SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:15am, 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

St. Laurence Catholic School
Then and Now

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 28 — 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
**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: Dennis Henderson, dhenderson@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Charles Plant, stlaurencedeacon@aol.com
Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, toltremari@stlaurence.org
Liturgy: Theresa Rawls, trawls@stlaurence.org
Facilities: Sheila Stulak, sstulak@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 Hasteder, jhasteder@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, robertladd@haynesboone.com
Discipleship Council: Marc Sherman, MarcSherman@iheartmedia.com

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

**PARISH OFFICE & COURTYARD**
The parish office provides services including pastoral care, liturgical planning, business, communications, and 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 thru 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.
Dear St. Laurence Parishioners,

St. Laurence Catholic School Celebrates 25 Years

We are very excited and honored to be celebrating 25 years as an Archdiocesan School! St. Laurence Catholic School first opened its doors in August of 1992 for students in grades PreK-4th with Fr. Laurence Connelly as Pastor and Renee Nunez as Principal. Classes were originally held in the church courtyard until the current school building was completed in 1996. Due to high demand the decision was made to expand the school to three classes per grade level, which meant that the school building was no longer big enough. After only one year in the new building, the PreK and Kindergarten students moved back to the church courtyard, where they remain today.

Currently, SLCS is the largest Catholic school in the Archdiocese and has graduated over 1,300 students since 1997. Our alumni are consistently accepted to prestigious academies and have earned top honors and spots every year to local Catholic High Schools. We were blessed to be recognized as a national Blue Ribbon School twice by the U.S. Department of Education and continually receive high marks from the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED); the accrediting branch of TEA.

SLCS students not only excel academically but receive accolades and awards for their achievements in athletics, music, art and Spanish. SLCS is proud to be a leader in the areas of technology and support for diverse learners. We are privileged to be able to provide an enrichment program for gifted students, dedicated resource personnel for reading and math, and a SPICE program, created for students that need a more customized curriculum.

Catholic identity continues to be the main focus for SLCS and our parents are not only actively involved in their child’s education, they are committed to being good stewards of their faith. We are proud to share that service is an area of strength and our community provides hundreds of hours each year through involvement in honor/service organizations and school-wide or grade level projects.

I am honored to serve as the fourth principal of St. Laurence Catholic School. Today, we employ a staff of over 80 with 713 students in PreK-8th grade. As the largest ministry of the Parish, we will continue striving towards our goal of educating students in body, mind and spirit. We are committed to creating future “saints”....

As the largest ministry of the Parish, we will continue striving towards our goal of educating students in body, mind and spirit. We are committed to creating future “saints”....

Suzanne Barto, M.Ed.
Principal

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY

SUNDAY 22

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel
HEB 9:15, 24-28
1 COR 1:10-13, 17
MT 4:12-23

MONDAY 23

First Reading
Gospel
HEB 10:1-10
MK 3:31-35

TUESDAY 24

First Reading
Gospel
HEB 10:1-10
MK 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY 25

First Reading
Gospel
ACTS 22:3-16
MK 16:15-18

THURSDAY 26

First Reading
Gospel
2 TM 1:1-8
MK 4:21-25

FRIDAY 27

First Reading
Gospel
2 TM 1:1-8
MK 4:21-25

SATURDAY 28

First Reading
Gospel
HEB 11:1-2, 8-19
MK 4:35-41

SUNDAY 29

First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel
ZEP 2:3; 3:12-13
1 COR 1:26-31
MT 5:1-12A

PRAYING THE NEWS | JANUARY 22, 2017

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”

Isaiah 9:1

O God, I thank you for the witness and example of Holocaust survivors, like Eva Kor, who preach forgiveness even after suffering terribly under the Nazis. May their experience never be minimized or forgotten. If she can personally extend mercy to her torturers, I can surely pray for those I do not even know, like Dylann Roof, who commit horrific crimes. Lord, help us always follow your light in the darkness. 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 THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON**

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for...


**PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**

- CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
- SPC David Ambrocik, US Army
- PVT Michael Baird, US Army
- SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
- PO 5 Debra Barnette, US Navy
- LCpl Trevor Bella, USMC
- PFC John Blair, US Army
- SPC Jordan Briggs, US Army
- LCpl Gordon Briggs, USMC
- Maj. Michael Carroll, USMC
- Staff Sgt. Jason Chacon, USMC
- Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy
- Capt. Patrick Coffman, USMC
- LTG Collin Day, US Navy
- LT John DeSplinter, US Army
- SGT Nicholas Dockum, US Army
- Capt. Brandon Driscoll, USMC
- Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
- LT Michael Eberhardt, US Army
- CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve
- Derek Farias, US Navy
- Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
- PVT Janine Xavier George, US Army
- SSG Philip Graham, US Army
- LT Spencer Henry, US Army
- PVT Liam Hill, US Navy
- Daniel Hines, US Navy
- SSG Matthew Hollohaugh, US Army Reserve
- LT Michelle Horstman, US Army
- SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
- Joseph Kengerski, US Navy
- EM4 James Lucas, US Navy
- PFC Philip Loera, US Army
- PFC John Lundgren, US Army
- Ann Joseph Marcellus, USAF
- LCpl William Marcellus, USMC
- TSgt David Marsh, Texas Air National Guard
- Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
- LT Todd Miller, US Army
- CPT Alexander Morningstar, US Army
- CB Richard Pinard, US Navy
- QMSN Bryce Prochazka, USNavy
- LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
- SGT Santiago Ramirez, US Army
- LT Taylor Rammrath, US Army
- SGT. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
- SSGt Jonathan Stansifer, US Air Force
- LTJG Kevin Saransky, US Navy
- CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlmans, US Navy
- CPL Daniel Thesing, USMC
- Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
- LT Kevin Wheeler, US Army
- SGT Bryce Whiteley, US Army
- AM Troy Yelverton, US Navy

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, JAN 21**
- 5:00pm — Ermentina Forcade (D)

**SUNDAY, JAN 22**
- 7:15am — Crisanto Yates (D)
- 9:00am — Christopher Hughes (D)
- 11:00am — Mrs. Dalton (D)
- 12:45pm — George Pina (D)
- 5:00pm — St. Laurence Parishioners

**MONDAY, JAN 23**
- 7:30am — Joseph Dinh (D)
- 12:00pm — Sister Mary Philip Bieg (D)

**TUESDAY, JAN 24**
- 7:30am — Jaimon Lukose (I)
- 12:00pm — Henry & Joseph Stephan (D)

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 25**
- 7:30 am — Lukose family (I)
- 6:30 pm — Mary Kay & Ralph Pace (I)

**THURSDAY, JAN 26**
- 7:30am — Harry Amerau (D)
- 12:00pm — James Vaughan (D)

**FRIDAY, JAN 27**
- 8:15am — Kirby Busby (D)
- 12:00pm — Tony Pavlik (D)

**SATURDAY, JAN 28**
- 8:30am — Ofelia Cavazos (D)
- 5:00pm — Carol Siwierka (D)

**SUNDAY, JAN 29**
- 7:15am — Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Rayo (D)
- 9:00am — Vincent Doodheever (D)
- 11:00am — Cindy Slednik (D)
- 12:45pm — Mr. & Mrs. Del Rosario (A)
- 5:00pm — St. Laurence Parishioners

**PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

- Marc Fryer: Brother Peter Francis (Brian Kelsich), Chad Henry, Bryan Williams, Sister M. Philomena (Kryste Cagandahan), Sister Daniella (Megan Bennett), Sister Rachel Marie of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary (Rachel Gosda), Collin Brown, Christopher Meyer, Margaret Uche
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

JAN 24: HOLY FAMILY HEALING MASS AND ANOINTING
A Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for those facing a serious illness will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Holy Family Chapel, 1510 5th St., Missouri City. We all need healing of body, mind, soul and spirit. Please come pray with us and for one another. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. Everyone is invited. Please contact Mary Jo Barta, 713-501-5415 or mjbarta5@gmail.com, for more information.

JAN 26: JOB FAIR HOSTED BY EPIPHANY JOB NETWORK
Job Fair at Epiphany’s Family Center on Thursday, January 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is “FREE” and there will be numerous well-known companies attending and they are ready to hire! Positions are available in various fields ranging from engineering, finance, healthcare, IT, sales and administrative to name a few. This event is geared toward degree, career-minded, professional job candidates. Candidates with no/some college, but substantial related work experience would also be well suited for this event. Candidates should bring plenty of resumes and dress to impress. For more information, contact 832-772-0306 or outreach@epiphanycatholic.org.

FEB 18: 12TH ANNUAL STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK
Support Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston by joining us for one of the largest events in our Archdiocese on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Run, walk, sleep in and Hit Snooze, volunteer or come to cheer on the participants! Go to www.steps4students.org and register today!

FEB 17-19: WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
“He said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.’ Let us answer God’s call to make our marriages the best they can be by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend (Feb. 17-19 or Mar. 24-26). Contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-773-4014 for more information. Or go on-line to www.houstonme.org.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY OFFERTORY
January 15 Collection $54,824
Registered Households 7,275
Envelopes Used 796
Loose Checks 185
2nd Collection: Social Concerns $13,801

AUTOMATED GIVING
Monthly Offertory $222,368
Participants 1,007

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND
2016 Parish Goal $495,000
Amount Paid $480,637
Amount Pledged $482,342
Participants 1,119

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: MARCH 13
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: FEB 11 and MAR 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
FUNERALS
William Tinsley, family of Margaret Bock and Laura Laine
Eddy Ponce de Leon, husband of Shirley Ponce de Leon

ELECTRONIC GIVING
www.stlaurence.org/contribute-to-our-parish
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!

Future Collections
January 22, 2016 St. Laurence Catholic School
January 29, 2016 Bishops Fund for Latin America
February 26, 2017 Social Concerns
CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

PRESCHOOL CCE MEETS TODAY!

ELEMENARY CCE THIS WEEK

Love of God (The First Three Commandments)

Jesus’ whole life shows us how we are to love God and one another. This week, we will study the first three Commandments which teach us how to strengthen our relationship with God and help us to show Him how much we love Him. As a family, decide how you can make Sunday a day to celebrate your love for God together.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date! VBS will return to the Ave Maria Center this summer JUNE 5-9. Registration for returning adult volunteers and their children begins February 1 at the AMC. OPEN REGISTRATION for children of non-volunteers will begin IN PERSON on Wednesday, February 22 from 5-6pm in the Parish Hall and will continue at the AMC thereafter. Youth Volunteer registration will begin on Monday, March 20 in the AMC until all available positions are filled. Youth will need to commit to serving the entire week of VBS in order to be placed. Get all the details at stlaurence.org/vacation-bible-school.

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM CRIB THROUGH 5 YEARS

JAN 19/20: Registration (priority for enrolled families)

FEB 15: Registration for parishioners on wait list

FEB 22: Registration for parishioners not currently on the waiting list

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

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

January 29th marks the beginning of our Catholic Schools Week celebration at SLCS. This year’s theme, Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service, will be incorporated into many activities at the school. Please come and tour your parish school and learn all about how we walk in God’s grace each and every day while challenging our students to raise their standards as disciples for Christ!

INTERESTED IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

St. Laurence Catholic School will host an Open House for prospective parents on Thursday, February 2nd from 6-8pm. Join us for an informative evening!

PLAID BAG COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The monies collected in this weekend second collection will help families that find themselves dealing with an unexpected loss of job, medical crisis, or family emergency keep their children’s education uninterrupted.

RODEO ART WINNERS

Our Art teachers are proud to announce that 24 students were recognized at the Houston Livestock Rodeo Art Contest for their outstanding art abilities. We are extremely proud of all our students! We are so blessed to see God’s gifts gracing our hallways and beyond.

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.
EDGÉ 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 Sara Sahlezghi at ssahlezghi@stlaurence.org.

WEDNESDAY IS EDGE NIGHT
JAN 25: 7:00-8:15pm, Edge in Marian Hall
All middle school youth are invited and encouraged to join us.

LIFE TEEN
LifeTeen 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 ON SUNDAY NIGHTS
JAN 22 6:30-8:15pm Ave Maria Center
Current focus is “We’ve Got Issues #2” a series on modern hot topics. Each night will be geared towards talking about all those things that are difficult to talk about.

JAN 29 6:30-8:15pm Ave Maria Center
Current focus is “We’ve Got Issues #3”

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.

PASTOR’S CHALLENGE
St. Laurence
LEAD
GROW
ENGAGED CHURCH

How are you doing on your PASTOR’S CHALLENGE?
As part of our parish’s current focus on ways to GROW closer to Jesus through the Eucharist, Fr. Drew challenged every member of the parish to attend COR Worship Night OR spend an hour in the Chapel of Divine Mercy before the Lord OR attend Heart of Worship on Saturday, Feb 25.

Our ENTIRE PARISH is united in this challenge! It’s something we can do on our own, with our spouse, as a family or with friends or small group. Here is another testimonial from a parishioner about their experience in Eucharistic Adoration…

I look forward each Wednesday for Adoration from 5am to 6am. Unless it’s raining, I walk the one-mile trip and use that time to pray my daily Rosary on the way to the chapel and then pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the way home. When I arrive, many times I just sit and listen and offer my work day in gratitude for all God endows me with. Without fail, a young nurse arrives around 5:20 and kneels at the altar for a short prayer and then she is gone. I don’t know if she is going to or coming from work at that hour, but I know she is praying for her patients and for the strength to do her job taking care of God’s children. I truly admire her for taking those few minutes to reflect before the Lord.

—Patricio (Daniel) Alvarez

We want to hear from you, too! Send an email to engagedchurch@stlaurence.org or look for the “We Are Listening” Box on the Hospitality Desk.
**For Adults**

**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, February 6)**
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

**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: Pati 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 | sallyflowers@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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**Getting Ready to Experience Lent 2017**

It might seem along way off... but Lent is around the corner.

Are YOU ready to begin a new journey into Lent accompanied by other parishioners, some old and some new friends?

Preparations are being made for a great opportunity for Lent. This Lent is going to be different from any other Lent you have experienced. This will be a time for you to connect with friends and share your faith journey and spiritual life together in Small Christian Communities.

Read Scripture, pray, and share your faith. This experience will provide more than you can imagine; it could make this the most memorable Lent in your life.

Look for sign-up Sundays on Feb 4/5 and Feb 11/12
For info on Small Christian Communities: stlaurence.org / scc

**MOMS’ GIFT GROUP** Growing In Faith Together

**JAN 25—APR 5**

**Wed Morning (9:15-11:15 am) Marian Hall B OR Evening (7:15-9 pm) St Anne Meeting Room**

**GIFT** is a small group book study for moms who are seeking a deeper faith, a holier family, and the support of other moms. Join these moms to read Teresa Tomeo and Cheryl Dickow’s Wrapped Up-God’s Ten Gifts for Women. Babysitting for the morning session only pro-vided by Kingdom Care. Contact Christy de la Mora at 281-980-9812 to register your child. Still time to join, for info contact: Rachelle Dooley, radooley@windstream.net, 832-758-9595.

**Still time to join…**

**A PROGRAM FOR COUPLES**

**Mondays: Jan 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 materi- als cost. For more information and to register, please go to stlaurence.org/choice-wine.
BROADCASTING LIVE!
CATHOLIC RADIO
KSHJ - 1430 AM - HOUSTON, TX

PREGAME
SUPER BOWL SHOW
FOR
CATHOLIC MEN
CURTIS MARTIN

THURSDAY, FEB 2, 7 P.M.

As Houston prepares to host the 2017 Super Bowl, we invite men to receive spiritual training to be champions in their roles as husbands, fathers, and sons of God. Join Curtis Martin, co-host of EWTN’s “Crossing the Goal,” and founder and CEO of Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) as he offers a compelling vision of what it means to be a Catholic man.

Free Event. No Registration Required.

AVE MARIA CENTER MARIAN HALL
3103 SWEETWATER BLVD., SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

For more information: stlaurence.org/curtismartin

We’ll be giving away Curtis’ book, “Made for More.”
In today’s Gospel we hear Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. Following Jesus was a difficult journey for these first disciples. It is difficult for us today. Jesus wants to teach us his way of thinking, acting and encountering the world. But it is not easy for us to embrace his teaching. Good stewards of Jesus’ teachings realize they are on a spiritual journey, and must learn from their experiences of being open and resistant to the Gospel. They realize the need to be liberated from those actions that keep them from enjoying a closer friendship with Jesus. What is it in our lives that we need to reform? What keeps us from revealing God’s glory to others?

www.catholicstewardship.com

Stewards Among Us

Blanca Alducin

We have been parishioners at St. Laurence for ten years now. I attend Spanish Bible Classes and my husband Fernando and I are part of a Small Christian Community where we have developed great friendships. St. Laurence is our second home where we always have found the doors wide open to our family, embracing us with loving support in our moments of need. About 3 years ago I met Marie McCoy at the Pro Life table. She invited us to join them in vigil prayer at the Planned Parenthood facility. This invitation became a personal call to defend the cause of the Unborn and we have participated ever since, as often as our schedules allow. The cause of Pro Life is an essential part of our daily Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass intentions. We are committed to continue this quest for life until the Sacred Gift of Life be recognized as such under the law, and most of all, be acknowledged and cherished in every heart and family in America and in all the world.

In all we do... evangelize

Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and those who are cast aside, and to give oneself in their service.

Pope Francis
September 4, 2016

Ask Paula

Q.
Who do you contact if you want to start a ministry or do a charity project?

A.
Way back when Fr. John Weyer was pastor here, he would let just about anyone start a ministry. Now that we are a much larger parish, we have over 80 ministries. I think we have a ministry for just about everyone, but if you would like to talk to someone about starting a new one, you should contact Sharon Ehrenkranz in the church office. If you are looking to do a charity or service project, you would contact Social Concerns and speak with Penny DeGroot. She’s always looking for volunteers and new projects, just saying. Call me and I can put you in touch with these gals. Thanks, Sofie, for emailing this question.

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.
ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
25TH ANNIVERSARY / OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

SUNDAY 1.28.17
2-4pm

JOIN US IN THE FUN!

- Student Showcases
- Tours
- Photo Booth
- Photo Gallery Walk
- Alumni Basketball 2:30 p.m.
- Scavenger Hunt
- Student Performances
- Visit KSTL TV Station

There is something for everyone!

PTO Family Mass 5:00 p.m.
Celebrated by
His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
and concelebrated by
Fr. Drew Wood, St. Laurence Catholic Church Pastor and
Fr. Jaison Thomas, St. Laurence Catholic Church Parochial Vicar
A few highlights throughout our 25 years!

1992 Renee Nunez opens as first principal for PK-4th grade.
1995 Construction on the new school building begins.
1996 Students and faculty move into the main building.
1997 SLCS first graduating class.
1998 Nancy Taylor becomes the second principal at SLCS.
1999 NJHS is introduced and 4th grade hosts its first Living Rosary.
2001 Addition to the main building is completed to accommodate three classes at each grade level.
2002 SLCS celebrates 10 years united in Christ.
2003 Time capsule completed to celebrate a decade of Catholic Education.
2005 SLCS is recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The first Fun Run is hosted by the PTO.
2006 Debra Haney becomes the third principal at SLCS.
2008 SLCS introduces our mascot, Leo the Lion.
2008 The arrival of SMART board technology in the classrooms.
2009 Catholic identity is expanded with our Saints Families.
2010 NEHS inducts 60 students in its honorary year.
2012 SLCS celebrates 20 years united in Christ.
2012 SLCS started two new programs: Saints Booster Club and SPICE.
2014 Awarded the 2014 National Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.
2015 We finished our accreditation visit with flying colors.
2016 Suzanne Barto becomes the fourth principal.
REGISTER NOW: HEART OF WORSHIP

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

Behold. I make all things new.

Take Fr. Drew up on his challenge and come to Heart of Worship to discover how, in Jesus, all things are new! The day begins with beautiful praise & worship music at 11:30am, followed by great talks, a delicious dinner catered by Pappas BBQ, and concludes with Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. It’s a day like no other and it all happens right here on our campus. Heart of Worship is open to everyone 6th grade and older and is always a sellout, so be sure to register early! Please note that Early Bird Registration ends soon: 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. For more info, go to www.stlaurence.org/HOW or call the parish office at 281-980-9812.

TODAY: RECEPTION FOR DEACON DENNIS

On Saturday January 14 Cardinal DiNardo ordained 18 men to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. We are happy to announce that among them was our own Dennis Henderson! Dennis and his wife Leslye are founding St Laurence parishioners, both actively engaged in parish life, which has led him to this moment. He will join Deacons Al Rey, Don and Charles to be a “servant in a servant-Church” here at St Laurence. Everyone is invited to a reception in the parish hall in honor of Deacon Dennis Henderson next Sunday, January 22, from 2:00-3:30pm, immediately following the 12:45pm Mass. Come celebrate with our new deacon and pray that God guides him to be a “light to the nations” (Isaiah 49). All are welcome!

COMING SOON: WM TRACE RECONSTRUCTION

By the end of this month, the Williams Trace Reconstruction Project will be underway, necessitating the closure of the Sweetwater entrance to the parish parking lot. This closure is expected to last for the next 3 months. Parish staff is working closely with the City of Sugar Land to minimize the impact on our parish and school as much as possible. The plan is for one entrance (on the far side of the school) and one exit (driveway between the parish hall and chapel) for Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses. See the traffic flow diagram on page 18 for details and please limit one car per family, or carpool or walk to Mass. Contact Tony Oltremari at tolremar@stlaurence.org with questions or if you are willing to help as a parking lot volunteer.

“40” DOCUMENTARY

Monday, JAN 23, at 7pm

The documentary 40 listens to both sides of the abortion issue and looks at the effect that legal abortion has had on our country over the last 40 years. Come to the St Joseph Room in the Ave Maria Center on Monday Jan 23, at 7 pm, to see the one hour film and have some discussion afterward with Marie McCoy, Respect Life coordinator.

KC BRISKET SALE

SuperBowl Sunday

KC Brisket Sale

SuperBowl Sunday

 KC BRISKET SALE SuperBowl Sunday

The Knights will be on the plaza Jan 28 & 29 selling delicious smoked briskets for Superbowl. Order on the plaza or go online NOW at www.kofc11343.org to place an order for your brisket before JAN 30 All proceeds support the many charities of the Knights.

SPIRITUAL NEEDS SURVEY

Ends Jan 31

We want to know what’s important to you regarding your spiritual life and your spiritual needs. Please take the survey which you can find at www.stlaurence.org/engaged-church or scan the QR code below to take the survey now!
**Serving Others**

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**WEEKLY**

**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 the first 3 Fridays of the month to make handmade crafts to donate to Mamie George and other agencies

**Child Advocates Snack Bags:** Monthly assembly of 100+ snack bags for children

**Fresh Food Delivery:** Twice a month, purchase and deliver fresh food to St. John Fisher food pantry

**Learn English Ministry:** Teach English to non-English-speaking adults; no teaching or foreign language experience necessary

**Lunches of Love:** Decorate lunch bags; over 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, GO TO www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns

**SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS**

**DID YOU KNOW** that in November and December the Social Concerns Ministry, through monetary and goods donations by St. Laurence parishioners, was able to...

- keep the utilities on for 26 families
- help keep a roof over the head of 30 families
- provide food and toiletries to 30 parish families and people in crisis from our food pantry
- provide 100+ bags of food to homeless families at Fort Bend Family Promise
- distribute over 150 Homeless Hope Bags to men and women living on the streets of Ft. Bend & Harris counties
- provide 700+ families a Thanksgiving meal
- provide over $3,000.00 in kind donations to Trini’s Market, the Senior Art Program and Gracious Gifts at the Mamie George Community Center
- provide kitchenware, diapers, baby items, household items and shoes for Refugee Resettlement
- give over 180 dozen cookies, brownies & other treats for the latch-key children at the Bethel Ministry after-school program & the homeless teens at Parks Youth Ranch
- bag over 600 snack bags for distribution to Child Advocates, Ft Bend Family Promise & other agencies
- provide 2,000+ Christmas gifts for those in need throughout Ft. Bend County
- provide more than 450 bags of bagels & bread to 6 local agencies
- Provide 24 bags of new and gently used clothing and 75 toiletry packs for the men at the Rosary House

And so much more! It’s impossible to express how much of a difference your in-kind and monetary donations make in the lives those we serve! **We also want to share a couple of thank-you notes we received within the past 2 months.**

“

“I’d like to thank you for allowing me to have a very special Christmas. It was very well appreciated and meaningful. My hopes were honestly brought up knowing that there was someone out there that cared. Thank you very much.”

— From a Park’s Youth Ranch teen:

St Laurence Social Concerns has been amazingly helpful when my family and I have been in urgent need. Thank you for all you do!

— From a St. Laurence parishioner

My friends and I here at The Open Door halfway house send you many thanks for the Thanksgiving Day turkey and fixings. We were all stuffed like turkeys thanks to all of you there at St. Laurence. I want to thank you personally for the nice warm coat. It fits great and I have had occasion to use it. It is very warm. Please extend my thanks to all the folks at St. Laurence. May God bless you all!

— From an Open Door resident
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
- Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, disinfectant spray cleaners for PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

SPRITUAL ADOPTION: FIVE MONTHS
The baby can now suck his thumb, yawn, and stretch. He or she can kick hard enough to “dent” the uterine wall and for mom to feel the impact. Baby is 12 inches long and weighs over a pound. Babies born at this age have survived! Abortions at this time are infrequent, but still legal.

In 2012, 380 babies were aborted at 21 weeks or later. In Texas, 19 at 25 weeks or later:

JAN 22: DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN.
All are invited to join us at 3:00 pm, in a pro-life rosary at the white crosses next to the church along Austin Parkway. Approximately 400 white crosses represent the 4000 babies killed each day in the U.S. during the 1990’s. Currently there are about 3500 babies killed each day in our country by abortion; how many die from the morning after pill and birth control is unknown. Thousands of children also die every day in the process of In Vitro Fertilization.

JAN 28: BUS RIDE TO TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE
If the bus has not yet filled up, you may still be able to join us on the bus to Austin on Saturday, Jan 28. Even if the bus is full, you could drive and join us there! Get more information and check availability online at www.stlaurence.org/respect-life, or contact Marie McCoy at mariemccoyrcc@gmail.com or 281-265-7749.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

H4H: SPRING BUILD PROJECT UPDATE
St. Laurence Habitat Ministry began building our 12th house on Saturday January 21. If you would like to join the email contact list to receive the most up-to-date information send an email to either Jean Fontenot at jeanfontenot@outlook.com or Steve Pondell at spondell@comcast.net. For more information go to the www.stlaurence.org/habitat-for-humanity.

We are looking to train new site supervisors for the St. Laurence Habitat team. If you are comfortable with home repairs and using tools and would like to learn more, please contact either Paul Fontenot at paul.s.fontenot@gmail.com or Jerry Kazmierzak at gkaz01@comcast.net.

We are still $15,000 short of the funds needed for the house. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to put us over the top. You may make your check to St. Laurence and put Habitat ministry on the memo line. You may put this in the Sunday basket or drop it by the church office.

H4H Lunch Volunteer Needed:
If you would like to provide lunch for the hungry workers, please contact Lawerence Perreau at 832-525-8717 or lperreau@comcast.net.

INFORMATION & HOPE

All NAMI support groups and meetings are now held at the United Way Fort Bend Center, located at, 12300 Parc Crest Dr. Stafford, TX 77477. For more information Contact Pat Sumner, 281-265-1554 or psumner1@comcast.net
**CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be offered during the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses January 29.

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

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**FEB 12: PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR LIFE**

Pictured above, the Social Concerns Ministry joined the Respect Life Ministry and Knights of Columbus in praying the rosary in the Ave Maria Center Rosary Garden last weekend.

They are inviting all to pray the Rosary for the Preborn on Sunday, FEB 12, 12:15am - 12:45pm, in the Rosary Garden at the Ave Maria Center. In case of inclement weather they will meet in the Oratory. The group needs your help to lead the Rosary to our Blessed Mother to protect those who cannot pray for themselves. Please sign yourself or your ministry up to lead any or all of the decades of the Glorious Mysteries. They meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at noon (immediately after 11:00 AM mass). The Knights of Columbus help lead Intro and Closing prayers unless other ministries have enough volunteers. Sign up at the following link to lead a Rosary decade.

https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/30e0c4faead2f1b4-pray
**WEDNESDAY: THAT MAN IS YOU!**

The second semester of That Man is You has just begun. Same early morning time, 5:30am each Wednesday at the Ave Maria Center. 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.

**FEB 2: CANCER SUPPORT MEETING**

The Cancer Support Group will be honoring all cancer survivors at their next meeting on Thursday, February 2, 10:00-11:30am, in the St. Clare Meeting room at the Ave Maria Center. The group will be learning about new treatments. Afterwards, they will attend noon Mass together and conclude with lunch. All are welcome, whether you are a cancer patient, survivor or caregiver. Have a question? Call Angela Rankin at 832-945-2245.

**FEB 10-12: CENACLE WOMENS RETREAT**

“Love & Be Loved” silent retreat for women

God loves us, creates us, and wants to share life with us forever. During this retreat in contemplative silence, we will grow deeper in our relationship with God through prayerful reflections on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Facilitated by St. Laurence Spiritual Directors, this silent retreat will be held at the Cenacle Retreat House is in Houston from 7pm Friday, Feb 10 – 1:30pm Sunday, Feb 12. For more information and to register, go to www.cenacleretreathouse.org or call the Cenacle at 281-497-3131. Minimum offering is $195. Hurry, spots go quickly!

**JAN 25: PAT SUMNER SPEAKS AT PACT**

PACT (Parenting Adolescents with Catholicism Together) invites you to mark your calendars now for a special meeting on January 25, at 7:00pm, when the group welcomes Pat Sumner, President of NAMI Fort Bend, as a guest speaker. Pat will present Parents & Teachers as Allies. PACT is offered as a resource for parents of teens and tweens, held at the same time as EDGE, the middle school youth program. 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! Get details at www.stlaurenceorg/pact or contact Steve Brown at stevecindyb@comcast.net

**A.C.T.S. LEADERSHIP TEAM FORMING**

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.

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Be prepared for the Williams Trace Reconstruction Project

City of Sugar Land project to improve drainage capacity and upgrade roadway and sidewalk infrastructure.

**TOTAL PROJECT TIME – 15 MONTHS**
Start date – January 2017

**How does this affect St. Laurence?**
Starting in late January our driveway on Sweetwater will be closed for approximately 3 months.
For weekend masses and special events all entry to the church and school will be on Austin Parkway — with entry only at the school drive and exit only at the Chapel drive.
During the school day All entrance and exit is restricted to the chapel drive. The School has separate instructions for carpool. For carpool details [http://www.stlaurencesschool.org/](http://www.stlaurencesschool.org/)
Additional officers will be on duty directing traffic to expedite traffic flow

**PROJECT DETAILS**
From Hwy 6 to Drainage Ditch A (just past Stephens Grant)
During the project Sweetwater Blvd will be reduced to two lanes
To sign up for email updates from the City [www.sugarlandtx.gov/notifyme](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/notifyme)

**What can we do to minimize problems?**
- Have patience!
- Be courteous in the parking lot
- Follow directions given by officers and/or parking lot attendants
- Bring only one car per family
- Carpool or walk to church
- Consider parking at the Ave Maria Center or the FBISD Administration Annex Lot

Questions or for more information visit stlaurence.org; the parish app, or call the parish office.
Marvin J. Bujak, M.D., Ph.D.
(Parishioner)
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Two convenient locations:
17510 W Grand Pkwy S, Ste 210
Sugar Land, TX 77479
P 281.725.5970
7737 Southwest Fwy, Ste 700
Houston, TX 77074
P 713.272.1600
mhmg.memorialhermann.org

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