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
Diciembre 10 — 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

THIS ADVENT
GROW IN SPIRIT

3100 Sweetwater Blvd. | Sugar Land, Texas 77479 | 281-980-9812 | www.stlaurence.org
**OUR MISSION:**

“We the people of St. Laurence Catholic Church are centered in the love of Christ and live to glorify God in all we do.”

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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.
Grow in Spirit this Advent

Last September, 3,800 St. Laurence 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 area was LEARN and over the past 12 weeks, we have focused together on the many ways to learn and grow in our faith. The next priority area is GROW, which we kick off today, the first Sunday of Advent and the first day of a new liturgical year.

SURVEY QUESTION: In my parish, my spiritual needs are met.
PARISH RESPONSE: 44% strongly agreed, 36% agreed, 16% neither agreed nor disagreed, 4% disagreed or strongly disagree

According to the survey, it looks like St. Laurence is doing well to meet your spiritual needs. So, tell us, what are your spiritual needs? Are spiritual needs the same for everyone? Do spiritual needs change as we mature? Do spiritual needs change as we grow past middle age?

Maybe Sunday Mass is everything you feel you need spiritually? But maybe not. Do you spend time with God daily in prayer? Would it be good to have someone to talk to about your faith, someone you trust as a good friend? What area of our parish, if improved, would have the biggest impact on your spiritual needs?

Soon, we will be asking you to get online and answer a survey about your spiritual needs so we better understand how you feel we meet your spiritual needs, and what they are.

Our number one spiritual need has to be Jesus, however you find Him. Catholics encounter Jesus every Sunday in the Mass and actually receive Him in Holy Communion. There is no pleasure in this world, no matter how big, how fancy, how unbelievable, that will satisfy the emptiness in our hearts. Only Jesus can fill this emptiness with a joy that is unsurpassed.

If you feel like your spiritual needs are not being met, we want to know. Please participate in the survey of spiritual needs when it is announced. We want to know how we can better meet your spiritual needs, even though you think we are doing a great job now.

Get more information at www.stlaurence.org/engaged-church and commit today to make this Advent a special time to grow in the Spirit.

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**NOV / DEC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
</tr>
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| SUNDAY 27 | (#991 in your Gather book)  
First Reading IS 2:1-5  
Second Reading ROM 13:11-14  
Gospel MT 24:37-44 |
| MONDAY 28 |  
First Reading IS 4:2-6  
Gospel MT 8:5-11 |
| TUESDAY 29 |  
First Reading IS 11:1-10  
Gospel LK 10:21-24 |
| WEDNESDAY 30 |  
First Reading ROM 10:9-18  
Gospel MT 4:18-22 |
| THURSDAY 1 |  
First Reading IS 26:1-6  
Gospel MT 7:21, 24-27 |
| FRIDAY 2 |  
First Reading IS 29:17-24  
Gospel MT 9:27-31 |
| SATURDAY 3 |  
First Reading IS 30:19-21, 23-26  
Gospel MT 9:35B-10:1, 5A, 6-8 |
| SUNDAY 4 | Second Sunday of Advent  
First Reading IS 11:1-10  
Second Reading ROM 15:4-9  
Gospel MT 3:1-12 |

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### PRAYING THE NEWS | NOVEMBER 27, 2016

...it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. **Rom 13:11**

O Lord, the recent elections were a wake up call for all of us. Please, Lord, help us be your hands and feet - channels of compassion and peace wherever needed. During this Advent, show me by your light whatever I have been blind to, complacent about, or too preoccupied to deal with. May this season be a time of renewed spirit, hope and commitment to you! 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

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


PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOV 26
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

MONDAY, NOV 28
7:30am – Andy & Lauren Baker (D)
12:00pm – Maria & Carlos Cid (D)

TUESDAY, NOV 29
7:30am – Cesar Trivino (D)
6:30pm – Michael & Rose Okie (D)

WED, NOV 30
7:30am – Cesar Trivino (D)

THURSDAY, DEC 1
7:30am – Ann Hillegas (D)
12:00pm – Ed Rhorer (D)

FRIDAY, DEC 2
8:15am – Francisco & Felix Fung (D)
12:00pm – Julian Llamado (D)

SATURDAY, DEC 3
8:30am – Rita Garry (D)
5:00pm – Mr. & Mrs. D.F. Coats (D)

SUNDAY, DEC 4
7:30am – Ron McIntyre (D)
9:00am – Charles Donovan (D)
11:00am – Philip Le (D)
12:45pm – Joseph Flaherty (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

PG 4 | St. Laurence Catholic Church
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
November 13 Collection $ 54,945
Registered Households 7,391
Envelopes Used 776
Loose Checks 195
2nd Collection: Social Concerns $ 9,732

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory $ 178,410
Participants 912

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal $ 495,000
Amount Paid $ 426,498
Amount Pledged $ 449,944
Participants 1,071

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.

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. The parent prep class is offered monthly.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK
WEDDINGS
Monica Huynh & Michael Brooks
FUNERALS
Catherine Latz
Mary Jensen, mother of Barbara Ray

THANK YOU!
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.
CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

PRESCHOOL CCE MEETS TODAY!

ELEMENARY CCE THIS WEEK

The Eucharist
We will begin our CCE session by praying the Fourth Decade of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary together with our students and catechists in the Guardian Angels Hall. This week in CCE, we will learn about the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The word “eucharist” means “to give thanks.” The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist at Mass is at the heart of our lives as Catholics and the “source and summit” of our Faith. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Church does what Jesus did at the Last Supper - we join with Jesus in offering himself to God in praise and thanksgiving.

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

DEC 9: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS
St. Laurence Catholic School invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the School Mass on Friday, December 9 at 8:15am. Learn the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the miracles and the image she has left us almost 500 years ago, with a special presentation from the SLCS Spanish Culture Club. Enjoy the traditional song “Las Mañanitas” and other songs to serenade Our Lady of Guadalupe by Mariachi Music.

DEC 9: HAPPY ST. NICHOLAS DAY
On December 6, our younger SLCS Saints look forward to a visit from St. Nicholas. Join us this season in the spirit of giving as we share God’s love with others.

DEC 14: BAND CONCERT
Everyone in the parish is invited to the annual Winter Concert of the SLCS Middle School Band on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00pm in the School Gym. This is always a wonderful evening of musical entertainment to get you in the spirit of the season!

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).

CALLING ALL SLCS ALUMNI
Preparation is underway for the winter edition of The Saints’ Scoop, our Alumni Magazine! We want to know what our Saints have been up to since leaving SLCS. Please share your info and photos at https://goo.gl/forms/i9qa44n4pTEPXlIX2 or email Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org.

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.

WEDNESDAY IS EDGE NIGHT
NOV 30 & DEC 7: 7:00-8:15pm, 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.

LIFE TEEN TONIGHT!
NOV 27 and DEC 4 6:30-8:15pm  Ave Maria Center
Current focus is “The Summit,” a series on the Mass. Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass changes everything!

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS
TUESDAYS 6:00-7:30pm  Youth Hall
Discipleship Groups offer teens an opportunity to dig even deeper. Open to all high school students.

LEGACY
2ND/4TH TUESDAYS, 8:00-9:00pm  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.

Stay awake! Be prepared.
Matthew 24:42, 44
Today marks the beginning of the Advent season. History tells us that Advent has been observed since around the fourth century AD. Initially, Advent was seen as a time of preparation, both for new believers to be baptized and for all believers to look forward to Jesus’ return in glory. As time went on, the emphasis on the Second Coming and baptism remained, and a new emphasis on Jesus’ first coming as a baby grew along with it.

Today, it seems that Advent is much more about celebrating Jesus’ first coming rather than anticipating his Second Coming. Still, the Church reminds us to use this time to prepare for Christmas and to let it “renew [our] ardent desire for [Jesus’] second coming” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 524).

So with this double goal of celebration and anticipation in mind, Advent has become a season of hope—hope that the baby born in Bethlehem will return one day and usher in the kingdom of God.

Hope is what helps us step out and believe in what we cannot see. Hope is God’s grace to accept that there is a certain amount of mystery to our faith and to still be confident that God can work in our lives.

This is not a blind hope, and it’s not all an impossible mystery that we will never understand. In the midst of all the mysteries of our faith, we can still believe because of what we do understand: that God’s Son came to us on Christmas in order to save us from our sins and fill us with his Holy Spirit.

So for the next four weeks, let’s set our hearts on preparing—first, for Christmas and, second, for Jesus’ return in glory. And let’s do it filled with confidence and hope. Let’s tell Jesus, “This world is not my permanent home. I long for a heavenly home. I long to be with you forever. Come, Lord Jesus.”

“O come, O come, Emmanuel!”

The Word Among Us (www.wau.org/meditations)
Make it your best Advent ever! Listed are some resources to prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ this Christmas:

**FORMED Advent Study:** Experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas at FORMED.org (use parish code 012fc)

**DYNAMIC CATHOLIC Best Advent Ever:** A free email program to help prepare for Christmas at www.dynamiccatholic.com

**JOY IS ON THE WAY:** A Day by Day with Pope Francis, which provides helpful insights along with a **prayerful practice** or **meditative musing**. Go to stlaurence.org/advent

**JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT:** Reflections on the lectionary readings by Art Zannoni, an award-winning freelance writer, scripture scholar, teacher, and theologian. Access it at stlaurence.org/advent

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**THIS WEEK IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**MONDAY**

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

**Lay Apostle Prayer Group (1st Monday, December 5)**
10:30am-12:00pm OR 7:00-8:30pm, St. Anne Room  
Contact: Kay Quenan | 281-265-3238 | kquenan@icloud.com

**TUESDAY**

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

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Weekly)**
9:00-11:45am, Marian Hall, Contact: Joe Kanusky | 281-265-4084  
Nov 15, 2016—Jan 3, 2017: No meetings due to holidays

**WEDNESDAY**

**That Man Is You**
5:30-7:00am  Marian Hall  
Contact: Steve Ewbank | 281-980-5575 | ewbanksix@gmail.com

**Contemplative Prayer**
9:30am-12:00 pm  Corpus Christi Room  
Contact: Elaine Smith | 281-499-6660 | emchabert@comcast.net

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

**THURSDAY**

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

**Divine Mercy Cenacle**
9:00am-12:00pm, St Francis Room  
Contact: Sally Flowers | sallyjoflowers@comcast.net

**Thursday Bible Study**
1:00-2:00pm, St Anne Room or 7:15-8:30pm AMC Room 205  
Contact: Julie Evett | jevett@comcast.net

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**ADVENT BEGINS TODAY**

Deepen your Experience of the Advent Season

Make it your best Advent ever! Listed are some resources to prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ this Christmas:

**FORMED Advent Study:** Experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas at FORMED.org (use parish code 012fc)

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[www.stlaurence.org/aff](http://www.stlaurence.org/aff)  
facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith
Behold, I make all things new

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
On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord’s coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ’s judgment in joyous expectation. This kind of attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one’s communion of faith, and love for one’s neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord’s second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ’s judgment?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARDS AMONG US

In all we do... evangelize

Let us be renewed by God’s mercy… and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

Pope Francis
March 31, 2013

Ask Paula

Q.
Tell us more from your 20 years here!

A.
Wow, 20 years and still going! I remember Fr. Drew’s first day here as parochial vicar. He came in and introduced himself to all of us; we all thought he was so funny (still is, kinda). Especially since he replaced Fr. Stuart Emmert (who wasn’t). That was the first time we heard his line, “When others wouldn’t, Drew WOOD!” How many times have I heard that one? Just saying. I have seen SO many priests come and go from here. Of course, Fr. John Weyer was my fave, FD is runner-up, along with Fr. Phil Lloyd and Fr. Santy Kurian. Don’t confuse him with the other Kurian who wasn’t here too long. (I refer to him as the “bad Kurian” ONLY because I love Santy.) When Fr. Phi, another short timer, came, he had a rabbit and flying squirrel in the office. Let’s just say, they didn’t last. I like to say FD has a ‘No Pet Policy’ in place.

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.
La comunidad de la iglesia de St. Laurence invita a la celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe, “Emperatriz de las Américas”. Renueve su fe participando en todas las actividades de la celebración al recordar los milagros y la imagen que nos dejó hace casi 500 años.

¡Venga a disfrutar de la música y la fraternidad!
Celebrant: Rev. Miguel Obregon

Program
Lunes, 12 de diciembre, 2016

Por la mañana:
5:30 AM Rosario (bilingüe)
6:00 AM Las tradicionales Mañanitas (Mariachi).
7:00 AM Procesión y desayuno mexicano, “pan y chocolate” en el Parish Hall.

Por la tarde:
6:15 PM Danza Tradicional de los Matachines.
6:30 PM La Santa Misa Bilingüe.
7:30 PM Procesión, convivio y programa musical en el gimnasio de la escuela.
The community of St. Laurence Catholic Church invites you to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Renew your faith and participate in the celebration in remembrance of the miracles and the image she has left us almost 500 years ago.

Come and enjoy great music and fellowship!

Celebrant: Rev. Miguel Obregon

Program

Monday, December 12, 2016

Morning:
5:30 AM Rosary (bilingual).
6:00 AM Special traditional song “Las Mañanitas” (Mariachi music)
7:00 AM Procession and Mexican breakfast “bread and chocolate” at the Parish Hall.

Evening:
6:15 PM Traditional Matachines dance (Children dance).
6:30 PM Holy Mass (Bilingual).
7:30 PM Procession, fellowship and musical program in the School Gym.
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. JAIson

All are invited to join Fr. Jaison on an 11-day Holy Land Pilgrimage 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! Visit www.inspirationaltoursinc.com for 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

WISH UPON A STAR Christmas Gift Drive

Each year, St. Laurence parishioners provide approximately 2,000 gifts to our neighbors in need during the Christmas season. Currently we provide gifts to the following churches and organizations: Holy Family, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Fisher, Bethel Ministry (latch key kids in the Stafford/ Missouri City area), Angela’s House, Isaiah House, Parks Youth Ranch (homeless teens), Sugar Land Health Care (low income nursing home), Rio Bend Foster Care Community (unaccompanied refugee minor & CPS children), Catholic Charities Seniors, Hick’s Elementary, Casa de Esperanza, Casa Juan Diego, 1st Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Fort Bend Family Promise, Refugee Resettlement, as well as to military serving overseas via Impact a Hero & The Lotus Project.

RESPECT FOR LIFE NEWS

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION: 3 MONTHS
The baby can now squint, swallow, and move his tongue. He or she sleeps and wakes, and has a unique set of fingerprints. Your baby can grasp an object with his or her hand, and breathes in amniotic fluid to help develop and strengthen the respiratory muscles. Your baby is still vulnerable to being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of the mother to give her child the most precious gift of life.

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. Please contact Julie F. at 713-741-8728. All inquiries and registrations are confidential.

SUPPORT AFTER A MISCARRIAGE
If you have suffered the loss of a child through miscarriage, please stop by the parish office to receive a memory bracelet to remember your child, plus a prayer card and contact info if you wish to speak to others who have suffered such a loss. For more info, contact Marie McCoy at 281-265-7749.
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

IN THANKSGIVING FOR YOU! (PART 1)

It takes so many volunteers to accomplish all that we do in the Social Concerns Ministry. There are so many behind the scenes volunteers who so generously give their time and make our job so much easier! Here is Part 1 of our callout to all of these volunteers, with BIG THANKS from Pennie, Melanie and Monica in SCM...

To the all of the volunteers who bake cookies and casseroles every week for Bethel Ministry and Park’s Youth Ranch. They are enjoyed by all so many children and teens!

To Kristine McNeill who holds birthday parties for children residing in local homeless shelters.

To everyone who helped sew over 1,000 bags in the past year for our Blessing Bags program. These bags are used for distribution to the homeless, filled with food, drink & hygiene items and to children entering a local homeless shelter, filled with a blanket, book and stuffed animal to make their transition to homelessness a bit less traumatic.

To our Social Concerns Ministry Board for providing us with guidance on how to best serve our parish and community: Terri Conti (chair), Frances Conway (vice-chair), Keith Broussard, Mark Eyring, Anita Kalunta-Crumpton, Marcia Kielhofner, Peggy Oltremari, Donna Romaine, Anne Dyess, Terri Leong & Pat Sumner.

To Glory Hopkins, our Caring Creations coordinator and for her team of volunteers who shop for gifts for the Mamie George Community Center gift shop and create adorable holiday snacks for seniors receiving Meals on Wheels, Mamie George Community Center and Sugar Land Health Center.

Be a part of Social Concerns! There is a special way for you to serve. Contact Melanie in the Social Concerns office at mhartshorn@stlaurence.org or 281-980-9812.

FAMILY FAITH: SHARING JOY

The parishioners who participate in Family Faith have been busy making a difference and spreading joy this fall. They brightened the day of the Sugar Land and Missouri City police officers by writing them thank you notes for their service.

For the second year in a row, they partnered with Cross Catholic Outreach to provide a ’Box of Joy’ filled with small toys and necessities to over 150 children in Guatemala and Haiti.

And the families showed their love and appreciation for our veterans by handing out patriotic ribbons and thank you cards after all Masses in celebration of Veterans Day.

Thank you, Family Faith, for all of your generosity, thoughtfulness and beautiful efforts for others!
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.

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

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 Fry sandals, 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 rravr2@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 5: CAREGIVER SUPPORT OUTING

Advent Greetings, Caregivers! We hope you can join us for a delightful excursion to The Brookwood Community on Monday, December 5, to explore Brookwood’s inspirational, world-renowned model for providing spiritual, educational, and vocational opportunities for adults with special needs. The event includes a 9:30am tour of the community followed by lunch at the lovely café and a chance do some holiday shopping at the gift shop. Caregivers interested in carpooling from St. Laurence will meet at the Ave Maria Center at 8:15am and return at 2:00pm. Whether the loved one you are caring for copes with autism, cerebral palsy, dementia, Down Syndrome, or another diagnosis, we believe you will find hope and encouragement among others who understand the ups and downs of the caregiving journey. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Jane Jewell (281-265-9658, ejcomp@aol.com) or Lori Knowles (281-261-5738, knowlesml5@gmail.com).
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 832-945-2245.

DEC 1: CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

A NEW session of Financial Peace University is starting soon. If you are interested in learning God’s ways of handling money through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, plan to attend one of these two Preview Sessions to sign up: Saturday, December 3 (9-10am, Trinity Room) OR Wednesday, December 14 (7-8 pm, St Clare).

FPU classes will be held on Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm, starting January 4 through March 8, in the St. Clare Room at the Ave Maria Center. For more information, please contact Jason Davalos at jda99@gmail.com, 832-876-9874, and to register go to fpu.com/1019835.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

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.

DEC 7: PACT WELCOMES PAT SUMNER

DivorceCare meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00pm in the St. Francis Room, upstairs in the Ave Maria Center. This week’s topic will be Forgiveness. This is the MOST important topic we cover! Come learn how to free yourself from the effects of carrying the burden of unforgiveness. Please contact Janie at 832-860-3398 or jpddivorcecare@aol.com for more information.

NOV 30: DIVORCE CARE MEETING

Everyone is invited to “Simbang Gabi” (Filipino for “Night Mass”) on Friday, December 16, at 6:30pm in the church. The evening begins with traditional carols, followed by Mass and a reception and entertainment in the School Gym. The “Simbang Gabi” is a devotional 9-day series of Masses in the Philippines practiced by Roman Catholics in anticipation of Christmas. Organized by the Filipino Community of St. Laurence, please contact Fe Vicerra for information at 713-248-1164, bertandfevicerra@yahoo.com.

DEC 16: CELEBRATE SIMBANG GABI

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.

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

JAN 9—Join the JOY Club on the 2nd Monday in January to FLOAT INTO THE NEW YEAR from 11am-1pm. Bring a sack lunch and we’ll play games, with root beer floats or black cows for all!

JOY CLUB FOR SENIORS

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.

“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”

Join a ministry or group and allow Jesus to make something new in you!
Preparation 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.
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Find more information about all our parish groups and ministries at www.stlaurence.org.
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