, the Immaculate Conception, I’ll be here 20 years! What? (And yes, it is a holy day of obligation.) I remember when I first started, I was so afraid of Fr. John, because I was never around priests, but in no time we became really good friends. Shortly after I started here he told me that a parishioner, who used to come in the office a lot, mentioned that she didn’t think I was “church office material.” He totally disagreed with her, so much that when we would see her coming, Fr. John and I would both put our feet up on the desk, and the phone would ring, I would look at him and say, “You got that?” Later we would crack up, just saying. I’m going to tell some other great stories about my time here in the next couple of bulletins. Hope you like them...

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for almost 20 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.
One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to “get in touch with ourselves.” It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite “out of touch” with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season — with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender; if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply.

We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: “What is it I long for now?” The answer won’t come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

We are about to read and pray about the expectant hope of Israel, as expressed through Isaiah. The images we will be using are about darkness and gloom — about thick clouds covering the people — and about hunger and thirst. They are images that attempt to capture a sense of what we feel when we are distant from our God. There are many images about war and conflict. They express the powerlessness and anxiety we experience when we feel vulnerable and defenseless. Most of all, there are images of a future day — a day that can only be called the Lord’s — when all the tears will be wiped away, when there will be plenty to eat and drink, and when there will be no more conflict and no more war. God’s salvation will be made known. God’s victory will be complete.

These are very precious days for us to come into intimate contact with our own need for salvation. It is a time to make friends with our tears, our darkness, our hunger and thirst. What is missing? What eludes my grasp? What name can I give to the “restlessness” in my heart? What is the emptiness I keep trying to “feed” with food, with fantasy, with excitement, with busyness? What is the conflict that is “eating at me”? What is the sinful, unloving, self-centered pattern for which I haven’t asked for forgiveness and healing? Where do I need a peace that the world cannot give?

Coming to know where I need a Savior is how I can prepare for Advent. I am preparing to listen to the promises, listen to these rich texts announcing the liberation I can truly long for. When my heart is open, when my hands are open, when my mouth is open and ready to ask for freedom, healing and peace, then I am ready to begin Advent.

Come, Lord, Jesus. Come and Visit Your People. We Await Your Coming. Come, O, Lord.

Creighton University’s Online Ministries (onlineministries.creighton.edu)
FORT BEND INTERFAITH COMMUNITY'S THANKSGIVING IN COMMUNITY

NOV 21 | 3300 AUSTIN PARKWAY 7 PM | SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

In the spirit of fellowship, we invite you to join members of different faith communities in expressing our communal feeling of gratitude and appreciation. Please join with us for this meaningful and unifying experience, celebrating the diversity of our community and giving thanks for all the blessings that fill our lives.

Cookie & punch reception to follow.

FAITH COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING:
The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints
Christ Church Sugar Land UMC // Congregation Beth El
His Highness the Aga Khan Council of the Southwest United States
ISGH Maryam Islamic Center // St. Laurence Catholic Church

PLEASE BRING A NONPERISHABLE CANNED FOOD ITEM TO DONATE

HOSTED BY Christ Church Sugar Land
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

For more information or to stream the service, visit CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/INTERFAITH
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Fr. Drew, Fr. Jaison, our deacons and the entire Staff of St. Laurence wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Only one Mass on Thanksgiving Day:
Thursday, Nov 24
9:00am in the church

The parish offices will be closed Wednesday thru Friday. Open Saturday!

FR. SIMON ASSIGNED TO ST. CECILIA PARISH
With prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of his ministry during his short time at St. Laurence, we say farewell to Fr. Simon Kipiti, who has been reassigned to St. Cecilia in Houston. If you’d like to reach out to wish him well, please contact him at: St. Cecilia, 11720 Joan of Arc Drive, Houston, TX, 77024 and 713-465-3414. It may be a while before another priest is assigned to St. Laurence, so pray for Fr. Drew & Fr. Jaison as they care for our large parish!

NOV 27: 2ND COLLECTION MISSION APPEAL
Sister Lisa Marie Valentini, a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, will visit us here at St. Laurence representing the MSC Sisters that serve in missions in 21 countries throughout the world, including India, Namibia, Angola, the Philippines, Perú, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Korea, China, and Vietnam. The 2nd collection the weekend of Nov 26-27 will benefit this Mission Appeal, allowing us to be a part of the mission work of our Church and in support the MSC Sisters throughout the world. Thank you for your generosity!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMMAGE WITH FR. JAINOS
Sign up now for 11-Day Pilgrimage from June 2-12, 2017
All are invited to join Fr. Jaison on an 11-day Holy Land Pilgrimage to Cana, Tiberias, Bethlehem, Mt. Beatitudes, Nazareth, Jerusalem, & Mount of Olives on June 2-12, 2017. The cost is $3,390 per person (includes roundtrip airfare from Houston, first class hotels, 2 meals a day, daily Mass, taxes, surcharges and tips). For a brochure and more information, contact Maria Jacobson at 713-582-8424 or mjacobson1984@yahoo.com, or call Inspirational Tours at 713-961-2785. Inspirational Tours has made this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage a fundraiser for the Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy, so your involvement will benefit our medical missions as well! Act quickly—the spots are going quickly! Visit www.inspirationaltoursinc.com for all the details.
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 2,200 brown bag meals provided each week to children in Richmond-Rosenberg

Village Program: Matches parish families with families that struggle each month to make ends meet

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

RESPECT FOR LIFE NEWS

DEC 10: HEALING AFTER ABORTION

On Saturday, December 10, a private and confidential retreat in Spanish will be held for women who suffer after an abortion. The retreat will begin at 9:30am, led by Fr. Paul Felix. The retreat location is confidential and provided only to retreat participants. Several priests will be available during the day for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For more information, please contact Julie F. at 713-741-8728. All inquiries and registrations are confidential.

MOURNING AFTER A MISCARRIAGE

We extend our sympathies to women who suffer the loss of a child through miscarriage. Please stop by the church office to receive a memory bracelet to remember your child, a prayer card, and a list of mothers who have also suffered in this way who are available for you to talk to. May God give you consolation and peace.

For more information about St. Laurence Respect for Life, contact Marie McCoy at mariemccoyprc@gmail.com.
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.
- mini/trial sizes shampoo, men’s deodorant, soap, lotion, toothpaste & toothbrush for MILITARY, HOMELESS, REFUGEES
- 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
- Gently used Christmas gift bags, tissue paper, gift boxes, and small jewelry boxes for WISH UPON A STAR
- wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and crutches for the MEDICAL MISSION patients in Laredo

RICE & BEANS FAMILY PROJECT

Jesus taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called to practice mercy towards others. The Rice & Beans Ministry responds to this call by purchasing and packing over 800 pounds of bulk rice and beans every month to provide over 400 meals for the day laborers in Rosenberg. A very special thank you goes out to the Agner Family who have shopped for the rice and beans for the past 3 years, which they do with enthusiasm and joy. Nikki Agner remembers, “When I heard the story about this ministry, I realized it was formed for the actual Shade Tree I would see day laborers waiting at each time I visited my grandparents in Rosenberg. At that point, I knew it was the perfect volunteer opportunity for our family. The girls have taken it over now that they’re older.” Hannah and Maddy (pictured) say, “We really enjoy the opportunity to help out those who may not get food every day. It has made us realize just how blessed we really are.” Thank you, Agner Family, for your beautiful service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

GROWING IN FAITH, LEARNING TO SERVE

Wow! The CCE students did a fantastic job with their fall service projects! The Preschool and Elementary CCE students spent the past several weeks learning to grow in their faith by reaching out to others in need. Collecting items to support the Sugar Land Animal Center, Star of Hope Mission, Fort Bend Meals on Wheels, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement, troops overseas and the Shade Tree Ministry, we learned about our Catholic call to Care for God’s Creation and bring comfort & joy to the most vulnerable in our society. Thanks to these CCE families and their children as they became the hands and feet of Christ!

“We really could not do all that we do for our clients and for Houston’s homeless men, women & children without the thoughtfulness and generosity of groups like yours! Please let everyone know how grateful our hearts were to receive this loving gift of towels and kindness!”

Courtney Khorrami, Star of Hope

(Pictured: Katie Weimer delivering towels)

HELP OUR TROOPS THIS HOLIDAY

St. Laurence Military Ministry is collecting snack size packages of nuts, sunflower seeds, dried fruit, beef jerky, energy bars and Power Bars Protein Plus bars. It will be cold in some of the locations, so hot cocoa mix, instant coffee packets, tea bags, individual sugar & powdered creamer packets are appreciated. Please mark MILITARY and drop off in the SCM bin by Nov 30.

SHARE GOD’S BOUNTY

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make Share God’s Bounty a huge success!

Over 800 Thanksgiving meals were donated by parishioners for local families in need, plus for our sister parish in Houston, Queen of Peace. In addition, SLCS, CCE, Life Teen, Edge, Confirmation, WCP and RCIA donated enough food for 500 pantry packs! As always, it’s just wonderful to see over 150 volunteers working together to serve our community together!

“So every year, St. Laurence, our sister parish, continues the spirit of our nation’s first Thanksgiving. Through Share God’s Bounty, Queen of Peace parishioners receive a generous Thanksgiving meal. We are grateful and thankful for all your donations and hard work. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless you.”

Fr. Michael Minifie, Pastor Queen of Peace
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 Denise MacDougall or Fran Magelssen at adoration@stlaurence.org or 281-224-6122 (Fran) or 281-235-8008 (Denise). NOTE: There is no scheduled adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Thanksgiving week, from 2pm Friday, Nov 18, until 8am Monday, Nov 28.

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The St. Laurence Knights of Columbus Council 11343 was chartered in July 1994 for the purpose of supporting the parish as needed. The KCs are known for their popular Lenten Fish Frys and other fundraisers (turkey and sausage sales, Free Throw Contest, spaghetti dinners, etc) that have become part of parish culture. Member meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall, followed by fellowship and a "home cooked" meal. If you are interested in joining the KCs, please contact Richard Ramirez at rrarv2@aol.com.

COPING WITH GRIEF THRU HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY, DEC 13: St. Clare Room (AMC) 6:30-8:30pm

Holidays are times to gather with family and friends. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be filled with sorrow and grief, making you feel as though everyone has joy but you. Join the Grief Support Ministry for this special holiday focused session. Videos of grief counseling specialists will provide tools/suggestions for dealing with expectations of family and friends during these most difficult times, plus opportunities to share. All are welcome and the session is free. For more info and to register, contact Sandy Barber at 281-633-9090, help2grieve@hotmail.com.

DEC 2-3: YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Young adults are invited to a retreat designed just for them! The theme is "MADE NEW" and it will be offered December 2-3 (Friday night 7-10pm and Saturday 9am-3pm) on the Winston Property just down the road in Richmond, the home of the Bartas. Jesus wants to make us new (Rev. 21:5). He does this by speaking truth to our hearts, healing our wounds and dwelling with us. If you're a young adult in your 20s or 30s, come join us on this power-packed advent retreat! This event is co-hosted by St. Laurence & St. Ignatius Young Adults. The retreat fee is only $25 and checks are payable to "St. Ignatius of Loyola." (Fee includes lunch on Saturday.) There are only 45 spots available so go to www.stlaurence.org/young-adult-group and REGISTER NOW to reserve a spot. Invite a friend and make the most of this opportunity to be “made new” this Advent. For more info, please contact Michaela Barta at mbarta@stlaurence.org, 281-265-5774.

DEC 7-8: CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

The Women of the Cloth’s annual Christmas Craft Sale will be Dec 7 and 8 after all Masses (except LifeTeen) in the Parish Hall. Offered for sale are quilts, tree skirts, table runners, gifts and much more! Find the perfect handmade gift for someone special! Proceeds from the craft sale will benefit St. Laurence Habitat for Humanity and other ministries. Be sure to buy a raffle ticket to win the “It Must Be Magic” quilt. Tickets are just $2 each or $10 for a book of 6. The quilt sale benefits Elijah Rising. For info about the Craft Sale, quilt raffle or Women of the Cloth, please contact Margie Koenig (281-313-3625) or Eileen Scamardo (281-242-0183).
The St. Laurence Cancer Support Group welcomes Susan Alonso, a yoga instructor, to their next meeting on Thursday, December 1, at 10:00am in the St. Clare meeting room. She will teach “chair yoga” to the group. Cancer patients, survivors and caregivers… all are welcome! At this meeting, we will also cover details for our upcoming holiday luncheon at Antonia’s restaurant. You won’t want to miss this meeting! Any questions? Please call Angela Rankin at 832-860-3398 or jpdivorcecare@aol.com.

PACT (Parenting Adolescents with Catholicism Together) welcomes Pat Sumner, President of NAMI Fort Bend, as a guest speaker at their meeting on Wednesday, Dec 7, at 7:00pm in Guardian Angel Hall. Pat will present Parents & Teachers as Allies, so don’t miss this meeting! PACT is offered as a resource for parents of teens and tweens, held at the same time as Edge. More than 150 parents have attended a PACT meeting so far, so come see what it’s all about! Upcoming topics include The Gospel in Action for Parents: Advent Focus, The Teenage Brain, and Social Justice for Adolescents and their Parents. No RSVP is necessary and all are welcome! Find more details on the parish website at www.stlaurence.org/pact or contact Steve Brown at stevecindyb@comcast.net.

The Hispanic Ministry invites everyone in the parish to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Monday, December 12. The festivities begin at 5:30am with bilingual Rosary and traditional song to serenade Our Lady, followed by Mexican breakfast in the parish hall. The evening begins at 6:15pm with a traditional children’s dance, bilingual Holy Mass and a celebration afterwards. Renew your faith and participate in the celebration of the miracles and the image she has left us almost 500 years ago!

The J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth) is for parishioners 55-and-up. The group typically meets at the Ave Maria Center on the 1st Monday of the month. Contact Anne Higgins at 832-755-5597.

NOV 22—Join the group in thanksgiving for Noon Mass. We’ll meet and sit together in the church, then go to lunch somewhere fun, before all your family and friends arrive for the Thanksgiving holiday!

DEC 5—Annual Potluck Lunch and gift exchange ($15 limit) from 11:00am-1:000pm in Marian Hall. Turkey & ham provided, so bring a favorite dessert or side dish to share.
Preparing our Hearts

As we wait for the coming of the Lord this Advent season...

for what are we preparing?

We invite all ages to join us to explore ways for your family to keep holy this season of Advent! Activities will include a retelling of the Nativity story, Advent crafts, and family fun!

Friday, December 2nd
at the Guardian Angels Hall of the Ave Maria Center

6:30 pm Pasta Dinner
7-8 pm Advent Activities

Please RSVP by November 30th at www.stlaurence.org/family-nights

Pasta and drinks will be provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

St Laurence Family Night

For more information, please contact Melissa Calcote at mcalcote@stlaurence.org.
SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Baptism  Rose Davis | 281-980-9812
Confirmation (Teens)  Sara Sahleghi | 281-265-5774
Confirmation (Adults)  Mary Visser | 281-265-5774
First Holy Communion  Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
First Reconciliation  Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Marriage Preparation  Theresa Rawls | 281-980-9812
Marriage Sponsor  Sharon & John Harry | 281-980-8090
Couples

FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION

A.C.T.S. Retreat  Dcn. Don Burns | 281-734-8715
Adult Faith Formation  Justin Frato | 281-265-5774
COR Worship Nights  Danielle Noonan | 832-754-0567
Edge (Middle School)  Eric Painter | 281-265-5774
Elementary CCE  Joan Hastedreiter | 281-265-5774
Family Faith  Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Life Teen (High School)  Kris Frank | 281-265-5774
Natural Family Planning  Jacob/Jillian Counts | 281-300-3704
Parish School (SLCS)  Suzanne Barto | 281-980-0500
Parish School Board  David Wells | 810-599-9896
Parish School PTO  Kristin Holy | 281-491-8236
RCIA  Justin Frato | 281-265-5774
Vacation Bible School  Cindy Martin | 281-265-5774
Vocations Committee  | 281-980-9812
Weekday Children’s Prog.  Becky Wilkinson | 281-313-0329

PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Catholic Men  Jim Kij | 281-253-4800
Challenge Club for Girls  Monica Hager | 281-240-7672
Contemplative Prayer  Elaine Smith | 281-499-6660
Divine Mercy (AM)  Sally Flowers | 281-265-8360
Divine Mercy (PM)  Patti Kallemeyn | 281-438-0696
Hearts of Jesus & Mary  Margie Calo | 281-980-4711
Lay Apostles Prayer  Kay Quenan | 281-265-3238
Legion of Mary  Carmelita Kussad | 713-922-2446
Men’s Bible Studies  Steve Ewbank | 281-703-3873
St. Anthony of Padua  Joseph Ellankil | 832-282-3032
Sunny Tom | 832-620-7417
Small Christian Comm  Genoveva Duque | 281-980-1014
Tuesday AM Bible Study  Regina Johnson | 281-403-1792

MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bridges to Life  Dana Cutbirth | 281-343-1417
Correctional Ministry  Deacon Charles Plant | 281-300-3059
Funeral Receptions  Carol Giardina | 281-703-8615
Habitat for Humanity  Steve Pendall | 281-253-7088
Learn English Ministry  Wendy Moore | 713-208-5169
Learn Spanish Ministry  Adriana Gutierrez | 713-269-2851
Meals That Heal  Joan O’Daniel | 281-788-5430
Medical Missionaries  Herb Appel | 713-826-1017
Ministry of St. Joseph  Tim Beverick | 281-265-1533
Respect Life  Marie McCoy | 281-265-7749
Senior Rides & More  Annette Bisanz | 281-980-1449
Social Concerns  Pennie Degroot | 281-980-9812
Society St. John DeMatha  Deacon Al Bothe | 713-582-3870

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Bazaar  Dr. Kevin Klotz | 281-980-9812
Music Ministry  Mary Thompson | 281-980-9812
Welcome Ministry  Eva Fernandez | 832-633-5640

EVANGELIZATION, STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP

Come & See  Art & Marilyn Ramponi | 832-945-2110
Discipleship Council  Marc Sherman | 713-962-0617
Finance Council  Bob Ladd | 281-980-3246
Financial Peace University  Jason Davalos | 832-876-9824
Pastoral Council  Tom Ruck | 713-855-2399
St. Paul Street Evangelization  Marta Alves | 713-569-3679
Welcome Ministry  Eva Fernandez | 832-633-5640

COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE

African Catholic Comm  Esther Iredia | 832-661-2945
Bazaar  Tom Barry | 281-545-4112
Boy Scout Troop 828  Craig Popp | 281-731-6140
Cub Scout Pack 1828  Danny Kleiber | 225-614-3148
Catholic Daughters  Lucia Dziadul | 713-416-4926
Council of Catholic Women  Ginny Kazmierczak | 713-305-9845
Family Ministry  Melissa Calcote | 281-265-5774
Filipino Community  Fe Vicerra | 713-248-1164
Hispanic Ministry  Francisco Rojas-Ayala | 281-690-3374
Knights of Columbus  Joe Chirco | 281-216-6896
Ladies Guild  Tina Dougherty | 713-859-6861
Moms & Tots  Chrissy Campbell | 310-926-7085
St. Laurence Singles  Kathy Gawlik | 281-980-2677
Seniors (JOY Club)  Anne Higgins | 832-755-5597
Vietnamese Group  Amy Le | 281-330-0565
Womens of the Cloth  Margie Koenig | 281-313-3625
Young Adult Group  Michaela Barta | 281-265-5774

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