

THE GIFTS OF



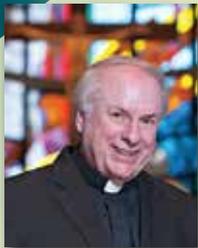
ST. LAURENCE

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TX • ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Easter:

The Resurrection of Jesus

God's Supreme & Wholly Marvelous Work



Dear Parish Family,

I am writing this Easter letter to you early in Lent, as we all await the most longed-for feast of the year. St. Augustine wrote that the resurrection of Jesus was God's supreme and wholly marvelous work. We Christians are an Easter people full of hope in our promised destiny. This theological virtue of hope does

not mean wishful thinking. It is a conviction that God is faithful to his promises and in the end, all will be well. God makes all things work out for the good of those who love him.

The Scriptures and liturgies of the Easter Season are so full of delight, joy, resplendence, energy and alleluias. Do you feel it? We never give up; we never despair, no matter how rough the waters. We are always waiting to see how God will raise us up to new life.

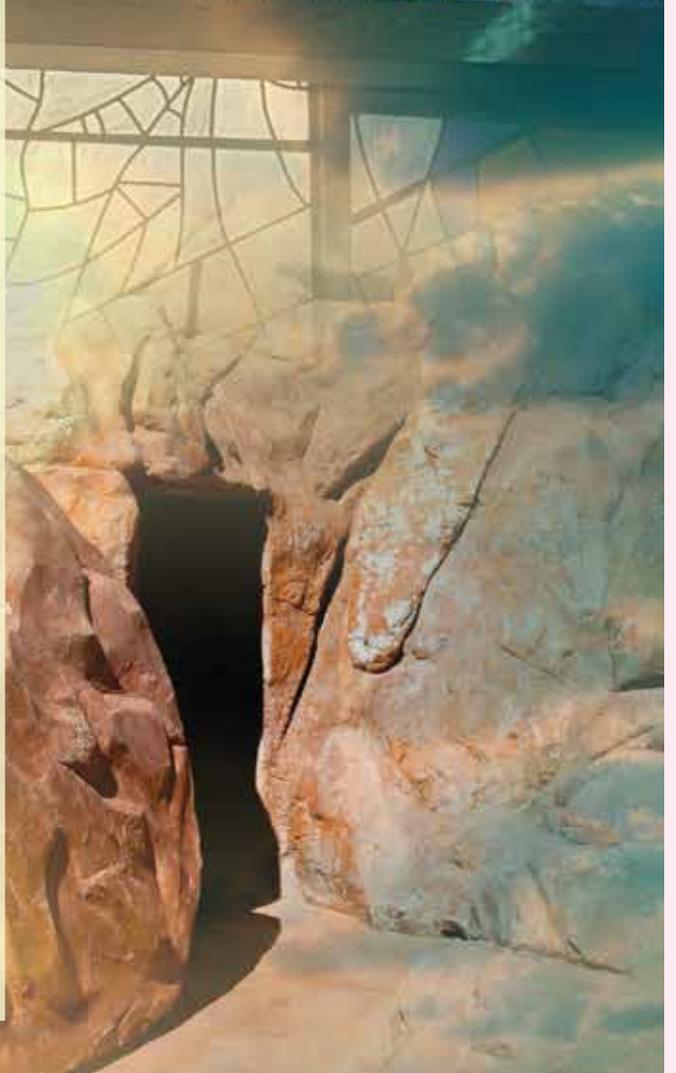
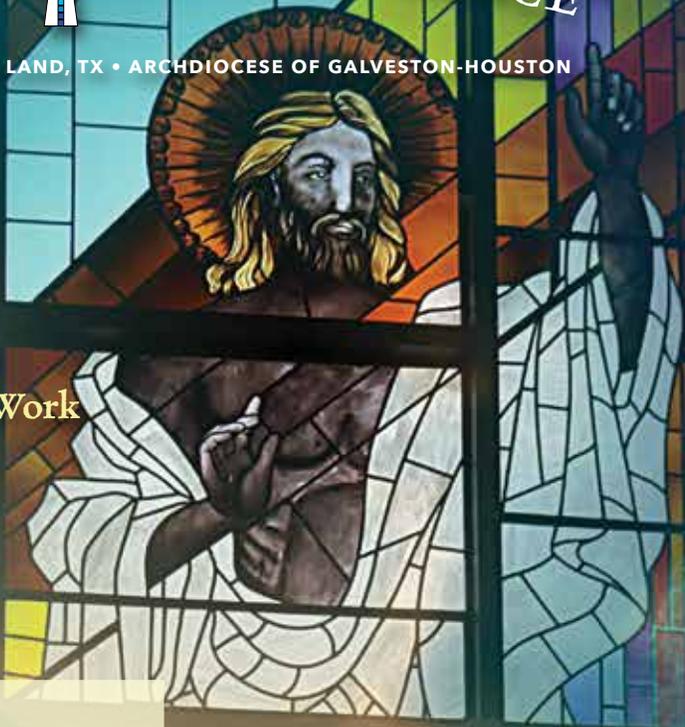
Thank you, St. Laurence, for manifesting such Easter faith in the way you sing and fully participate in our Sunday Masses. Visitors notice your joy and hospitality. And thank you, dear Jesus, for being the resurrection and the life. We do believe in you, and that has made all the difference.

Sincerely in our Risen Lord,

Fr. Drew Wood

P.S. Please reflect for a while and enumerate the large and small Easters you have personally experienced this past year.

They often are a surprise and happen when all seems lost. I have certainly had mine. And don't forget to give thanks. The final and most glorious Easter, of course, does not happen in this world.



St. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION



 TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™

ONE CONFERENCE. TWO LOCATIONS.

MAY 5, 2018 | SUGAR LAND
8:30AM - 3:30PM | THE WOODLANDS



Couple and Individual registration options | Early Bird available until March 30
On-Site Childcare Available

TOGETHERINHOLINESS.ORG

Turn Back
My Soul
to Your
Rest

ARISE

NIGHT of WORSHIP

6:30-8:30 PM in the CHURCH

Let your heart and mind rise to encounter God at our Arise Night of Worship. Each night will include beautiful praise and worship music, Eucharistic Adoration, as well as an inspiring teaching by popular Catholic speakers.



*Praise and worship led
by Danielle Noonan*



MONDAY, APR 9
Fr. Christopher Plant



MONDAY, MAY 14
Sr. Mary Elizabeth Albers, SOLT

STLAURENCE.ORG/ARISE

DISCOVER Easter Joy

*Do you feel as if something is missing in your life?
Are you searching for greater meaning?
Do you feel disconnected from God?*

Know this: God is seeking YOU.

Be still and you will hear Him. There's no better time than the present to return and we are here to help. Look into **Re-membering Church**, a process of healing and reconciliation for inactive Catholics, held at St. Laurence on Monday evenings for seven weeks, 7:00-9:00pm, starting April 9, right after Easter. Contact Tom Ruck at tomruckstl@gmail.com or 281-242-4750 to learn more, or visit stlaurence.org/remembering.



This Easter Season, we welcome 27 people as new Catholics. Following is a brief reflection from one of the candidates, Win Vahlkamp. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall, leading to Baptism and/or Confirmation in the Spring. For details, contact Justin Frato at jfrato@stlaurence.org or 281-265-5774, or go to stlaurence.org/rcia.

Thoughts along the Way

RCIA initiated a journey of unlearning what I thought I knew. Now I am on the path of learning a deeper, richer perspective of Christian life. I have enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends and hear different perspectives on conforming ourselves to the image of Christ. The conversations have been lively and interesting! I am amazed at how deep the questions are and how the Church is not afraid to tackle hard topics. RCIA has connected me and my family to this large river of thought, teaching, and life through the centuries of the Church, which is beautiful and profound. It has helped us get integrated into the life of St. Laurence by making new friends, introducing us to the priests and deacons and ministers of the Church, and connecting to the ministries of the parish. RCIA has rekindled our pursuit of Jesus and brought His warmth back into our home.

—Win Vahlkamp

You seek Jesus of Nazareth,
the crucified. He has been raised!
(Mark 16:6)

THANKS FOR CHATTING WITH US!



During the months of January and February, the parish offered "Church Chats" following Mass. These were informal discussion sessions to hear directly from parishioners what they expect from their parish and what they think the parish should expect from its members. The sessions were enlightening and informative and we're grateful to everyone who stopped by to chat. Find all the information that was shared at stlaurence.org/church-chats. Over the next few months, parish leadership will review the input, identify action items and publish for the whole parish community. Got something to share? We're always happy to hear from parishioners at engagedchurch@stlaurence.org.





**ST. LAURENCE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

3100 Sweetwater Boulevard
Sugar Land, Texas 77479

281.980.9812

www.stlaurence.org

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Holy Week

2018 schedule

PALM SUNDAY: March 25

Saturday at 5:00pm (with Procession of Palms)

Sunday at 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 5:00pm

Palm Sunday begins the Passion of our Lord. Palms are blessed and distributed at all Masses. At the 1:00pm Sunday Mass, 11 RCIA candidates will be confirmed.

HOLY THURSDAY: March 29

7:00pm

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is rich in symbolism and ritual, including washing of the feet, stripping the Altar, and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

GOOD FRIDAY: March 30

Divine Mercy Devotion & Stations of the Cross

12:00pm

Solemn Good Friday Liturgy (wear red)

3:00pm and 7:00pm

Fr. Drew asks that everyone wear red this day. The Altar is stripped bare and the Tabernacle is empty. Everyone comes forward to the Cross in adoration, recalling our Savior's great act of love, death on the Cross for our sins.

EASTER VIGIL: March 31

8:30pm

We begin outside on the plaza with the blessing of a great Easter fire, then light our candles and enter the darkened church to hear readings from the Story of Creation through the Resurrection. We renew our own baptism, as 16 new members are baptized and confirmed.

EASTER SUNDAY: April 1

In the Church: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm

At the Ave Maria Center: 9:15am and 11:15am

Jesus is Risen! Easter Sunday is the beginning of the 50 days of Easter. Every Sunday year-round is a commemoration of this holy day. Alleluia!

St. Laurence Catholic Church

Rev. Drew Wood, Pastor

Rev. Jaison Thomas, M.S.F.S., Parochial Vicar

Rev. Truong Son Cao Nguyen, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Rey Arellano, Deacon Albert Bothe

Deacon Don Burns, Deacon Dennis Henderson,

Deacon Charles Plant

Visit our parish website at stlaurence.org

The Gifts of St. Laurence is a quarterly publication designed, written and published by St. Laurence parishioners. Direct comments to Sharon Ehrenkranz, Director of Parish Life, 281.980.9812 or sehrenkranz@stlaurence.org