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
Healing Mass: 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

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

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
December 1 — In the Church
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
November 24: En la Capilla
Segundo y cuarto sábado de cada mes a las
7:00pm. Confesiones en Español antes de
la misa de 6:00 a 6:45 pm. Comunión a los
enfermos. Irma Martinez
Tel 281-313-2833

November 18, 2018 | Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Laurence
CATHOLIC CHURCH

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo — Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

But in those days after that tribulation
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

The Coming of
The Son of Man

—MK 13:24-25

3100 Sweetwater Blvd. | Sugar Land, Texas 77479 | 281-980-9812 | www.stlaurence.org
Parish Office
3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-9812
Pastor: Fr. Drew Wood
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS, jaisonthomas@stlaurence.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Truong Son Nguyen, tnguyen@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Renato (Rey) Arellano, deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Albert Bothe, abothe@comcast.net
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: Rosemary Mascarenhas, rmascarenhas@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: Christine Dunn, cdunn@stlaurence.org
Religious Education Registrar: Ruba Kaiser, rkaiser@stlaurence.org
Adult Faith Formation: Justin Frato, jfrato@stlaurence.org
Young Adult Ministry: Michaela Barta, mbarta@stlaurence.org
Children’s Faith Formation: Joan Hasteieter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org
Youth Ministry: Eric Painter, epainter@stlaurence.org
Maureen Bass, mbass@stlaurence.org
Daniel Glaze, dglaze@stlaurence.org

St. Laurence Catholic School
2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-980-0500
Principal: Suzanne Barto, sbarto@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Suzanne Byrne, sbyrne@stlaurence.org

Weekday Children’s Program
3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-313-0329
Director: Becky Wilkinson, bwilkinson@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Christine Novia, cnovia@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: Shawn Kelly, shawn_kelly@oxy.com

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

Parish Office & Courtyard
The parish office provides services including pastoral care, liturgical planning, business, communications, & administrative support, and social concerns & social justice support. The parish hall and meeting rooms are available through reservation by calling Nia Sepe at 281-980-9812.
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-9:00pm; Friday 8:00am-6:00pm; and Saturday 8:30am-12:00noon.

Ave Maria Parish Life Center
The Ave Maria Parish Life Center is located across the street from the church and is the site for all religious education classes, programs and offices. Inquiries and drop-ins are welcome during office hours: Monday through Thursday 8am-9pm; Friday 8am-4pm; Saturdays 8:30am-Noon (scheduled events only). 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.

Bulletin Submissions
Announcements must be submitted via email at least 12 days before the Sunday of the publication. Ron Martinez, Communications Coordinator rrmartinez@stlaurence.org
Do you have an unending problem? Where’s Jesus? In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming. And here he hasn’t even finished his first coming! How confusing it must have been to the disciples.

They grew even more confused after Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to heaven but delayed coming back. They remembered him saying that “this generation” will not pass away until all these Second Coming events have taken place, yet time passed, the apostles began to die off, and Jesus still had not re-appeared in the clouds. The misery of living in this world continued.

Think of your own unending problem. Don’t you wish Jesus would hurry up with his Second Coming and destroy all evil? Notice what Jesus said: "When you see these things happening, know that I am near, at the gates." He didn’t pin down a date. He didn’t give the disciples — nor us — a definitive clue about God’s timing. ("Of that day or hour, no one knows, not the angels, not even the Son, but only the Father.") So what was he trying to convey?

**HIS NEARNESS!**

For the past 2000+ years, we have all been part of "this generation" that will not pass away before his Second Coming. It’s the generation of Christian humanity, the Body of Christ on Earth in the form of Church community, the generation of children who have been adopted by God the Father through the sacrifice and resurrection of God the Son.

The final era (the "last days") of salvation began on the first Pentecost and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. It is the age of the Holy Spirit, when Christ’s earthly ministry is continued through us who are empowered by his Spirit.

The lesson in the fig tree is that we can discern when summer is near. In other words, we can discern — in good times and in bad — that Jesus is near to us, not in the flesh except during Mass in the Eucharist, but in his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is right now at “the gate” of your next move, your next step on the journey to heaven. A gate is meant to be opened so that we can pass through it. Jesus is opening the gate right now for you — the gate of holiness, the gate of love. Step through it to live in the fullness of the mission he has planned for you here on earth.

**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

What problems are you waiting to be rescued from? Is Jesus really taking too long, or is there a bigger, better plan he’s fulfilling on your behalf? What do you need to do to become more aware of his nearness, his comfort, his joy and peace to help you endure the long wait?

**QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY FAITH SHARING:**

What are the signs that the Church gives us that help us discern the nearness of Christ? What other “fig trees” has Jesus given to you that increase your hope and patience and endurance?

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**NOVEMBER**

**SUNDAY**

18 (#1189 in your Gather Book)

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading DN 12:1-3

Second Reading HEB 10:11-14, 18

Gospel MK 13:24-32

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**MONDAY**

19

First Reading RV 1:1-4; 2:1-5

Gospel LK 18:35-43

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**TUESDAY**

20

First Reading RV 3:1-6, 14-22

Gospel LK 19:1-10

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**WEDNESDAY**

21

First Reading RV 4:1-11

Gospel LK 19:11-28

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**THURSDAY**

22

First Reading SIR 50:22-24

Second Reading I COR 1:3-9

Gospel LK 17:11-19

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**FRIDAY**

23

First Reading RV 10:8-11

Gospel LK 19:45-48

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**SATURDAY**

24

First Reading RV 11:4-12

Gospel LK 20:27-40

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**SUNDAY**

25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First Reading DN 12:1-3

Second Reading RV 1:5-8

Gospel JN 18:33B-37

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**PRAYING THE NEWS | NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

“Learn a lesson from the fig tree.”

**MARK 13:28**

Dear Lord, during this Thanksgiving week, we pray for all who serve in providing the food we enjoy. Please bless farmers who have suffered from extremes in weather and new economic burdens. Protect all those working in fields and orchards from exploitation and unjust working conditions. Please watch over those who spend long hours on the road and in the markets to make your bounty readily available to us. And may we generously share with those in need. **Gracious God, we thank you! Amen. †**
In Our Prayers...

PRAY FOR THE SICK


PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
SPC David Ambroick, US Army
PVT Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
PO. S Debra Barnette, US Navy
CPL Trevor Bello, USMC
PFC John Blair, US Army
LCpl Gordon Briggs, USMC
SPC Jordan Briggs, US Army
Maj. Michael Carroll, USMC
MSGT Jason Chacon, USMC
Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy
Maj. Christopher Coffman, US Air Force
Maj. Patrick Coffman, USMC
Lt Colin Day, US Navy
CPT Andrew DeSplinter, US Army
SGT Nicholas Dockum, US Army
CPT Brandon Driscoll, USMC
Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
ILT Michael Eberhardt, US Army
CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve
Derek Farias, US Navy
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
CPT Michelle Thibea, US Army
CPT Will Thibeau, US Army
PFC Aaron Fox, USMC
PVT Jahnell Xavier George, US Army
SFC Philip Graham, US Army
CPT Spencer Henry, US Army
PVT Liam Hill, US Army
Daniel Hines, US Navy
SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
SN Joshua Kennedy, US Navy
SPC Joshua Keenan, US Army
EM4 James Locus, US Navy
SGT Philip Loera, US Army
PFC John Lundgren, US Army
Ann Joseph Marcellus, USAF
SGT William Marcellus, USMC
TSGT David March, Texas Air National Guard
Capt. Brentan McPartland, USMC
Major Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
SGT Santiago Ramirez, US Army
ILT Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
Sgtt Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
LT Kevin Stransky, US Navy
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, US Navy
Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
ILT Kevin Wheeler, US Army
SGT Bryce Whitley, US Army
PO3 Troy Yelverton, US Navy

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOV 17
5:00pm – Rosario Kuylen (D)
SUNDAY, NOV 18
7:15am – Taylor Preston (D)
9:00am – Christopher Hughes (D)
11:00am – George Valverde (D)
12:45pm – Haget Family (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners
MONDAY, NOV 19
7:30am – Steve Krueger (D)
12:00pm – Mr. & Mrs. John Curiale (D)
TUESDAY, NOV 20
7:30am – Anita Riley (D)
12:00pm – Felix Onuoha (D)
WEDNESDAY, NOV 21
7:30am – Col. Albert De Castro (D)
6:30pm – Roasa Family (I)
THURSDAY, NOV 22
9:00am – Mike & Timi Beeler (D)
FRIDAY, NOV 23
8:15am – Avery Dickinson (I)
12:00pm – Paulose Nirappil (D)
SATURDAY, NOV 24
8:30am – Scarlett Ancellotti (D)
5:00pm – George Pina (D)
SUNDAY, NOV 25
7:15am – Michael Miscio, Sr. (D)
9:00am – Brooke Tankersley (I)
11:00am – Benigno Marinias (D)
12:45pm – Edmond Atallah (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Colburn Brown, Chad Henry, Billy Dodd, Bryan Williams,
Sister M. Philomena (Krystle Cagandahan), Sister Daniela (Megan Bennett),
Sister Rachel Marie of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary (Rachel Gosda),
Christopher Meyer, Tom Ruck, Tim Cullen, Margaret Uche

PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for... Chaplin Jimmy, Jackie Fitzgerald, Florentino & Oneyda Vasquez Family, Melanie Layland, Terry Hostler, Fr. Stainbrook, Isabella Flores, Adrian Zaldivar, Johnny Sanchez, Jessica Ayala, Elizabeth Rojas, Sonia Aguilar, Kristin Funderburg, Tommy Jackson. Society of St. John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3. (10/29/18).
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

NOV 29: 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 our Open House on Thursday, November 29, 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. Visit us at www.strakejesuit.org or call 713-864-6348.

DEC 9: ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
St. Thomas High School is hosting an Open House on Sunday, December 9, 1:00-4:00pm, in Moran Fine Arts Center. The campus is located at 4500 Memorial Drive in Houston. Open to all middle school and high school boys and their families interested in uncompromising academics in a culture of uncommon brotherhood. RSVP at event.sths.org or call 713-864-6348.

DEC 15: WOMEN’S ADVENT PRAYER BREAKFAST
Enjoy food, fellowship, and faith with other women! Kim Brown, featured on EWTN, Ave Maria, and Relevant Radio is the keynote on Saturday, Dec. 15, 9am-Noon at the Christian Renewal Center. Get your ticket while they last! Table for 10 is $250, individual tickets $30. Register at retreatcentercrc.org. Like us on facebook at fb.me/retreatcentercrc

JAN 4-6: RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT
The Office of Pro-Life Activities will offer the next Rachel’s Vineyard retreat of post-abortion healing on the weekend of January 4-6, 2019. All inquiries and registrations are strictly confidential. To register or for more information, please contact the Office of Pro-Life Activities at 713-741-8728 or 713-741-3443 or email at jkfritsch@archgh.org.

MARIA GORETTI SUPPORT GROUP
New support group for those afflicted with any type of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual or mental) will begin to meet at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of every month in downtown Houston at the Cathedral Centre (1701 San Jacinto Street, Houston, TX 77002). For more info about the Maria Goretti Network, go to www.mgoretti.org/ or call 713-851-3708.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION — WEEKLY OFFERTORY

| COLLECTION | $ | REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS |  | ENVELOPES USED |  | LOOSE CHECKS |  | 2ND COLLECTION: SOCIAL CONCERNS | $ | ONLINE GIVING |  | MONTHLY OFFERTORY | $190,101 | PARTICIPANTS | 1,056 | DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND |  | 2018 PARISH GOAL | $495,000 | TOTAL AMOUNT PAID | $441,197 | TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED | $463,144 | PARTICIPANTS | 965 | stlaurence.org/contribute-to-our-parish | As Christ’s disciples, we are called to go forth and spread the good news of His Resurrection. Our ministries require not only gifts of time and talent, but also of financial help. Please prayerfully consider supporting St. Laurence Catholic Church with electronic donations through Faith Direct. Sign up online by visiting www.faithdirect.net using our church code: TX460. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family! | 2nd Collection Today: Campaign for Human Development |

PLAY & PRAY*
Childcare is provided in a safe, loving, and Catholic environment to young children while their parents/guardians attend Mass and other parish programs. Register in advance with Elizabeth Hernandez, at stlaurence.org/play-pray or ehernandez@stlaurence.org

WEDDING PREPARATION
Next class: January 28
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 Rosemary Mascarenhas at rmascarenhas@stlaurence.org.

BAPTISM PREPARATION
Next Classes: January 19, February 9
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays each month. The parent preparation class is offered ten times per year. To schedule a Baptism or register for the class contact Barb Roy at 281-265-5774 x5371 or broy@stlaurence.org.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS
Nikolas Isaac Cochran, Leonardo Edwin Corrin, Lindsey Grace Cruthirds, Benjamin Erwin Escobedo, August Carey Flynn, Stefan Scott Grant, Charlotte Elizabeth Waldron

WEDDINGS
Yesenia Martinez & Armando Martinez
Koryn Wade & Christopher Turner

FUNERALS
Timothy Dale Scott, husband of Karen Scott

*not licensed by the state
ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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.

STLAURENCE SCHOOL.ORG

NOV 18 & 25: NO PRESCHOOL CCE TODAY or NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.
Have fun with your families!

NOV 20-21: ELEMENTARY CCE – NO CLASSES THIS WEEK DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
This week, let us direct our hearts and minds with gratitude towards our Heavenly Father by invoking the following prayer: “This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God’s gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing. Amen.”

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

CCE HOME STUDY FAMILIES: Our next mandatory Parent Enrichment and Homework Checkpoint Meeting will be held next Monday, November 26, 7-8pm in the AMC Marian Hall. Children are always welcome, but are not required to attend. Please be sure to bring your children’s materials with you for review plus any makeup work from prior missed meetings for credit. See you then!

THANKSGIVING PRAYER
Loving God, who created and sustains the universe, who loved us all into being, and who gives us every good thing, we thank You for the blessings that You bring into our lives. We thank You for the gift of life itself, which You gave us in our mother’s wombs.

We thank You for the fresh start of each new day, which is a sign of Your renewing and creative love. We thank You for our friends, our families, our neighbors and our coworkers, whose human love is an image of Your divine care.

Increase our gratitude this Thanksgiving Day, and help us to recognize all the good things that we have, both large and small, and magnify our desire to share what we have with others, so that they too may be grateful to You, loving God. Amen.

James Martin S.J.

SCHOOL CLOSED THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING
The school will be closed the week of Thanksgiving as we pause and give thanks to God for his abundant graces. We will resume school on Monday, November 26. In the meantime, be sure to visit our webpage for the multiple opportunities to see the school in action! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter to keep up to date with school happenings!

BE A PART OF OUR SAINTS TEAM!
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS OPPORTUNITIES
St. Laurence Catholic School is accepting applications for individuals interested in being a periodic on-call substitute teacher in 4th–8th grades. Substitute teachers must be degreed and have classroom experience. Must be VIRTUS trained and approved. For more information, please call the school office at 281-980-0500.

ACTIVITIES
November 19-23 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER DATES
Polar Express for Preschoolers December 10 and 11
Christmas Pageant in church December 14, 6:00pm
Marinette Playhouse December 17
Christmas Carnival December 19 and 10 and early Dismissal at 11:30am
Christmas Holidays begin December 21

Family, Children & Youth Ministry
CONFIRMATION

Confirmation at St. Laurence is part of the Youth Ministry and Religious Education. 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 one year prior to beginning the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to ensure they have been catechized and are prepared for the journey to Confirmation. Go to stlaurence.org/confirmation for information or contact Daniel Glaze, adglaze@stlaurence.org

NOV 30 – DEC 2 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

LIFE TEEN

Leading Teens Closer to Christ

NOV 18: NO LIFE NIGHT TODAY (Thanksgiving break)
Our weekly gathering resumes next week, November 25. Sundays from 6:30pm to 8:15pm in the Ave Maria Center. Join us for Life Teen Mass in the church at 5pm.

LIFE TEEN WINTER RETREAT: THE WKND
JANUARY 18-21, 2019
All high school teens are invited to join us for an unforgettable weekend away from the stresses of high school life and into the heart of God. Our annual “The WKND” Life Teen Winter Retreat is an experience that you won’t want to miss. Head to www.stlaurence.org/wknd for more information and to register for a spot on this retreat or contact Eric at epainter@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774 with further questions.

EDGE
Catholic Middle School Ministry

NOV 21: NO EDGE NIGHT THANKSGIVING
Edge Nights are held on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:15pm at the Ave Maria Center Marian Hall unless otherwise noted. Additional Edge events will be posted on website and emailed out to parents, visit stlaurence.org/edge

FIAT LUX

What does it mean?
Fiat Lux is Latin for “let there be light.”

What is it?
A community of young adults — college students to 20 & 30 somethings in the Sugar Land and surrounding areas. All walks of life welcome: single, dating, engaged, married, married with kids, divorced, discerning.

Mission Statement
We invite young adults to explore the heritage of their hearts and become fully human.

Attention Young Adults: Café Catholica-North 2019
Café Catholica is expanding with a new series hosted in four parishes on the North side of Houston.
Café Catholica-North, “Be Bold, Be Authentic, Belong” is a dinner-lecture series open to young adults (ages 18-39) featuring dynamic speakers, prayer, dinner, and socializing. Confession at 5:15 p.m., Mass at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:45 p.m., and Talk at 7:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the evening! For more information contact the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry at 713-741-8778, yacm@archgh.org, or visit us on the web at www.archgh.org/cafecatholica

• January 7: “Be a Missionary in the Modern World” at Sacred Heart, 109 N. Frazier St., Conroe
• January 21: “Be Present to Those in the Shadows” at Sts. Simon and Jude, 26777 Glen Loch Dr., Woodlands
• February 4: “Be Loved” at St. Ignatius, 7810 Cypresswood Dr., Spring
• February 18: “Beyond My Personal Faith” at Christ the Redeemer, 11507 Huffmeister Rd., Houston

World Youth Day Houston and Eucharistic Vigil
Come join hundreds of young adults (ages 18-39) in celebrating WYD in Houston. We will celebrate at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Houston on Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Event includes fellowship, multicultural music, talks, and a Vigil Mass. Cost to attend WYD-Houston is $20 per person and is presented in English and Spanish. Afterward, join us for a Eucharistic vigil with all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. Come for all or part of the night. The vigil is a free event and open to families. For more information and registration, contact the Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry at 713-741-8778 or www.archgh.org/yacm
The season of Advent is a time to pause, reflect, and prepare for the gift of God’s love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

**FORMED “Opening the Word”, Advent through Epiphany**, offering prayer and insights for the Sunday readings, stlaurence.formed.org

**Dynamic Catholic “Best Advent Ever,”** a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a different way, BestAdventEver.com

**Renew International “Advent Awakenings, Yes to God”** presents themes drawn from the Sunday gospel readings plus enriching devotion for family use. May be purchased at renewintl.org

**FREE eRESOURCES**  
Email mvisser@stlaurence.org to obtain these materials. These resources may be used in small groups.

**Less Hectic, More Holy,** this resource will help you consider your own values and hopes around Advent in the context of your faith.

**Around the Advent Circle,** weekly discussion guides for the Sunday readings of Advent.

**Journey through Advent,** reflecting on the lectionary readings by Art Zannoni, an author, scripture scholar, and professor.
In this six-session seminar, popular speaker and author Sonja Corbitt will explore the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith. She will uncover God’s consistent design for our worship of him and his relationship with us. Learn how the Old Testament Tabernacle can be used as a blueprint for the Catholic Faith and how Jesus fulfilled it in the New Testament.

REGISTRATION FOR 2-DAY SEMINAR

$30/person (includes lunch on Saturday)

Play and Pray Childcare available

Find out more and register at stlaurence.org/fulfilledseminar
Let us commit ourselves with prayer and action to distance our hearts, our words and our deeds from all violence in order to take care of our common home.

— Pope Francis
November 6, 2018

Ministry Highlight: J.O.Y. Club

J.O.Y. Club (stands for Just Older Youth) welcomes seniors, 50 and older, interested in gathering with others for a variety of social, spiritual, service and informational events. We usually meet the first Monday of each month, August through May, from 11am to 1pm, at the Ave Maria Center for a speaker on issues concerning seniors (faith, health, legal matters, taxes, housing, etc). Most meetings, we bring a brown bag lunch, but we do have occasional potluck lunches. Then we meet again mid-month for a fun time/field trip or noon Mass and lunch out.

We are a group who can have fun and at the same time keep the Lord by our side. We are always open to fresh ideas and fresh faces. Ladies, we do have guys who attend... some singles, some couples. We really enjoy life after retirement and comparing notes on how life in general is treating us. No forms to fill out, no tests, no required attendance. Just fun with a God connection! Please join us as soon as you are able. All you have to do is to show up and get a welcoming hug or smile. We advertise all of our meeting/activities in the bulletin and look forward to meeting you real soon!

Stop by the Hospitality Desk after Mass to connect with JOY Club or contact Anne Higgins at nannyhiggs@gmail.com or 832-755-5597.

Stewards Among Us

Nikki Agner

Nikki Agner serves on parish staff as the Social Concerns Outreach Coordinator. In this role, she has the privilege of interacting directly with parishioners and the many people who come to our parish in need. She and her husband Chris have two teenage daughters and have been members of St. Laurence for 24 years. During this time, Nikki has been active in Social Concerns, Ladies Guild, VBS, FAMILIA and Family Faith. “Each ministry that I became involved in seemed to follow where I was at that time in my family’s life. And each one helped me grow and better fulfill my vocation as a wife, mother, and friend. There are so many opportunities to serve! I really encourage you to really listen to the call of what’s important to you right now. I remember wanting to join FAMILIA, but questioned the 4-year commitment. Had I not acted on that calling, I would have missed out on the most amazing friendships which have carried me through every life event the last 12 years of my life. So, I encourage everyone to take that leap of faith! You never know, it could turn into your lifelong ministry. Or it could change as the seasons of your life change, as it has with me.”

Ask Paula

Q. Can I ask the priest before Mass to announce my anniversary?

A. Ah... no. If you want the priest to mention your anniversary at Mass, contact the church office ahead of time and speak with Rosemary. If you want something read during the announcements at the end of Mass, call the office and speak with Sharon. Please don’t ask the sacristans to slip a note to a priest either. They are busy making sure everything goes smoothly during Mass. I know someone who tried to get one of the priests to announce his birthday. Really, people? They don’t do that. Can you imagine how much longer Mass would be if we bombarded the priests with more announcements? Just sayin. Plus our priests are probably in a HOMILY STATE OF MIND, right? Look, we are in the church office to help you. Call us.

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for 21 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.
FORT BEND INTERFAITH COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

UNITED IN GRATITUDE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19 • 7 PM
ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC CHURCH
9009 SIENNA RANCH ROAD, MISSOURI CITY, TX 77459

FAITH COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING:
CONGREGATION BETH EL // ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC CHURCH
MARYAM MOSQUE OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON
ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH // BAHÁ’Í COMMUNITY
NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH // JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS
ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH // HINDU COMMUNITY
HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN COUNCIL FOR THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON
CHRIST CHURCH SUGAR LAND UMC // ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH
At St. Laurence Catholic Church, we respond to Jesus who calls us to love God and our neighbor. As a member of this faith community, I strive to:

**Love** by showing respect, mercy and compassion to all

**Connect** with others in a meaningful way

**Grow** closer to God through prayer, Sunday Mass and the Sacraments

**Learn** about my Faith and share it with others

Filled with the Holy Spirit, I will be a grateful and supportive member of the Body of Christ.
NOW HIRING: YOUTH MINISTRY ADMIN ASSISTANT

Do you love interacting with teenagers and want to see them thrive? Do you have good organizational skills? St. Laurence is now hiring a full-time Administrative Assistant for our Life Teen, Edge and Confirmation programs. This position provides the administrative support for all youth ministry programs and events. Prefer 2-3 years of prior work experience. Must have excellent communication skills and competency in Microsoft Office Suite. Some evenings and weekends are required. All interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Christine Dunn, Director of Religious Education, cdunn@stlaurence.org.

TODAY: CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BAKE SALE

The renowned bakers of homemade masterpieces, (AKA Catholic Daughters Court St. Laurence), will be on the plaza on Sunday, November 18th, after all morning masses until we sell out. Please allow us to prepare for you our Thanksgiving cakes and pies, even some specialties like our famous rum cake; and delicious candy, cookies, and breakfast breads. And come early to grab a few of Mariann’s more than delicious biscotti to have with your coffee while you are preparing your family’s Thanksgiving feast. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to support our many charities and works of mercy. We are so grateful for your continued support, and remain always in the service of this amazing parish.

NOW HIRING: PLAY & PRAY CAREGIVERS

St. Laurence is seeking additional part-time nursery care workers to catechize our littlest ones in the faith through games, story telling, songs, and simple arts and crafts in our Play & Pray program. Saturday evening, Sunday morning and daytime positions are available. Previous experience caring for children is required. To apply for this position, please send a resume to Elizabeth Hernandez, Play & Pray Coordinator, at ehernandez@stlaurence.org.

BE A MARRIAGE SPONSOR COUPLE

As a married couple, you can make a difference in other couples’ lives, without even having to leave your home. Couples who serve in the Marriage Preparation Ministry here at St. Laurence help engaged couples prepare for the sacred obligation of marriage. The best and most effective catechists for matrimony are married couples already living the sacrament of matrimony. (And this is also a great source of marriage enrichment for the sponsor couple!) Here’s how it works:

• As a Sponsor Couple, you are called to share your marriage with an engaged couple, in the privacy of your home in a series of 5-6 meetings, using materials provided.
• Unlike group or weekend programs, Sponsor Couples do not write talks or make any formal presentations, but simply share their life experiences as a Christian married couple with the engaged couple they are sponsoring, using the workbook as a guide.
• The one-on-one experience with the engaged couple is an excellent way to encourage sharing on topics that might be overlooked or avoided in a group setting.
• The bond created between the sponsor couple and the engaged couple can be a great source of support for the engaged couple after they are married.

Interested in learning more? Please contact Sharon & John Harry at 281-980-8090 or sharonharry@comcast.net to inquire about becoming a Sponsor Couple.

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THANKSGIVING DAY MASS
9AM ONLY, IN THE CHURCH
Parish Offices closed
November 21-23

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
MONDAY, DEC 3
6:30pm
IN THE CHURCH
15 priests to hear confessions

2019 SUNDAY MISSALS
PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

ON THE PLAZA
WISH UPON A STAR TAGLINE

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
BAKE SALE

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE
DECEMBER 1-2
PARISH HALL
After all masses (except Life Teen) Wassail, Cookies, & Holiday gifts
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, St. John Fisher, Bethel Ministry (latch key kids in the Stafford/ Missouri City area), Angela’s House, Isaiah House, Behavioral Health Center, Parks Youth Ranch (homeless teens), Sugar Land Health Care (low income nursing home), Catholic Charities (MGCC) Seniors, Hick’s Elementary, Casa de Esperanza, Casa Juan Diego, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, 1st Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Fort Bend Family Promise, Refugee Resettlement, The St. Laurence Village Program, as well as providing gifts to military serving overseas, Impact a Hero, and The Lotus Project.

Serving Others

WISH UPON A STAR CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

Our annual drive kicks off this weekend after all Masses! Pick up a star tag on the plaza this weekend or next to participate.

Growing in Faith Learning to Serve

A special thank you to the Elementary CCE students and their parents who did a wonderful job with their fall service projects! The students have spent the past several weeks learning how to grow in their faith by reaching out to others in need. Collecting items to support the Star of Hope Mission, Fort Bend Meals on Wheels, MGCC seniors, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program, military troops overseas and Child Advocates of Fort Bend, they learned about our Catholic call to bring comfort and joy to the most vulnerable in our society.
RESPECT LIFE NEWS

DID YOU KNOW? …that birth control pills can in some circumstances actually cause early abortions? …that “pregnancy” has been re-defined to begin at implantation (when the young embryo imbeds itself in the mother's womb to begin receiving nutrition from her) rather than fertilization (when egg and sperm unite) in order to be able to claim that certain products (IUDs and the Morning After Pill, as well as the birth control pill itself) only “prevent” pregnancy!

HUMAN BEING VS. PERSON: It is an undisputed scientific fact that human life begins at conception. It may be difficult to accept a very young embryo as a human person, since we are used to seeing and interacting only with humans already born. But if you try to define “person” according to their abilities, you will either eliminate infants or include animals or both. Each of us started life as a single cell and took time to grow and develop our abilities. But we have been the same person all along.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CALL BINGO AT THE SUGAR LAND HEALTH CARE CENTER

BINGO

BINGO at Sugar Land Health Care Center in old Sugar Land. This is a GREAT family or small group service opportunity. Playing BINGO is the highlight of the weekend for the seniors and they love winning quarters to purchase items from the vending machines. For more info or to volunteer, please contact Janet Roberts at jroberts3207@gmail.com.

GIVING BACK

SHARE GOD’S BOUNTY

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make Share God’s Bounty a huge success! Over 800 Thanksgiving meals were donated by parishioners for families in need and our sister parish, Queen of Peace. In addition, SLCS, CCE, Life Teen, ECC, Edge, Confirmation, WCP and RCIA donated enough food to fill 500 pantry packs! As always, it’s wonderful to see the smiling faces and happy hearts of over 150 volunteers working together to serve our community!

Thank you, Catholic Men Called to Be Saints, for your generous donation of supplies for military heroes serving overseas.

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

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

Loving Creations: Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in the SCM Workroom, 10:00am-Noon, to provide handcrafted items for adults and children hospital patients

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

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 ISAIAH 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

• 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.
The St. Laurence Singles Ministry serves adults of all ages who are widowed, divorced, separated or never married. We gather together in spiritual and social activities in a safe and friendly environment to develop friendships and have fun! We also occasionally do service projects to help our Parish. For questions or more info email: st.laurencesingles@gmail.com

November Calendar at stlaurence.org/adultsingles

The Women of the Cloth’s Annual Craft Sale will be December 1 and 2 after all Masses except Life Teen in the Parish Hall. Offered for sale are quilts, tree skirts, table runners, gifts and much, much more. Find the perfect handmade gift for someone special! Proceeds will benefit St. Laurence Habitat for Humanity and other ministries.

Dec 1-2: Christmas Craft Sale

JOY CLUB FOR SENIORS

You are invited to join the JOY Club. The J.O.Y. Club (Just Older Youth) is a parish group for people 55-and-up. The group meets on the first Monday of each month, from 11:00am-1:00pm, for a social activity or program at the Ave Maria Center. Join us at these upcoming events and contact Anne Higgins at nannyhiggs@gmail.com, 832-735-5597.

MON, DEC 3, 11am-1pm Annual Christmas Potluck lunch and gift exchange. In the Ave Maria Center — bring a side dish and gift to share — gift $15.00 limit. Enjoy Christmas music and fun.

MON, JAN 7, 11am-1pm Float into the New Year in the Ave Maria Center. Bring a brown bag lunch. Ice cream float and games.

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

VOCATION RETREAT FOR SINGLE MEN AGES 18-35

DEC 14-16: MEN’S DISCERNMENT RETREAT – for single men ages 18-35 who are seriously discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. This is an opportunity to set aside some time of silence to listen to the voice of God in your life, listen to inspiring talks and guidance for your discernment process, learn the tools of discernment, sharpen your discerning skills, and have a one-on-one visit with a priest and seminarian. Telephone interview required for registration; $30 registration fee, scholarships available; Space limited. Deadline Dec. 7. Retreat begins Friday, Dec. 14 at 5:00pm and ends Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2:00pm at St. Mary Seminary. www.houstonvocations.com/mens-discernment-retreat Or contact Fr. Truong Son in the Parish Office 281-980-9812

ST. LAURENCE ADULT SINGLES

The St. Laurence Singles Ministry serves adults of all ages who are widowed, divorced, separated or never married. We gather together in spiritual and social activities in a safe and friendly environment to develop friendships and have fun! We also occasionally do service projects to help our Parish. For questions or more info email: st.laurencesingles@gmail.com

November Calendar at stlaurence.org/adultsingles

MINISTERIO HISPANO

NOV 24: MISA EN ESPAÑOL 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.Recibir anuncios mandando correo a mhstlaurence@gmail.com.
To be near God is my Happiness  2018-2019
Experience lasting happiness and joy — serve in a ministry.

Copied with Grief through the Holidays
Holidays and holy days are times to gather with family & friends. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be filled with sorrow and grief. You may feel as though everyone has joy but you. Grief can be raw during the holidays.

Join the Grief Support Ministry for a two-hour session:
Tuesday, Dec 11 from at 6:30 pm Ave Maria Center
We will feature video interviews with specialists in grief counseling who will offer tools/suggestions in dealing with expectations of family and friends during these most difficult times. We will share experiences in navigating the first year, as well as subsequent years, following the death of a loved one. All are welcome to bring a friend or refer someone who might be experiencing the pain of grief. These sessions are free and are open to everyone, Catholic or non-Catholic. The sessions will be held at St. Laurence - Ave Maria Center.
For information/registration/ directions, please contact Sandy Barber 832-451-9117 or email – help2grieve@hotmail.com

Awards Goes to Vocations Committee
Each year, the Discipleship Council selects one ministry that best exemplifies discipleship and hospitality during the Celebration of Ministries Weekend to receive the BE THE LIGHT award. The award went to the St. Laurence Vocations Committee, who had a welcoming and informative display at the Ministry Fair and were successful in signing up families for the Traveling Vocations Chalice for the entire year, through the next Ministry Fair! Pictured with Fr. Truong Son are (left to right) Shawn Kelly, Nia Sepe, Deacon Dennis & Leslye Henderson, and Diana Lopez.

Dec 6: Ladies Guild Cookie Exchange
What could be more FUN than a good, old fashioned Christmas cookie exchange? Celebrate the season with the St. Laurence Ladies Guild at a special event on Thursday, December 6, 6:30-8:30pm, at the home of one of our members. Bake four dozen cookies or candies, display them on a platter or in a box so they’re easy to share, and print out copies of your recipe. Please bring a beverage or appetizer to share and get to know the great women in Ladies Guild. To RSVP and for directions, contact Carol Giardina at 281-703-8615.

Nov 28: DivorceCare at St. Laurence
Find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce
DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. Don’t go through separation or divorce alone. The group is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You’ll gain access to valuable DivorceCare resources to help you deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life. They meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:00pm-9:00pm, in the St. Francis room in the Ave Maria Center. If interested, contact Janie Picou at jpdivorcecare@aol.com or 832-860-3398. More info: www.stlaurence.org/divorcecare

Fall Session 2018 Topics
Nov 21 - No Group – Day before Thanksgiving
Nov 28 - Forgiveness
Dec 5 - Reconciliation
Dec 12 - Moving On, Growing Closer to God

Award Goes to Vocations Committee

Be a Buddy to a Child with Disabilities
Can you be the difference to a child with a disability? Are you ready to make an impact? Buddies play a pivotal role in welcoming all God’s children. A Buddy provides support to a child with special needs so that they can successfully be included in CCE (religious education). Buddies could serve as a guide to a child with a visual impairment, remind a learner with high functioning Autism to wait their turn to speak, or break down instructions for a learner with Down Syndrome. This opportunity is open to adults and high school students. Buddies are needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during CCE classes, on Wednesday during EDGE, and on Sundays during Preschool CCE and Life Teen. Previous experience is helpful, but not required. We will provide training and support. Please contact Cindy Martin with inquiries and complete the application on our website. www.stlaurence.org/buddy-application
Color this season with a bit of family adventure!

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

**Friday, November 30  6:30-8:00 pm  Ave Maria Center**

*Dinner and drinks will be provided. Just bring yourselves!*

*RSVP required by Wednesday, November 28 at www.stlaurence.org/family-nights*

For information contact Melissa Calcote at mcalcote@stlaurence.org
**SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Parish Library (AMC) | Natural Family Planning | Life Teen (High School) | Family Faith
- Maureen Bass | 281-265-5774

**FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION**


**PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**


**MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT**


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