



GIVE  
THANKS  
TO THE  
LORD,  
FOR HE  
IS GOOD.

  
*Mary Queen*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*April 16, 2023*

*Second Sunday of Easter  
Sunday of Divine Mercy*

PSALM 118

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



**Pastor**

Rev. James H. Kuczynski,  
M.S.



**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Trey Crespo,  
M.S.

**Priests in Residence**

Rev. Robert Ippolito, 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  
Sofia Medrano  
*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  
Terri Ryan  
*Director for Adolescent Catechesis & Evangelization*, ext. 317  
Tino Quiocho  
*Junior High Coordinator*, ext. 100  
Andrea Richards  
*Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, ext. 329

**Liturgy & Music**

Dylan Ramirez  
*Director of Liturgy & Music*, ext. 227

**Food Pantry/Social Concerns**

Chris Austgen  
*Coordinator of Food Pantry/Social Services 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](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org)  
[www.lasalette.org](http://www.lasalette.org)

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
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

**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](http://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.

**2023 Mass Intentions**

We are accepting Mass Intention requests for 2023. You may submit them electronically on our website or you may come to the office to request them. Every family has a limit of 12 requests for the year and only three requests per weekend Mass time for the year will be accepted. Suggested stipend is \$5. If you have any questions about Mass Intentions, please contact Anita Shorosky.



## April: Month of the Blessed Sacrament

### Sunday, April 16th

Coffee & Donuts (After Morning Masses)

Reverse Draw Ticket Sales - After All Masses

Stroke Scan Pulpit Talks (At All Masses)

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM Hispanic Ministry Breakfast Taco Sale-Main Hall-Kitchen  
 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM EFF - Classrooms  
 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM RCIA - Breaking Open the Word - Mini Hall  
 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Women's Ministry Corporate Communion Mass- Church  
 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM Women's Ministry Corporate Communion Brunch - Main Hall - Kitchen

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Baptisms - Church  
 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday - Holy Hour - Chapel  
 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Ark Junior High - Youth Center - Parish Center  
 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Just Faith Group - Rm 110/Library  
 5:45 PM - 7:15 PM CAST High School - Mini Hall - Youth Center  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM First Holy Communion Make-Up Class - Mary's House

### Monday, April 17th

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House  
 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Special Friends Program - Main Hall - Kitchen  
 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM Men's Small Study Group - AFF - Rm 120  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout - AOL Den Meeting - Rm 114/115  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout - Webelos Meeting - Rm 119  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Bear Den Meeting - Rm 118  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Tiger Den Meeting - Rm 116  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Wolf Den Meeting - Rm 117  
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Holy Spirit ACTS Leadership Team Mtg - Mary's House  
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Just Faith Group - Bride's Room  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM ACTS Core Team Meeting - Rm 110/Library  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop Meeting - Youth Center  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group - Rm 113  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Women's Ministry Meeting - Mini Hall

### Tuesday, April 18th

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mary's Chain of Love - Rm 114/115  
 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM WWP - "Touching The Divine" - AFF - Main Hall - Kitchen  
 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Joyful Lights - Mary's House  
 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms  
 4:30 PM Exposition for 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel  
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM St. Cecilia Ensemble Music Rehearsal - Choir Room  
 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms  
 5:45pm - 7:00pm Lesson 16 "What Does It Mean To Say I Do" - Make-Up- Youth Ministry - Youth Center

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Holy Spirit Women's ACTS Music Team - Mary's House  
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Band Music Rehearsal - Choir Room - Church  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM WWP - "Touching The Divine" - AFF - Main Hall - Kitchen

### Wednesday, April 19th

5:45 AM - 7:00 AM "That Man Is You!" - Main Hall - Kitchen  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Christian Meditation Prayer Group - Mary's House  
 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Queen Bee Quilters - Mini Hall  
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Just Faith Group - Main Hall  
 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms  
 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Walking Through Grief - Mary's House  
 5:45 PM - 6:00 PM Benediction Concludes Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel  
 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms  
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Hispanic Ministry Bilingual Rosary - Chapel  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House  
 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM Mary Queen Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### Thursday, April 20th

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM First Holy Eucharist Retreat & Interviews  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's ACTS Team Meetings - Mary's House  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM First Communion - Main Hall - Classrooms  
 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal - Gracia/Rosales - Church  
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM RCIA - "Evangelization Sessions" - Main Hall

### Friday, April 21st

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Wedding - Gracia-Rosales - Church  
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Just Faith Group - Rm 114/115

### Saturday, April 22nd

Holy Spirit Women's ACTS Retreat Bake Sale (After All Masses)

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Prayer Group - Bob Larson - Rm 110/Library  
 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM La Salette Consultative Body Meetings - Mary's House - Rm 110/Library  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM WWP Leadership Thank You - Main Hall - Kitchen  
 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Creation Care Ministry - Earth Day - Main Hall - Kitchen  
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Reconciliation - Church



### Saturday, April 15th

5:30 PM †Bob Austgen, †Vicenta Laurel, †Bozena Hurkalo

### Sunday, April 16th

7:30 AM †Mary Rita & †Robert Zehentner, Sr.,  
 †Johnny Bruguera, Landon Tinney  
 9:30 AM †Nestor Cruz, †Scordamalgia Family, Living & Deceased  
 Family Members of Ron & Carol Willenborg  
 11:30 AM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners  
 4:30 PM †John Morriss, †Hector Tobon, Hiep Nguyen

### Monday, April 17th

8:30 AM †Dan Foster, †Daniel Jansky, †William Rinehart

### Tuesday, April 18th

8:30 AM †Anna Herrick, †Isabel Pulumbarit, George & Mildred  
 Pesl - 70th Wedding Anniversary Blessings

### Wednesday, April 19th

6:30 PM †Carol Lorange, †Ronald Smith, †Juan Carlos Pujalt

### Thursday, April 20th

8:30 AM Living & Deceased Loved Ones of the Starling Family,  
 Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Nelson & Teresa  
 Olavarria, David Ochoa - Birthday Blessings

### Friday, April 21st

8:30 AM †James Curdie, †Mike Vukelich, †Anthony Avillanoza,  
 Rodney Gregory - Birthday Blessings

### Saturday, April 22nd

5:30 PM †Mark Willenborg, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of  
 Clint & Dottie Carlin, Miles Libby

### Sunday, April 23rd

7:30 AM †Juliana Krajca, †Dominic Luu, †Maria Ta  
 9:30 AM †Edward & †Hazel Soptick, Sara Mathew, Lupe Serenil  
 11:30 AM †Tony Diotalevi, Matt & Ava Hermes Family,  
 Steve & Cindie Willenborg Anniversary Blessings  
 4:30 PM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday): April 16

That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included.

*"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" John 20:19*

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships - with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too - just as God, Our Father, sees us.





# TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

## Offertory: March 25, 2023 - March 31, 2023

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

**Weekly Offertory Received:** \$42,124.96

**Weekly Budgeted Amount:** \$36,416.67

**Difference:** \$5,708.29

**MP-Debt Reduction:** \$1,444.00

**Future Development & Maintenance:** \$403.00

**Total Food Pantry Donations with online:** \$1,762.10

**Loan Balance as of April 6, 2023 was  
\$1,616,412.95.**

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

## Upcoming Special/2nd Collections

**April 30** - Home Missions Collection

**May 7** - Future Development

**May 21** - Catholic Communications

## Diocesan Services Fund

### 2023 DSF Summary as of April 6, 2023

**Parish Goal:** \$185,000.00

**Total Amount Paid:** \$48,502.00

**Total Number of Mary Queen Donors:** 157

**Total Number of Gifts received:** 191

**Total Number of Mary Queen Households:** 2,545

To make your gift or for more information, please visit  
[www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf).

## IGNITE Campaign

### 2022 IGNITE Summary as of April 6, 2023

**Parish Goal:** \$1,886,649.00

**Total Amount Paid:** \$448,190.00

**Total Amount Pledged:** \$590,936.28

**Total Number of Gifts Received:** 1,519

**Total Number of Mary Queen Donors:** 271

**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](http://www.archgh.org/about/ignite-capital-campaign).

**Want to 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](mailto:anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org).

## FORMED

To sign up for FORMED, visit [www.formed.org/signup](http://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 [www.maryqueenchurch.flocknote.com/](http://www.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](mailto:anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org).

For room reservations and/or to schedule calendar events, contact Rose Mary at [baezrm@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:baezrm@maryqueenchurch.org).

## - SACRAMENTS -



### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Contact Anita Shorosky at the Parish Office to inquire about preparation for Baptism.



### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Wednesday 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the church  
Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the church  
or by appointment.



### **Sacrament of First Eucharist**

Youth Sacrament Classes are going on now! For more information or to register your child, contact Carol Stuart in the Parish Office.



### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Youth Confirmation classes are going on now! For more information or to register your child, contact Terri Ryan at the Parish Office.



### **Sacrament of Matrimony**

Engaged couples or couples interested in validating their marriage through the Church should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance for preparation.



### **Sacrament of Holy Orders**

The Religious Order of priests serving Mary Queen are Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. To learn more about their order or our Vocations Ministry, visit our website.



### **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick**

If you know someone who is sick or in the hospital, contact the Parish Office so we can visit and include them in our prayers.



### **RCIA: Christian Initiation of Adults**

For inquiry into the Catholic Faith, contact Eby Kurian at the Parish Office.



## **Eucharistic Adoration**

### **24 Hour Adoration**

4:30 PM on Tuesday to 5:45 PM on Wednesday  
St. Joseph Chapel

### **First Friday Adoration**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
St. Joseph Chapel

Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to spend quiet time with Jesus and in prayer.



## **Respect Life Holy Hour**

### **Respect Life Holy Hour**

Sunday, May 14, 2023

2:00 PM - St. Joseph Chapel

The Respect Life Ministry invites all to attend a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Respect All Life, **Sunday, May 14, at 2:00 PM** in St. Joseph's Chapel. Please come and join us in prayer for all human life from the moment of conception until the last moment at death.



## **Live the Liturgy**

Due to the constant unchecked flow of data and information through the Internet, it can be hard to know when a story is real news or rubbish. It never ceases to amaze me when someone I know has bought into some crazy fake news story. Sometimes the story is just so unbelievable: celebrities who gained two hundred pounds in a month, women having babies who were never pregnant, or people actually being seen who are dead, like Elvis!

The apostle Thomas found the news that Jesus was alive just too far-fetched to believe. But he didn't first hear the news on the Internet or read it standing in the grocery store checkout line. His friends told him. His fellow apostles told him they had actually seen the Lord with their own eyes. Their testimony was not enough. He needed proof.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us not only hope, but also a reason to be his disciples. We have not seen with our own eyes but, like Thomas, we have a community, the Church, that has relayed the truth to us. This same Jesus now calls us to go forth to spread the Gospel. More unbelievable than that, we have, through the gifts we have been given, a chance to change and even save lives. The day may come that you, moved by this news of the risen Lord, will be an agent of his love to the point where someone will tell the tale that you, a follower of Jesus, actually helped to change his or her life. Pretty unbelievable, right?



# Earth Day with Creation Care Ministry!

Join the Creation Care Ministry for a family-friendly activity on Earth Day 2023!

**April 22, 2023**  
9-11 AM - Clean-up and Beautification of the Mary Queen grounds



Scan the QR code to sign up or contact Jen Hammerle for more information at [jenhammerle@gmail.com](mailto:jenhammerle@gmail.com).

Join the Mary Queen Creation Care Ministry for a showing of the documentary, *The Letter*, along with pizza and fellowship on April 22nd from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Main Hall.

For more information, please contact Jen Hammerle at [jenhammerle@gmail.com](mailto:jenhammerle@gmail.com).



MARY QUEEN ACTS MINISTRY

# BAKE SALE

April 22nd & 23rd  
After all Masses

Benefiting the upcoming MQ ACTS Women's Retreat

**Parish Festival & Dance**  
May 6th & 7th

HOW CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT OUR PARISH FESTIVAL?

**VOLUNTEER!**

**DONATE!**  
NEEDS: SOFT DRINKS, BAKED GOODS, PLANTS FOR OUR PLANT BOOTH, LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

VISIT OUR PARISH FESTIVAL PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR FESTIVAL INFORMATION AND TO DONATE!

**PARISH FESTIVAL CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT**

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH  
\$20 PER TEAM  
11 AM CHECK-IN

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY



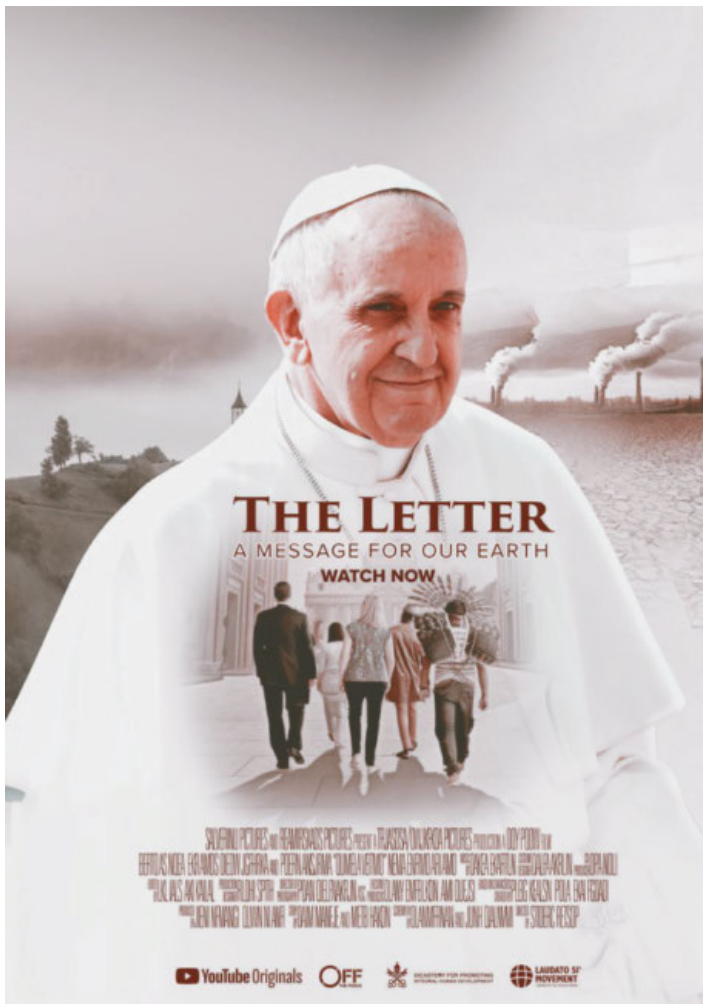
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MARYQUEENCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG/CORNHOLE-TOURNAMENT](http://WWW.MARYQUEENCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG/CORNHOLE-TOURNAMENT)

Donate to our Parish Festival

# Plant Booth

Needs: plants, soil, pots (no nursery black pots please), outdoor decor

\*Drop-off location and time to come



**THE LETTER**  
A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH  
WATCH NOW

YouTube Originals OFF



## The Doors We Lock

As a child, and even for a while as a teenager, I experienced an enormous amount of anxiety whenever I went to confession. For so many years I feared it. For so many years I waited in the confession line trembling, feeling sick to my stomach.

In the upper room after Christ's Passion and death, the anxiety of the disciples was so strong that they locked themselves away. But still Christ found a way into their midst. He would not be prevented from bringing mercy and hope to a place shrouded in despair. No door barred in a moment of fear could keep him out.

This is the genius of the sacrament of Reconciliation — and of all sacraments, really. Here we are, restricted in so many ways by an existence that is woefully physical. We feel fear, and our body reacts, just as we feel anger and our body reacts.

How can God deliver mercy to us in this flesh-bound state? Through that very flesh which can feel so confining. Through confession, which requires a physical action, and the physical participation not just of the penitent but of the priest.

I don't know how or why my anxiety around the sacrament has lessened over the years. Sometimes, I still feel it come roaring back unexpectedly, and maybe one day it will come back to stay. It doesn't surprise me: after all, I am in the flesh, and I will, as Peter says today, "suffer through various trials." But in all of them Christ will find me. He will not be kept away.

*Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." — Psalm 118:3*

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Of all the gifts God has given us, time and family are at the top of the list to be cherished. Also, both are finite gifts. Our family members will not walk in this world forever, and each day that slips away cannot be restored. Still, we build up walls of fear, doubt, resentment, anger, and pain, not allowing ourselves to forgive and be good stewards of what we have been given.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, God's mercy is overflowing through all the earth. There is no excuse for you and me to not be reconciled with God and accept this profound compassion. In turn, there is no excuse to not extend that mercy and reconcile with those who have hurt us.

There is no rewind of time. Today is the day!



## Sunday, April 16

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

## Monday, April 17

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

## Tuesday, April 18

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

## Wednesday, April 19

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

## Thursday, April 20

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

## Friday, April 21

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

## Saturday, April 22

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

## Sunday, April 23

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a)/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35



## PRAY & REFLECT

©LPi

## April 16, 2023

### 2nd Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

A young, engaged couple sat on the couch in front of me as we chatted about their upcoming marriage. The young lady was struggling to trust her future husband. She told me her father had been unfaithful to her mother. She said of her fiancé, "I want him to prove to me that he won't cheat on me." The young man looked at me helplessly, raised his eyebrows and shrugged his shoulders. What evidence could he possibly give to validate such a proof? Nothing. All he could do was invite her to trust him.

We all are wounded by experiences of imperfect love. We also are tempted to demand from God proof of His fidelity and goodness. We are like St. Thomas the Apostle who, on that second Sunday of Easter, demands proof of the Lord's resurrection. **"Unless I see the mark of the nail ... I will not believe."** Our science, technology and mathematics can indeed prove a great deal. But there are some things that require trusting another person. We prove promises of love only by trusting.

St. Thomas indeed saw the wounds of Jesus and believed. But there is an even greater blessing for us who simply trust Him — and all the truths the Church proclaims — because of the trustworthiness of the Risen One who speaks. This week let's trust Jesus without seeing him.

— Father John Muir

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Eby Kurian, Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA  
281- 482-1391 Ext. 319  
[ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org)



All men are welcome to Spring 2023 Semester of 'That Man is You!' Join us for food, fellowship and faith on Wednesday mornings from 5:45 am - 7:00 am in the Main Hall.

The great thing about this program is that even if you stopped coming in the past, now you can jump into this new content!

Please contact Eby Kurian to sign up.



Thank you for praying for all the Elect & their Godparents, RCIA Candidates & their Sponsors, Adult Confirmation Candidates & their Sponsors as they all experienced a Holy Spirit filled 'RCIA & Adult Confirmation Retreat' on Friday, March 31st & Saturday, April 1st.

RCIA Candidates also made their First Sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of the Retreat! All glory to God!



### An In-Depth Exploration of Salvation History

The Bible Timeline® study program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and will give you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture.

In this revolutionary approach to Bible study, The Bible Timeline divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make the narrative thread easier to follow. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

The Bible Timeline will teach you how to read and understand the entire Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of Scripture in a way that will transform your life.

The course includes 24-lessons, online access to videos, a workbook and study group discussions. Classes will be held weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at Mary's House beginning on April 25th. The cost is \$40.

For more information, please contact Eby Kurian or visit our website at

[www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/the-bible-timeline](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/the-bible-timeline).

The RCIA hospitality team needs your time and talent! We provide a meal each week for the RCIA sessions on Thursday evenings to promote a sense of togetherness and community for our catechumens and candidates who will be coming into the church at Easter and what better way to do that than breaking bread together. There are several ways to help: you can provide a home cooked meal, cater a meal, or even give a monetary donation. If you or your ministry would like to help, please contact Stephanie Hermes at (281) 610-6267 or email [stephaniehermes10@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniehermes10@yahoo.com).





**Terri Ryan, Director for Adolescent  
Catechesis & Evangelization**  
281- 482-1391 Ext. 317  
[tryan@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:tryan@maryqueenchurch.org)

Welcome all registered High School teens to  
CAST faith formation night. All CAST meetings are  
from 5:45pm-7:15pm.



Below are the upcoming meeting  
dates:

Apr. 23rd

Welcome all registered Jr High youth to Ark  
Sundays. All Ark meetings are from  
3:00pm-4:15pm.

Below are the upcoming meeting dates:

Apr. 23rd



Open Hours for High School Teens at the  
St. Charbel Youth Center are  
Thursdays from 4pm - 7pm.

Please pray for the following Youth Catechumens and  
Candidates who will be fully initiated into the Church  
this Easter Season:

Alyssa, Alexis, Levi, Natalie, Abigail, Dominic, John,  
Allison, Audrey, Yaritzky

Noah, Michael, Roberto, Adam, Daniel, Ian

Creator God,  
even before these children were born,  
you called them and named them.  
Even before they understood,  
you sought and summoned them.  
All this time, you have been choosing them, Lord,  
in secret and intimate ways.  
Grant them the courage  
to answer your call, loudly and clearly,  
and so give you their life,  
that they may receive the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, and make each day of their new life in him  
a public testimony to his holy name.  
Amen.

*(Diana Macalintal, adapted)*



**Carol Stuart, Director for Elementary Faith Formation**  
281- 482-1391 Ext. 333  
[cstuart@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:cstuart@maryqueenchurch.org)

### **Tuesday and Wednesday Faith Formation Classes:**

Please direct your children to the Mini Hall for the  
start of class.

**Tuesday Class Dates:      Wednesday Class Dates:**

April 18th, 25th

April 19th, 26th

### **Sunday Classes**

All classes meet from 9:30-10:45am

### **K & RCIA YR 1 & 2:**

April 23rd

### **Upcoming 1st Holy Communion Dates**

Interviews for Parent and Child:

April 20th @ 6:30 PM

Professional Photographer (optional):

May 4th from 4:30 - 7:30 PM

Inside the Church

1st Holy Communion Rehearsal:

May 11th @ 6:30 PM inside the Church

**The Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will take  
place on Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 AM.**

Catechists: Summer is a great time to take a virtual or in  
person class on the Old Testament, New Testament,  
Catholic History... and more.

These are classes offered through the Archdiocese to  
deepen the Catholic Faith. Deepening of our faith is so  
important to Mary Queen that we have set aside a small  
budget available for assistance. Classes will be  
offered as we move toward summer.

To learn more, visit [www.archgh.org/oec/ftcm](http://www.archgh.org/oec/ftcm).

VBS Camper Registration is now closed!

All spots have been filled.

Spots are still available for VBS Volunteers  
going into 6th Grade and older.

Visit our website at

[www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/vbs](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/vbs)  
to register today!



### Divine Mercy Novena

**TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY!**

There will be a Holy Hour at 3 PM in St. Joseph's Chapel, which will include Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction.

Jesus spoke these words to St. Faustina, (699)\* *"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open.*

*I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy... The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.*

(1075)\* *Souls who spread the honor of My Mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior: At that last hour, a soul has nothing with which to defend itself except My mercy. Happy is the soul that during its lifetime immersed itself in the Fountain of Mercy, because justice will have no hold on it."*

*\*Diary of St. Faustina, "Divine Mercy in My Soul"*

### Are You at Risk?

Stroke Scan, Plus will host a stroke and vascular ultrasound screening here at Mary Queen Saturday April 29. Morning and afternoon appointments will be available to accommodate most schedules. Serious diseases have been identified through this process at this parish in the past so please give it your attention.

Do you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol? Do you have a family history of heart disease, stroke, or diabetes? If any of these are true, do not miss this opportunity for early detection of a possible serious disease.

These screenings are typically NOT performed at annual check-ups, nor will insurance companies pay for them unless you are symptomatic. Collectively, these screenings cost thousands. Stroke Scan will be offering them to you for \$159 for all 7 combined. Insurance is NOT necessary to receive this discount. However, pre-registration IS necessary and appointments are limited. Please call 1-866-935-7226 to schedule an appointment today.

### Mary Queen Women's Ministry Scholarship

If you are a graduating senior or a college student and your family is a Mary Queen parishioner, you are invited to apply for a \$500 scholarship!

Applications can be found at

[www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/womens-ministry](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/womens-ministry).

Application deadline: Friday, April 28th at 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions, contact Yvette Camarillo at 832-385-4432.

### Suzie Blake Outstanding Christian Leadership Award

The Mary Queen Women's Ministry is seeking nominations for deserving high school seniors who show good leadership traits at home, in their church, in the community and at school. A person of this character would receive a \$500 cash prize from the Women's Ministry. If you know a graduating senior who has these qualities, please write a letter of recommendation, and nominate him or her for Suzie Blake Outstanding Christian Leadership Award. The person nominating must be over the age of 21 and a member of Mary Queen Catholic Church. The nominee must be a Confirmed Catholic and an active member of Mary Queen Catholic Church. Letters of recommendation must be turned in or mailed to the church office, 606 Cedarwood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546, by 5 PM Friday, April 28th. Please address the letters to "Attention: Kathy Blake Morton – Women's Ministry, Suzie Blake Outstanding Christian Leadership Award."

### Hispanic Ministry Scholarships

The Hispanic Ministry of Mary Queen is currently accepting applications for the 2023 Hispanic Ministry Scholarships. Two \$1,000 scholarships are available to Mary Queen parishioners who are graduating high school seniors.

Please submit your application online via the Mary Queen website at

[www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/hispanic-ministry](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/hispanic-ministry). Completed applications are due by Sunday, April 23rd by 5:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Carmen Fox at [mqhispanicministry@gmail.com](mailto:mqhispanicministry@gmail.com).



### Mary Queen Women's ACTS Retreat May 18-21, 2023

#### Christian Renewal Center

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon You." ACTS 1:8

Registration forms for the next Women's

ACTS Retreat are available at the front desk in the Parish Hall, the welcome desk in the church Narthex, or on the Mary Queen website. Scan the QR code or visit [www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/acts](http://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/acts).

For questions, please contact

Pam Crossan at [Pam.Crossan58@yahoo.com](mailto:Pam.Crossan58@yahoo.com).

Register today! Spots fill up quickly!





# 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The parish will be hosting Fr. Jim's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration on Sunday, May 14th after the 11:30 AM Mass.

If you plan to attend the celebration please RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/FrJim50>.

If you have any photos of Fr. Jim to share, please send them to [smedrano@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:smedrano@maryqueenchurch.org) by 4/23.

The celebration will be a potluck with the entrée provided. We ask that parishioners bring a side or dessert to share based on the following request:

Parishioners with last names beginning with A-F - bring a dessert

Parishioners with last names beginning with G-Z - bring a side or salad

Please drop off your food in the kitchen on the day of the event.

A full list of volunteer options is available on the sign-up page. If you are available to help with any part of the celebration, please sign-up here:

[www.maryqueenchurch.flocknote.com/signup/118633](http://www.maryqueenchurch.flocknote.com/signup/118633)

We look forward to a joyful celebration in honor of our wonderful Pastor!

## Open Staff Position: Nursery Assistant Adult Help Wanted

The Mary Queen Nursery has an opening for 1 or 2 Sundays a month for the 9:30AM and 11:30AM Masses and other special occasions throughout the year.



The applicant must be 18 years or older and be CMG Certified or willing to obtain certification after being hired. For more information or to apply, please contact Noelia Murphy, Nursery Coordinator, at [noelia\\_murphy@yahoo.com](mailto:noelia_murphy@yahoo.com).

## Baby Shower

The Knights of Columbus Council 8494 and the Mary Queen Gabriel Project are teaming up to host a Baby Shower to help and support local mothers in our area who have said "YES" to life. We will host our Baby Shower in honor of Mary, Mother of God after all Masses on May 20-21.



Please support this effort with monetary donations and by providing baby items such as maternity & baby clothes, diapers, wipes, baby wash, baby lotion, baby detergent, and other baby items for mothers in need. Donations can be dropped off in the church Narthex before and after all Masses on May 20-21. Credit Card donations can be made using the QR code or at [bit.ly/asapshower](https://bit.ly/asapshower).

Please consider providing ongoing support by selecting the monthly giving option or by donating baby and maturity items monthly. Items can be dropped off at the drop-off point in the Narthex at any time. Please pray for life and donate for life. God bless.

## Uplift our Priests

April 17th-28th is a chance for us to give thanks and show our support for our priests who selflessly serve us. There are many things you can do to say thank you and show your love. One of the most important ways to show your support is to offer a Mass, or your prayers for them. We have placed Spiritual Bouquets in the Narthex that will allow you to let our priests know how you have prayed for them today. You may offer prayers, a rosary or a Mass for them every day. Simply add the name of the priest and decide which spiritual gift you will offer for them today. Drop the spiritual bouquet into the bags designated for each priest: Fr. Jim, Fr. Trey, Fr. Robert and Fr. Skip. Don't forget any of our priests as they all pray for us and work tirelessly on our behalf.



## Family of the Month

### The Harrington Family



Brian grew up at Shrine of the True Cross in Dickinson and Celeste at St. Helen in Pearland, but they didn't meet until halfway through their time at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. This summer, they will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

Brian was involved in Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry and was an Altar Server. It gives him great joy to see his children serve in these ministries as well. Brian works hard as both a NASA Engineer and a Realtor, and he is the spiritual leader of their home.

Celeste has served in many ways over the years, but her favorite ministries are Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, teaching teens in The Deep, and working with the Walking with Purpose Bible Study ministry.

They both love being a part of weekly Eucharistic Adoration. Over their more than 23 years at Mary Queen, they have added five children to their family who have received all their sacraments and served the parish in countless ways.

Jacob is graduating from Benedictine College in May with a Master of Science in Finance, and will be attending the Texas A&M University School of Law in the fall.

Nicole is completing her sophomore year at Benedictine College and will spend her last two years there in the School of Nursing to earn her BSN.

Andrew is a graduating high school homeschool senior and currently serves Mary Queen as an Altar Server, Youth Choir Guitarist, Co-Chaplain for the Youth Council, and is a parish representative for the Archdiocesan Youth Council. He will attend Texas A&M University in the fall and joining the Corps of Cadets.

Michael is sophomore in high school and serves as an Altar Server, Youth Choir Pianist and is part of the Youth Council. part of the Youth Council. This April, he makes his Confirmation and looks forward to more opportunities to serve the parish.

Braden is finishing up 7th grade and loves spending time at church. He is an awesome Altar Server and is always willing to help in any way he can.

# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## Ladies Bunco

Wednesday, April 19th  
St. Mary's, 816 Park Dr., La Porte, TX  
9:30 AM - Noon  
\$5 per person

Prizes, raffles, and snacks. No experience required.  
Rules to this fun game will be explained.  
St. Mary's offers a Noon Mass.

Sponsored by Bay Area Council of Women. RSVP for yourself and your friends by April 17th to Terry Kelley at 281-827-4232 or [terrykelley91@hotmail.com](mailto:terrykelley91@hotmail.com).



**Do you want a new Catholic high school in Bay Area?**

Saints don't grow on trees; they are nurtured to maturity. Please join us for this kick-off event to possibly start a new Bay Area Catholic high school, so that your child's growth is guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**All are welcome!**

**Place:** St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School  
3131 El Dorado Blvd.  
**Room:** Resource Room

**Date:** Sat, May 13, 2023  
**Time:** 10am

SCAN ME



For updates, search the Facebook page 'Bay Area Catholic High School (BACHS)' or scan the QR code above.



Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Bring the peace of Christ into your marriage by taking part in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on May 5-7 or May 26-28.

Sign up today to attend an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

For more information, contact:

Lia Nguyen

832-314-8801 / [lia.nguyen@lighthouse RealtyTX.com](mailto:lia.nguyen@lighthouse RealtyTX.com)

Brian & Tina Little  
281-773-4014

[brian.tina.little@wwme.org](mailto:brian.tina.little@wwme.org)

Or go online to: <http://houstonme.org>.

## Texas Catholic Herald

Check out the digital edition of the Texas Catholic Herald! Read the latest issue online now at [www.archgh.org/digitaleditions](http://www.archgh.org/digitaleditions) or visit [www.archgh.org/tch](http://www.archgh.org/tch).



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

### US Air Force:

A1C Jake Ainsworth, SSgt Chris Aubuchon, Capt James Barrington, 2d Lt Paul Birmingham, Capt Andrew Bossert, Capt Stephanie Bossert, Capt Stephen Chauvin, AB Nicholas Chavez, Capt Benjamin Clements, A1C Miles Coleman, A1C Alexis Copeland, A1C Phillip Downey, Lt Col Bashir El-Khoury, Capt James Gregory, A1C Jasper Gregory, SSgt Christopher Hammer, SMSgt Joel Hebert, Maj Ramon Hernandez, A1C Austin W. Laird, Capt Shane Lockridge, A1C Andrew Merrifield, Capt Rachel Miller, SSgt Brandon Ojala, Maj. Zac Pendleton, 2d Lt Joseph Revell, SrA Patrick Rettke, Capt Chad Roberson, 2d Lt Harrison Spexarth, C3C Jackson Spexarth, Col Brandon Sokora, SSgt Amanda Solis, SSgt Nicholas Wolford

### US Army:

SPC Andrew Burnett, PFC Isaac Gross, SGT Matthew Knight, MAJ Michael Moad, CPT Brandon Nesrsta, LTC Ryan Nesrsta, WO2 Patrick Nagorski, SPC Brandon Patterson, SSG Kyle Perkins, SPC Jesse Roberts, SPC Kaitlyn Strassner, Sgt Emmanuel Thomas, MAJ Brian Y'Barbo

### US Marine Corps:

2ndLt Ryan Cunningham, Capt Joshua Butts, CPL Michael Gray, Lt Col Andrew Kelemen, 1stLt Jacob Perez, Maj Norman Renfro

### US Navy:

PO1 Chase Bourque, PO1 Randall Carmicheal, CM3 Cullen Kelly, MA3 Marcus Reyes, PO1 Anthony Rinehart, PO3 Kyle Shenkir, Jr., SN Rand Smith, CAPT Mike Svatek

### US Space Force:

Spc3 Lucy Gregory

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](mailto:anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org). Include the rank of the individual, their name and their branch of service. **Thank you and God Bless America!**

## Communications Guidelines & Deadlines

For bulletin, website, social media, or eNews requests, please contact Sofia Medrano, Communications Coordinator, at [smedrano@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:smedrano@maryqueenchurch.org) or call 281-482-1391.

Pulpit announcement requests should be sent via email to Sofia Medrano by the Tuesday before the requested mass date. Requests will be announced upon the pastor's approval.

Please send bulletin submissions by noon. Submission dates listed below. Submit Word, Publisher or PDF files only.

April 30—Already submitted  
May 17—May 7  
May 24—May 14



# We Pray For .....

Jonie Adams  
Maria Mercedes Alva  
Payten Alaniz  
Mildred Andrykovitch  
Jose Arellano  
Aaron Arribe  
Allie Arribe

Floyd Bartsch  
Dolores Bolanos  
Lucia Boone  
Timothy Buzby

Jeneane Champagne  
Charles Chavez  
Rachel Chavez  
Sylvia Chavez  
Dawn Copley  
Corlett Family  
Les Craft  
Lisa Craft  
Thomas Cunningham

Daniele DiPetta

Gilbert Enriquez  
Nadia Enriquez

Betty Fanara  
Thomas Fanara  
David Fattig  
Guadalupe Flores  
Milagro del Carmen  
Sanchez Flores  
Charles Fontenot  
Carol Foulker

Alonzo Ponce Garza  
Molly Gunn  
Henry Gutierrez

Hunter Harris  
David Harrison  
JT Harshbarger  
Rebecca Herder  
Joanne Hlavenka  
Torivia Huerta

Renee Ives

Jose Juarez

Kephart Family  
Brianna Gina Kocher  
Suzie Kornblit  
Charles Kratzer

Larry Larson  
Miles Libby  
Philip Lippold  
Teresa Lippold  
Chris Lobue  
Johnny Lobue  
Randy Lobue  
Sandy Luna

Kelly Martinez  
Jean Maxwell  
Terrie May  
Ray Montgomery  
Gregorio Montoya  
Kimberly Montz

Mary Catherine Natali  
Miner Nelson

Mauricio Olivarez  
Kelsey Phinney  
Mark Pitre  
Curtis Post

Cathy Randleman  
Ritchey Family  
Ray Rocca

Andy Salinas  
Mary Alice Salinas  
Joe Sambrano  
George Sorrell  
Sandy Sorrell  
Special Needs Families  
St. Hyacinth Catholic  
Church

Aiden Tellez  
Bianca Tellez  
Mike Thomas  
Michael L. Thomas  
Margaret Thornton  
Julie Tinney  
Landon Tinney

Unborn In The Womb

Maria Valdez  
Henry Vento  
Zoe Vontour

Rosa Wagner  
Trish Whitfield  
Elisa Williams

For all those who are Health Care Workers, First Responders, Social Service Workers,  
those who continue to work to serve the community and all who are suffering and recovering from the Covid-19 virus.

*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*



**In Memory of**  
**† Scott Hakim**  
**April 15th through April 21st**

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.

*~ In Memoriam ~*

*Please pray for the repose of the soul of*

**† Edmond Sidney Moreland, Jr., son-in-law of**  
**Gene & Charlotte Sabatier**

**† Debra Reyes, wife of Edward Reyes**

## Prayer List Requests

If you have a family member(s) or friend(s) who are in need of special prayers by our parish community, please consider placing them on the Mary Queen Prayer List.

You may do so by contacting Anita Shorosky at [anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org) or 281-482-1391.

### Join the Mary Queen Vocations Ministry!

The ministry works to bring prayer, affirmation, and awareness to vocations.

For more information or to join, contact [MQVocations@gmail.com](mailto:MQVocations@gmail.com).



### Mary's Chain of Love Ministry Come Pray & Crochet with Us!

**Tuesdays at 9:30-11:30 AM in  
Rm 114/115**

**Mary's Chain of Love** is a crochet & craft ministry providing our homemade gifts to the community, nursing homes, local hospitals, and to various Catholic charities. Whether a beginner or expert, and all levels in-between, we welcome you to come join us for our weekly devotional and crochet-a-long as we work on whatever projects are needed by those we serve in our ministry.

To learn more, contact Cindy Dittrich at 832-282-6346 or [dittrich\\_cindy@yahoo.com](mailto:dittrich_cindy@yahoo.com).

May God bless you and yours,  
Mary's Chain of Love

### Mary Queen Fifty-Five or Better

Mary Queen Fifty-Five or Better gathers on the second Friday of every month from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Newcomers are invited to play games and have fun with fellow parishioners!

For additional information, please contact Vinnie Saccomanno at 281-648-9551 or Peggie Madison at 281-482-2860.



### Mary Queen Seniors (60+)

Mary Queen Seniors (60+) meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 9:30 AM. The meeting is open to all seniors, and newcomers are always welcome. If you would like additional information, please contact Jo Ann Truman at 713-899-1682.



### Divine Mercy Sunday

#### Question:

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

#### Answer:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

©LPi

### Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.



Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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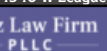
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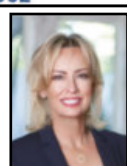
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We would like to thank Mary Queen parish for the support they give to St. Helen Catholic School.  
Your prayers, donations and gifts are greatly appreciated and help our "Saints" grow in wisdom, age, and grace!

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