CATHOLIC CHURCH

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo — Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mk: 1:12-13

DAILY MASSES IN THE CHURCH

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:30am, 12:00pm Wednesday 7:30am, 6:30pm Friday 8:15am, 12:00pm Saturday 8:00am

Reconciliation following 7:30am Masses, Wednesday 5:30-6:20pm & Saturday, 4:00-4:45pm

SUNDAY MASSES IN THE CHURCH

Saturday 5pm, Sunday 7am, Sunday 9am, Sunday 11am, Sunday 1pm, Sunday 5pm

A RECORDING OF the Sunday MASS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE, Saturdays, 7pm at stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE

3100 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-980-9812

Pastor: Fr. Drew Wood

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jaison Thomas, MSFS, jaisonthomas@stlaurence.org Parochial Vicar: Fr. Truong Son Nguyen, tnguyen@stlaurence.org

Deacon: 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
Deacon: Tim Cullen, tcullen@stlaurence.org

Parish Administrator: Tony Oltremari, toltremari@stlaurence.org

Liturgy: Betty Holub, bholub@stlaurence.org Facilities: Sheila Stulak, sstulak@stlaurence.org

Social Concerns: Pennie DeGroot, pdegroot@stlaurence.org

Parish Life/Communications: Sharon Ehrenkranz, sehrenkranz@stlaurence.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES

3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-265-5774

Director Religious Education: Christine Dunn, cdunn@stlaurence.org
Religious Education Registrar: Ruba Kaiser, rkaiser@stlaurence.org
RCIA/Adult Faith Formation: Justin Frato, jfrato@stlaurence.org
Children's Faith Formation: Joan Hastreiter, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org
High School Youth Ministry: Mike Cleary, mcleary@stlaurence.org
Middle School Youth Ministry: Cindy Martin, cindymartin@stlaurence.org

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-980-0500

Principal: Suzanne Barto, sbarto@stlaurence.org Registrar: Suzanne Byrne, sbyrne@stlaurence.org

WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 3103 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479 281-313-0329

Director: Ban Haller, jhaller@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, rladd497@comcast.net 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.

PARISH OFFICE & COURTYARD

The parish office provides services including pastoral care, liturgical planning, business, communications, & administrative support, and social concerns & social justice support. The parish hall and meeting rooms are available through reservation by calling Nia Sepe at 281-980-9812.

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

AVE MARIA PARISH LIFE CENTER

The Ave Maria Parish Life Center is located across the street from the church and is the site for all religious education classes, programs and offices. Inquiries and drop-ins are welcome during office hours: Monday through Thursday 8am-9pm; Friday 8am-4pm; Saturdays 8:30am-Noon (scheduled events only). The Weekday Children's Program is offered for infants through pre-school aged children. During the school year, WCP hours Monday-Friday are 8:00am-3:00pm.

PARISH SCHOOL & CHAPEL

St. Laurence Catholic School provides strong academics in a Christian environment to 720 students enrolled in PreK4 through Grade 8. Office Hours: Monday-Friday are 8:00am-4:00pm.

Adjacent to the school is the Chapel of the Divine Mercy which offers Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and serves as the site for smaller liturgies.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS Announcements must be submitted via email at least 12 days before the Sunday of the publication.

Ron Martinez, Communications Coordinator rmartinez@stlaurence.org

GOOD NEWS REFLECTION

Pray: Strength I ask You today, Lord, to face all those temptations that are too difficult for me to resist. Only You can defeat them in me, I only say 'yes' to Your will. Amen.

WRESTLING WITH TEMPTATION

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation.

His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he left behind his old life and began a new life of ministry.

The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (onehundred percent, he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the Son, who was also fully human, now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil.

The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new purpose for our faith with a calling to do the Father's will in a wonderful new work of God's kingdom, we run smack into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we know that our faith is strong enough for our daily needs? How would we find out that we've spiritually matured? How would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God?

Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that new growth isn't worth the aftermath. If we're going to be tested, and if we fear that we might lose our battle against evil, wouldn't it be better not to grow, not to partner with Christ in serving God's kingdom, not to aim for spiritual highs?

Well, that's another temptation!

Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith.

Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless.

And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us.

Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to purify your life, become more like Jesus, and grow powerful in the faith.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

First Sunday of Lent First Reading Second Reading Gospel

Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

MONDAY

First Reading Gospel

1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19

TUESDAY

First Reading Gospel

Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY

First Reading Gospel

Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY

First Reading Gospel

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY

First Reading Gospel

Fz 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY

First Reading Gospel

Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY

Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Gospel

Second Reading Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

Questions for Personal Reflection:

How well do you recognize temptation? How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks? What temptation are you saying yes to right now? Are you willing to give it up as your Lenten sacrifice?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Describe a time when you experienced a spiritual high and then faced a strong temptation. How did you handle it? What role did (or will) Jesus play in overcoming this temptation?

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PRAYING THE NEWS | FEBRUARY 21, 2021

"Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth..."

PSALM 25:10

O Lord, may our prayers this Lent lead us to clearer understanding and greater love for those in the news. Help us fast from tunnel vision, misinformation and quick condemnation. May we offer sincere prayers for those we find difficult to agree with and, in doing so, give you an opening to touch our own minds and hearts. O Lord, grant that our Lenten journey will bring us closer to you and to your kingdom on earth. Jesus, we trust in you. Amen. 💠



FAMILY LIFE

It is incumbent upon husbands and wives, mothers and dads, and single parents to spend time in prayer, discernment, and dialogue about the kind of family they will be. Family and home does not automatically happen.

Fr. Drew Wood

FAITH & FAMILY FOCUS

The love of friendship unifies all aspects of marital life and helps family members grow constantly.

Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia #133)

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WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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Crib – 5 Years OldGet on waitlist now

stlaurence.org/weekday-childrensprogram

SCOUTING FOR GIRLS

Scouts BSA Troop 818
For girls in grades 5–12
stlaurence.org/troop-818
Contact Katy Weimer
scoutsbsa.stlaurence@gmail.com

FEB 21: LIFE TEEN ON ANXIETY & FAITH

Teens will begin a 3-week series on February 21, to address anxiety and depression through conversations about discipleship and faithful living. Together with their Life Teen small group, high school students will reflect on New Testament stories, watch Jesus enter into anxious situations with his disciples, and see how faith can transform our anxious world. Life Teen is for students in grades 9-12, meeting Sunday nights, immediately following the 5pm Life Teen Mass until 8:15pm. stlaurence.org/lifeteen

APR 5: SUMMER CAMP DEADLINE (EXTENDED)

Registration for the annual Life Teen Summer Camp at Camp Covecrest in Tiger, GA, is now open. All current high school teens, as well as current 8th graders, are invited for an unforgettable weekend, **July 26-31**, for community in nature, high ropes, games, sports and prayer. Last day to submit a deposit and reserve your spot is **Monday April 5, 2021**. For more information and to register your teen, please visit stlaurence.org/lifeteen

FAMILY LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT



Looking for a meaningful (and fun!) service project that the family can do at home this Lent? Sign up to provide five "Spring Break Survival Kits" for children served by Bethel Ministry in Stafford. These Lunches of Love include 5 of each of these individual serving, non-perishable foods: microwavable meals, fruit cups, juice boxes, cookies, protein bars... PLUS 5

paper lunch bags that your family decorates! Place all of this into a large plastic grocery sack and deliver to the Social Concerns office before March 8. Get details and signup at stlaurence.org/lunches-of-love-bags

LENT 2021 AT ST. LAURENCE

Be Restored this Lent

stlaurence.org/lenten-season

Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

— 2 Cor 6:2

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:30pm | Liturgy of the Hours 7:00pm | Stations of the Cross

Meet in the church each Friday during Lent to meditate upon the Passion, the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. All ages are welcome.

NEW! Find a recording of the Stations of the Cross at **stlaurence.org/stations-cross**

KC FISH FRYS

Drive-up Fish Frys (No seated dining this year) Fish Dinner (\$10) or Spaghetti Dinner (\$5)

Place order before 7pm Thursday at

stlaurence.org/fish-fry

Curbside pickup on Friday between 5pm-7pm Driveup orders accepted (credit card, check or exact change) SPECIAL! Family Fried Fish Dinner for 4 (\$35 - online order only)

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Monday, March 1 6:30-8:30pm in the church

10 priests available to hear confessions

THE GIVING TREE



Feb 21 & Feb 28 stlaurence.org/the-giving-tree

Our Social Concerns Ministry sponsors the Giving Tree, an annual drive for donations of common household items to assist refugee families and others who come to

us in need. Access tags online or after Mass to donate such items as paper towels, laundry detergent, new bedsheets and blankets.

LENTEN FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

Due March 8

stlaurence.org/lunches-of-love-bags

Try this fun service project, perfect for families! In total, Social Concerns hopes to provide 400 "Lunches of Love" – hand-decorated lunch bags filled with healthy food for the children served by Bethel Ministry in Stafford. Sign up to decorate 5 paper lunch bags and purchase 5 (microwavable meals, fruit cups, juice boxes, cookies, protein bars) and deliver to Social Concerns by March 8.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Feb 18 thru Mar 25

Mondays & Thursdays 8:30am-2:30pm

Sign up for one hour and put prayer into action! Pray for life outside abortion facilities as a powerful witness for the sanctity of life.

stlaurence.org/respect-life

PRAY THE ROSARY

Before noon Mass throughout Lent 2nd Sundays 12:15pm in AMC Rosary Garden Recordings of Fr. Drew praying the Rosary at stlaurence.org/pray-the-rosary

INTRO TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Feb 18 thru Mar 25

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom

Learn about the origins of Christian Meditation and discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world. Come to one or all sessions.

stlaurence.org/christian-meditation



PARISH LIFE

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION – WEEKLY OFFERTORY

FEB 7 COLLECTIONS 5th Sunday - Ordinary.	\$36,338
Registered Households	7,442
Envelopes Used	194
Loose Checks	74
ONLINE GIVING	
Monthly Offertory December 2020	\$283,413
Participants	1,482
DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND	
2021 Parish Goal	\$475,000
Parish Paid (Activity thru 2/8/2021)	\$11,533
Participants	34

GIVE UP ENVELOPES FOR LENT

Want to give up something meaningful this Lent? Consider giving up your offertory envelopes and making the switch to eGiving through Faith Direct. Over 1,400 people in our parish have switched to Faith Direct, which blesses our parish with consistent income and numerous operational efficiencies. Thank you for going to **faith.direct/TX460** to support St. Laurence with eGiving!



DONATE THRU FAITH DIRECT

Simple & convenient online giving faith.direct/TX460
Thank you for supporting St. Laurence!

Ask Paula



Q. Will there be Friday morning Rosary during Lent?

A

Not in the morning, but Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, at 11:30am in the church there will be. Just before the noon Mass. If you can't make these times you can go the second Sunday of the month, right after the 11:00am Sunday Mass, to the Rosary Garden over at the Ave Maria Center. That's where the Knights and Respect Life ministry members pray the Rosary. Don't worry, if it rains they move under the carport, *just sayin*. If these don't work for you, you can always go on the St. Laurence website and watch a recorded Rosary led by Fr. Drew.

Paula Savo has been our Parish Receptionist for 23 years and knows the practical answers to (practically) everything. Call 281-980-9812 or email her at psavo@stlaurence.org.



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.

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.

RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Today 14 catechumens and 20 candidates will celebrate an important milestone in their journey toward reception and full initiation into the Catholic Church. The Rite of Election for the catechumens will be celebrated at the 1pm Mass by Fr. Drew. Those already baptized will celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion at the same liturgy. Please pray for these men, women, youth and children during this period of Purification and Enlightenment. Thank you for your prayers and support!

MAR 11: ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The sealing of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. Once each year, Adult Confirmation preparation is offered for Catholics who are at least 18 years of age, graduated from high school, already baptized, received first Eucharist, are actively practicing their faith, and if married, marriage must be sacramental in the Catholic Church. The sessions will be offered via Zoom from 7-9pm, on 9 Thursday evenings beginning March 11. Get details at stlaurence/adultconfirmation and please allow enough time for a discernment interview prior to the first session.

MAR 27: YOUNG ADULT DAY 2021

Young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to the Archdiocesan Young Adult Day, "Faithful Presence," on Saturday, March 27. In the morning, attend a Lenten Reflection with Adoration and Confession at Holy Rosary Parish in Midtown. In the afternoon, participants will gather in small groups to hear two online speaker presentations, then attend Vigil Mass at their home parish. Early bird registration is \$25 until March 9, after that registration is \$35. Get more info and register at archgh.org/YADay

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & LITURGY OF THE HOURS



stlaurence.org/stations-cross

For 400 years, the Stations of the Cross has been a way for the faithful to spiritually retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Our deacons will lead us in prayer thru the 14 stations posted on the walls of our church, however, due to COVID, the faithful should remain seated, safe-distanced in the pews. All are welcome to participate in praying the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm, each Friday in Lent. Please

arrive at 6:30pm, to join in praying the beautiful Liturgy of the Hours. A recording of our Stations of the Cross will be available online for those at home.

FEB 21/28: THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree, our Lenten Service Project, kicks off kicks off this weekend. The Giving Tree restocks the shelves of the Social Concerns workroom with much-needed household items. These items include everything from soap to pots and pans to gift cards and are used throughout the year to assist families referred to us through Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement as well as parish and community families in need. Pick a tag from the line after Mass on Feb 21/Feb 28, or online: stlaurence.org/the-giving-tree



SANITIZERS NEEDED

We are so grateful to all who step
up to serve as sanitizers
after each Mass!
Easy way to serve the parish
Ages 16-and-up
stlaurence.org/sanitizing-team

IN OUR PRAYERS...

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for these members of our parish family and all our loved ones listed in the Book of the Sick.

Cindy Cummings, Danielle Seliman, Terri Donovan

This column in the Sunday bulletin is a place that parishioners may ask for intercessory prayer in their time of sickness. To add your name, please call the parish office during business hours (281-980-9812). The sick person must be a parishioner of St. Laurence and the request must come directly from the person (or a close family member, such as spouse or parent). Your name will appear on the list for 4 weeks. If struggling with a longer term illness, please call back and your name will be added for another 4 week period.

Not a parishioner?

Ask for the name to be added to the Book of the Sick. Anyone in need of prayers for healing may have their name written in the Book of the Sick.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEB 20

8:00am - Maria Lozano (D) 5:00pm - Evelyn Apdo (D)

SUNDAY, FEB 21

7:00am – Mirucha Romero (D) 9:00am – Aleyamma Abraham (D) 11:00am – Nwaokobia Family (I) 1:00pm – Chow Family (I)

5:00pm – Parishioners of St. Laurence

MONDAY, FEB 22

7:30am - Charlotte Han Sharp (D) 12:00pm - Felix Thomas (D)

TUESDAY, FEB 23

7:30am - Delane Gil (D) 12:00pm - David Titzler (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEB 24

7:30am - Rodolfo L. Gallardo (D) 6:30pm - Gilbert Garza, III (D)

THURSDAY, FEB 25

7:30am – Felix Thomas (D) 12:00pm – Lazaro Yu (D)

FRIDAY, FEB 26

8:15am – Jodi Jablonski (D) 12:00pm – Francesco Ambrosio (D)

SATURDAY, FEB 27

8:00am – John & Gertrude Knoebel (D) 5:00pm – Russell Bantigue (D)

SUNDAY, FEB 28

7:00am - Antonio Diaz (D) 9:00am - Avanzado Family (I) 11:00am - Benedict Okonji (D) 1:00pm - Emeka Umeh (D) 5:00pm - Parishioners of St. Laurence

SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CW3 Brett Aderhold, US Army, AV

SPC Nicholas Ambrocik, US Army PVT Michael Baird, US Army SA Matthew Baird, US Navv P.O. 5 Debra Barnette, US Navy CPL Trevor Bello, USMC Lt Aaron Blades, US Navy PFC John Blair, US Army LCpl Gordon Briggs, USMC SPC Jordan Briggs, US Army Mai. Michael Carroll, USMC LTC. Jason Chacon, USMC Lt Matthew Chesney, US Navy Maj. Christopher Coffman, US Air Force Maj. Patrick Coffman, USMC CPT Andrew DeSplinter, US Army SGT Nicholas Dockum, US Army Maj. Brandon Driscoll, USMC Maj. James Dunphy, USMC CPT Michael Eberhardt, US Army CPT Stacey Eberhardt, US Army Reserve Derek Farias, US Navy Destini Gaytan, USMC SPEC Nathan J. Hoelker, US Army CPT Matthew Fenelon, USMC CPT Michelle Thibeau, US Army CPT Will Thibeau, US Army LCpl Aaron Fox, USMC PVT Jahneil 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 CPT Anthony Marich, US Army Amn Joseph Marcellus, USAF TSGT David March, Texas Air National Guard CPT. Brendan McPartland, USMC Major Alexander Morningstar, US Army SPC Michael Nester, US Army 1LT Anthony Patrick, Marines CB, Richard Pinard, US Navy LCpl Byron Ray Ramirez, USMC SGT Santiago Ramirez, US Army CPT Taylor Rammrath, US Army Sgt. Barbara L. Rangel, USMC LCPL Ty Ripoll, USMC LT Kevin Stransky, US Navy CTM3 Nicholas Stuhlman, US Navy Maj. Michael Thesing, USMC 1LT Kevin Wheeler, US Navy SGT Bryce Whitley, US Navy PO3 Troy Yelverton, US Navy

2LT Copeland Zaunbrecher, US Army

2LT Kazia Zaunbrecher, US Army

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next Wedding Info Session is March 8, 2021. Please email Betty Holub, bholub@stlaurence.org for registration information. The standard preparation time for weddings is 9-12 months in advance of the desired date. All engaged couples must attend an information session.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, baptism formation classes held at the Ave Maria Center have been temporarily suspended and replaced with an Online model. We are continuing to use the Belonging program with Father Michael Schmitz from Ascension Press. 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

WEDDING

Vy-Trinh Nguyen & LeMinh Nguyen Emma Martinez & Stephan Espinoza

Pray for our parishioners in Religious Formation

Deacon Chad Henry, Christopher Meyer, Brother Collin Mary Brown, Frater Giovanni (Billy Dodd), Adrian Annicchiarico, Sister M. Philomena (Krystle Cagandahan), Sr. Maria Christi of the Holy Spirit (Leah Burrhus), Sr. Margaret Uche, Patrick Kinnick, Brandon Bain, Beau Guedry, Cameron Cashiola

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

The Divine Mercy Chapel is open to the parish and community for adoration. Jesus awaits you everyday from 5am to 9pm. The chapel is open to only scheduled adorers during the night. Please follow the rules posted on the sign.

Currently we need a second adorer for 8 hours. Please check online: stlaurence.org/adoration. Contact Fran Magelssen at adoration@ stlaurence.org or 281-224-6122 to sign up.



Over 10,000 people are signed up to get St. Laurence Parish Flocknotes. It's the best way to stay up-to-theminute on parish news. Sign up at

stlaurence.org/parish-communications



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