

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT




Mary Queen
CATHOLIC CHURCH
December 22, 2024

**The Priests who serve Mary Queen Catholic Church
are Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.**



Pastor

Rev. Thomas Vellappallil,
M.S.



Parochial Vicar

Rev. Trey Crespo,
M.S.

Priest in Residence

Rev. James H. Kuczynski, M.S.

Deacons

Vince Eklund, 281-482-1391
Darrell Moulton, 281-482-1391
Paul Robison, 281-482-1391
Derick Soares, 281-482-1391
Chuck Turner, 281-482-1391

Pastoral Administration

John Laine
Business Manager, ext. 309
Anita Shorosky
Archivist, ext. 315
Ray Valadez
Bookkeeper, ext. 313
Yolanda Linky
Bookkeeper, ext. 313
Rose Mary Baez
Coordinator of Ministries & Functions, ext. 219
Albert Cipolla
Communications Coordinator, ext. 334
Loretta Delaney
Receptionist, ext. 310

Pastoral Formation

Eby Kurian, M.A.
*Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA &
Confirmation Coordinator*, ext. 319
Carol Stuart
Director for Elementary Faith Formation, ext. 333
Trey Brock
Youth Director, ext. 317
Sarah Kennepohl
Jr. High Faith Formation Coordinator, ext. 100
Andrea Richards
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant, ext. 329

Liturgy & Music

Jose Arredondo
Director of Liturgy & Music, ext. 227

Food Pantry/Social Concerns

Chris Austgen
Coordinator of Food Pantry/Social Concerns Ministry, ext. 328

Facilities Management

Chuck Turner
Facilities Manager, ext. 316
Chris Meaux
Maintenance, ext. 316
Charles Ganter
Maintenance Coordinator, ext. 316

606 Cedarwood Drive
Friendswood, TX 77546-4551
281-482-1391 281-482-4886 (fax)

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
**Missionaries of
Our Lady of La Salette**

www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org
www.lasalette.org

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM*, 11:30 AM and 4:30 PM (*Livestreamed)

First Saturdays

8:30 AM

Daily Mass

8:30 AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
6:30 PM Wednesday

Daily Rosary

After 8:30 AM Mass Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday (except First Friday)

First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

4:30 PM Tuesday - 5:45 PM Wednesday

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 4:30 - 5:30 PM in the church
Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 PM in the church

Welcome to Mary Queen!

If you are new to Mary Queen parish or visiting, please stop by with any questions regarding our parish. We would love to meet you! If you have been attending Mary Queen Church and consider this your parish community, please register with the Parish Office so we can keep an accurate census. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact our parish office or visit our website: www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org.

Mission Statement

Our Mary Queen community, inspired by faith and love, will live, worship, teach, welcome and support one another in the imitation of Christ.

2025 Mass Intentions

We are no longer accepting Mass Intention requests through our website. Call the parish office for information on Mass Intention requests for 2025.

If you have any questions about Mass Intentions, please contact Anita Shorosky at 281-482-1391 or anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22nd

- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Scout Troop 452 - Religious Awards/Pope Pius XIII/
Ad Altare Dei (Mary's House)
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Mary Queen Youth Band Rehearsal (Church)
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Movie Night - "The Star" - EFF (Youth Center)

Monday, December 23rd

- 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM Special Friends Program (Main Hall)
6:15 PM - 8:15 PM Men's ACTS Small Group (Room 110/Library)
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group (Room 125)

Tuesday, December 24th

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Eve Observance

- 4:30 PM Exposition for 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
(Chapel)

Wednesday, December 25th

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Eve Observance

- 5:45 PM - 6:00 PM Benediction Concludes Eucharistic Adoration
(Chapel)

Thursday, December 26th

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Eve Observance

Friday, December 27th

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Eve Observance

Saturday, December 28th

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers (Mary's House)
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Wedding - McHenry (Church)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Reconciliation (Church)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21st

- 5:30 PM All Our Mary Queen Ministries

Sunday, December 22nd

- 7:30 AM †Fr. Moe Linehan, M.S., †Luke S. Dimicelli,
†Dan King
9:30 AM †Jean Lamanna, †Frank & †Alma Berger,
†Nestor Cruz
11:30 AM †Manuel Tavares, †Daniel & †Yadira Zermeno,
Nicholas & Abigail Purdon
4:30 PM †Tony Diotalevi, †Gloria Cruz, Living &
Deceased Loved Ones of the Carlin Family

Monday, December 23rd

- 8:30 AM †Hilman Reviere, †Elizabeth Hurd, †Wendy
Hrcir

Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:00 PM †Larry Kinane, †Ronald Hopple, Kevin Vascik –
Birthday Blessings
7:00 PM †Charles & †Philomena St. George, Jerett Bell –
Birthday Blessings, Christmas Blessings to Our
Mary Queen Families

Wednesday, December 25th

- 12:00 AM †Casimer & †Goldie Witucki, †Gene Hess,
†Nick & †Maria Lozano
8:30 AM †Mary Jo Dimicelli, Miles Libby, Landon Tinney
10:30 AM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners

Thursday, December 26th

- 8:30 AM †Catherine Walbe, †Paul Ta, Living & Deceased
Loved Ones of Judy Hodges

Friday, December 27th

- 8:30 AM †Frank & †Carlotta Garza, †Oscar & †Cecilia
Rivas, †Hao Leba

Saturday, December 28th

- 5:30 PM †Roger Stanfield, †Roy Gautreaux, Sr. & †Roy
Gautreaux, Jr., Melanie Bell – Birthday Blessings

Sunday, December 29th

- 7:30 AM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners
9:30 AM †Lynn Snider Lane, †William Stone,
Phanxicosavie Tan Pham
11:30 AM +Concepcion Siruno, †Hector Tobon, Linda
Garcia
4:30 PM †Carmela Romano, †Umberto Romano, †Maria
Concetta Trama



TIME·TALENT·TREASURE

Offertory: November 30, 2024 - December 6, 2024

This includes offertory at Mass, mail-in and online giving.

Weekly Offertory Received: \$53,112.77

Weekly Budgeted Amount: \$55,630.00

Difference: (\$2,517.23)

MP-Debt Reduction: \$1,220.00

Future Development & Maintenance: \$6,506.00

Total Food Pantry Donations with online: \$3,366.57

**Loan Balance as of December 11, 2024 was
\$751,011.71**

*Thank you to all who have donated to the
Master Plan Debt Reduction.*

Upcoming Special/2nd Collections

December 24 & 25 - Christmas

December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family

January 1, 2025 - Solemnity of Mary

Diocesan Services Fund

2024 DSF Summary as of December 11, 2024

Parish Goal: \$195,000.00

Total Amount Paid: \$205,997.00

Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 386

Total Number of Gifts Received: 1,028

Total Number of Mary Queen Households: 2,545

To make your gift or for more information, please visit
www.archgh.org/dsf.

IGNITE Campaign

2022 IGNITE Summary as of December 11, 2024

Parish Goal: \$1,886,649.00

Total Amount Paid: \$611,176.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$590,383.32

Total Number of Gifts Received: 2,453

Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 276

Total Number of Mary Queen Households: 2,545

To make your gift or for more information, please visit
www.archgh.org/about/ignite-capital-campaign.

**Make the switch from envelopes to
online giving!**

**Scan the QR code to make a one-time
gift or set up recurring gifts today!**



Current Mary Queen Parishioners Update Your Family Information

Parish Soft gives current parishioners the opportunity to log in and update family information.

1. Go to the following link
<https://galveston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com>
2. A **New User Registration Form** will come up. Fill out the form and hit submit.
3. Your request will be sent to Mary Queen to obtain confirmation.
4. Once you receive confirmation, you may set a permanent password and make changes to your family information.

This system allows you to add family members but it does not allow you to delete them. If you need assistance in adding and/or deleting information or would like to provide your updated information via telephone or e-mail, please contact Anita Shorosky at 281-482-1391 or anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org.

FORMED

To sign up for FORMED, visit www.formed.org/signup

- Select your parish – Mary Queen 606 Cedarwood Dr., Friendswood, TX
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

They have also created a series of videos to guide you through logging in, signing up, and using the platform at <https://watch.formed.org/formed-help-1/season:1>.

FLOCKNOTE



Flocknote is the email communications platform Mary Queen uses to keep our parishioners informed about what's going on in the parish. The weekly eNews is sent out using

Flocknote, and many of our ministries and other parish groups also use it to keep their members up to date with meeting news and other information.

If you are not receiving email communications from Mary Queen, sign up for Flocknote at <https://maryqueenchurch.flocknote.com/>.

ARCHIVES & ROOM RESERVATIONS

To request a copy of your parish records or to update your personal information, contact Anita Shorosky at anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org.

For room reservations and/or to schedule calendar events, contact Rose Mary at baezrm@maryqueenchurch.org.

LOOKING FOR PARISH INFORMATION? START HERE!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Sacraments

Find registration information for all of our Sacraments for all ages.



Elementary Faith Formation (EFF)

Find class calendars and all other information relating to EFF.



Jr. High Faith Formation (ARK)

High School Faith Formation (CAST)



Adult Faith Formation (AFF)

Find all of the programs and Bible studies we offer for all ages ranging from 18 onwards.



RCIA for Adults

Interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic church? Scan the QR code to fill out our RCIA Inquirer & Candidate Information Form.



Sunday Bulletin

Want to read our bulletins online? Find current and past issues on our website.



Become a registered parishioner!

We welcome all to Mary Queen! If you worship with us weekly, register as a parishioner to receive parish updates and more.



Ministries

Want to get involved in our parish? Check out our list of active ministries! There is a place for you here!



Social Concerns Ministries

We are called to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy for our neighbors in need. If you feel called to help, join one of these ministries!

Need additional information?

Call our parish office at 281-482-1391 or visit our website at www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org.

My Dear Parishioners,

While preaching at a midnight Christmas Mass several years ago, I asked the hundreds of people gathered, what have we come to celebrate tonight? Have we come to commemorate the birth of Jesus who is born to us tonight? If so, please do not forget to take Jesus with you as you go home. Would you give Him a ride? Keep Christ, not only this Christmas, but as a companion and a friend everyday of your lives. Now more than ever, living in times so troubled, facing a future so uncertain, we need such faith that He is always with us. We need more joy and peace this Christmas amid all our material concerns and our frantic worries about what will happen tomorrow. We must accept the reality that Christmas is a spiritual event and Christmas decorations and gifts are less important than the spiritual gifts of love, patience and understanding. Christmas must be something inside us. We gaze once again at the crib. Jesus is surrounded precisely by the poor shepherds. They were the simplest people, and closest to the Lord. They found him because they lived in the fields, “keeping watch over their flocks by night.” They were there to work because they were poor. They had no timetables in life; everything depended on the flock. They could not live where and how they wanted but based on the needs of the sheep they tended. That is where Jesus is born: close to them, close to the forgotten ones of the peripheries. He comes where human dignity is put to the test. He comes to ennoble the excluded and he first reveals himself to them: not to educated and important people, but to poor working people. Jesus wants to come into our lives, in our experience of feeling weak, frail, inadequate perhaps even messed up and broken.

Pope Francis says, “let us return to Bethlehem, let us return to the origins: to the essentials of faith, to our first love, to adoration and charity. Let us look at the Magi who make their pilgrim way, and as a synodal Church, a journeying Church, let us go to Bethlehem, where God is in man and man in God. There the Lord takes first place and is worshipped; there the poor have the place nearest him; there the shepherds and Magi are joined in a fraternity beyond all labels and classifications. Let us rouse ourselves, a light has been lit, a kindly light, reminding us that, in our littleness, we are beloved sons and daughters, children of the light. Brothers and sisters, let us rejoice together, for no one will ever extinguish this light, the light of Jesus, who shines brightly in our world.”

I send my warmest greetings to you and your families, peace and goodwill and Jesus always in your heart.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2025!

Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, MS

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas & Holy Day Mass Schedule

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 21, 2024

5:30 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday, December 22, 2024

7:30 AM

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

4:30 PM

The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

4:00 PM (Children's Vigil Mass)

7:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

12:00 AM (Midnight)

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 28, 2024

5:30 PM (Vigil Mass)

Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:30 AM

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

4:30 PM

Solemnity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

4:30 PM (Vigil Mass)

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

8:30 AM

10:30 AM



Eucharistic Adoration

Due to the Christmas and New Years Holidays Eucharist Adoration will not be held on December 24 & 25 or December 31 & January 1

Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

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Pastoral Offices Closed
The Mary Queen Pastoral Offices will be closed for Christmas and the New Year on the following days.

*December 24, 25, 26, 27 & 31
January 1*

Elementary Faith Formation

Join us for a family Christmas Movie Night in the Youth Center after the 4:30 PM Mass on December 22nd.



We will be watching the movie, The Star. Tacos and treats will be served.



The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

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PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— Father John Muir

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DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 22

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/
Mt 10:17-22

Friday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



Eby Kurian, Director of Adult Faith Formation & OCIA
 281-710-8876
ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org



“On December 8th, Second Sunday of Advent during the 4:30 pm Holy Mass Mary Queen community joyfully and prayerfully welcomed again through the Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance 2 Children and 8 Youth Catechumens into the Order of Catechumens and during the Rite of Welcome 1 Youth & 2 Adult Candidates to be received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

Please pray for them and all the other Catechumens and Candidates in the OCIA process.

More pictures can be found in Mary Queen’s social media handle.”



That Man is You! (TMIY)

Our Fall 2024 Semester of ‘That Man is You!’ (TMIY) program at Mary Queen will continue to meet until **Wednesday, December 18th.**



Journey through Advent with Fr. John Burns

Calling all Young Adults whether you are navigating life post-high school, attending college or trade school, or establishing yourself as an early career professional to join us for a new series during this Season of Advent – ‘Adore’

You have a choice this Advent: Get caught up in the annual rush of shopping, decorating, and parties or slow down and take a few minutes each day to remember who this season is about - JESUS.

In Adore, popular author and speaker Fr. John Burns and illustrator Valerie Delgado of Pax. Valerie will help you reclaim the sacred sense of longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent, focusing on a new theme each week - vigilance, preparation, nearness, and Emmanuel - that you can relate to your own life.

Promo: <https://youtu.be/dp3c2MpODEI?si=nJr3cx-u1blGsRFv>

Wednesday evenings on December 11 & 18 after 6:30 PM Holy Mass in Mary’s House (behind Mary Queen parking lot)

All young adults of ages 18 & above are invited to attend our faith sharing small group session from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

Please contact Eby Kurian to get more information and/or to sign-up for this new series



We hope Mary Queen parishioners have been enjoying the Advent Issue of **The Word Among Us** offered by the Adult Faith Formation Department. This booklet includes information on the following and more:

Daily Scripture readings and prayers from the Liturgy.

Free Mass Supplement.

Daily meditations based on the Mass.

Practical featured articles on Advent and the saints.



Trey Brock, Youth Director
281- 482-1391 Ext. 317
tbrock@maryqueenchurch.org

Sarah Kennepohl, Jr. High Coordinator
281- 482-1391 Ext. 100
skennepohl@maryqueenchurch.org



Carol Stuart, Director for Elementary Faith Formation
281- 482-1391 Ext. 333
cstuart@maryqueenchurch.org

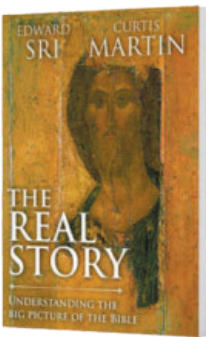
EFF Spreading some Christmas Cheer

Saint Nick comes to Mary Queen and delivers some cheer to our Elementary Faith Formation students! St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Children and his feast day is December 6th.



YOUTH FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING SCHEDULE

High school and OCIA	Jr. high (has received First Communion)
<p>Christmas Break</p> <p>Jan 5 Jan 12 Jan 19</p>	<p>Christmas Break</p> <p>Jan 12 Jan 26</p>



High School and OCIA

High schoolers and OCIA students meet every week from 3:00 - 4:20 PM.

Youth Bible Study, *The Real Story*, meets on Wednesdays (5:30 - 6:30 PM).

Trivia Night Fundraiser - January 25 (6:30 - 9:30 PM)

Junior High Faith Formation



Jr High will be offering Open Hours on Monday 12/30 and Thursday 1/2 from Noon to 3. Come hang out, play games, and socialize with your MQ friends over Christmas break!

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

TUESDAY CLASS DATES

Christmas Break until January 7th

WEDNESDAY CLASS DATES

Christmas Break until January 8th

***PLEASE DIRECT YOUR CHILDREN TO THE MINI HALL FOR THE START OF CLASS.**

AROUND THE PARISH

Trivia Night FUNDRAISER

Supporting Mary Queen Youth Ministry



ENJOY A VARIETY OF TRIVIA QUESTIONS!

**JANUARY
25TH**

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**MARY QUEEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**TO BECOME A
SPONSOR,**

contact Joanna Krancher
713.591.1162
joannakrancher@gmail.com

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

Must be 21+ to attend

DINNER . TEAM COMPETITIONS . PRIZES . PHOTO BOOTH & MUCH MORE!




The Mary Queen Creation Care Ministry is recycling old Christmas lights during the months of November through January. If you have old lights that no longer work please consider recycling them instead of throwing them out in the trash.

Please look for the collection bin in the Parish Hall near the Food Pantry box.

Fr. Thomas on Vacation

My Dear Parishioners,

Please know that I will be on vacation to visit my family and friends in India. I will leave on Christmas day after all the Masses and return on the 21st of January. While Fr. Trey takes care of the parish in my absence, Fr. Joseph Manapuram, who is retired and a resident priest at St. Hellen in Pearland will help with some Masses. Please welcome Fr. Joseph and keep me in your prayers. I will keep you all close to my heart even when I am away. Thank you.



Visitation of Relics of

Blessed
Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus and central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America

January 6, 2025
Mary Queen Catholic Church, Friendswood

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm Veneration - St. Joseph Chapel
6:00 pm - Mass - Mary Queen Church
7:00 pm - St. Joseph Chapel
Ceremony of Charity, Unity & Fraternity for new & potential members of the Knights of Columbus
8:00 pm - Refreshments in Mini-Hall

For more information contact:
John Laine jlaine711@yahoo.com or 713-254-6736
Tony Scarpa scarpaap@yahoo.com or 832-457-5150

Respect Life Holy Hour

Sunday, January 12, 2025
2:00 PM
St. Joseph's Chapel

The Respect Life Ministry invites all to join to pray for all human life from the moment of conception until the last moment at death.





Mary Queen Seniors (60+) Bingo

January meeting dates:
 January 14 & 28
 9:30 AM-12 PM

If you would like additional information, please contact Ed Gasparini at 832-545-1385.



Mary Queen parishioners once again showed their generosity for the Giving Tree event this year. All of the gift tags were taken the first weekend they were placed in the narthex and the gifts have been coming in ever since. These gifts have found their way to the homeless in Galveston, the residents in local area nursing homes, and children in the area having pancakes with Santa. The Social Concerns Ministry would like to say thanks again for helping make this event such a huge success.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Come and Click

Considering a Religious Vocation?



what? It's a one hour online discernment event, hosted by the Missionaries of La Salette

why? discernment Q & A and discussion about God's will in your life

for who? Catholic men between the ages of 18 - 45

when? Join us for one or more...

- Thursday, August 8, 7 pm ET
- Thursday, September 12, 7 pm ET
- Thursday, October 10, 7 pm ET
- Thursday, November 14, 7pm ET

contact: lasalettevocations@gmail.com for more information or for the Zoom link



PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

US Air Force:

SrA Jake Ainsworth, Maj James Barrington, 2d Lt Paul Birmingham, Capt Andrew Bossert, Capt Stephanie Bossert, SrA Caleb Brysch, Capt Stephen Chauvin, AB Nicholas Chavez, Capt Benjamin Clements, SSgt Miles Coleman, A1C Alexis Copeland, A1C Phillip Downey, Lt Col Bashir El-Khoury, Maj James Gregory, SSgt Christopher Hammer, SMSgt Joel Hebert, Maj Ramon Hernandez, A1C Austin W. Laird, Capt Shane Lockridge, A1C Andrew Merrifield, 2d Lt Ethan McDonald, Maj Rachel Miller, SSgt Brandon Ojala, Lt Col Zac Pendleton, 2d Lt Joseph Revell, SrA Patrick Rettke, Capt Chad Roberson, Capt Harrison Spexarth, 2d Lt Jackson Spexarth, SSgt Amanda Solis, SSgt Nicholas Wolford

US Army:

SPC Andrew Burnett, PFC Isaac Gross, SGT Matthew Knight, MAJ Michael Moad, 2LT Julian Monroig, MAJ Brandon Nesrsta, COL Ryan Nesrsta, WO2 Patrick Nagorski, SPC Brandon Patterson, SSG Kyle Perkins, SPC Jesse Roberts, SSgt Emmanuel Thomas, MAJ Brian Y'Barbo, CPT Christopher Zavesky

US Marine Corps:

2ndLt Ryan Cunningham, Capt Joshua Butts, Cpl Joel Garza, 1stLt Jacob Perez, Lt. Col. Norman Renfro

US Navy:

LTJG Rylan Bashinski, MIDN 4/C Julian Brysch, PO1 Randall Carmicheal, CM3 Cullen Kelly, SN Gavin Ngo, MA3 Marcus Reyes, PO1 Anthony Rinehart, PO3 Kyle Shenkir, Jr., SN Rand Smith, CAPT Mike Svatek, LCDR John Zendt

US Coast Guard:

Cadet 3/c Manon Murphy

If you have loved ones in the Armed Services and wish their names be listed in this column and to be remembered in our prayers, please email anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org. Include the rank of the individual, their name and their branch of service.

Thank you and God Bless America!



WARNING! STAY ALERT!

"Can you do me a favor?" "Do you have an open schedule?"

If you have received this message via text or email from Fr. Thomas or another member of the Pastoral staff, disregard it immediately! Fr. Thomas will NEVER email or text you to ask for money, gift cards, etc. Always check the sender's email address- if it does not end in @maryqueenchurch.org, it is a spam message.

Report the message and block the sender. Please do not fall victim to this scam! Stay alert.

Texas Catholic Herald

Find out what's happening around the Archdiocese in the digital edition of the Texas Catholic Herald! Read the latest issue online now at www.archgh.org/digitaleditions or visit www.archgh.org/tch.

WE PRAY FOR...

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Charles (Wally) Chavez
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Barbara Craig

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Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit and patience with pain. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



We offer the **Vigil Candle** as a Memorial Candle each week to interested parishioners who would like to request that it burn **“In Memory of...”** or **“In Honor of...”** a loved one, living or deceased. To reserve the candle, contact the Receptionist in the Parish Office at 281-482-1391. The name of your loved one will be published in the bulletin and near the Sanctuary Candle in the Church.

Prayer List Requests

If you have a family member or friend who needs special prayers by our parish community, please consider placing them on the Mary Queen Prayer List after getting their permission. Provide the name to Loretta Delaney at reception@maryqueenchurch.org. Names will be added to the list for 60 days. Once the initial time is up, we kindly ask that you not renew your request for another 60 days. Due to the overwhelming amount of requests, we will abide by this policy in order to accommodate all new prayer requests.

End Of Year Gifts

It is December and the Christmas holidays are almost here.

Many of you may be prayerfully considering an end-of-the-year gift at this time. If you are one that is thinking about giving here are a few options you may consider.

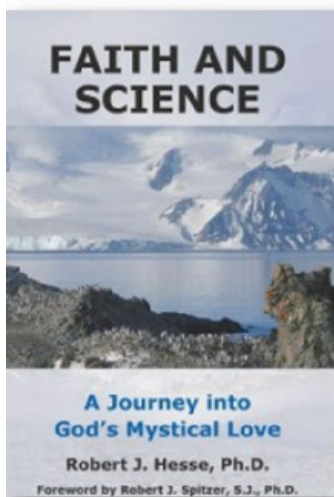
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The Development Department at the Downtown Chancery is available to assist your parish and community with these transactions. For additional information use the link below:

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Robert J. Hesse, Ph.D., an adjunct faculty member at the University of St. Thomas, is a permanent Catholic deacon in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He is co-founder, chairman, president, and CEO of Contemplative Network, dedicated to teaching interdenominational Christian contemplative prayer, scientific research, and interfaith dialogue.



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Communications Requests - Guidelines & Deadlines

Bulletin, eNews, website, or social media

Contact: Albert Cipolla, Communications Coordinator
email: acipolla@maryqueenchurch.org
phone: 281-482-1391 x334

Send bulletin submissions by noon on the deadline dates listed below.
December 29 - Already Submitted
January 5 - December 20
January 12 - January 1



Christmas Gifts

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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Everyday Stewardship

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?



If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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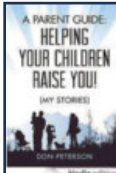
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