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
February 3 — In the Chapel
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
February 4 — In the Church
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
Enero 14 — 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

“...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
—MAT 2:11

The Epiphany of the Lord
**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  
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: Roger Peters, rogerwpeters@me.com  
Finance Council: Bob Ladd, robert.ladd@haynesboone.com  
Discipleship Council: Marc Sherman, MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com  

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**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.

**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.
Where did the faith of the Magi come from?

Today, The Season of Christmas includes the celebration of the arrival of the magi from the East. Let’s consider the humble adoration of the magi for the Christ child. The magi were Gentiles, and the Greek word “magi” meant oriental scientists. Despite sometimes being sometimes translated as “astrologers”, their visit to the manger does not validate astrology.

Because they were not Jews, their determination to meet the Jewish savior says much about what the word “epiphany” means. The magi are good examples of believing in the importance of Jesus even without understanding what it would mean to them personally or to the rest of the world.

They worshiped Jesus as a King-Messiah before they knew how he would become king or how his kingship would save the world from evil. As scientific scholars, they had studied religious writings from beyond the scope of their own culture. Then, they acted on faith in response to the Spirit of God who activated them, and it changed their lives.

Only the Spirit of God can move someone to have faith, because faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12). The word “epiphany” means discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Epiphanies are gifts from God as he collaborates with our desire for new growth.

We can imagine how the magi felt when they experienced an epiphany in the presence of the Christ child. Although they did not understand how this baby from a poor family could become king, they remembered him for the rest of their lives and listened for news from the land of Israel about Jesus. We know that they heard about his crucifixion and learned what his followers were teaching about it, for they became Christians - their relics have been venerated since very early times.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What sign from God, like the star that the magi followed, are you waiting to see? What signs is God already showing you? These are evidence that he is working in your life. What epiphany - new understanding - is Jesus giving you about what God is doing in your life?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

God has given you faith to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. How do you act on this faith? And how do these actions evangelize non-believers?

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:


Brian Teykl, Eugene Theobald, Todd Triggs, Justin Stout, Marianne Szalay, Jackie Tanner, Sabido, Gil Saenz, Ed Sabrsula, Kathleen Melanie Robb, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Provi.

Meyer, Marina Monroy, Jim Murray, Patrick men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and

Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the

Marcellus, Russ Marcellus, Lavonne McFarland, Crenshaw, Chaplain Tom Lowe, Deacon Al Bothe, the Society of St John de Matha, the

Men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and

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 Cagandahan), 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, JAN 7
5:00pm – Josephine Towle (D)

SUNDAY, JAN 8
7:30am – Pauline Trefry (D)
9:00am – William Jordan (D)
11:00am – Raymond Taylor (D)
12:45pm – Violeta Damaso Obieta (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, JAN 9
7:30am – Special Intention
12:00pm – Cecilia Graham (D)

TUESDAY, JAN 10
7:30am – Thomas Brown (I)
12:00pm – Eusebio Alvarado, Sr. (D)

WEDNESDAY, JAN 11
7:30am – Ira Perry (D)
6:30pm – Baby Paul Nirappil (D)

THURSDAY, JAN 12
7:30am – Bernabe Tolosa (I)
12:00pm – Samuel Orrell Family (I)

FRIDAY, JAN 13
8:15am – Emmie Barto (D)
12:00pm – William & Ardale Sutter (D)

SATURDAY, JAN 14
8:30am – Norman Ralph (D)
5:00pm – Colonel Robert S. Allee (D)

SUNDAY, JAN 15
7:30am – Antonio Torrellio (D)
9:00am – Susan Trefry Clark (D)
11:00am – Kevin Le (D)
12:45pm – Anselm Odikpo (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners
PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Envelopes Used</td>
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<td>Loose Checks</td>
<td>328</td>
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AUTOMATED GIVING

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DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

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<td>Participants</td>
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THANK YOU, ST. LAURENCE!

Thank you for your generous support of the Sunday offertory, DSF, and all parish drives to aid those in need. There’s still time to donate to DSF! To give online, please visit www.archgh.org/dsf. For the 1,091 families who have already responded with a gift, please accept our sincere gratitude. As we begin a new calendar year, please be sure your records and accounts are complete and up-to-date. If you’ve moved, please let us know by contacting Christy Delamora at cdelamora@stlaurence.org.

Happy New Year! Thank you for your generous support of St. Laurence parish all year long. Nearly 1,000 people have elected to donate electronically via Faith Direct. Supporting the church in this way benefits both you and our parish family, so please consider signing up for online giving in the new year. Thank you, too, for your generous Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to help us meet our financial goals. May God continue to bless you and your family in the new year!

KINGDOM CARE

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

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next class: JANUARY 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. The parent prep class is offered monthly.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS

Austin Marinas, Olivia Marinas, Madison Cullen, Caroline Hunkele

WEDDINGS

Kathy Sacueza & William Sudarma
Makenzi Ewing & Nicholas Johanian

FUNERALS

Peter Lewand, husband of Elizabeth Lewand

ELECTRONIC GIVING

www.stlaurence.org/contribute-to-our-parish
CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

PRESCHOOL CCE TODAY  Welcome Back!

ELEMENTARY CCE THIS WEEK
Sacraments of Healing
This week, we will explore God’s loving kindness as we study about the Sacraments of Healing. Despite the bad choices we sometimes make, Jesus offers us the Father’s forgiveness and unconditional love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and heals us in a special way through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As Catholics, our communion with God and spiritual wellness are offered through the celebration of these two special sacraments. As a family, discuss how you can each bring the healing love of forgiveness to someone in your lives through your actions or words of kindness.

MONDAYS: Moms & 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! Call Chrissy Campbell at 310-926-7085 or email stlaurence.momsandtots@gmail.com for details.

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
From Crib through 5 years

JAN 11/12: Toms Band
JAN 16: MLK Holiday
JAN 19/20: Registration (priority for enrolled families)
FEB 15: Registration for parishioners on wait list

Learn more and find the WCP Calendar at:
www.stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

SLCS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

It is amazing to think that 25 years ago St. Laurence Catholic School was founded and that we are celebrating this landmark anniversary this year!

Join the celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2017. SLCS will host an Open House Celebration at the school from 2:00-4:00pm, then His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will celebrate the 5:00pm Vigil Mass in the church with Fr. Drew and Fr. Jaison. We have much to celebrate, so join your parish school on this great occasion and contact us with questions at advancement@stlaurence.org.

TAKE A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE!
SLCS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

The First Middle School Class

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**
**JAN 11: 700-815pm, Edge in Marian Hall**
All middle school youth are invited and encouraged to join us. We are on Christmas break but will return for the Spring semester on Wednesday, January 11.

**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.

**LIFE TEEN TONIGHT!**
**JAN 8 630-815pm 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 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.

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

**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.

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**GET THE PARISH APP**
Introducing the St. Laurence Parish APP
Now available for download on Google Play and Apple APP stores.*

Keep up-to-date on all the happenings for our parish from your smart phone or tablet!

St. Laurence CC

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Follow these instructions to DOWNLOAD our APP!

*Text stlaurence1 to 555-888 for Apple devices
- or- Scan the QR Code
- or- https://goo.gl/KUMr8L

Text stlaurence2 to 555-888 for Android devices
- or- Scan the QR Code
- or- https://goo.gl/yMc2zc

When APP is downloaded and opened on your device — ALLOW for PUSH notifications!
A sneak peek at...

**AFF Speaker Series 2017**

7-9pm, Ave Maria Center, Marian Hall

Here is a partial lineup of what's new for our Speaker Series

**Feb 2**  **Pre-Game Super Bowl Show for Catholic Men**
Invites men to receive spiritual training from Curtis Martin to be champions in their roles as husbands, fathers, and sons of God.

**Mar 3**  **Discover What God Has Done... Imagine What He Can Do**
Learn about the power of 40 Days for Life from founder Shawn Carney.  **MORE INFO:** stlau-rence.org/speakerseries

**A PROGRAM FOR COUPLES**

Mondays: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar 4
7:00-9:00pm, Ave Maria Center, Guardian Angel Hall

The Choice Wine: 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage is a pathway to authentic marital happiness. Couples will learn how to virtually divorce-proof their marriage, experience the superabundant love and mercy of God, and realize a foretaste of Paradise in their marriages and families. This is a multimedia, interactive program. Couples are asked to bring a dessert to share. It will conclude on Saturday March 4, with a Couples Retreat from 9:00am-3:00pm. Cost is $50 per couple, which covers the materials cost. For more information and to register, please go to stlauurence.org/choice-wine.

COME AND SEE... welcomes you!

**JAN 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 13**
7:15-9:00pm Ave Maria Center, St. Anne Room

We’re family. We’ve missed you. Welcome home inactive Catholics

Is the spirit of Jesus calling you to reconnect with your childhood faith experience? What are the issues, questions or blocks relative to your return to the Church?  **Contact Art & Marilyn Ramponi** for more info, 832-945-2110 and artmarilyn2@att.net

**WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/AFF**

facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith
Open your heart
to the greatest gift of all

Inactive Catholics You’re Invited Home!

Join us for evenings of dialogue to:
Come and SEE how you can renew your relationship with the Catholic Church
Come and VOICE your feelings and needs
Come and LEARN about current Catholic thought

No matter how long you have been away, for whatever reason,
you are always welcome.

“COME AND SEE” is an outreach program for those who feel alienated, estranged or distant from the church or for those who want a more genuine experience of Catholic community.

Join us for a special six-week program held on Monday evenings, Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2017 from 7:15-9:00 p.m. in the Ave Maria Center, St. Anne Room. The evening is facilitated by a team of parishioners in a safe, confidential, small group sharing environment.

For more information go to www.stlawrence.org/comeandsee
Or contact: Art or Marilyn Ramponi at 832-945-2110, artmarilyn2@att.net.
In today’s second reading we hear the teachings of Saint Paul to the members of the Church at Ephesus. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God’s loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul’s words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the Gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ’s justice and peace?

www.catholicstewardship.org

STEWARD AMONG US

RICHARD & YOLANDA VALDEZ

When Yolanda & Richard Valdez moved to the parish in 1993, their daughter Monica was a sophomore at St. Agnes. Richard and Monica started singing together in the 11:00am Choir and even participated in the Christmas CD the choir issued. Monica has since grown and moved away, but Richard still sings with that choir and Yolanda is a lector. There have been a few weekends when they are scheduled to serve at the same Mass as the psalmist and lector! As a Marriage Sponsor Couple, the Valdezes have helped more than a dozen couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and credit this ministry for helping them to stay in touch with the day they were married in 1968. They say, “We feel the warmth and support of a great many people we have met at St. Laurence. We are most grateful for your prayers, especially in 2010, when an aortic dissection threatened Richard’s life. A 5-day surgery and 28 days of induced coma left him completely disabled, not expected to walk again. With a lot of rehab, the help of your prayers, and the grace of a loving God, Richard now walks with a cane! Praise God!”

Ask Paula

Q. Do I have to shake hands at the Sign of Peace?

A. No. It’s not a requirement, it’s just a gesture. I’ve seen lots of people nod or do the universal two-finger thingy for the sign of peace. Or you can just wave. The main thing is to do something, show some sign of kindness to the people around you at Mass. Me? I’ve been sick since Christmas! So, I take my little bottle of hand sanitizer with me to Mass and right before and after the sign of peace I clean my hands. I know other people do this, too, because I can smell it. Hey, the same thing goes for holding hands during the Our Father. It’s optional. You don’t have to, just put your hands up. Everyone understands and appreciates you not spreading your germs. Right?

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for 20 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.
Welcome to St. Laurence!

We welcome these new families to our parish!
Have you been thinking about joining, too?

St. Laurence is a parish of 7,391 families, centered in the love of Christ and dedicated to glorifying God in all we do. To join our parish, simply pick up a New Parishioner form from the Hospitality Desk and place in the offertory basket, submit at the Hospitality Desk, or bring to the parish office. Then browse this bulletin and visit our parish website to learn how you can “serve the Lord with gladness” in one of our many parish groups and ministries at St. Laurence. Welcome!
Pastor’s Challenge

Fr. Drew is giving his parish a new challenge! Recall that in September, Fr. Drew wanted each of us to **LEARN more about Jesus** with a challenge to read one of the Gospels straight through.

Today, Fr. Drew is challenging us to **GROW in greater communion with Jesus** through the Holy Eucharist.

**Fr. Drew’s Challenge to all St. Laurence parishioners:**

1. Attend one COR Worship Night in the church, on Jan 9 or Feb 13
   OR
2. Spend a full hour in the Chapel of Divine Mercy before the Lord
   OR
3. Attend Heart of Worship on Saturday, February 25

**OR do all three!**

**Heart of Worship**

Registration is open right now at www.stlaurence.org/how. This year, we welcome Deacon Alex Jones, Roland Millare, and Brother Peter Francis, who will speak on Faith, Hope, and Love. Includes Mass, Adoration, dinner, and great music. Don’t miss it!

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Divine Mercy. All are invited to enter and rest a while in the Real Presence of Jesus exposed in the monstrance on the altar. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your mind in this quiet time with Jesus.

**COR Worship Night**

90 minutes of praise and worship offered on the 2nd Monday each month, open to all people of all ages, no charge, and no RSVP required. Meet in the parish hall at 6:00pm for spaghetti dinner, the church for COR at 7:00pm, and you’ll be on your way home by 8:30pm.

**Will you take Fr. Drew up on his challenge?**

Get more information about COR Worship Night, Eucharistic Adoration and Heart of Worship on our parish website stlaurence.org.
**REGISTER NOW: HEART OF WORSHIP**

Saturday, February 25, 11:30am-9:00pm, at St. Laurence

Take Fr. Drew up on his challenge and come to Heart of Worship to discover how, in Jesus, all things are new! Be sure to take advantage of Early Bird Registration. Register before Feb 1, and the cost is just $20, after that it goes up to $25. Registration is available online at www.stlaurence.org/HOW and in-person at the parish office. This year, we welcome a diverse line up of speakers: On the subject of FAITH: Deacon Alex Jones, the Detroit Pentecostal minister who converted to the Catholic faith and brought along 53 members of his congregation. On LOVE: Roland Millare, a theology doctoral candidate who came to understand the depth and breadth of God’s mercy through a family tragedy. On HOPE: Brother Peter Francis, who shares his joy and love of Christ today in a religious community just as he did when he served as one of our youth ministers (when we knew him as Brian Kelsch). Heart of Worship is always a sellout, so register early. For more info, go to www.stlaurence.org/HOW or call the parish office at 281-980-9812.

**TAKING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS SURVEY**

How do you grow in spirituality? St. Laurence is made up of over 7,400 families, diverse in their cultures/backgrounds, but united in their faith and centered in the love of Christ. We want to know what’s important to you regarding your spiritual life and your spiritual needs. Will you please take a moment to participate in a brief Spiritual Needs Survey? It will take about 10 minutes of your time and we will share the results with the parish in February. Find more info and a link to the survey at www.stlaurence.org/engaged-church or scan the QR code at left to take the survey now!

**JAN 21: COME TO FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO**

All are welcome to attend the celebration of Santo Niño (Holy Child Jesus) on Saturday, January 21, at St. Laurence. This Filipino tradition includes Rosary at 9:15am, procession at 10:00am, and Mass at 11:00am, with our bishop, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, as celebrant. Everyone is asked to wear red and are encouraged to bring along a statue of the Santo Niño, if you have one, for the procession. After the Mass, there is a reception in the school gym. If you have questions, please contact Margie Calo (281-980-4711), Ave Lawas (281-530-9507), Alyn Vivares (281-302-6228) or Bella Tolentino (713-849-9662).

**THIS WEEK**

**COR WORSHIP NIGHT**

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
7:00-8:30 PM
Featuring Fr. Joy Thomas

COR (Latin for “heart”) is 90 minutes of praise, teaching & adoration, for all ages, free of charge. Held in the church on the 2nd Monday each month from 7:00-8:30pm. On January 9, Fr. Joy Thomas (parochial vicar at St. Angela Merici) will give the teaching & Danielle Noonan will lead the music. Don’t miss this opportunity to grow in the Spirit. See you there!

**FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Before COR Worship Night begins 6:00-6:45pm in Parish Hall

The St. Laurence Knights of Columbus are cooking up a FREE spaghetti dinner for everyone who attends COR on January 9. Come to the parish hall ready to eat at 6:00pm, then head to the church at 6:45pm.

**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE**

NEW! 7:15am Mass
Effective Sunday, January 22

The 7:30am Sunday Mass will start 15 minutes earlier, to create more time between Masses during the reconstruction of Williams Trace and Sweetwater Boulevards.

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:15am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:45pm, 5:00pm

**JOY CLUB MEETING**

Monday, Jan 9 at 11:00am

The J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth) welcomes everyone 55-and-up to “float into the New Year!” at their meeting this Monday in the Ave Maria Center, from 11am-1pm. Lunch will be provided by Legacy, plus root beer floats & games! Call Anne: 832-755-5597
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

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS

ONE FAMILY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the desire to share their blessings with a family in need at Christmas, the Covarrubias family contacted Social Concerns to guide them. A family in need was selected and arrangements were made for a special meeting. The children received furniture, room decorations, clothing and gifts. “As a family, we actively seek opportunities to help families in need. Our goal as parents is to model service and giving for our kids. Any time we can, we prefer to meet the families we’re helping and stay in touch with them. We live by two mottos: Be comfortable being uncomfortable” and “Give, but give until it hurts.”

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE OUTREACH

Each year, Mireya Graniel Siegfried hosts a group of friends to pray the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and collect items to donate to charity. This year, they collected canned goods, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products for the Social Concerns Ministry. Thank you for this generous donation that will help keep our shelves stocked to help many families in need.

LEARN ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

Find out how rewarding it is to teach English to immigrants from all over the world. We need volunteer teachers to teach adults to improve their English, thereby helping them to get better jobs, parent their English-speaking children and become US citizens, to name just a few benefits. No experience is needed; we will train you and provide teaching materials. For more info and to begin being a part of this ministry, contact Wendy Moore, learnenglishministry.slc@gmail.com.

SUPPORT SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY WITH AMAZON SMILE

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Laurence Social Concerns. Please bookmark this link and support your parish’s outreach every time you shop! smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0157777
WHAT WE NEED

You can help with these simple donations. Look around the house and see what you have to share and drop off at the parish office or in the SCM Donation bin in the church.

- men’s clothing for residents of ROSARY HOUSE, a halfway house for ex-prisoners: new underwear and gently used and new long & short sleeve shirts, pants, socks, shoes, jackets.
- 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
- Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, disinfectant spray cleaners for PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

H4H: SPRING BUILD UPDATE

Please think of the St. Laurence Habitat for Humanity Ministry as you select charitable donations this year. Our H4H ministry is raising funds to build a 12th home this spring in Richmond.

The family for which we hope to provide a safe, decent home has two young children and is living in a dilapidated rental home. The front door is rotted and does not close, which poses a constant safety issue for the family. They also have mold in the kitchen and bathroom. You may drop your donation of at the parish office or in the collection basket. Please make your check payable to St. Laurence with “Habitat For Humanity” in the memo line. The need is very real. Together, our parish family has been an important sustaining sponsor of the H4H mission. Happy New Year and God bless you all year long!

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

BRIDGES OF MERCY FOR POST-ABORTIVE HEALING

Men and women who have been involved with an abortion often come to suffer deep remorse and pain that remains for many years. The secret they carry affects their relationships in a variety of ways. They often need to be assured of God’s unlimited mercy and healing grace that is available to them. The brochure describes situations in which three individuals are affected by their past abortion. It helps all of us to be aware that many men and women in our community struggle with post-abortion pain, and includes suggestions for how individuals in various circumstances can help those who suffer in that way. Pope Francis invites us all to be instruments of mercy. In addition to Project Rachel, which is mentioned in the brochure, Rachel’s Vineyard also provides post-abortion healing retreats. Links to both are included on the Respect Life page of the St. Laurence website. Find the article at Hospitality desk in both English & Spanish.

JAN 28: BUS RIDE TO TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE IN AUSTIN

Join others and ride in comfort in a bus from St. Laurence to the annual Texas Rally for Life in Austin on Saturday, January 28. We will depart at 6:00am, attend pro-life Mass with the Bishop of Austin at St. Vincent de Paul parish in north Austin, lunch there, then head to the March and Rally. Hear inspiring speakers and be a part of a big pro-life crowd! Be home by 6:30pm. Registration for the bus is on the parish website and the cost is $30. See www.texasrallyforlife.org for pictures from 2016.

JAN 14: MASS & ROSARY FOR LIFE

Join the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants for the Houston Mass & Rosary for Life on Saturday, January 14 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Houston. Mass is at 8:10am, with a Rosary procession afterwards to Planned Parenthood Clinic, 5800 Bellaire Blvd. A free lunch and talk on Bioethics by Rev. William Bueche and Ms. Julie Fritsch follows, with an exhibit of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

CAN YOU HELP?

Needed Now: Coordinator for Parties for the Elderly

Social Concerns is looking for a family or group to coordinate birthday and holiday parties for the elderly residents at Sugar Land Health Care Center in Sugar Land. This coordinator is responsible for coordinating a party every other month (Friday at 2:30pm) for all the residents who have had a birthday, including serving cupcakes or cookies. To learn more about what is involved in this rewarding outreach effort, please contact Pennie DeGroot at 281-980-9812 and pdegroot@stlaurence.org.
The St. Laurence Young Adult Ministry exists for parishioners in their 20s and 30s, looking for a way to connect with other young adults in the parish to grow in Spirit and fellowship. Join us!

JAN 11: Wednesday Night Bible Study
7-8:45pm | AMC | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
NEW STUDY—Acts: Spreading the Kingdom! Come experience how the first apostles were fully alive and animated by the Holy Spirit to start the Church!

FALL 2017: Dominican Republic Mission Trip
Join the Young Adult Ministry on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic next year. Get connected with us on Facebook if you’re interested and email Michaela Barta at mbarta@stlaurence.org.

Calling all ACTS Retreat participants! Our new ACTS community is looking for a few good men and women to serve on the leadership team. If you have attended an ACTS Retreat (through St. Laurence or another parish) and are interested in giving back and serving on the St. Laurence ACTS team, please contact Veronyka Gonzalez at 832-545-0357 or veronyka@me.com. Men, if you have served on the ACTS team twice, please discern if the Holy Spirit might be calling you to serve as the Director for the upcoming Mens ACTS Retreat in June.
**JAN 13: MOM’S JANUARY REJUVENATION**

Join other Catholic moms who home school for an evening of conversation and company. Meet with the Heart of the Home group at the Ave Maria Center in Kelly’s Café on Friday, January 13, from 6:30-8:00pm, to find a chance to rejuvenate your energy and commitment for the rest of the year. Bring along your favorite subject (books, crafts, etc, you enjoy using when working on your favorite subject with your children. We will play a game of “Change the Subject!” Info and RSVP with Melissa at mcalcote@stlaurence.org.

**JAN 16: WHAT IS UNBOUND PRAYER?**

Have you ever felt stuck, bound up, unable to move forward? Do you long to experience the love, freedom, and abundant life that Jesus talks about in the Gospels? UNBOUND Ministry empowers people to take hold of the freedom they have been given in Christ. Unbound is a safe, loving, simple, and reproducible prayer model that helps people to respond to the Good News of the Gospel and apply the truth to their lives using five simple keys: Repentance & Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority, and the Father’s Blessing, based on the book, *Unbound*, by Neal Lozano. Learn more at an information session on Monday, January 16, 7:00-8:00pm in the St. Clare Meeting Room (AMC) and contact Anne Marie Daniel at 281-265-5774 or adaniel@stlaurence.org.

**JAN 12: HOPE GRIEF PROGRAM STARTS**

HOPE (Helping Our Pain Ease) is a 7-week structured series designed to help adults grieve successfully by accomplishing the 4 tasks of grieving also utilized by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. Consider attending if you have lost a loved one due to a sudden, tragic death or from a long term illness, either recently or in the past. Led by a hospice-trained facilitator, the group meets 6:30-8:30pm on Thursdays. The next one begins January 12. To register, call Annette Bisanz 281-980-1449 or Kathy Heinemann 281-468-0738.

**JAN 11: NEW DIVORCE-CARE SESSION**

If you have been suffering from the effects of divorce or separation, seek support in this new year. Come receive help in rebuilding your life, focused on God’s love for you. DivorceCare meets in the St. Francis Room at the Ave Maria Center on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. A new 13-week series starts this week on Wednesday, January 11. For more information, please contact Janie at 832-860-3398 or jpd divorcecare@aol.com.

**CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO MARY**

The preparation book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, by Fr. Michael Gaitley, provides the foundation for a 6-week session which culminates in consecration on the feast of our Lady of Lourdes on Feb 11. Classes start Thursday, Jan 5 (10:00-11:30AM, Corpus Christi Room) OR Monday Jan 9 (6:30-8:00PM, AMC Room 201). Each session includes a video presentation, group discussion and the daily readings. The book may be purchased from Mary Regina. Please RSVP to Paul Cranley at pecranley@hotmail.com or 979-236-5906.

**JAN 16: WHAT IS UNBOUND PRAYER?**

A new semester of That Man Is You is underway! Join other men of the parish each Wednesday morning, 5:30-7:00am, in Marian Hall, for breakfast, fellowship and discussion of topics that will help you grow in your relationship with God and others. TMIY kicked off in September with a great response: I am truly enjoying this program like none other I have ever attended… Excellent program… Thank you for bringing this to St Laurence… I am growing in my faith, thanks be to God! Men are welcome to join TMIY at any point in the program. For information, contact Steve Ewbank at ewbanksix@gmail.com or 281-980-5575.

**“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”**

Join a ministry or group and allow Jesus to make something new in you!
Family Ministry

Rice and Beans Project

Monday, January 16
1:00-3:00 pm

Help feed the hungry! Join other St. Laurence families in aiding our Social Concerns Ministry bag rice and beans for the hungry in the community.

Placemats and cards Project

Saturday, March 4
9:30-11:00 am

We will be creating Easter placemats and cards for those at the Mamie George Center.

Behold, I make all things new!

Join us for a morning of creativity, fun with other families, and an opportunity to serve others.

These events will be held in the Ave Maria Parish Life Center, Jan. 16 in the Guardian Angels Hall. March 4 in the Youth Hall.

RSVP at www.stlaurence.org/family-nights.
For more information 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](http://www.stlaurence.org).
Hannah Financial Solutions
Timothy W. Hannah, CFP
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