



ST. LAURENCE

November 2017

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WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES OF ST. LAURENCE WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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Director's Corner

Becky Wilkinson
bwilkinson@stlaurence.org



Thanksgiving: A Focus on God's Gifts

Dear Parents,

Thanksgiving is a holiday set aside for our nation and for each of us to stop, reflect, and truly appreciate the many blessing in our lives. Our focus this month will be to help children identify the many gifts that God has given them. Different classrooms may focus on food, families, or

other gifts in our world. One of the major implications of our faith in God and our love for God means living in praise and thanksgiving. Everything we are and have comes from God. At home when you talk about thankfulness, include the concept that besides saying we are thankful, we can show our thankfulness by doing what God wants and asks us to do; caring about and helping one another. You can invite your child to think of things to be thankful for and ways to be helpful at home.

A meaningful activity for families during the month of November is to make a thankful chain. Here is how:

- Cut construction paper into strips so each person can have one.
- Each night at dinner each person will write down one thing they are thankful for that day (parents or older siblings can write for younger children)
- Tape, glue or staple the paper strips together to form a paper chain.
- Do this each day
- Then on Thanksgiving Day you can use the chain to decorate to table and remember all the blessings God has bestowed on your family during this month.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His love is everlasting.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Becky Wilkinson

Quality Early Childhood Education for All Children

OUR MISSION:

St. Laurence Weekday Children's Program is an early childhood ministry of St. Laurence Parish. We believe that children are the heart of the Kingdom of God. Together with family and community we are called to support children's spiritual and human growth and development.



3103 Sweetwater Blvd
Sugar Land, Texas
77479

Phone: 281-313-0329

What's Happening at WCP this Month?



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

This Friday Night, November 3rd

Join us for a family fun night at MajestKids! Stop by to play and eat anytime between 4 - 7 pm. Admission is \$16 plus tax per child and includes a child size pizza and drink. Adult admission is included in price.

- ◆ Be sure to mention WCP as this is a Fundraiser!
- ◆ Children and Adults must wear socks
- ◆ MajestKids Playland located at 14301 Southwest Freeway, Ste. 620, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Pray the Rosary with us!

Thursday November 9, 2017 in the Oratory of the Rosary immediately after 9AM drop off. We will have a parent led rosary and we encourage all to come! Bring your babies, children, and any others as we come before the Blessed Mother with our prayer intentions.



Prayer Intentions

If you have any prayer request, please leave them in the box located on the table at the WCP entrance. If you would like to join in praying for these request, please contact Lauren Drapp at LaurenDrapp@gmail.com

MOM'S MARKET

November 7 and 8

Display your products/talents and/or come do a little early holiday shopping!

Come receive grace and healing through The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Join us with Fr. Truong Son for an explanation and walk-thru of the Sacrament followed by the opportunity for reconciliation.

Friday, November 10, 2017

9:30 AM in the Church



What's Happening at WCP this Month?

NAEYC Accreditation Update

We are proceeding to step 4 in the Accreditation Process, the on site visit conducted by the Regional Assessor for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

I have now been contacted by our Regional Assessor and our onsite visit window has been set. The 15 day window begins Monday, November 6 and goes through Friday, November 24. Sometime during that window, we will have our visit. I will be contacted on the business day before the visit. The visit will last 2 days.

At the end of the visit, the onsite assessment documents will be sent to Washington D.C and will then be reviewed by the Accreditation Commission. We will receive our results in approximately 3 months.

As we continue to work to achieving this goal, I am asking for you help. At this point in the process what we need the most in your continued support and prayers.



SCHOOL PICTURE PICK-UP

NOVEMBER 13 AND 14

8:30 - 9:30 am

(Kids in Focus Rep. available)

Ave Maria Center Lobby

Payment: Cash, Check, or Credit

NOVENA TO ST. LAURENCE

O glorious St. Laurence, blessed deacon of the church, filled with compassion for those who invoke you, with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection... *(mention here successful and smooth accreditation)*. Vouchsafe to recommend it to our Lord who gave you the grace to withstand great torture before being burned to death in His name. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one-day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary and all the angels and saints praise Him through all eternity. O most powerful Saint Laurence, do not let me lose my soul, but obtain for me the grace of winning my way to heaven, forever and ever. Amen.

Pray I Our Father, I Hail Mary, and I Glory Be...

COFFEE CHAT!

with your
Parent Advisory Board

8-9:30am

AMC Coffee Lounge

Nov. 13

(Shannon Caldwell)

or

Nov. 14

(Chrissy Campbell)

What's Happening at WCP this Month?

November Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Proud Parent Opportunity

Look for signup genius to help feed the SLWCP teachers on November 17th. Italian style lunch will be served.

Uno non puo pensare bene, amare bene, dormire bene, se non ha mangiato bene! (One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one hasn't eaten well)

Tillie the Tooth Coming to WCP November 17th



NO SCHOOL November 20 - 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

Save the date!

Tuesday, February 13th - Annual Mardi Gras Madness event

Tickets on sale soon!

We need furniture! We need furniture!

The Children's Art Project is looking for child sized wooden furniture to begin creating our classroom pieces for MGM. If you have any furniture you would like to donate, please contact the Art Project Chairman, Maria Bonilla at mariabonilla86@live.com or 281-917-7671

As we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year, Mardi Gras Madness (MGM) we will be collecting items for our silent auction. Do you have a service, retail item, or gift certificate you would like to donate? Help promote your business by donating and your company will be highlighted in our MGM brochure. Questions? Contact:

Stephen Montoya

Silent Auction Chair

smontoya@montlargo.com

Around the Parish

We are extremely lucky to be a ministry of St. Laurence Catholic Church—such a wonderful parish! Here are just a few things going on around the parish this month:

SHARE GOD'S BOUNTY

The [Share God's Bounty](#) tag line is back on the plaza this weekend. Be a part of this large annual drive that provides complete Thanksgiving dinners to over 800 families in need. Please pick up a tag, shop for the items on the list, then drop off the goodies early Saturday morning, November 18.

The Weekdays Children's Program has been asked to help provide the pantry items for Share God's Bounty, which is our parish wide Thanksgiving food drive! Please help by providing the items listed on the notice that was sent home with your Children. WCP items due by Friday, November 17th. Thank You!

THANKSGIVING TURKEY SALE

This Sunday on the plaza, the [Knights of Columbus](#) will be selling their delicious smoked turkeys for your own Thanksgiving table. Order a ready-to-eat, fully seasoned and smoked, 12-14 pound turkey for just \$45 now, and plan to pick it up on Wednesday, November 22. All proceeds benefit the many charities supported by the KC's.

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Ladies, do not miss popular Catholic author and radio host [Sonja Corbitt](#) who will be at St. Laurence to lead a Women's Prayer Breakfast on Monday, November 13, from 9:00-11:30am. The topic is [Healing the Father Wound](#), designed to help you reach beyond human frailties to grow closer to God. Breakfast will be provided by La Madeleine and the cost to attend is just \$10. Get more info and register by clicking above link.

TOO MUCH CANDY!!!

We hope your trick-or-treaters had a Happy Halloween! If you have any leftover Halloween candy, consider donating it to [Social Concerns!](#) Please bag it up, mark it SCM, and bring to the parish office or place in the big SCM rolling bin in the narthex when you come to Mass on Sunday.

BUNKO NIGHT

Next Thursday, November 9, is the annual Potluck & Bunko meeting of the [Catholic Daughters](#). Join them for fun starting at 6:00pm in the parish hall. Ladies, all are welcome, whether you are a member or not. This is a perfect opportunity to get to know this great group! Bring a covered dish to share and \$5. For more info, contact [Lucia Dziadul](#) at 713-416-4926.

LOVE TO GOLF

Sign up to play in the [22nd annual St. Laurence Golf Tournament](#) to raise money for our parish school's financial aid program. The tournament will be a scramble format with a shotgun start at 9:00am, on Monday, November 13, at Sweetwater Country Club. [Sign up your foursome](#) and join the fun! Contact [Suzanne Byrne](#) for more info or to sponsor.

WREATHS FOR VETERAN'S

Help [St. Laurence Cub Scout Pack 1828](#) raise \$1,500 to support [Wreaths Across America](#). The goal of this organization is to ensure that every veteran has a wreath placed on his/her grave. Please go [HERE](#) to see the boys' progress and to donate.



November Community Events

2017 Sugar Plum Market

Friday and Saturday November 3 & 4—Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center

The Sugar Plum Market is an annual fun-filled holiday shopping extravaganza hosted by the Fort Bend Junior Service League. With more than 100 fabulous vendors, Sugar Plum Market patrons are able to experience a variety of merchandise including apparel, jewelry and accessories, home interiors, children's items, food, and holiday gifts & décor. Through generous patrons and sponsors, the Sugar Plum Market was able to donate needed funds to 22 different Charities last year!

iFest Live!

Saturday, November 4, 10 am - 2 pm at Sugar Land Town Center

Calling all world travelers! Get ready for exciting cultural performances and activities at iFest Live 2017. The international events celebrates the diversity of cultures within the community and features dozens of local organizations that will showcase their unique and vibrant heritages from all around the world through performances, art, food, activities.

Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market

November 9 - 12 2017 - NRG Center

Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market has become the signature holiday fundraising shopping event in Texas that kicks off all the holiday shopping frenzy! It is a one-stop giant pop-up shop featuring over 280 merchants, offering unique items for everyone, including home décor, food, clothing, toys, toiletries, novelties, ornaments, pottery, pewter, accessories and more...just in time for your holiday shopping! It is the best way to shop and give back during the holidays, as proceeds from each admission and special event ticket that is purchased, plus 10% of all the merchandise bought, goes back to Houston Ballet Foundation.

Jingle Tree Lighting

Friday, November 10, 2017 10 am - Houston Museum Natural Science Sugar Land

Jingle Tree features a showcase of beautifully decorated trees that are up for bid in a six-day long, online silent auction. The trees are sponsored and decorated by Fort Bend designers, museum supporters, local celebrities and artistic visionaries! Join media and special guests to see the trees up close as they "come to light" in our first tree lighting ceremony. For more information and reservations, please email sugarlandprograms@hmns.org.

Santa's Wonderland

November 10 - January 7 - College Station

A very magical experience for adults and children! A Texas Christmas Experience! Lights, Hayrides, Carriage Rides, Santa, Food, Winery, Shopping, Texas Sized Snow Globe, Nightly Texas Snow, Trains and much more! Plan your trip today.

Psychic of Light Show

Wednesday and Thursday, November 15 & 16 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm - Sugar Land Town Square

Head to the Plaza to see this one of a kind robotic light show, all the way from Taiwan! The core element of this project is the 26 foot animations react to live electronic music. It is a new art brought to life by artist Hsin-chien Huang, winner of the 2017 Best Virtual Reality Experience at the Venice Film Festival, and the curator Charles Liu is one of our very own Sugar Land Residents!



November Community Events

ZOO Lights

November 18, 2017 - January 15, 2018 - Houston Zoo

The Houston Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland! TXU Energy presents Zoo Lights celebrates its fifth year as one of Houston's most well-loved holiday traditions. Stroll through the beautiful Houston Zoo and take in the sights and sounds of the season. Enjoy festive carols, sip hot chocolate, and take in more than 2 million lights! Fifteen miles of eco-friendly lighting illuminate our ancient oak trees and decorate the paths to light your way. Don't miss Holly Berry, a 1958 Cadillac with a lightshow set to music! Other featured displays include the Holiday Train presented by BB&T, the Enchanted Forest, and Candy, the interactive talking zebra. There's plenty of new things in store this year, like the addition of a huge 33' tall Christmas tree adorned with colorful decorations that will be perfect backdrop for your holiday selfie.

Ice at Discovery Green - FROSTIVAL

November 18 - Discovery Green

All ages are invited to skate at Discovery Green. There is a small toddler rink for the littlest ones to practice. Join us for our annual park-wide celebration to kick-off the winter season! Frostival is a one-night extravaganza that marks the opening of the ICE, our 7,716 sq. ft. skating rink, all our wonderful winter programs and events, and the debut of new public art installation that help make the season in Houston so special. Long-time friends of the park and ice masters extraordinaire [Reverend Butter](#) and [DLG Ice Factory](#) will be carving fantastic frozen sculptures. The mini-blizzards that surround these artists when chainsaws hit ice make it seem like it's snowing in Texas!

Thanksgiving Day Parade

Sunday, November 23, 2017 9:00 AM - Downtown Houston

The Parade is located in downtown Houston and is free for all. The Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade began in 1949, when Santa arrived at Union Station and rode his sleigh to the downtown Foley's. Since then, the Thanksgiving Day parade has gone through a few changes but today, it remains a 68 year-old holiday tradition showcasing the Houston community and entertaining parade-goers lining the streets on Thanksgiving morning. Parade starts at Smith and Lamar and ends at Smith and Dallas.

Shop Small Saturday

Saturday November 25th from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm - Sugar Land Town Square

SLTS is taking part in American Express's Small Business Saturday. Visit and support local shops and restaurants in our community! Adding to the fun, holiday characters including Santa & Mrs. Claus, Frosty, The Nutcracker Toy Soldier and Carolers will be throughout the square from 10 am to 5 pm. Register to win a \$500 Town Square shopping spree!

Photos with Santa

Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10, and 17 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm - Sugar Land Town Center

Enjoy a free holiday photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Photos will take place in the lobby of 16190 City Walk, Sugar Land. Since it is the season of giving, we will be collecting new and unwrapped toys for the Fort Bend Rainbow Room's Christmas Project. All donations will go to children & adults referred by caseworkers from TX Dept of Family & Protective services. Also, drop your letter to Santa in his mailbox and get a return letter in the mail for a donation of \$5.

Cookies with Santa

Saturday, December 2, 10 am to 1 pm - Houston Museum Natural Science Sugar Land

Our family friendly Jingle Tree event, this is your chance to catch Santa and Mrs. Claus during their holiday visit to the museum. Enjoy holiday crafts and the tradition of cookies and milk. Be sure to bring your camera to snap some candids, too! Reserve your tickets.



November Community Events: Fun Runs & Charity Events

Writers in the Schools “Many Voices | One Houston” Gala

November 9, 6 pm to 9 pm - The Astorian

Writers in the Schools (WITS) presents its ninth annual gala supporting creative literacy for K-12 children in schools, communities, and hospitals. Event proceeds are instrumental in helping WITS reach more underserved children, grow innovative programs, expand the young adult performance poetry movement, and coach teachers. WITS will honor The Leech Family with the Many Voices | One Houston Award. Together, the Leech family passionately promotes creativity, storytelling, and the written word. Held at The Astorian, the gala will feature a literary-themed silent auction, dinner catered by Cuchara, student stories, and poetry performances. Houston's next Youth Poet Laureate will also be announced at the event. For more information <http://witshouston.org/gala/>

March of Dimes FORT BEND Diaper Drive

Saturday, November 18, 10 am to 2 pm - Sugar Land Town Center

Each year in the U.S., 1 in 10 babies are born prematurely. Babies born even just a few weeks too soon can face serious health challenges and are at risk for lifelong disabilities. March of Dimes funds research, education, advocacy and community programs to help give every mom the opportunity to have a healthy pregnancy and every baby the chance to survive and thrive & that's why they're partnering with AccessHealth and the Fort Bend Rainbow Room for Prematurity Awareness Month. During the drive, items collected will be used as incentives for moms to complete prenatal care and education. **NEW items needed: diapers, wipes, bath items, baby lotion, onesies, nail clippers, bibs, towels, receiving blankets, socks and diaper bags.** There will be a drop off lane in the front of the plaza directly across from Starbucks.

TXU Baker Riply Turkey Trot

November 23rd, Thanksgiving Morning - The Plaza on Richmond

When you Trot, you support the community. You have the power to affect real change – for half a MILLION people in the Houston area. At BakerRipley, we connect families and individuals to opportunity so they can achieve the life they've imagined. Through our [unique approach to community engagement](#), we work side-by-side with community leaders and residents to discover their strengths, craft a collective vision and design programs and services that create greater financial stability, educational attainment and community engagement. Go to houstonturkeytrot.org for more information.

AUTISM SPEAKS WALK powered by love

Sunday, December 3rd 8:00 AM - Lynn Eusan Park at The University of Houston

We are so proud to be a part of the autism community here in Houston and to continue to provide support and resources for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. As a reminder, if you need information, support or have questions about available resources, please call or email our Autism Response Team at 888-288-4762 or en *Español* 888-772-9050 . Working with local authorities, the venue and our sponsors, we are pleased to announce the Autism Speaks Walk Houston will be Sunday, **December 3rd**. Please share this information with your family and friends. Let's have a record-breaking year in fundraising to support the programs, services and research of Autism Speaks! Register Today: Act.AutismSpeaks.org/Houston.

St. Laurence Moms & Tots Min- istry



OUR VISION

The St. Laurence Mom & Tots ministry strives to create a welcoming and loving atmosphere for mothers with young children in our Catholic community in support of Christ's love.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to encourage and support the vocation of motherhood, help each other develop a deeper relationship with Christ, and provide a chance for our infants and toddlers to play and pray in a safe environment while making friends with their peers at St. Laurence.

WHO ARE WE?

Mothers with young children (infant to pre-K) interested in meeting, sharing with, and learning from other Catholic moms in the community with similar values.

We are Virtus-trained, to ensure comfort and safety in our environment.

JOIN US!

Email

stlaurence.momsandtots@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook:
St. Laurence Moms & Tots



WHAT DO WE DO?

- ◆ Meet on a weekly basis on Monday mornings to support each other in prayer for our intentions and enable safe play for our children.
- ◆ Share our experiences, offer guidance and love to one another in our efforts to raise healthy, faith-filled children.
- ◆ Provide crafts/activities/books/stories/service projects for young children to have fun and begin to learn more about their Catholic catechism.
- ◆ Take field trips to toddler-friendly locations to explore our community and have fun!
- ◆ Support our growing families with organized meal trains when new babies arrive.
 - ◆ Take time out for just us mommies with fun Mom's Nights Out!



November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Staff Meeting</i>	3	4
5	6	7 <i>Mom's Market</i>	8 <i>Mom's Market</i>	9 <i>Pre School Prayer Time (PPT)</i>	10 <i>PPT</i>	11
12	13 <i>Advisory Board</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>Tillie the Tooth / Share God's Bounty</i>	18 <i>Share God's Bounty</i>
19	20 <i>CLOSED Thanksgiving</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <i>Gymboree / PPT</i>		

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Gymboree / PPT</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Advisory Board</i>	12	13	14 <i>Pre School Prayer Time (PPT)</i>	15 <i>Pageant in Church PPT</i>	16
17	18 <i>Polar Express</i>	19 <i>Polar Express</i>	20 <i>Early Release Carnival</i>	21 <i>Early Release Carnival</i>	22 <i>Christmas Holidays Begin No School</i>	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<i>School Closed for the Holidays</i> →					
31						



Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends.

Dear Father, in your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.

