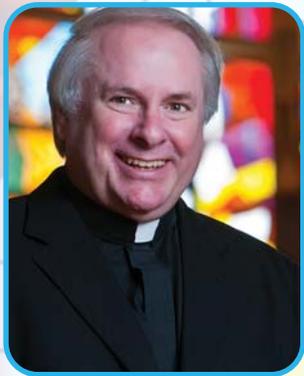


# THE GIFTS OF ST. LAURENCE

## ANOTHER EASTER IN OUR LIVES

*My dear parish family,*

**H**appy Easter! Easter is the glorious heart and soul of everything we cherish as a Christian people. The Church proclaims Easter with unrestrained joy and gratitude. For 50 days of the Easter Season we sing out that Jesus is Lord, he is risen from the dead. And we never cease rejoicing in this sublime mystery of our faith. Without Easter, there would be no Christianity, no Church, no New Testament, no Eucharist, no Sacraments, no sure promise of salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ. We would not know and love Jesus as Savior; we wouldn't know about the Holy Trinity or the freedom of the Holy Spirit. I could go on. Thank you, Lord, for the glorious reality of Christ's resurrection and our ability to share in his new life through faith and love.



To help us believe in the Big Easter, God mercifully bestows many little Easters on his faithful people throughout their lives. He certainly has blessed me with many Easter experiences in my life. When Easter happens to us, it is God's work because like Jesus at Calvary, we are at our lowest point. All we can do is give in and surrender because we have no strength of our own. Then when God lifts us up to new life, it is a stupendous surprise. We can now become authentic evangelizers because we can humbly share that when all was lost, this is what God did in my life. Reflect on the Easter experiences of your life and give thanks this Easter Season.

By the time you read this newsletter, we should have a new Pope to shepherd the Church. May God bless him! Another Easter in our lives! God has revealed everything in the Resurrection of his Son.

Your brother in Christ,

*Fr. Drew Wood, Pastor*

*St. Laurence Catholic Church [Another Easter In Our Lives!](#)*

## THIS IS THE DAY: Palm Sunday

As the beggar neared the usually quiet street he was puzzled by the multitude of people assembled there. The associated deafening roar of the crowd was almost painful. With each step closer to the spontaneously gathered m $\acute{e}$ lange, he took note of its composition: rich and poor, merchant and buyer, nomad and towns person, old and young. There were animals everywhere, and the heat of the day only fueled the stench growing stronger by the minute. People on rooftops, people in treetops, people everywhere in between. Flags and banners being waved by many, accompanied by fiery shouts to no one in particular: **why was everyone here?**

He proceeded, worried for his own safety. Further ahead, the crowd seemed to converge on the middle of the street, and a procession of some of the crowd appeared to be making its way toward him. He began to turn away, searching for a place of refuge. Suddenly, one of the mob slapped a palm tree frond in his hand, asking him, "Why are you leaving? Isn't it exciting?! He is here! He's finally here!!!"

The beggar again surveyed the crowd, but noticed for the first time that the shouts were joyful, and the people were all smiling at each other. Palm tree fronds, a symbol of peace and victory, were being laid by the hundreds on the local road ahead of a bearded man and his friends. He suddenly realized that he had nothing to fear today. He said to himself, "At last, THIS IS THE DAY!"

**Turn the page to find out why he was so excited...**

# THIS IS THE DAY: Holy Thursday



**Holy Thursday**  
**March 28**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**7:00pm**  
*In The Church*

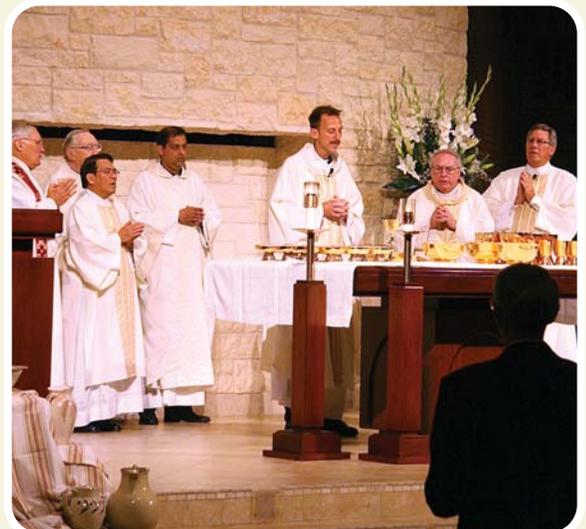
“If I have **washed your feet**,  
you must do as I have **done for you**.”

Holy Thursday captures my heart as it brings forth so many of the earthy elements of our Catholic Faith. Imagine that the Sacred Oils, made from olive oil, are mixed by the Cardinal, just nights before and distributed to each church. The table is set with the finest of linen, ready for us to receive the most exquisite of meals, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the meal, we process through the garden, lit with torches singing Pange Lingua. The feeling is one of mystery as we step into the Garden with Jesus, to be with him just one more moment...

-Laura Laine

To me, Holy Thursday is the Real Presence of Thanksgiving (Eucharist). THIS IS THE DAY Jesus gives us his Body and Blood before WE crucify him.

-IV Gonzalez



**YEAR OF FAITH**<sup>2012</sup>  
**FAITH-TOID**<sup>2013</sup>

Knowing that the hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father, in the course of a meal he **washed their feet** and gave them the commandment of love. In order to leave them a pledge of this love, in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he **instituted the Eucharist** as the memorial of his death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return; thereby he constituted them priests of the New Testament.

**CCC 1337**

# THIS IS THE DAY: Good Friday

“Behold, Behold, **the wood of the cross,**  
on which is hung our salvation... **O come, let us adore.**”



On Good Friday, the sun seems to be dimmer, the wind seems to be calmer, the weather seems to be oppressive... I feel that everything on that holy day is silent in reverence and awe. How great a sacrifice, how great a pain, how great the agony that Jesus Christ endured for us, and I believe that if He would have had to die for only YOU, He would have done it for only YOU. YOU are so precious in God's heart. So great is God's love for YOU! In the pain and sorrow of Good Friday, we reflect on the great mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, crucifixion and death. That is why no work or music, but only prayer, reflection, fasting and abstinence with family should fill that day.

-Marta Alves

On Good Friday 2011, I participated in carrying the cross to the altar with others going thru RCIA. This was such of moment of humility for me and I felt so grateful to be carrying His cross.

-Terry Savely

The letters **INRI** found on the cross on which Jesus died are the Latin letters that refer to the words **(I)esus (N)azarenus (R)ex (L)udaeorum - Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.**

**YEAR OF FAITH**<sup>2012</sup><sub>2013</sub>  
**FAITH-TOID**



**Good Friday**  
**March 29**  
*In The Church*

Stations of the Cross &  
Divine Mercy Devotion  
12:00 noon

**Solemn Good Friday Liturgies**  
**3:00pm and 7:00pm (wear RED)**

# THIS IS THE DAY: Easter Vigil

“With joy you shall **draw water** from the fountain of **God’s mercy**, from the wellspring of **love**.”

The Easter Vigil or Holy Saturday is the holiest day of the year! I never miss it! Beginning with gathering around the New Fire and the Easter Candle is blessed and lit. From there the Deacon carries the Easter Candle into the dark church singing "The Light of Christ has come into the world!" Everyone lights their candles representing their faith and redemption through their baptism into the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the darkness is dispelled!

-Sherry Burns



**Easter Vigil**  
**March 30**

**8:30pm**

*In The Church*

**YEAR OF FAITH**<sup>2012</sup>  
<sup>2013</sup>  
**FAITH-TOID**

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King’s triumph!

This is the night that even now,  
throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart  
from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin,  
leading them to grace and joining them to His holy ones.

*Excerpts from the Exultet always chanted at Easter Vigil*

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

# THIS IS THE DAY: Easter Sunday

“**Jesus Christ** is risen today, **Alleluia.**”

**Risen!**  
**LUIA!**



I love Easter! It is my most favorite holiday, the most holy and meaningful to me. It refreshes and reminds me how God created the whole world down to the tiniest detail of me. He calls me by name, even when I was in my mother's womb. And He provides us this parish and pastor to help us grow in spirituality and love.

-Amy Le

## Easter Sunday March 31

*In the Church*

7:00am 9:00am 11:00am

1:00pm 5:00pm

*“Overflow Masses”  
at the RE Center*

9:15am and 11:15am



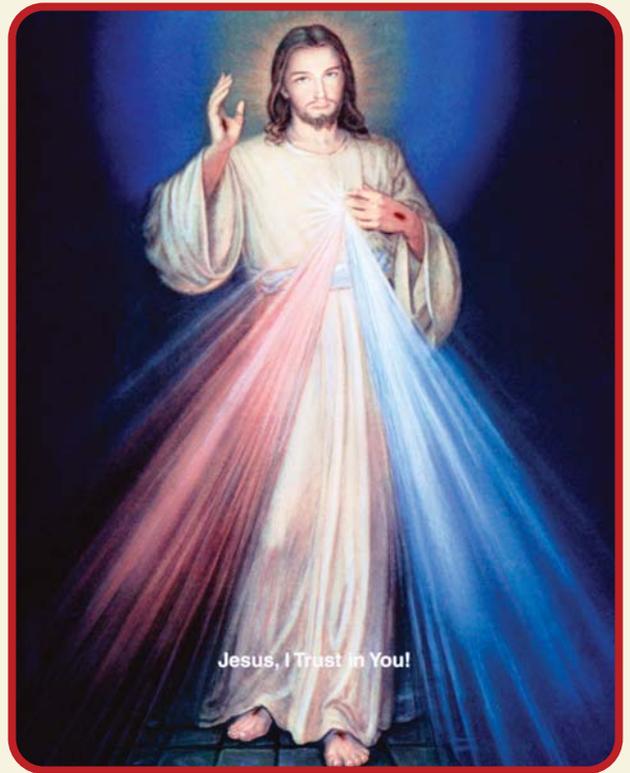
**YEAR OF FAITH**<sup>2012</sup><sub>2013</sub>  
**FAITH-TOID**

The date of Easter was established in 325 AD by the Council of Nicea to be the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. The actual date varies due to the differences between the lunar cycle and our calendar.

# THIS IS THE DAY: Divine Mercy Sunday

“**Lord Jesus,**  
we trust in **You.**”

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY  
It is a Beautiful day of being  
cleansed by a Waterfall of Graces  
As the heavens open up  
I lean my head back and  
open my Hands and Heart to the Lord.  
I place all of my Trust in His unchanging Love  
And incomprehensible Mercy!  
And it is being able to share this experience with  
Some of my dearest friends at St. Laurence that  
My heart is filled with Joy!!!  
-Sally Flowers



What does Divine Mercy Sunday mean to me? A New Start! Our Lord in His unfathomable mercy offers us a new start each year on this feast day! Our Lord is so merciful to us if we simply turn to Him in the gifts He has already given us, the gifts of Holy Communion and Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday. I know I try each day to be worthy of that love and mercy but fall very short many times in thought if not action. But Our Lord knows our weaknesses and gives us this beautiful grace of Divine Mercy Sunday for even the most hardened sinner. -Cathy Hines



## DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

**Novena & Divine Mercy Stations of the Cross**  
Good Friday, March 29, 12:00-1:15pm, Church

**Novena, Speakers & Music**  
Easter Sunday, March 31 – April 6, Evenings, Chapel  
(See complete speaker schedule on the parish web site)

**Divine Mercy Solemn Celebration**  
Sunday, April 7, 2:30-4:00pm, Church

## YEAR OF FAITH<sup>2012</sup> 2013 FAITH-TOID

When he canonized Faustina Kowalska on April 30, 2000, Blessed John Paul II designated the Sunday after Easter as the Sunday of the Divine Mercy. He died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005, and was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2011.

# ST. LAURENCE MUSIC MINISTRY

## MARY THOMPSON ST. LAURENCE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mary has been at the helm of the St. Laurence music ministry for 20 years, during which time it's grown from just a dozen members to hundreds of vocalists and instrumentalists today. Mary began singing at a very young age, sharing a love of music with her many siblings in a devout Catholic household in New York. She sang in her church choir and went on to study Music Education/Voice at the University of Georgia. After marrying Martin and moving their young family to Sugar Land, Mary was hired by Fr. Connelly to form a choir and build a Music Ministry at St. Laurence. Mary says, "I thank God for the privilege and blessing to work with Kevin and to serve St. Laurence under our three pastors. Being the Music Director of a large parish like St. Laurence allows me to work with people of all ages and in many emotional and extraordinary moments of their lives. The Easter season is filled with light and love and gratitude to God who has given us life, and we raise our voices in glorious Alleluia's and Gloria's as we praise Him for his selfless gift. This IS the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be ever glad!"

## KEVIN KLOTZ ST. LAURENCE MUSIC MINISTER

The talented Music Minister you see directing the 9:00am and 12:45pm Choirs and Life Teen Praise Group is Kevin Klotz. He and his family have been parishioners for nearly two decades and he has been on staff for 14 of those years. He received his undergraduate degree in Piano Performance from HBU and a masters degree from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, where he is currently pursuing his doctorate in Choral Conducting. In 2002, he founded the St. Laurence Chamber Singers, an auditioned choral ensemble that performs free concerts featuring sacred classical music of the Church. Kevin says, "The most harmonious sound on earth is when choir and congregation sing together in praise of our Lord and King! I am so blessed to be a part of the Music Ministry at St. Laurence, where it is an honor to serve with a wonderful group of dedicated singers and instrumentalists as we strive to glorify God through our ministry."

**St. Laurence  
Chamber Singers  
Spring Concert**

**Friday, April 19  
8:00pm**

## Sing of the Lord's Goodness

*Music helps to define our liturgies and lead the faithful in "full and active participation" of God's Word through sung prayer. To learn more about our choirs and how to get involved, visit the parish web site at [www.stlaurence.org](http://www.stlaurence.org).*

**SATURDAY 5:00PM MASS** - Mary Thompson, director  
Small group choir accompanied by piano and guitar

**SUNDAY 7:30AM MASS** - Mary Thompson, director  
Cantors accompanied by piano and guitar

**SUNDAY 9:00AM MASS** - Kevin Klotz, director  
Large contemporary choir accompanied by piano and a variety of instrumentalists

**SUNDAY 11:00AM MASS** - Mary Thompson, director  
Large traditional choir accompanied by piano and organ

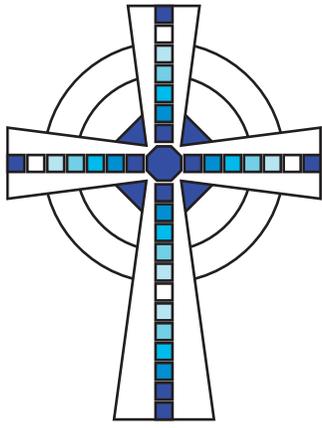
**SUNDAY 12:45PM MASS** - Kevin Klotz, director  
Small contemporary choir accompanied by piano and various instruments

**SUNDAY 5:00PM MASS** - Kevin Klotz, director  
The Life Teen Praise Group accompanied by piano and several instrumentalists

**CHILDREN / YOUTH CHOIR** - Mary Thompson, director  
Children in grades 2 - 8 learn basics of choral singing and sing at one Mass a month

**ST. LAURENCE CHAMBER SINGERS** - Kevin Klotz, director  
Auditioned performance ensemble presents classical masterworks of the Church in concert





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For event details see our web site at [www.stlaurence.org](http://www.stlaurence.org)



## Holy Week Schedule

### PALM SUNDAY – March 24

Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am 9:00am 11:00am  
1:00pm 5:00pm

### HOLY THURSDAY – March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7:00pm

### GOOD FRIDAY – March 29

Divine Mercy Stations of the Cross  
12:00pm

**Good Friday Liturgy (wear RED)**  
3:00pm 7:00pm

### EASTER VIGIL – March 30

8:30pm

### EASTER SUNDAY – March 31

7:00am 9:00am 11:00am 1:00pm 5:00pm  
Overflow Masses at the RE Center  
9:15am and 11:15am

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Daily Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
7:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:15 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30 a.m.

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,  
11:00 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

### Misa en Español

Segundo y cuarto sábado del mes a 7:00 pm en La Capilla de la Misericordia Divina  
**Sacramento de Reconciliación** en Español será ofrecido antes de la misa del 6:00 pm a 6:45 pm  
**Reconciliation**  
Saturday after morning Mass  
Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm  
Wednesday: 5:30 pm to 6:20 pm  
Mon.-Thur. after morning Mass

*Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*  
**His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**

### St. Laurence Catholic Church

**Rev. Drew Wood, Pastor**

Rev. Santy Kurian, M.S.F.S., Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Tom Hawxhurst, Parochial Vicar

*Deacon Rey Arellano, Deacon Albert Bothe  
Deacon Don Burns, Deacon Charles Plant*

*The Gifts of St. Laurence* is a quarterly publication designed, written and published by St. Laurence Parishioners.  
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