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
December 8 & 22: 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

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants [would] be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”
—JN 18:36
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 Hastreiter, 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 rmartinez@stlaurence.org
**THE KING OF REALITY**

When the question of Christ's kingship comes up in this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus redirects us to the true meaning of divine kingship. Without denying that he is the king, he says: "The reason I was born into the world is to testify to the truth." He is not the king of a country or a world; he is the king of truth, the ruler of reality.

The perception of reality that we develop when Jesus is not our teacher and interpreter and revealer of truth is warped and blurred by the falsehoods and misunderstandings and counterfeits that float around in the kingdom of the world, which is ruled by Satan. But wait! The very idea that this world is ruled by Satan is a warping of the truth. It's not reality. Remember, Jesus came into the world to destroy the devil's domain and to bring all of creation into his kingdom. Those in this world who accept Christ's kingship listen to his voice and live in that truth.

When we sin, it's because we don't fully understand the reality of the situation. Jesus is not yet fully the king of that part of our lives.

For example, think of a person who has asked you for something that you cannot afford to give. Perhaps it's the building project at church. Or the sick neighbor. Or the co-worker who doesn't have the level of faith that you have. Or the aging parent who needs more and more assistance.

Do you feel like you don't have enough to satisfy their needs? Are you so tired and downtrodden from your own burdens that you cannot take on someone else's? Well, it's our flesh nature that says we cannot enjoy doing more for others than we're already doing. This is a warped view of reality; it looks like we'll be happier if we cater to our own desires instead of taking care of someone else's need.

In true reality, a joyful lifestyle develops when we listen to the voice of Jesus, even when he says, "go the extra mile" or "be like the Good Samaritan and take a detour to minister to others". We have to trust the truth that he teaches, regardless of how little we understand it.

Understanding grows in the doing of God's will more than in the thinking about it. Joy grows as we gain the understanding that comes from seeing some of the fruits of what we've done. When we sin, it's because we cannot envision the good fruits that will come from doing things the way Christ tells us to. Under his kingship and the Holy Spirit's wisdom, we gain freedom to overcome all of our sinful tendencies.

**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**
What lies are you believing? "FEAR" is "False Evidence Appearing Real." What is fear telling you about the ways of Christ? What teachings of the Church are you unwilling to trust? What beliefs about yourself give you low self-esteem? These are all areas where Jesus is not your king. What will you do to learn and understand the truth?

**QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY FAITH SHARING:**
Name a common misconception you've seen or experienced that keeps people away from Christ or away from church? Why do people believe this unreality? How can we help them feel safe in learning the truth and accepting the kingship of Christ?

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY 25</th>
<th>(#1192 in your Gather Book)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Reading</td>
<td>DN 7:13-14</td>
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<td>Second Reading</td>
<td>RV 1:5-8</td>
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<td>Gospel</td>
<td>JN 18:33B-37</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY 2</th>
<th>First Sunday of Advent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Reading</td>
<td>JER 33:14-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Reading</td>
<td>1 THES 3:12—4:2</td>
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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**NOV / DEC**

**SUNDAY 25**

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<td>Gospel</td>
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**MONDAY 26**

| First Reading | RV 14:1-3, 4B-5 |
| --- |
| Gospel | LK 21:1-4 |

**TUESDAY 27**

| First Reading | RV 14:14-19 |
| --- |
| Gospel | LK 21:5-11 |

**WEDNESDAY 28**

| First Reading | RV 15:1-4 |
| --- |
| Gospel | LK 21:12-19 |

**THURSDAY 29**

| First Reading | RV 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9A |
| --- |
| Gospel | LK 21:20-28 |

**FRIDAY 30**

| First Reading | ROM 10:9-18 |
| --- |
| Gospel | MT 4:18-22 |

**SATURDAY 1**

| First Reading | RV 22:1-7 |
| --- |
| Gospel | LK 21:34-36 |

**SUNDAY 2**

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<th>First Sunday of Advent</th>
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**PRAYING THE NEWS | NOVEMBER 25, 2018**

**“…for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”**

**JOHN 18:37**

Dear Lord, help us understand and live as members of your kingdom. The world and the news can easily confuse and distract us. Current power struggles for wealth, military might, political influence and natural resources are so seldom based in your truth. And yet we know you are greater than all these. Please help us seek, speak and live your truth in hope and mercy as your faithful subjects.

Lord Jesus, we trust in you! Amen. †
In Our Prayers...

PRAY FOR 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... Isabella Flores, Adrian Zaldiar, Johnny Sanchez, Sonia Aguilar, Jessica Ayala, Elizabeth Rojas, Kristin Funderburg, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Jackie Fitzgerald, James Brown, Lucio Family, Almaráz Family, Florentino-Onyeda Vasquez & Family, Melanie Layland, Fr. Christopher Stainbrook, Miss Terry Hustler, Tommy Dooley, Denise Joslyn Family, Chelsea George Family, Isabel, Kathryn, Kristina, Kirstal, Krystal, Izzak, Antonio, Angieca, Summer, Camariollo, Edward, Jackson Family, Society of St. John de Mata, the men in the Terrell Prison ROA program and all the people of Jester 3. (11/5/18).

PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
SPC David Ambrore, US Army
PVT Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
PO 5 Debra Barnette, US Navy
CPL Trevor Bello, USMC
PFC John Blair, US Air Force
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
CPT Andrew DeSplinter, US Army
SGT Nicholas Dockum, US Army
CPT Brandon Driscoll, USMC
Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
1LT Michael Eberhardt, US Army
CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve
Derek Farias, US Navy
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
CPT Michelle Thibeau, US Army
CPT Will Thibeau, US Army
PFC Aaron Fox, USMC
PVT Jayneil 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 Lucas 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 Marsh, Texas Air National Guard
Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
Major Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
SGT Santiago Ramirez, US Army
CAPT Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
LT Kevin Stransky, US Navy
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, US Navy
Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
1LT Kevin Wheeler, US Army
SGT Bryce Whiteley, US Army
PO3 Troy Yelverton, US Navy

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOV 25
7:15am – Michael Miscio, Sr. (D)
9:00am – Brooke Tankersley (I)
11:00am – Benigno Marinas (D)
12:45pm – Edmond Atallah (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, NOV 26
7:30am – Siony Aguilar (D)
12:00pm – Doug Roberts (D)

TUESDAY, NOV 27
7:30am – Batard Family (I)
12:00pm – Mike Beeler (D)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 28
7:30am – Eduardo Carvajal (I)
6:30pm – Patricia Fernandes (D)

THURSDAY, NOV 29
7:30am – Josephina Carnicer (D)
12:00pm – Brandon Freeman (D)

FRIDAY, NOV 30
8:15am – All Souls In Purgatory
12:00pm – Patricia Fernandes (D)

SATURDAY, DEC 1
8:30am – Dumlao Family (I)
5:00pm – Sr. Janice Ernst, S.C. (D)

SUNDAY, DEC 2
7:15am – Ron McGinty (D)
9:00am – Taylor Preston (D)
11:00am – Tuan Phan (D)
12:45pm – Julian Llamado (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Collin 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

PG 4 | ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

NOV 29: INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE HOMELESS
The 2nd annual Interfaith Memorial Service for the Homeless will be held at Congregation Emanu El (1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston), on Thursday, November 29, at 5:30pm. The names of each homeless person who has died in Houston in the past year will be remembered at the memorial service celebrated by leaders from the Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith communities. A simple vegetarian meal will follow. Open to everyone. Please register for the meal at 713-529-5771, www.emanuelhouston.org.

Please tune into AM 1430 on your radio, smartphone, Alexa, or Google Home device and donate to the Christmas Share-a-thon this week. Houston Catholic Radio AM 1430 is a listener-supported evangelistic ministry. So, share the love and help keep Catholic programming on the air! The Share-a-thon runs November 27-30. Tune in and donate for a chance to win an all-expense paid pilgrimage for two.

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 9: BILINGUAL MARIAN CELEBRATION
A free event will be held at the Christian Renewal Center in Dickinson on Sunday, December 9, 6:00-9:00pm, in celebration of both the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. This special Marian event will be celebrated in both English and Spanish. The evening will begin with a bilingual Rosary, followed by breakout sessions in English or Spanish, then all join back together again for the closing session. Find more info and register in advance at retreatcentercrc.org/marian-celebration.

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

WEDDINGS
Truc Bao Tran & Santiago Perez

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

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
*not licensed by the state

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 FINANCIAL INFORMATION — WEEKLY OFFERTORY

NOVEMBER 11 COLLECTION ................................................................. $49,253
Registered Households ........................................................................ 7,692
Envelopes Used .................................................................................. 691
Loose Checks ..................................................................................... 177

2ND COLLECTION: Social Concerns .................................................. $16,107

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

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

FAITH DIRECT ONLINE GIVING
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.
**NO PRESCHOOL CCE TODAY** due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. See you back next week, DEC 2nd!

**STLAURENCE.SCHOOL.ORG**

**CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OUR BAND CONCERT**

Please join us as our St. Laurence Catholic School Band presents their winter concert on Thursday, December 6, at 7:00 pm in the school gym. It promises to be a wonderful evening with our young musicians.

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF OUR UNIQUE GIFTS LUNCHEON**

Join us on Tuesday, December 4, 11:30am-1:00pm for “A Celebration of our Unique Gifts” Luncheon at the Ave Maria Center in Marian Hall. Individual tickets are $60 each and table sponsorships are available. Sponsorships and tickets available at stlaurencesschool.org/a-celebration-of-our-unique-gifts or by contacting the Advancement Office at 281.980.0500

**NOV 27 & 28: Elementary CCE THIS WEEK**

How do the Sacraments Help me know and Love Jesus Christ?

Welcome back from your holiday break! As we reconvene this week, we continue to learn how to grow deeper in love with Jesus Christ by celebrating the Sacraments. These outward signs instituted by Christ himself and recognizable to us humans, are instruments of God’s Grace and Divine Power which allow us to share in God’s very own life. The Sacraments deepen and intensify the spiritual life of sanctifying grace which is already present in our souls. By participating in the life of the Church sacramentally, we become and continue to live out our lives as members of the mystical Body of Christ. As a family, bring out photos of your celebrations of Matrimony, Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation and discuss why those moments were so important to you as Catholic Christians.

**CCE HOME STUDY FAMILIES:** Our next mandatory Parent Enrichment and Homework Checkpoint Meeting will be held **TOMORROW, Monday, November 26th, from 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!
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

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
You are invited to increase your awareness and receive what God has in store for you during the holy season of Advent by attending Sacred Sunday on Monday. Hear God’s voice during the powerful and holy Sunday Mass. Then come, gather, and share the Mass experience each Monday during Advent as we ponder and reflect upon yesterday’s reading and homily.

For more info contact Bernadette Peters at bernadettepeters@mac.com

RESOURCES TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT

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

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
January 22-April 2, 2019
9:00–11:45am, Marian Hall A

“Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” by Dr. Edward Sri is your guide to personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow Him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust Him, to open ourselves to His merciful love, and to love others as He has loved us. Follow Me invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. Register at stlaurence.org/biblestudies or contact Kay Quenan at kquenan@me.com.

RITED OF ACCEPTANCE

November 25 Masses:
9 am (baptized) & 12:45 pm (unbaptized)

These rites are the first step on the journey for Inquirers, people in the process of joining the Catholic Church. They will declare publicly their intention to continue their journey towards becoming Catholics. Please join us in ongoing prayer for them, as well as taking a few minutes to introduce yourself and welcome them to our community. You will see them wearing name tags.
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 pray today for bishops so that they may always be what Saint Paul calls them to be: humble, gentle, servants. #SantaMarta

— Pope Francis
November 12, 2018

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: ST. LAURENCE GREETERS

Do you remember a time that you had to walk into a room full of strangers? And that amazing feeling when someone smiles and waves your way. Doesn’t it feel good to feel wanted and welcomed? That amazing feeling is what we want everyone here at St. Laurence to feel.

We are a huge parish and that can be intimidating. Greeters are here to make everyone feel welcomed and we can always use more help! If you are reading this article, you are already qualified. Why you may ask? Because you are HERE at Mass. That is the only requirement! A smile can change someone’s day and yours. So if you’ve been looking for a way to get involved that doesn’t require lots of meeting time, this is for you! People of all ages can do it and make a real difference in the life of our parish. Maybe sign the whole family up – you’re all coming to Mass together anyway – and it’s so wonderful to see families serving together.

Stop by the Hospitality Desk after Mass today to greet the Greeters!

Q.
Does the church office close for lunch?

A.
Are you kidding? The church office is always open! I know lots of other churches that close for lunch, but not us. I think Fr. Drew likes us here as much as possible... probably cause he would miss us, right? I like to say we are here twenty-four-seven. Just kidding. Actually, a lot of people stop by on lunch to offer Masses, grab a bulletin or just get information. Before you ask, the Ave Maria Center is open during lunch, too. The church office and AMC are open till 9pm, Monday through Thursday. The church office is open till 6pm on Fridays and noon on Saturdays. The AMC closes at 4pm on Fridays and is only open on Saturdays if there is an event there.

Julianne Salverson and her husband John are recent transplants to Texas, moving here from Northern California to be near the youngest of their three sons. In her previous parishes, Julianne was a CCE catechist and Eucharistic Minister. Here at St. Laurence, she is the coordinator of Meals That Heal, a ministry that provides home-cooked meals to parishioners who are going through a difficult time. “We have been members of St. Laurence for about 18 months. After exploring several parishes in the area, we determined that St. Laurence has the Spirit we were searching for. I joined Ladies Guild last year to become better acquainted with the women I met on the St. Laurence Women’s Retreat. I have really enjoyed being a part of this vibrant group. This year, I was asked to take over Meals That Heal, and I thought it would be a great way to serve my new community. I encourage others to join a ministry because you receive more than you could ever give. Being involved grows your Faith, and makes everything about being a Catholic more meaningful, more real. And joining Ladies Guild is a great way to get started. You will find a warm, welcoming group of women who love their Faith, and love to have a good time together, helping others.”

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.
FAMILY NIGHT
NOVEMBER 30

Advent Adventure!

Join other St. Laurence families for an evening of fun, fellowship, and faith. We will enjoy a meal together and journey along with the Holy Family into the spiritual adventure of the Advent season.

RSVP at [https://stlaurence.org/family-nights](https://stlaurence.org/family-nights) by November 28.

Contact
Melissa Calcote
for more information at mccalcote@stlaurence.org

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2018
6:30 - 8:00 PM
AVE MARIA CENTER
A MAIN DISH AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.
BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE
St. Laurence Catholic School
presents

A Celebration of
Our Unique Gifts

Luncheon Benefiting SPICE
featuring guest speaker

Dr. Liz McIngvale

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Ave Maria Parish Life Center
Marian Hall
3100 Sweetwater Boulevard
Sugar Land, TX 77479
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.

Saturday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Three Masses will be offered in celebration of this important day, at 6:00pm on Friday, December 7, and at 8:30am and 11:00am, on Saturday, December 8. All Masses are in the church. Hail Mary, full of grace!

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Wednesday, December 12. Celebrate with the St. Laurence Hispanic Ministry that day, in remembrance of the miracles and the image the Blessed Mother left us almost 500 years ago. Enjoy great music and fellowship, offered in the early morning and again in the evening. Festivities begin at 5:30am, with a bilingual Rosary and the traditional song “Las Mañanitas” to serenade Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by Mexican breakfast in the parish hall. In the evening, we start at 6:00pm, with a traditional children’s dance and bilingual Mass. All are welcome!

The Filipino Community of St. Laurence invites everyone to attend Simbang Gabi on Thursday, December 20, at 6:30pm in the church. In the Philippines, this is a 9-day celebration which is held in anticipation of Christmas and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But our Filipino Community has bundled it into one beautiful night of carols and Mass in the church, followed by great food and entertainment in the school gym. Open to everyone and free. Please contact Fe Vicerra for additional details at 713-248-1164. Maligayang Pasko!

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.

NOW HIRING: PLAY & PRAY CAREGIVERS

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

ADVENT ROSARY
PRAY THE ROSARY BEFORE THE 12:00PM DAILY MASS IN THE CHURCH
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

2019 SUNDAY MISSALS
PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

ON THE PLAZA
WISH UPON A STAR
PICK UP A STARTAG ON THE PLAZA THIS WEEKEND
AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE
DECEMBER 1-2
PARISH HALL
After all masses (except Life Teen)
Wassail, Cookies, & Holiday gifts
In Thanksgiving to you!

(PART 1)

It takes so many volunteers to accomplish all that we do in the Social Concerns Ministry. There are so many behind the scenes volunteers who so generously give their time and make our job so much easier! We are honored to work with such outstanding volunteers who make it possible for us to touch so many lives. Here is part 1 of our callout to all of those volunteers, with BIG THANKS from Pennie, Nikki and Monica in SCM...

Thank you to all of the volunteers who take the time and care to bake home-made cookies and casseroles each week for Bethel Ministry and Park's Youth Ranch. The treats you make are wonderful and make the kids feel extra special.

Thank you to our Social Concerns Ministry Board for providing us with guidance on how to best serve our parish and community, Frances Conway (Chair) Buzz Combo (Vice-Chair), Mark Eyring, Anita Kalunta-Crumppton, Marcia Kielhofner, Peggy Oltremari, Donna Romaine, Anne Dyess, Terri Leong and Pat Sumner.

Want to volunteer? Contact Nikki in the Social Concerns office at nagner@stlaurence.org or 281-980-9812.

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

PRMC VOLUNTEER TRAINING: Is God calling YOU to make a tremendous difference in someone’s life? The Pregnancy Resource Medical Center in Rosenberg can train you to feel confident in helping women to cope with an unplanned pregnancy or to resist the temptation of abortion. Please call Meggi at 281-232-2375.

CHRISTIAN VOICES FOR LIFE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: CVL can use volunteers to approach churches to offer them help in teaching their congregation about life issues, and to invite them to join us in Life Chain and 40 Days for Life. Other opportunities include representing us at college campuses, selling T shirts, and updating our database of area churches, pastors, and other contacts.

GIVING BACK

A special thank you to Ellis Lundy, SLCS Kindergarten student, who recently stopped by the SCM office to bring us a donation. Ellis said, “My parents have taught me the importance of reaching out to others in need so I wanted to give Social Concerns money from my piggy bank.”

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

MONDAYS: Our Daily Bread 9:30am, SCM Workroom

WEDNESDAYS: Coupons for a Cause 1:00pm, SCM Workroom

SERVIE OPPORTUNITIES

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.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THESE AND OTHER GREAT WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS, GO TO www.stlaurence.org/social-concerns
St. Laurence Cancer Support Ministry will meet Thursday, December 6 from 10-11:30am in the St. Claire Room at the Ave Maria Center. Our guest speaker will be Antonio “Tony” Milland Santiago a Board Certified Music Therapist with the Houston Methodist Hospital Center for Performing Arts in Medicine. He will speak about the role of music therapy in cancer care and the positive effects music has on our physical and mental well being.

We invite all cancer patients and survivors, their caregivers and friends and anyone interested in learning more about the music therapy program to join us for this meeting.

Please call Mariann Licato - 281-778-6356 — if you have any questions.
To be near God is my Happiness 2018-2019
Experience lasting happiness and joy — serve in a ministry
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.
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- Paid Training
- Overtime Travel Required
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