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

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

**MISA EN ESPAÑOL**
Feb 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) 989-1655
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, truongson@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Rey Arellano, deacon.rey@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Albert Bothe, deaconal@ssjd.org
Deacon: Don Burns, don@donburns.com
Deacon: Dennis Henderson, dhenderson@stlaurence.org
Deacon: Charles Plant, DeaconCharles@outlook.com
Deacon: Tom Ruck, truck@stlaurence.org
Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, tololmari@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

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.

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, b Wilkinson@stlaurence.org
Registrar: Christine Novia, cnovia@stlaurence.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCILS
281-980-9812
Pastoral Council: Nick Noe, nick noe@outlook.com
Finance Council: Bob Ladd, robert.ladd@haynesboone.com
Discipleship Council: Julie Borque, borquej@yahoo.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.”
**CELEBRATE WITH YOUR PARISH SCHOOL**

*Consider a Catholic education for your own family*

**IT IS A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME**

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we are pleased to kick off National Catholic Schools Week, which is recognized annually by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in order to celebrate the benefits of Catholic education. The theme this year is Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

We have a variety of events and activities planned around daily themes that highlight the unique and valuable impact that Catholic schools have, not only on our children but on the larger community. Please keep St. Laurence Catholic School in your prayers and contact us if you are interested in learning more about the gift of Catholic education for your child.

| Sunday - January 26 | Celebrating Our Parish |
| Saturday - January 26 | Hospitality Sunday. Join us for coffee and donuts after morning Masses! |
| Monday, January 27 | Celebrating Our Community |
| Monday, January 27 | Pep Rally with Sugar Land Mayor Zimmerman |
| Tuesday, January 28 | Celebrating Our Students |
| Tuesday, January 28 | Free Dress for Students |
| Tuesday, January 28 | PTO Board greets families at carpool |
| Wednesday, January 29 | Celebrating Our Nation |
| Wednesday, January 29 | Thank-you notes and donations for our military |
| Wednesday, January 29 | School-wide Prayer for our Nation |
| Thursday, January 30 | Celebrating Our Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers |
| Thursday, January 30 | Special thank you to parent volunteers & SLCS staff |
| Thursday, January 30 | PTO Board greets families at carpool |
| Friday, January 31 | Celebrating Vocations |
| Friday, January 31 | Career and Vocations Day Speakers |

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **February 1 & 2** Plaid Bag collection at Masses for Tuition Assistance
- **February 3** Parishioner Registration begins
- **February 22** Screening Day PreK-4th grade - 8:00am-3:30pm

**WE INVITE YOU TO TOUR OUR SCHOOL!**

Tours can be given by appointment anytime!

**CONNECT WITH SLCS!**

Follow us to learn more about the amazing things happening in our school! [stlaurenceschool.org](http://stlaurenceschool.org)

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1098 in your Gather Book</td>
<td>IS 8:23—9:3</td>
<td>1 COR 1:10-13, 17</td>
<td>MT 4:12-23</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 SM 5:1-7, 10</td>
<td>2 SM 6:12B-15, 17-19</td>
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**CELEBRATE WITH YOUR PARISH SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAY**

First Reading

Second Reading

Gospel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>2 SM 7:18-19, 24-29</td>
<td>2 SM 12:1-7A, 10-17</td>
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**THURSDAY**

First Reading

Second Reading

Gospel

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<tr>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
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**PRAYING THE NEWS | JANUARY 26, 2020**

*“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?”*

**PSALM 27:1**

O God, we thank you for your light of truth and salvation. May trust in you enable us to stand in the breach against hate groups seeking to sow fear and divide communities. Aid us in understanding the fear itself that sparks hatred in the first place. May your Spirit help each heart discern any such unholy fear or prejudice, and accept your healing love. Help your church always be an advocate for peace.

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK


PRAY FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW2 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV
SPC Nicholas Ambroick, US Army
PVT Michael Baird, US Army
SA Matthew Baird, US Navy
P.O. 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 Carrolli, USMC
LTC. 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
Maj. Brandon Driscoll, USMC
Maj. James Dunphy, USMC
CPT Michael Eberhardt, USMC
CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve
Derek Farias, US Navy
Capt. Matthew Fenelon, USMC
CPT Michelle Thibeau, US Army
CPT Will Thibeau, US Army
LCpl Aaron Fox, USMC
PVT Jahniel Xavier George, US Army
SFC Philip Graham, US Army
LCpl Eric Gurnell, USMC
CPT Spencer Henry, US Army
PVT Liam Hill, US Army
Daniel Hines, US Navy
SSG Matthew Hollobaugh, US Army Reserve
EM4 James Locus, US Navy
SSG Philip Loera, US Army
PFC John Lundgren, US Army
I/LT Anthony Marich, US Army
Ann Joseph Marcellus, USAF
TSgt David March, Texas Air National Guard
Capt. Brendan McPartland, USMC
Major Alexander Morningstar, US Army
CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy
LCP Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC
SGT Santiago Ramirez, US Army
CAPT Taylor Rammrath, US Army
Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC
SSgt Jonathan Slusser, US Air Force
LT Kevin Stransky, US Navy
CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, US Navy
Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC
LT Kevin Wheeler, US Army
SGT Bryce Whitley, US Army
PO3 Troy Yelverton, US Navy
2LT Copeland Zaunbrecher, US Army
2LT Kazia Zaunbrecher, US Army

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JAN 25
5:00pm – Sonny Brasseaux (D)

SUNDAY, JAN 26
7:15am – Harry Amerau (D)
9:00am – Nwajei Family (I)
11:00am – James Vaughn (D)
12:45pm – Henry Stephan (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

MONDAY, JAN 27
7:30am – Tony Simon (I)
12:00pm – Alex Tello (D)

TUESDAY, JAN 28
7:30am – Dr. Wilfred & Nirmala Thomas (D)
12:00pm – Frank Salinas (D)

WEDNESDAY, JAN 29
7:30am – Rudolph Cockburn (D)
6:30pm – Lizzie DiGrappa (D)

THURSDAY, JAN 30
7:30am – Matt MacGregor (D)
12:00pm – Angeline Cangelosi (D)

FRIDAY, JAN 31
8:15am – Cyriac Family (I)
12:00pm – Vicente Deperalta (D)

SATURDAY, FEB 1
8:30am – Tgnacia Villarreal (I)
5:00pm – Carol Siwierka (D)

SUNDAY, FEB 2
7:15am – Rita Miller (D)
9:00am – Flowers Family (I)
11:00am – Leonard Family (I)
12:45pm – Alejandro Hagad, II (D)
5:00pm – St. Laurence Parishioners

(D) Death
(I) Intention
(A) Anniversary

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 Zaldivar, Johnny Sanchez, Sonia Aguilar, Eli Rojas, Kristin Funderburg, Cole & Kristina Flores, Jessica Forbes, Erika Foster, Alyssa Smith, Florentino Diana Vasquez & Family, Tommy Dooley, Denise, Rick, Nick, Cheyenne, Joslyn, Emilio Banda & Family, Arriola Family, Michael T. Wade Family & Friends. Society of St. John de Matha, the men in the Terrell Prison RCIA program and all the people of Jester 3. (1/13/2020).

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Adrian Annicchiarico, Collin Brown, Leah Burrhus, Tim Cullen, Billy Dodd, Chad Henry, Christopher Meyer, Sister M. Philomena (Krystle Cagandahan), Margaret Uche
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

FEB 1: MICHAEL GORMLEY AT HEART OF WORSHIP
St. Michael in Lake Jackson is presenting their 3rd annual Heart of Worship on Saturday, February 1, 8:30am-6:30pm. The theme is “That One Thing” featuring Michael Gormley and Shaun Fattig leading praise & worship. The cost to attend is $20/adult, $35/couple, and students grades 6-12 are free. Expect three great talks by Michael Gormley, uplifting music, lunch, adoration and Mass. Childcare is available for children in Kindergarten-5th grade (please bring a sack lunch for each child). Get all the details and register at smlj.org/heart-of-worship.

CHRISTIAN RENEWAL CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS:
- Lenten Silent Retreat – Mar. 20-22
- Mother/Daughter Retreat (7th-12th grade) – Mar. 27-29
- Family Eucharist Retreat – April 17-19
- Bible Conference with Dr. John Bergsma – May 1-3
- Catholic Family Vacation – July 10-12
- Register online at retreatcentercrc.org or call 281-337-1312.

Also, check out our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/retreatcentercrc for more information about what's happening at the CRC.

FEB 15: ST. JOHN XXIII 'HEART OF A LION' GALA
All are welcome to join St. John XXIII College Preparatory celebrate their 15th anniversary on Saturday, February 15, 6:00-10:00pm, at the Westin Memorial City. Tickets are $125 and include a reception, dinner & beverages, auction, and dancing. Proceeds benefit SJ23 tuition scholarship fund. For tickets or to sponsor, please visit sj23.org/gala or call the school at 281-693-1000.

FEB 15: SAVE THE DATE FOR VALENTINE'S DATE NIGHT!
This event will give you the opportunity to get closer to one another, to laugh, eat, learn, renew your vows and dance! This year we will have a wonderful guest speaker: His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston. This event will take place on February 15, at Hilton Houston Westchase. Cost per couple is $165/85 per person. For more information and for registration, please contact mroman@archgh.org

MAR 21: ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT DAY 2020
“Your Burning Heart is Holy Ground” Come and join hundreds of young adults (single and married) ages 18-39 years old for a day of fellowship, music, prayer and workshops, Saturday, March 21, 9:00am to 6:00pm. Presented in English and Spanish at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 8825 Kempwood Dr., Houston. Information archgh.org/yacm or call 713-741-8778 or email yacm@archgh.org

PARISH CELEBRATIONS
FUNERAL
Gregory Robert Aranda, son of Teresita & Gregory Aranda. Joy Sacco, wife of Leonard Sacco

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 Classes: March 9
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: February 8 & March 21
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

PLAY & PRAY*
With the dawn of the new year, we continue to rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior.

We are blessed and thankful for all the gracious gifts that you provided to our parish in the past year. Your prayers, support, and monetary gifts allow us to continue to spread the Gospel and share God’s message of love and peace.

Our parish cannot continue to provide the facilities, the ministries and the staff that enable us to do the work of the Church without your help. We prayerfully ask that you consider using our secure and easy-to-use electronic giving program, Faith Direct.

Faith Direct will automatically process donations to the offertory or any second collections of your choosing. To enroll in online giving, visit faith.direct/TX460.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family whether or not you use this electronic method.

FAITH DIRECT ONLINE GIVING

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION — WEEKLY OFFERTORY

JAN 19 COLLECTIONS .......................................................... $44,638
Registered Households .......................................................... 7,501
Envelopes Used .......................................................... 615
Loose Checks .......................................................... 162

2ND COLLECTION Social concerns ........................................... $12,265

ONLINE GIVING
Monthly Offertory .......................................................... $237,601
Participants .......................................................... 1,054

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND

2019 Parish Goal .......................................................... $495,000
Total Amount Paid .......................................................... $459,195
2019 Total Amount Pledged .......................................................... $461,199
Participants .......................................................... 915
**PLAID BAG COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

**ASSIST FAMILIES IN CRISIS TO CONTINUE THEIR CHILDREN’S CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

We thank you in advance for your support of the Plaid Bag Collection next weekend. The monies collected will help families that find themselves dealing with an unexpected job loss, medical crisis, or family emergency.

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**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.

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**WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PLAID BAG COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND. THE MONIES COLLECTED WILL HELP FAMILIES THAT FIND THEMSELVES DEALING WITH AN UNEXPECTED JOB LOSS, MEDICAL CRISIS, OR FAMILY EMERGENCY.**

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**FEB 15: RUN FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION!**

SLCS is excited to take part in the Annual Archdiocesan Steps for Students 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, February 15, along with our fellow Catholic Schools around the city. This archdiocesan-wide event helps to support Catholic education. The funds raised will go towards tuition assistance. Please consider joining us for this special event or you can “snooze for schools” and support SLCS without any more effort than the $20 registration fee. For more information, contact the Advancement Office at advancement@stlaurence.org.

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**SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES!**

We are compiling updates for the next edition of The Saints’ Scoop, our Alumni Magazine! Share your news with us! Please send your updates to Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org. “ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT”!
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, dglaze@stlaurence.org

HIGH SCHOOL LIFE TEEN PROGRAM
For more information online, stlaurence.org/lifeteen
Follow us on Instagram @stlaurencelt

JANUARY 2020
26 LIFE NIGHT & CONFIRMATION
Topic: Life—creation

FEBRUARY
02 NO LIFE NIGHT // SUPERBOWL
09 LIFE NIGHT
   Topic: Pursuit of Happiness—Marriage and Celibacy for the Kingdom of God
16 LIFE NIGHT — ARISE Night in Church with Anna Carter from Eden Invitation
23 LIFE NIGHT & CONFIRMATION LIFE NIGHT
   Topic: Liberty

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   Topic: Liberty

FAITH & FAMILY FOCUS

‘Please forgive me’ is preferable to ‘I’m sorry’.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

@ St. Laurence Young Adults
www.stlaurence.org/ya
Contact: Young Adult Coordinator
Lucia Jackson, ljackson@stlaurence.org

JAN 29: YOUNG ADULT WOMEN’S GROUP
Gather for fellowship and grow in faith while reading and discussing, The Genesee Diary by Henri Nouwen. This group meets for multiple sessions this semester: 1/29, 2/12, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1. Registration is free and meets 7-9pm in the Ave Maria Center. Please purchase book on your own. Open to all women age 18 plus. For more details and to RSVP please contact, ljackson@stlaurence.org.

FEB 8: YOUNG ADULT MARRIED COUPLES VALENTINE’S DAY SOCIAL

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Young Adult Married Couples Social
February 8th, 6:30PM - Ave Maria Center

Want to meet other couples at St. Laurence? Join us for a night out and have some fun! A main dish will be provided, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

RSVP: ljackson@stlaurence.org
Childcare available - Pre-registration required at stlaurence.org/ya.
FEATURED PROGRAMS

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Tuesdays, 9:00-11:45am, Marian Hall A
For more information: stlaurence.org/biblestudies or contact Kay Quenan at kquenan@me.com.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Tues, 6:15-7:15am, or Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm, St Francis
Monday evenings will study “The Letters of St. James” from Ignatius Study Bible. “Tuesday mornings examine the readings for the next Sunday’s Mass. Contact: Steve Ewbank, 281-703-3873, ewbanksix@gmail.com.

THAT MAN IS YOU
Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 am Marian Hall
The program Vision of Man Fully Alive continues. Roger Peters at rogerwpeters@me.com or stlaurence.org/tmiy.

MOM’S GIFT GROUP
Wed, Starting Jan 29, 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.

Jan 29: GIFT—Moms will read “You are Enough”
Calling all Moms! Is the new year beckoning you to deepen your faith and your friendships? Then make time for Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) this semester. We will read Danielle Bean’s book “You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You About your Mission and Worth” that uses women of the Bible to remind us that God created us to abide in His love while fulfilling our unique purpose on earth as we journey to heaven. GIFT meets for 10 weeks on Wednesday mornings, 9:15-11, in Marian Hall B. The fun and fellowship will begin January 29! Contact Rachelle Dooley to RSVP or ask any questions, rdooley1987@outlook.com or 832-758-9595. Babysitting provided through Play ‘n Pray, so please reserve your spot soon.

Looking for More Scott Hahn?
Check the St. Laurence website soon for audio recordings of Scott Hahn’s talks given at St. Laurence or check out the talks below on formed.org!
PLAY & PRAY CHILDCARE: Available with advanced registration

ANNA CARTER
Co-Founder and President of Eden Invitation

Living the Catholic sexual ethic can be difficult in the best of times. For same-sex attracted disciples, today’s culture makes the ache all the more apparent. Who to love? How to live? And who is walking with me on the way? Join us as Anna Carter, co-founder of Eden Invitation, shares her witness of chaste, abundant life with same sex desires in the Catholic Church. Come encounter anew the Love that meets our longing hearts!

MUSIC: Life Teen Praise Group lead by Dr. Kevin Klotz

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. OPEN TO ALL TEENS AND ADULTS.

SUNDAY, FEB 16
6:30-8:15 PM
IN THE CHURCH

LOVE IN THE LONGING | Same Sex DESIRES & the CHRISTIAN LIFE
In today’s Gospel Jesus begins his ministry of healing, proclaims the kingdom of God and calls his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, and then the sons of Zebedee, James and John. Those first disciples might have preferred to keep their jobs, remain with their families and stay with the life they knew. Remarkably, though, all four of these people, just as they are, follow after this stranger who interrupts their daily routine. When they see Jesus and hear his words to them, they make a different choice. They take a risk, step out in faith, leave behind that which is comfortable and secure. They choose to follow Jesus. How far are we willing to go to leave the comfort and security of the life we know to follow Jesus?

Living as Disciples

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ON TODAY’S GOSPEL

In today’s Gospel Jesus begins his ministry of healing, proclaims the kingdom of God and calls his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, and then the sons of Zebedee, James and John. Those first disciples might have preferred to keep their jobs, remain with their families and stay with the life they knew. Remarkably, though, all four of these people, just as they are, follow after this stranger who interrupts their daily routine. When they see Jesus and hear his words to them, they make a different choice. They take a risk, step out in faith, leave behind that which is comfortable and secure. They choose to follow Jesus. How far are we willing to go to leave the comfort and security of the life we know to follow Jesus?

STEWARD AMONG US

KAREN MCMILLIN

Do what you can wherever you are in your life. You and God know what that is. Big or small, it doesn’t matter. Terry and I learned early in our marriage the importance of our faith and being a part of a faith community. Even though we lived in West Houston, we joined St. Laurence in 2009, because of the Life Teen Mass, and in 2011, we moved to Sugar Land to be closer to the parish we loved. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and we found a community that was loving and welcoming. As our children were growing up, my ministries were focused around our family and the needs of the children by volunteering with VBS, CCE, Youth Ministry and their activities. Then, as our parents aged and we found ourselves caring for them while working full time, we were limited on availability to volunteer, so I prepared meals for Meals That Heal and Parks Youth Ranch. Then in 2016, I attended the first Women’s ACTS Retreat at St. Laurence and met a community of women from all walks of life, many of which I am still very close with today. I am retired now so I have more time to serve on ACTS Core, Pastoral Council and sing in the 7:15am Choir. All that I have received both physically and spiritually are gifts from God. How can I not give Him thanks and praise for His many blessings?

In all we do ... evangelize

@PONTIFEX

The Lord has so much compassion, He involves Himself in our problems. Let us often repeat this simple prayer: Lord, I am a sinner, have mercy on me, have compassion for me. #HomilySantaMarta

— Pope Francis
January 16, 2020
TweetDeck

Ask Paula

Q.
How did the children going up on the altar to hug the priest start?

A.
I had to go to Fr. Drew for this ‘cause I didn’t know. Per FD, it started way back to the Fr. John days. There was a little 4-year-old girl who would go up at Offertory, drop a dollar in the basket and wave to Fr. Drew. One day she just walked up on the altar, hugged him and ran back down. She did it every week and one Sunday, her hair got caught in Fr. Drew’s microphone and her mom had to come and help unstick it. After a while, other kids starting coming up to hug the priest at ALL the Masses. This is NOT something that is a part of Mass, but started by a little girl. I don’t think they do this at other Catholic churches, just saying. I always tell FD, don’t be surprised if I come up and hug you one morning, right?

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for 22 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.
What is the difference between DSF & Parish Offertory?

A complete guide on how your generous donations serve the 1.7 million Catholics within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)
Supports more than 60 ministries within the Archdiocese

Programs support families, adults, clergy, poor, sick, and the incarcerated

Gifts can be fulfilled through a one time gift or pledge

Gifts can be matched by your employer

Your gift can be credited to your parish to meet their DSF Goal.
No funds are spent on the administration of the Chancery.

Your Local Church's Offertory
Supports the day-to-day operations of the parish

Supports faith formation programs in your church

Bears the cost of utility bills such as electricity, water, heat, salaries for clergy and staff

Gifts can be made weekly or monthly to the parish

Maintains your church and other parish campus buildings

Provide care and resources in local community like food pantries.

Ways to Support DSF and your Parish:

Online
Mail
Pew envelopes

Website: www.archgh.org/dsf
Questions: 713-652-4417
Prepared by the AGH Development Department
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE ANNUAL VIETNAMESE TET LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Saturday February 1, 2020
ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
3100 Sweetwater Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479

Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM    Reception in School Gym: 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM

There will be traditional Vietnamese food and entertainment so come join us in the celebration!

Vinnie Nguyen: 832.723.5822    Email: vnstlaurence@gmail.com
The church’s two “cry” rooms are now designated as Calming Rooms. This space is suitable not only for the temporary soothing of crying children, but also for those with special needs who may be in need of respite from the stimuli at Mass. New signs were placed outside of these rooms to clarify their intended purpose and include the International Symbol of Access (handicapped logo) to assure that all feel welcome. In addition, rocking chairs were added to one of these rooms as an accommodation for anyone who needs sensory regulation or comforting.

Since its founding in 2018, the mission of the Embracing Special Needs Ministry is to ensure that our parish welcomes, includes and accommodates parishioners with special needs. Among their many initiatives to raise awareness and acceptance, this ministry provides Buddies, specifically trained to individually accompany children with special needs at CCE, EDGE, or Life Teen. All are welcome to attend their next meeting on Monday, February 3, 7:00pm at the Ave Maria Center. For more info, please visit stlaurence.org/specialneeds.

FEB 1: VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Members of the St. Laurence Vietnamese Community will host a Tet Celebration in honor of the lunar new year on Saturday, February 1, at 6:30pm in the St. Laurence School Gym. Plan to attend the 5:00pm Mass in the church, then follow the Lion Dancers to the school gym for a reception with delicious Vietnamese food and traditional entertainment. All are welcome. Please contact Vinnie Nguyen for additional information at vnstlaurence@gmail.com.

APR 18-25: MEDICAL MISSION TO COSTA RICA

Is this the year you answer the call?

It is that time of year when a team of professionals, jacks of all trades, translators, and YOU join us in our annual mission trip to Costa Rica from April 18-25. This will be the 7th year MMDM is going to minister to the poor and needy in Grano de Oro, Costa Rica. The ministry needs people without medical experience who can translate, as well as professionals in medicine, nursing, ophthalmology or optometry, and dentistry, both dentist and dental hygienist. The fee is $1,300 and includes air/land transportation, meals and lodging for all 7 days. Please go to stlaurence.org/medical-missionaries for the application form due by Feb 14.

Remember, some go on mission to give, others go on mission by giving. So, if this is not your time to physically go, then there are other ways you can help:

1. Financial support through the Black Bag Collection on Feb 15-16.
2. Prayers for all the people that we will serve and for our faithful missionaries.

Whatever you can do to support the mission is greatly appreciated!
In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the Social Concerns Ministry wants to express our heartfelt gratitude to St. Laurence Catholic School for the impact they have made on those in need in our community. During the past year, through service projects with SCM, they have provided the following gifts in kind and services to our community:

- Over 400 nutritious meals for Lunches of Love
- Truckloads of food for our neighbors in need at Thanksgiving
- 400 Easter eggs filled with treats for children at Bethel Ministry
- Prayers and Care Packages for families & neighbors in need
- Prayer chaplets made from Job’s Tears (grown, strung, and delivered) to the seniors at Mamie George Community Center
- Adopt two refugee families and purchase specific gifts to feed their spirit
- Read-A-Thon for literacy benefitting the school of our sister parish, Queen of Peace
- Organized and ran the Halloween party for the seniors at Mamie George Community Center
- Provide hundreds of bags of Rice and Beans to the poor at Casa Juan Diego
- 420 pairs of socks for the military/homeless
- 80 Christmas treat bags for Queen of Peace students
- Essential care bags for Angela House residents

In addition to these school-organized events, SLCS students come to our office on their own to give in their own special way – such as a donation in lieu of receiving birthday gifts, proceeds from lemonade stands and bake sales, and in many other loving and creative ways. Way to go, Saints!
**RESPECT LIFE NEWS**

**Spiritual Adoption:** Five Months! The baby can now suck his thumb, yawn, and stretch. He or she can kick hard enough to “dent” the uterine wall and for mom to feel the impact. Baby is 12 inches long and weighs over a pound. Babies born at this age have survived! Abortions at this time are infrequent, but still legal. In 2017, 819 babies were aborted at 17 weeks or later in Texas, 15 at 21 weeks or later, 1 at 25 weeks or later.

**FEB 15: Sidewalk Advocacy works**
Many women entering an abortion clinic don’t really want an abortion. Offering them hope and help can redirect them to a nearby pregnancy center, where they will be empowered to choose life. Christian Voices for Life does Sidewalk Advocacy in Sharpstown. Training for sidewalk advocate volunteers or anyone else interested will be given on Sat, Feb 15, 9:30am – 3:00pm, in the St. Clare room of the Ave Maria Center. Cost is $15 and lunch will be provided. Please register early to ensure we have enough workbooks. Prayer support volunteers are also much needed, both on the street and at home. Questions? Contact Marie McCoy at 281-265-7749 or Marie@ChristianVoicesforLife.org

**Feb 21-23: Healing for women suffering after abortion**
Project Rachel is the confidential and compassionate outreach to women and men who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion decision. Its purpose is to foster reconciliation and healing between the parent and Christ, His Church, the child and all other significant relationships. The next Project Rachel Retreat is Feb 21-23, 2020. The retreat will be offered in Spanish on March 6 – 8, 2020. Please contact Julie at 713-741-8728.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**Donation Closet Volunteers Needed at Parks Youth Ranch**
We are looking for 4 – 6 volunteers willing to help us with clothing donation closet at Parks Youth Ranch. Duties include: organize and inventory clothing and shoes donated for the youth. Assist youth with “shopping” for clothing and accessories. Create a list of needed clothing and sizes for youth. Return unusable clothing to donation partners for distribution to others in need. Volunteers would be working on a rotation twice a month. Hours with the youth shopping are typically on Saturdays or during the week after school. All volunteers must undergo a background check and TB test. If you are interested, please email volunteer@parksyouthranch.org for more details!

**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.

**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 to St. John Fisher food pantry

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

**Lunches of Love:** Decorate lunch bags; over 4,000 brown bag meals provided each day (during extended school holidays & weekends) to Fort Bend County children in need

**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 stlaurence.org/social-concerns
MINISTRY NEWS

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

"Surrender to God and He will do everything for you"

Urgent: Need for an adorer on Saturdays, 4am to 5am (all except the 1st Saturday)
Please call or check the website for days.

There are almost 35 hours available to be near God.

God is waiting for you every day from 5:00am to 9:00pm — just drop in.
A code is provided to committed adorers to access the chapel 24 hrs a day.

FEB 8: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER RETRAINING

Archdiocesan guidelines suggest that Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion be retrained and recommissioned in their parish every 3 years. Retraining for existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 8:30am to 11:30am, at the Ave Maria Center. All those currently serving the parish in this role are expected to attend this special session — it is not necessary to participate if you attended last year. Retraining will be led by Fr. Drew, Deacon Dennis Henderson and Deacon Tom Ruck. The session is free and a light breakfast will be served. Go to stlaurence.org/emhc-retraining, no later than Monday, February 3, to register. Questions? Contact Rosemary Mascarenhas at rmascarenhas@stlaurence.org.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

FEB 8 & 22: 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 Martínez Tel (281) 989-1655. Recibir anuncios mandando correo a mhstlaurence@gmail.com.

VOCATIONS NEWS

"ALIVE" HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS RETREAT 2020
February 15, 2020, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Explore your vocations and come fully Alive in Christ — A day for High School Girls! Build friendship and community, meet Sisters and other Consecrated Women, meet other High School Girls, and pray together! To register, go to https://cvent.me/DnPeZ.
Cost is $20, Scholarships are available. The event will be held at the home of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, 22730 Lain Road, Spring, TX 77379. More information, contact us at 713-652-8239 or vocations@archgh.org

FEB 8: HONORING WORLD CANCER DAY

The St. Laurence Cancer Support Ministry welcomes St. Laurence Social Concerns Ministry Director Pennie DeGroot as guest speaker at their next meeting on Thursday, February 6, 10:00-11:30am, in the St. Clare Room. In honor of World Cancer Day, the group will attend the Noon Mass together after adjourning the meeting, followed by lunch at Antonia’s Restaurant. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and friends are all welcome! Please contact Mariann Licato for more information at 281-778-6356.

MAR 19-22: IGNATIAN SILENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS
A 4-day silent retreat for college age students and young adults will be offered at the Villa de Matel in Houston March 19-22. Join in silence with others your age for an opportunity discern the voice of God and meet one-on-one with a spiritual director. Arrive at 6:30pm on Thursday, 3/19, and depart at 1:00pm on Sunday, 3/22. The total cost of the retreat, including meals, boarding and spiritual direction, is $110 for college students and $170 for young adults. Go to houstonvocations.com/event/ignatian-silent-retreat for more info and to register.

FEB 25: IGNATIAN HOME RETREAT

If you desire a deeper and more enriching Lenten experience this year but are too busy to get away for a retreat, consider participating in the upcoming St Laurence Cenacle Home Retreat program. Based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Cenacle Home Retreat uses scripture as a basis of prayer to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God and to learn to recognize and respond to God’s movement in our lives. Unlike a scripture study, the program focuses on weekly themes that invite us to get to know and follow Jesus in a more intimate way through personal prayer, group sharing and support of one another’s spiritual journeys. Led by trained spiritual directors, Sandy Smith and Anne Marie Daniel, this 8-week program will be held February 25 to April 14, from 1-3:00pm in the St. Anne room of the Ave Maria Center. To Register, contact Anne Marie Daniel 281-265-5774 or adaniel@stlaurence.org. Register now - space is limited!
J.O.Y. stands for Just Older Youth, welcoming all people age 55-and-up to join them for fun and informative activities, plus their monthly brown bag meetings on the first Monday each month (11am-1pm in Marian Hall). Whether you are married, single, divorced or widowed, come meet up with old friends and plan to make new ones. Here is a quick list of upcoming meetings. For more information, please contact Anne Higgins at nannyhiggs@gmail.com or 832-755-5597.

Feb 3 (MONDAY): Brown Bag Lunch with Author Gwen Thorn
Feb 17 (MONDAY): Game Day Outing at Quail Valley City Center (10am)

May 7-10: Women’s ACTS Retreat

Ladies, save the dates of May 7-10, Mother’s Day weekend, to attend the St. Laurence Women’s ACTS Retreat. What a wonderful and unique present for Mother’s Day! Get details and register for the retreat at stlaurence.org/womens-acts-retreat. All women who have attended an ACTS Retreat previously (at St. Laurence or any parish) are invited to be a part of the team that puts on the retreat. Please come to the Teaming Discernment Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00pm, in the parish hall, or contact Retreat Director Leigh Easter at leigheaster@gmail.com and 832-768-5074.

WHO WE ARE

We 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.
Do you find yourself as a parent at a loss in helping your children navigate through the confusing and complex realities of gender identity and same sex attraction in our culture and in their own lives? Join Anna Carter as she clarifies for us both the meaning of terms that the LGBT+ community uses as well as the beautiful teaching on sexuality and our identity that the Catholic Church presents to us. After gaining clarity on these issues, we will then be equipped to help our children and the culture at large embrace the truth and beauty of God’s plan for our sexuality and identity.

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ANNA CARTER
Co-Founder & President of Eden Invitation

St Laurence Ave Maria Parish Life Center, Marian Hall, 3103 Sweetwater Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479 stlaurence.org/parentworkshop
**SOCIAL CONCERNS & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- **Tuesday AM Bible Study**
- **That Man is You**
- **Small Christian Comm**
- **Men's Bible Studies**
- **Men Called to Be Saints**
- **Life Teen (High School)**
- **Natural Family Planning**
- **Weekday Children's Prog.**
- **Parish School PTO**
- **Parish Library**
- **Paraemployment**
- **St. John DeMatha**

**FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION**

- **A.C.T.S. Retreat**
- **Adult Faith Formation**
- **EDGE (Middle School)**
- **Elementary CCE**
- **Preschool CCE**
- **Family Faith**
- **Life Teen (High School)**
- **Vacation Bible School**
- **Vocations Committee**
- **Weekday Children's Prog.**

**PRAYER GROUPS & SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**

- **Challenge Club for Girls**
- **Christian Meditation**
- **Contemplative Prayer**
- **Divine Mercy (AM)**
- **Divine Mercy (PM)**
- **Hearts of Jesus & Mary**
- **Lay Apostle Prayer**
- **Legion of Mary**
- **Men Called to Be Saints**
- **Men's Bible Studies**
- **St. Anthony of Padua**
- **Small Christian Comm**
- **That Man is You**
- **Tuesday AM Bible Study**

**MINISTRIES OF PASTORAL SUPPORT**

- **Annuities**
- **Bereavement Ministries:**
  - **Grief Support Group**
  - **Grieving Families**
  - **H.O.P.E.**
- **Cancer Support**
- **Caregivers Support Group**
- **DivorceCare**
- **Embracing Special Needs**
- **Loving Seniors**
- **NAMI**
- **Pastoral Care for Sick**
- **Spiritual Direction**
- **Unbound Prayer Ministry**

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

- **Baptism**
- **Confirmation (Teens)**
- **Confirmation (Adults)**
- **First Holy Communion**
- **First Reconciliation**
- **Marriage Preparation**
- **Marriage Sponsor Couples**
- **RCIA (Becoming Catholic)**

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

- **Adoration**
- **Altar Lilien Care**
- **Altar Servers**
- **Art & Environment**
- **Extraordinary Ministers**
- **Greeters**
- **Liturical Ministers**
- **Music Ministry**
- **Ushers**

**EVANGELIZATION, STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP**

- **Discipleship Council**
- **Finance Council**
- **Financial Peace University**
- **Pastoral Council**
- **New Evangelization Ministry**

**COMMUNITY & PARISH LIFE**

- **African Catholic Comm**
- **Bazaar**
- **Boy Scout Troop 828**
- **Cub Scout Pack 1828**
- **Catholic Daughters**
- **Council of Catholic Women**
- **Filipino Community**
- **Hispanic Ministry**
- **Indian Subcontinent**
- **Knights of Columbus**
- **Ladies Guild**
- **Moms & Tots**
- **St. Laurence Singles**
- **Seniors (JOY Club)**
- **Vietnamese Community**
- **Women of the Cloth**
- **Young Adults Group**

Find More Information About All Our Parish Groups & Ministries at stlaurence.org.
Thousands sought Jesus during his life.
Only a few followed him to Calvary.

What will you do?

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ’s life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God’s immeasurable and unconditional love for you—and grow closer to Jesus.

Dates – Times – Location
Tuesday Mornings beginning February 4, 9-11:45 a.m.
Marian Hall, Ave Maria Parish Life Center

Cost – Registration
$24.95
Register and get more info at stlaurence.org/biblestudies

For More Information
Contact Kay Quenan with questions at kquenan@icloud.com

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