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
February 1 — In the Chapel
7:00pm - Rosary & Confessions
7:30pm - Mass

FIRST SATURDAY MASS
February 2 — In the Church
7:45am - Meditation & Rosary
8:30am - Mass

MISA EN ESPAÑOL
January 26: 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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Lk 3:16bc

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
**Readings for the Week**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
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<td>MONDAY 14</td>
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<td>TUESDAY 15</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 16</td>
<td>HEB 2:14-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY 19</td>
<td>HEB 4:12-1</td>
<td>MK 2:13-17</td>
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**Good News Reflection**

*Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

Pray: Thank You, my Lord, for Your special love for me. Give me the grace of recognizing You in my brothers and sisters, whom You love, too, beyond appearances. Amen.

**What are you waiting for?**

This Sunday's readings are full of expectation. What are you waiting for? How do you need God to come and rescue you from injustices, or deliver you from evil, or comfort you as you wait for loved ones to turn their hearts back to God? What guidance have you been seeking while feeling confused and uncertain?

Do you feel Christ's gift of peace within you as you wait expectantly? Or do you feel frustrated, worried, and impatient?

In the Gospel reading, we see John the Baptist's congregation filled with expectancy because they hoped that he was their finally-arrived Messiah. Yearning for God to intervene against injustices, foreign oppression, and sin, they latched onto the fiery enthusiasm of John and his baptism of repentance.

God, however, had something much better in mind, more complete. The real Messiah would baptize with the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit. Whereas John could only call people to repentance, the real Messiah would empower them to grow in holiness by giving them his own Spirit of holiness.

When Jesus submitted himself to John's baptism, it was not because he needed to repent; he was sinless. He was uniting himself to our need for repentance, thus starting his ministry of delivering us from evil and eventually taking our sins to the cross.

In Christian baptism, we are immersed into the holiness of Jesus as well as his ministry, his priesthood, his prophetic sharing of the Good News, his servant leadership, and yes, his sufferings for the benefit of the salvation of others. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do as Jesus did, and the Father says, "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased!"

What do you expect? What do you think should happen in your daily life because of your baptism? Expectation is a good attitude — unless it's based on impatience, which usually leads to disappointment. Expectation that's based on the goodness of God and what he wants for us is the attitude that brings us joy, greater faith, and even miracles.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

What would you like to expect from God this year? Is this something that he wants for you? How might things turn out differently — but better — than what you imagine should happen?

**Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:**

Name some of the baptismal promises that God makes in his covenant with us. How do we know he keeps his promises? Share the story of a time when an answer to prayer turned out better than you expected.

In Our Prayers...

PRAY FOR THE SICK


PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
SPC David Ambrovec, 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 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
CPT Michael Eberhardt, US Army
CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve
Derek Farias, US Navy
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
CPT Michelle Thibault, US Army
CPT Will Thibault, US Army
PFC Aaron Fox, USMC
PVT Juhnell Xavier George, US Army
SGF 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
ILT Anthony Marich, US Army
Ann Joseph Marcellus, USAF
SGT William Marcellus, USMC
TSGT David March, 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 Ramrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SSgt Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
LT Kevin Stranksy, US Navy
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, US Navy
Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
ILT Kevin Wheeler, US Army
SGT Bryce Whiteley, US Army
PO3 Troy Yelverton, US Navy

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JAN 12
5:00pm – Lois Michele Brown (D)

SUNDAY, JAN 13
7:15am – Veronica & Lawrence Revel (D)
9:00am – Peter Heidel (D)
11:00am – Aurita Fernandes (I)
12:45pm – Ermentina Forcado (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, JAN 14
7:30am – Norman Ralph (D)
12:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

TUESDAY, JAN 15
7:30am – Thomas Family (I)
12:00pm – Archangels

WEDNESDAY, JAN 16
7:30am – Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke (I)
6:30pm – Bertha Juliana Sorbrinho (D)

THURSDAY, JAN 17
7:30am – Tran Family (D)
12:00pm – Irene Slezcka (D)

FRIDAY, JAN 18
8:15am – Colleen Marelo (D)
12:00pm – John Chukwudi (D)

SATURDAY, JAN 19
8:30am – Randy Harrison (I)
5:00pm – Sonny Brasseaux (D)

SUNDAY, JAN 20
7:15am – Elizabeth Zinke (D)
9:00am – Susan Choate (D)
11:00am – Kenneth Nguyen (I)
12:45pm – Delores Jean Crawford (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

Following are the prayer intentions of people visited by our Correctional Ministry. Please pray for... Isabella Flores, Adrian Zaldivar, Johnny Sanchez, Sonia Aguilar, Jessica Ayala, Kristin Funderburg, Elizabeth Rojas, Erika Ayala, Tommy Dooley, Nick, Joslyn, Cheyene, Joslyn, Kevin, James Brotherton, Bob Ahmad & Family, Tommy Jackson & Family, Keith Cameron & Family, Carl Hartney, Florentino-Oneida Vasquez & Familia, Arturo Gonzalez, Linda Mungua, Mary Stockhousen, Sergio Gonzalez, Jeffrey & Laura Arrington, Chaplin Jimmy Fitzgerald, Jackie Fitzgerald. Society of St. John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3. (12/10/18)

PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE IN PRISON

CRS: St. Peter’s Church, Katy, (D)
FEB 16: ARCHDIOCESAN VALENTINES DATE NIGHT
When was the last time you had a Date with your spouse? Investing in “together time,” reinforces common values and builds intimacy. Come to this event designed to inspire seriously engaged and married couples to give each other the opportunity to communicate, deepen their understanding of one another and their relationship. This is a great way, to strengthen or rekindle that romantic spark. Date Night will cultivate a strong sense of ‘we’ in our culture of ‘me.’ That is a challenge in today’s culture. Date nights have been found to play an important role in strengthening the quality and stability of marriage and relationships, helping couples get closer to one another! Location: Hilton Hotel on Westheimer Road in Houston, Feb 16, 6:30pm. Cost: $75 per person Attire: Formal. For more information or to reserve your ticket, please call 713-741-8720.

NOW HIRING AT ST. THERESA
St. Theresa in Sugar Land is seeking a full-time Maintenance Supervisor. This person will oversee the maintenance of all facilities and equipment and is expected to be highly organized, able to work independently, and have effective communication skills. At minimum, a high school diploma is required, plus a degree, certification or extended work experience in maintenance supervision. Individuals interested in this position should contact Diane Senger, diane@sugarlandcatholic.com, 281-494-1156.

FEB 2: REGINA CAELI ‘FABULOUS FATHERS’ FUNDRAISER
Regina Caeli Academy, a Catholic homeschool resource center, presents “The Fabulous Fathers” Priest Talent Show and Fundraiser at 6:30pm on Saturday, February 2, at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Katy. Priests from across the Archdiocese (including Fr. Truong Son) will provide the entertainment for a fun evening that includes dinner, auction and a raffle drawing for a $500 Visa card. Event tickets are $60/each or $400/table of 8. You don’t need to be present to win the raffle; buy a ticket for $10 or three tickets for $20. Get more info and register at www.rcahybrid.org.

WEDDING PREPARATION
Next Classes: January 28 & March 25
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. As an alternative, the 1st Saturday is offered in January, April, July and October. To schedule a Baptism or register for the required parent preparation class, please contact Barb Roy at broy@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774 x5371.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISMS
Seth Lucas Tan Cayanong, Harper Makayla Kwan, Brian Archibald Mouton, Henry David Shupak, Reese Rachelle Williams, Jude Patrick Wilson, Loden William Simper

FUNERAL
Bill Schmoe, Father of Lee Schome

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

FAITH DIRECT ONLINE GIVING
We are thankful for all the generous monetary gifts that you provide to our parish Offertory and special collections. If you are not already doing so, we encourage you to consider using our secure electronic giving program, Faith Direct. Faith Direct will automatically process any offertory or second collections donation of your choosing. This is much easier and convenient for you and makes the accounting more accurate and efficient for us. Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/TX460

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family by whatever form you chose.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION — WEEKLY OFFERTORY

| DEC 30 COLLECTION                                | $69,195 |
| JAN 1 COLLECTION   | $14,571 |
| JAN 6 COLLECTION   | $48,999 |
| Registered Households | 7,700  |
| Envelopes Used      | 675     |
| Loose Checks        | 159     |
| ONLINE GIVING       |         |
| Monthly Offertory   | $183,363|
| Participants        | 1,023   |
| DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND (activity thru 1/7/2019) |         |
| 2018 Parish Goal    | $495,000|
| Total Amount Paid   | $498,025|
| Total Amount Pledged| $503,319|
| Participants        | 1,012   |
CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
January 26th marks the beginning of our Catholic Schools Week celebration. This year’s theme Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed. will be incorporated into many of our activities. 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!

Visit www.stlaurenceschool.com for more information!

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.

STLAURENCESSCHOOL.ORG

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
January 26th marks the beginning of our Catholic Schools Week celebration. This year’s theme Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed. will be incorporated into many of our activities. 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!

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN PERSON
In Mind, Body and Spirit

Come tour our campus and see what makes SLCS a leader in providing a well-rounded education!

Join Us for an Open House
Sat., Jan. 26, 2019 | 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM CRIB THROUGH 5 YEARS

stlaurence.org/weekday-childrens-program

ENROLLMENT FOR 2019-20
Application Forms for Children Currently on the Waiting List were mailed January 4, 2019. Application Forms Due Jan 18.

St. Laurence Parishioners Not Currently on the Waiting List May come in and begin the Application Process Feb 17.

Program Tours are conducted on Wednesday Mornings at 10:00am. In the Ave Maria Center. Just check in with the reception desk.

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS
2005, 2014
Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
2017
Innovations in Catholic Education Award

2630 Austin Parkway • Sugar Land, TX 77479
281.980.0500 • stlaurenceschool.org

Visit www.stlaurenceschool.com for more information!
Main Events

**JAN 26: WORLD YOUTH DAY HOUSTON AND EUCHARISTIC VIGIL**

Come and be a pilgrim, joining in spirituality of communion with millions of young people from across the world. We invite you to join us in our local World Youth Day celebration concurrent with the gathering in Panama on January 26-27. We are one of five cities in USA that will be hosting a regional celebration. We appreciate if you help us spread the word in your social media, meetings and gatherings.

Our celebration will include:

- Saints' relics including St. Oscar Romero, St. Theresa of Calcutta, St. Theresa of Lisieux, St John Vianney, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
- 20 workshops presented in English or Spanish
- Multicultural music performances including Polish, Matachines, Folkloric dances and more
- Overnight adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (for those who want to experience what means to be a pilgrim in WYD)
- WYD address of Pope Francis to young people
- Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Fellowship, food and more surprises

**WYD 2019 Theme?** "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)

**Location:** Brand new parish activity center at St. Jerome Catholic Church 8825 Kempwood Dr, Houston TX 77080

**Date and time:** The WYD event is on Saturday January 26 from 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Come for all or part of the afternoon.

**Who should attend?** Young adults ages 18 and above.

**Who are the speakers?** Check the list of talks and speakers at www.archgh.org/yacm

**Can anyone go to the adoration overnight?** Yes it is open to the public and is free!

**Registration:** You may register by January 16 online or in paper at www.archgh.org/yacm $20 per person and includes dinner.
CATHOLIC MEN CALLED TO BE SAINTS
Thursdays, Jan 17-Jun 27, 2019, 5:30-7:30 am, Guardian Angel Hall
Come together with other men and learn about spiritual and practical ideas. Contact: Jim Kij, 281-253-4800, jimkij@comcast.net.

FORMACION PARA EL MINISTERIO CRISTIANO
Jueves, Enero 17-2 de Mayo, 10 am-12 pm, Marian Hall
Esta es la tercera clase de Enseñanza Moral Cristiana. Para más información, llamar a Veronica Reinoso, 832-231-6988, veroreinoso62@gmail.com.

MOM’S GIFT
Wednesdays, Jan 30-Apr 10, 9:15-11:00 am, Marian Hall B
GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) is a group book study for moms who are seeking a deeper faith, a holier family, and the support of other moms. Contact: Rachelle Dooley, rdooley1987@outlook.com

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Mon, Tuesdays, Jan 14-Feb 24, 7:00-9:00 pm, or Tuesdays, Jan 15-Jun 25, 6:15-7:15 am, St Francis

RE-MEMBERING CHURCH
Mon, Tuesdays, Jan 14-Feb 18, 7-9 pm St Joseph Room
Re-membering Church is a process of healing and reconciliation for inactive Catholics. Contact Tom Ruck at 281 242-4750 or tomruckstl@gmail.com or stlaurence.org/remem.

SACRED SUNDAY ON MONDAY
Mondays, Jan 14-May 13, 7-9 pm Guardian Angel Hall
Learn how to explain the Church’s teachings with logic and love. Cost: $40.00 for new participants, $5.00 for returning participants. Register and pay at stlaurence.org/apologetics.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Jan 22-April 2, 9:00 –11:45 am, Marian Hall
“Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” by Dr. Edward Sri is your guide to personal encounter with Christ. Register at stlaurence.org/biblestudies.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
Begin Jan 21, 2019  6:30-8:30 pm
Ave Maria Center, Rm 200-202
Come join us on the road to find Financial Peace.
This life-changing program helps participants to achieve their financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. The program consists of a 9-week video curriculum—taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey. For more info: Sunny Soji-Tom at sunnysojitom@hotmail.com

WWW.STLAURENCE.ORG/AFF
facebook.com/groups/stlaurenceadultfaith
“FULFILLED: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism”
By Sonja Corbitt

Thursdays, Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, 2019

Choose from two sessions:

1:00-2:30 pm
Ave Maria Room 200-202
Facilitator: Anne Marie Daniel

7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Guardian Angel Hall
Facilitator: Mary Clare Cullen

Whether you saw Sonja Corbitt live or not, here is an opportunity to learn and understand the content of Fulfilled. “Bible Evangelista” Sonja Corbitt will ignite your love of Scripture in Fulfilled as she explores the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith in a deep and profound way. 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. Part One focuses on the elements found in the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, baptism, and more.

To register go to stlaurence.org/womensbookstudy
For more information contact Anne Marie Daniel at 281-265-5774

3103 Sweetwater Blvd. | Sugar Land, TX 77479
Living as Disciples

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

The ministry of Divine Mercy is based on the diary of Saint Faustina who had conversations with Jesus. Jesus had her prepare a painting of him with red and white rays flowing from his heart. At the bottom of the painting he instructed her to write “Jesus I Trust in You”. Jesus told her his mercy was endless and he gave her a prayer to say at the bed of the dying. She saved many souls with the chaplet our Lord gave her. A cenacle study group meets each Thursday morning (10:00-11:30am) and an evening group meets every other Wednesday (7:30-9:00pm). We spread the message to others by offering retreats and workshops, including the annual Rays of Enlightenment Conference, February 2, at Christ the Redeemer parish. All are welcome to participate in the message of Divine Mercy! Please contact Sally Flowers, sallyjoflowers@comcast.net, or Suzan Bryan, suzan.bryan@comcast.net.

Meet members of our Divine Mercy Prayer Group for more information at the Hospitality Desk after Mass!

STEWARDS AMONG US

THO NGUYEN

I came to America 43 years ago with my parents, 10 siblings, and Hien (my husband now, but college classmate back then). We were among thousands of ‘boat people’, floating helplessly in South China Sea for 29 days, totally directionless. Miraculously, a gigantic American Army combat ship appeared out of nowhere and rescued us just in time. Hien & I have been married for 42 years now, with 3 grown daughters and a granddaughter. We have been parishioners for over 20 years and I help as an Usher, Extraordinary Minister, Choir, Altar Linens, Funeral Reception, Adoration and the Vietnamese Community. After 26 years working and surviving a life-threatening illness, I want to live my life doing what I like and enjoy, whenever I can. At the start, I joined one ministry, then another and another… as many as my body, mind and schedule can handle. I believe, maybe that is how I’m still around! I received prayers from a lot of friends at St. Laurence and I’ve become more holy, patient, compassionate, understanding and confident than before, especially when facing difficulties. Once I chose to place my life in God’s hand, I don’t feel scared like I used to. We all have more in common than we think; we ALL want to serve God by doing something we enjoy, at our own pace, and in our own way. And we can share our stories and learn from each other and realize that we don’t really have a problem in our life, that we’ve always been blessed, and LIFE IS VERY GOOD!

In all we do …
... evangelize

@PONTIFEX

Today more than ever, our societies need “artisans of peace”, messengers and witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the human family.

— Pope Francis
January 1, 2019

Ask Paula

Q.

What’s the deal with people not stopping to help?

A.

First, let me tell you guys what happened. A parishioner from Sacred Heart was attending the 12:45pm Sunday Mass here. She comes once in a while because of her work. She was leaving with her 3-year-old when another kid was running on the sidewalk and made her and her child fall. I’m sure by now you are all sitting on the edge of your seat, right?

Here’s what really got her: Her child was bleeding from the mouth and not one of you guys stopped! As a matter of fact, people were going around them. What!? No one helped her. Fr. Santy always said, “Take what you heard in Mass to the parking lot,” so that’s what we all should do, just saying. It’s a New Year. Let’s do better, right?

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.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019
6:30 - 8:00 PM

AVE MARIA CENTER

A MAIN DISH AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE

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

FAMILY NIGHT JANUARY 25
Fun, games, and family prayer!
Join other St. Laurence families for an evening of fun, fellowship, and faith. We will enjoy a meal together, learn about praying together as a family, and play Faith Bingo.

Cofradía del Sto. Niño
Galveston-Houston Archdiocese

Cordially invites you to the annual celebration of the feast in honor of Senor Sto. Niño (Holy Child Jesus)

Saturday, January 19, 2019
St. Laurence Catholic Church
3100 Sweetwater Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479
TEL: 281-980-9812

Rosary - 9:15 AM     Procession - 10:00 AM     Holy Mass - 11:00 AM

Celebriant: His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Concelebrants: Invited Priests

Fellowship will follow after the mass at the School Gym
You may bring your statue of the Santo Niño for the procession and “Sinulog”

For more details, contact:

Margie D. Calo 281.980.4711 (b) • 713.498.7359 (c)
Avelino Legaspi 281.530.9507 (b) • 832.725.6041 (c)
Alyn Vivares 281.302.6228 (b) • 832.788.5778 (c)
Pepin Zozobrado 281.933.8101(b) • 281.989.3782 (c)
JAN 19: CARDINAL DINARDO CELEBRATES SANTO NIÑO

All are welcome to the Filipino celebration of Santo Niño the morning of Saturday, January 19. St. Laurence will host the Mass this year and Cardinal DiNardo will be the celebrant. Be in the church by 9:15am for the Rosary, followed by a traditional procession at 10:00am, and Mass at 11:00am. All are asked to wear red and are welcome to bring your statue of the Santo Niño (Holy Child Jesus) for the procession. After Mass, there will be a reception in the school gym. For more details, please contact Margie Calo at 281-980-4711.

FEB 9: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER RENEWAL & RECOMMISSIONING

Archdiocesan guidelines suggest that Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion be recommissioned in their parish every 3 years. A Renewal & Recommissioning for existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, February 9, 9:00am-11:30am, at the Ave Maria Center. All those currently serving the parish in this role are expected to attend this special session, which will be led by Fr. Drew, Deacon Dennis Henderson and Tom Ruck. The session is free and a light breakfast will be served. Please go to www.stlaurence.org/emhc-contact, no later than Monday, February 4, to update your contact information and to register for the Renewal & Recommissioning event. Questions? Please contact Rosemary Mascarenhas at rmascarenhas@stlaurence.org.

FEB 2: RAYS OF ENLIGHTENMENT CONFERENCE

The Spirit of Divine Mercy Ministry invites all St. Laurence parishioners to Rays of Enlightenment at Christ Redeemer Catholic Church on Saturday, February 2, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. This annual conference includes international speakers, Praise & Worship music, prayer ministry, Mass and Adoration. The theme is “In the School of His Merciful Heart” featuring an outstanding speaker lineup: Mother Adela Galindo, foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Sister Grace Marie Heinrich (who assists with vocations for SCTJM), and Fr. Joseph Rogers from the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required due to limited seating. Register now at CTRCC.COM/RAYS-RSVP or contact Sally Flowers at sallyjoflowers@comcast.net, 281-265-8360.

FEB 9: VIETNAMESE TET CELEBRATION

All members of the parish are invited to join the Vietnamese Community in a traditional celebration of the Lunar New Year on Saturday, February 9. Known as “Tet”, this celebration is linked to the lunar calendar and is the most significant festival in Vietnam. There is lots of preparation before the New Year, leading up to several days of celebration with family. Here at St. Laurence, the Vietnamese Community wishes to celebrate with their parish family, so join them at the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, February 9, then head to the parish hall for a reception. For more info, go to stlaurence.org/vietnamese-community.
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 20 families
- help keep a roof over the head of 28 families
- provide counseling and medical assistance for 12 families.
- provide food and toiletries to 36 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 80 Homeless Hope Bags to men and women living on the streets of Ft. Bend & Harris counties
- provide 800+ families a Thanksgiving meal
- provide over $2,000 in kind donations to Trini’s Market, the Senior Art Program and Gracious Gifts at the Mamie George Community Center

...give over 180 dozen cookies, brownies & other treats for the latch-key children at the Bethel Ministry after-school program and the homeless teens at Parks Youth Ranch

- bag over 600 snack bags for distribution to Child Advocates and Fort Bend Family Promise

- provide 2,000+ Christmas gifts for those in need throughout Ft. Bend County

- provide more than 450 bags of bagels & bread to Bethel Ministry

- provide 200 bags of new and gently used clothing and household items to SVDP

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!

Thank you for your generosity!

JANUARY IS POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH!

The USCCB has declared January “Poverty Awareness Month.”

Attending to the needs of persons in poverty is a grateful response to the unmerited gift of love that God first gives to each person—a gift which we are required to then share with others. Sharing God’s love includes offering spiritual care for those in need, providing help to meet immediate needs, and working together to eliminate the causes of poverty. (USCCB)

Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live below the poverty line? The poverty rate for children (under 18) in Fort Bend County is 11%. One child that is hungry and without economic security is too many. Due to your generosity, the Social Concerns Ministry is able to help children in need in several different ways. For example, we provide weekly food assistance to Fort Bend Family Promise, Bethel Ministries, and Park’s Youth Ranch. We provide clothing, 800+ pairs of shoes, school supplies, and over 2000 Christmas gifts to children who are referred to us by 3 local churches, our sister parish, Queen of Peace, and Fort Bend County community partners.
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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUNTEER AT TRINI’S MARKET AT MGCC

Volunteers are needed to work in the food pantry at Mamie George Community Center on Wednesday afternoons (1-4pm), Thursday mornings (9am-12pm), and Thursday afternoons (1-4pm).

Volunteers will need to fill out an application online, attend an orientation, and pass a background check before they can begin volunteering. For more information, please contact Dottie Bateman at dbateman@catholiccharities.org.

Volunteers applications are available online at: https://catholiccharities.org/what-you-can-do/volunteer/fortbend/
The Meals That Heal Ministry provides meals to parishioners who are in need of a little extra help during times of illness, after surgery or the birth of a baby. It’s a part of the St. Laurence Ladies Guild, but membership in the Guild is not required to participate. Be a volunteer chef and deliver a warm smile and delicious meal to parishioners when they need it most! If you or a parishioner you know is in need of meals, or if you want to volunteer to provide a meal (in your neighborhood or nearby area), please contact Julianne Salveson at ladiesguildmth@gmail.com.

JAN 17: GET CLEAN & GREEN WITH LADIES GUILD
All ladies of the parish are invited to the next meeting of the St. Laurence Ladies Guild on Thursday, January 17, at 6:30pm in the parish hall. They’ll kick off the new year with guest speaker, Heidi Green of Simply Clean & Green, who will demonstrate how to make earth friendly cleaning products. Please bring along an appetizer or dessert to share, plus a donation to Angela House. (This month, they are collecting feminine hygiene products.) For more info, contact President Tina Dougherty at tinadoughterty95@gmail.com.

JAN 26: 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.

MINISTERIO HISPANO
JAN 26: 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.
**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

See our January upcoming events online at www.stlaurence.org/adultsingles

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**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, 832-755-5597.

**FRIDAY JAN 25**, Holocaust Museum fieldtrip, meet at Ave Maria Center at 9:00am to carpool to museum.

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**MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

You are invited to join the MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. Our mission is to facilitate lifelong faith formation, access to the graces and sacraments of the Church and total Parish participation for every Catholic with physical, behavioral, or cognitive disabilities.” Our current projects include removing the barriers for access to Masses for families with special needs, the religious formation of children/young adults, and a fostering greater community awareness/acceptance/integration within our parish. For more Info: contact, Cindy Martin, cindymartin@stlaurence.org

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**JAN 16: 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 jpdivorccare@aol.com or 832-860-3398. More info: www.stlaurence.org/divorcercare

**2019 SESSION SCHEDULE:**
- January 16 - The Road to Healing Finding Help
- January 23 - Facing My Anger
- January 30 - Facing My Depression
- February 6 - Facing My Loneliness
- February 13 - What Does the Owner’s Manual SAY?
- February 20 - New Relationships
- February 27 - Financial Survival

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**LEGION OF MARY**

Holy Hour of Reparation on the 4th Thursday of each month. Jan 24, 7:00pm, at the Divine Mercy Chapel

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church whose purpose is to give glory to God through prayer and service. Meets once a week for prayer and discussion on Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00pm, in the Corpus Christi Rm. CONTACT: Maria Argao, 281-221-8228, rmargao1954@gmail.com

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**WHO WE ARE**

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

How we carry out our Mission

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.
All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the 2019 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The competition will be held on Saturday, February 9, at 11:00 am in the St. Laurence School Gym. Winners will progress to the District Free Throw Competition, which will be held at 1:00 pm, immediately follow the local competition. The KC Free Throw Championship is an annual event, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. All boys and girls, 9 to 14 years old, are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3,600 local competitions. All contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Details online at www.stlaurence.org/free-throw-comp

“Secondary school athletes should check with the school athletic director about eligibility before participating. Birth Certificate or other proof of age is required to verify eligibility.”
### SACRAMENT PREPARATION

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