



Mary Queen
CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BE WATCHFUL!
BE ALERT!

— MARK 13:36 —

**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.

Priests in Residence

Rev. James H. Kuczynski, M.S.
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
Associate Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator, ext. 100
Olivia Snyder
Jr. High Faith Formation Coordinator
Andrea Richards
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant, ext. 329

Liturgy & Music

Dylan Ramirez
Director of Liturgy & Music, ext. 227
Ilani Marquez
Audio-Visual Assistant, ext. 334

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

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.

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 no longer accepting Mass Intention requests for the 2023 year. Call the parish office for information on Mass Intention requests for 2024.

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

THIS WEEK

DECEMBER: MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday, December 3rd

Boy Scouts - Poinsettia Sales - After All Masses
Coffee & Donuts - Pastoral Council - After Morning Masses

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM RCIA - "Breaking Open the Word"- AFF - Mini Hall
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Private Baptism - Sanchez - Church
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Advent Wreath Making & Blessing 2023-AFF- Main Hall
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sisters Seeking Scripture - AFF - Rm 110/Library
3:45 PM - 6:45 PM CAST - Youth Ministry - Youth Center

Monday, December 4th

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Special Friends Program - Main Hall
6:15 PM - 8:15 PM Men's Small Study Group - AFF - Rm 110/Library
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Bears Den Meeting - Rm 118
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Lions Den Meeting - Rm 120
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Tigers Den Meeting - Rm 116
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scout Webelos Den Meeting - Rm 119
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts Arrow of Lights Meeting - Rm 114/115
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts Wolves Den Meeting - Rm 117
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic Ministry Meeting - Mary's House
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mary Queen Advent Penance Service - Church
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group - Rm 125
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Scout Troop Meeting - Youth Center

Tuesday, December 5th

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mary's Chain of Love Ministry - Rm 114/115
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Women's Ministry Fall Pot Luck Luncheon - Main Hall
3:30 PM - 7:00 PM First Grade Rehearsal for Christmas Play-EFF-Main Hall
4:00 PM - 5:45 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms
4:30 PM Exposition for Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms

Wednesday, December 6th

5:45 AM - 7:00 AM "That Man is You! Year 7 - Theme: 'Thy Kingdom Come' - AFF - Main Hall
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Christian Meditation Prayer Group - Mary's House
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Queen's Bee Quilters - Mini Hall
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM High School Fall Open Hours - Youth Ministry - Youth Center
4:00 PM - 5:45 PM EFF Classes - Mini Hall - Classrooms
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Confessions - Church
5:00 PM - 7:15 PM CAST - Make-Up Session - Youth Center
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 - 8:30 PM College Students & Young Professionals Faith Sharing
Small Group & Bible Study - Mary's House
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Flow Camp" Faith Sharing Group - Rm 110/Library

Thursday, December 7th

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Pastoral Staff Meeting - Rm 114/115
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Sacrament Preparation - First Reconciliation Class - Main Hall
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM RCIA & Adult Confirmation Sessions - Mini Hall
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Bridge Vocations Ministry - Mary's House
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - Vigil Mass - Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, December 8th

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary Masses
7:00AM; 8:30AM; 7:00PM Holy Day of Obligation

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Mary Queen Floral Workshop Set Up - Mary's House
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Children's Procession Rehearsal - Main Hall

Saturday, December 9th

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Prayer Group - Rm 110/Library
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass - Church
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Mary Queen Floral Workshop - Mary's House
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration - Hispanic Ministry-Mini Hall
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Reconciliation - Church
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM MQ Councils Christmas Party - Main Hall

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2nd

8:30 AM †Larry Larson, †Fernando Roxas, Mary Queen Ministries
5:30 PM †Remigio Tolentino, †Larry Larson, †David Harrison

Sunday, December 3rd

7:30 AM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners
9:30 AM †Tony Diotalevi, †James C. Potter, Jr., †Giovanni Cot
11:30 AM †Gloria Cruz, †Nestor Cruz, †Maria Del Roble Salinas
4:30 PM †Stillisano Family, Ifeoma Obioko, Dinora Carbajal – Birthday Blessings

Monday, December 4th

8:30 AM †Catherine Severino, †Jaroslaw Zielke, †Pat Debbrecht

Tuesday, December 5th

8:30 AM †Juan Arevalo, †Concepcion Buenaventura,
†Fr. Mark Beard

Wednesday, December 6th

6:30 PM †Grace Font, Michael & Gabrielle Vogel,
Ricardo Arellano-Enriquez – Birthday Blessings

Thursday, December 7th

8:30 AM †Carolina Martinez, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of
Thekla Adam, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of the
Chatron Family, Terri Ryan – Birthday Blessings

7:00 PM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners

Friday, December 8th

7:00 AM †Henrk Zielke, †Patrick Gill, †Anthony Avillanoza
8:30 AM †Hao Leba, †Ambrosio Martinez, Living & Deceased
Loved Ones of John & Celine Cordary
7:00 PM Brady Sokora, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of
John & Agnes Susil, Victor Mendoza – Birthday Blessings

Saturday, December 9th

5:30 PM †David Harrison, †Jayne Zehentner, Lucia Boone

Sunday, December 10th

7:30 AM †Joe Hartman, †George Whittet, †Luppino Family
9:30 AM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners
11:30 AM †Arnold Avillanoza, Shirley Weaver, Connie Zmurk
4:30 PM †Hector Tobon, †Timothy Mack, †Nestor Cruz,
†Larry Larson

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 3

That we don't take our time on Earth for granted and look at each day as a gift from God.

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

TIME·TALENT·TREASURE

Offertory: November 11, 2023 - November 17, 2023

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

Weekly Offertory Received: \$42,436.92

Weekly Budgeted Amount: \$44,084.08

Difference: (-\$1,647.16)

MP-Debt Reduction: \$1,311.00

Future Development & Maintenance: \$3,925.00

Total Food Pantry Donations with online: \$8,318.60

**Loan Balance as of November 20, 2023 was
\$1,263,567.52.**

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

Upcoming Special/2nd Collections

December 8 - Immaculate Conception

December 10 - Retirement Fund for Religious

Diocesan Services Fund

2023 DSF Summary as of November 20, 2023

Parish Goal: \$185,000.00

Total Amount Paid: \$150,190.00

Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 327

Total Number of Gifts received: 698

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 November 20, 2023

Parish Goal: \$1,886,649.00

Total Amount Paid: \$525,054.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$591,091.54

Total Number of Gifts Received: 1,926

Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 273

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.

We kindly request that all who submit donations by check please use black or blue ink to fill out the check. Unfortunately, our check reader is unable to read any other color ink. Thank you, and we appreciate your understanding with this matter!



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.

- 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.



Respect Life Holy Hour

Sunday, December 10, 2023
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.



LIVE THE LITURGY

My wife and I have three children. Each time we realized we would be having a child, thoughts ran through our minds about what this child would be like. Who would they become when they grew older? What would they like and dislike in this world? Would they grow in faith or struggle with truth?

As parents we were entrusted with these three gifts from God. We became stewards of these precious ones since they always truly belonged to him. We were able to help mold them and shape their lives, but we could not live their lives for them.

I bet the parents of Mary had many of the same concerns and dreams for their child. Yes, being born without original sin would give her a head start, I am sure, but she would still need to live her own life. No one could live it for her. Each decision would change her life's path, even if just a little. In the end, we certainly know how important her decision to say yes was when it came her turn to be a parent.

Mary is a profound example of good stewardship living. As we live each day, we can look to her for inspiration. Her strength of character, her devotion to God, and her courage in the face of the unknown helped her to be the best steward possible of the gift of above all gifts, Jesus. As parents, look to Mary. As disciples, we need to look to her Son. As everyday stewards, we are called to say yes to all the rich gifts God has given us.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Saturday, December 9, 2023
 8:00am - Mañanitas/Happy Birthday
 8:30am - Rosary
 9:00am - Mass
 Reception with mariachis following Mass in the Parish Hall

Calling all Elementary Students:

We are in need of children to take part in the opening procession. This is a wonderful event coordinated each year by our Hispanic Ministry and is a colorful, lively and wonderful tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

During the Mass:

Students will carry roses to the altar and place them in vases before returning to the pews with their families.

During the Reception:

Students will carry flags in the opening procession which represent the countries under Mary's patronage in North, South and Central America.

Open to all children in grades K-5.

Children must be able to wear black pants and a white shirt (girls can wear the same or a dress).

All participating students must attend practice on Friday, December 8th from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Main Hall.

Please arrive at the church by 8:30 AM on Saturday, December 9th and report to the Bride's Room.

Please RSVP to Judy Wheeler at jrwakw@outlook.com or 713-859-1278 if your child is able to participate.

A rehearsal reminder will follow for those who sign up.

This will be considered as a Two Hands of Christ event for Elementary Faith Formation!



THE BRIDGE
 (21-30 yr olds)

Dates:
 November 2nd
 December 7th

Meetings:
 Get connected with other young adults. Join us with games and food in the back of Mary Queen's Parking Lot, @ Mary's House on the First Thursday of the month at 7pm. Bring a friend!

Sponsored by the Vocations Ministry.

Scan QR Code to sign up for the GroupMe for more events (Sports, Dinners, Games, etc.)

Text 832-260-2691 for more information.



2023 Advent & Christmas Mass Schedule

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Saturday, December 23, 2023
 5:30 PM (Vigil Mass)
 Sunday, December 24, 2023
 7:30 AM
 9:30 AM

The Nativity of the Lord
 Sunday, December 24, 2023
 4:00 PM (Children's Vigil Mass)
 7:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
 Monday, December 25, 2023
 12:00 AM (Midnight)
 8:30 AM
 10:30 AM

PRACTICING CATHOLIC

PRAY & REFLECT

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: “When we lose you,” she kept saying, instead of “When you die.”

It’s very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

“You can’t do all your homework at the end,” a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. “Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us.”

I think of that a lot when I don’t particularly feel like praying, when I think I’m too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet. We have all withered like leaves.

You can’t do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

“May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’” — Mark 13:36

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What’s the story behind the Advent wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn’t falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God’s love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We use four candles to represent each week of Advent.

Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season.

Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we’re roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ’s coming at Christmas.

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December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

Lately I’ve been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I’m trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it’s helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ’s advice this week? “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep.” Isn’t sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it’s not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we’ll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir

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DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 3

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-3

Monday, December 4

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



Eby Kurian, Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA
281-482-1391 Ext. 319
ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org

ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER GATHERING

Sunday, Dec. 3rd | 1:30-3:30 PM | Main Hall | \$25

Our Adult Faith Formation department will once again kick off the Advent season with our Advent Family Wreath Making & Blessing!

Join us on the First Sunday of Advent and enjoy making your own Advent wreath and receive other resources for your family to use during this time of preparation.



Register here:



Visit bit.ly/AdventFamGathering or scan the QR code to register and purchase the Advent Wreath Kit for \$25, which includes an Advent wreath with 4 candles.

For more information, please contact Eby Kurian at ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org or 281-710-8876.

FESTIVAL OF SAINT NICHOLAS

All are invited to join us for a special performance of short skits, a puppet show, and songs with an Advent theme!

Performances will take place during the Advent Family Prayer Gathering.
Sunday, Dec. 3rd | 1:30-3:30 PM | Main Hall

This event is open to all!
Registration and purchase of an Advent wreath kit is not necessary to attend.

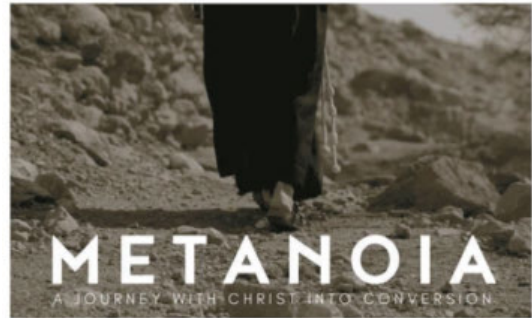


The Mary Queen community joyfully and prayerfully welcomed 1 Child, 4 Youth, and 8 Adult Catechumens into the Order of Catechumens through



the Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance, and 15 Adult Candidates during the Rite of Welcome to be received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

Find more photos on our social media pages!



'Metanoia: A Journey With Christ Into Conversion' - A new faith sharing series for College Students & Young Professionals

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, join us for a new series, 'Metanoia: A Journey With Christ Into Conversion'.

This follow-up series to The Wild Goose by Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, President of Franciscan University, focuses on eight different areas that invite us to a deeper metanoia of who Jesus is and how He desires us to know Him.

All young adults ages 18 - 35 are invited to attend our faith sharing small group session from 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Wednesday evenings in Mary's House (at the back of the main parking lot) after the 6:30 PM Mass. Please contact Eby Kurian for more information and/or to sign-up for this ongoing series.

'That Man is You!' (TMIY)



Fall 2023 Semester of 'That Man is You!' (TMIY) program in Mary Queen started on Wednesday, September 20th and continues to meet from 5:45 - 7:00AM in the Main Hall.

This is the 7th Year of TMIY program in our parish, and this year's theme is 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

In this new year, Thy Kingdom Come we explore the reality that Jesus did not say to the Jews, "I've come to save you from Roman oppression and taxation." Christ did not promise a worldly kingdom. In fact, He said, "In the world you will have tribulation ... yet I have overcome the world ... My kingship is not of this world ... My kingdom is in your midst ... My kingdom is within you!" The kingdom of God is among us. Let us live with an eternal perspective and boldly proclaim the Kingdom in both word and deed and become the authentic Catholic leader our world, our church and our families so desperately need."

Join us for faith and fellowship! All men are welcome!
"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
—Proverbs 27:17

Registration is FREE! Please contact Eby Kurian to sign up.



Terri Ryan, Director for Adolescent Catechesis & Evangelization
 281- 482-1391 Ext. 317
tryan@maryqueenchurch.org

Final Meeting Dates of the Year

CAST

December 17th
 (Christmas Party)

ARK

December 10th
 (Wear ugly Christmas sweater)



Scan the QR code to sign-up on Flocknote!



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

Final Class Dates of the Year

Tuesday Class Dates

December 5th, 12th

Wednesday Class Dates

December 6th, 13th

***Please direct children to the Mini Hall at the start of class.**

Other Important Upcoming Dates

12/5 & 12/6

First Grade Play Rehearsals during child's class times. Please have your child in attendance!

12/12 & 12/13

First Grade Play – All relatives are invited. The play will be in the Main Hall during your 1st Grade child's class time.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Interviews for First Reconciliation

Interview date: Thursday, December 14th
 Time: 6:30 PM
 Location: Main Hall

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Date: Saturday, December 16th
 Time: 10:00 AM
 Location: Church

Students who have prepared during our fall classes will receive this beautiful Sacrament! Please arrive early and you will be seated as a family in the order which you arrive.

Two Hands of Christ

Only a few more weeks in the year remain to complete your act of service as a family. Please consider joining in an event to be the two hands of Christ for others.

Upcoming ways to assist:

Procession of Our Lady Of Guadalupe
 Posada

Assisting with an RCIA meal

Visit <https://bit.ly/HandsofChrist> for more information.



AROUND THE PARISH



Reminder!

The nursery will be closed Sunday, December 24th and Sunday, December 31st so that the staff may enjoy the holidays with their families.

Pick up your copy of The Word Among Us

As part of the Eucharistic Revival Initiative, our Department of Adult Faith Formation is pleased to gift our families 'The Word Among Us' magazine, which is the largest monthly devotional for Catholics based on the Scripture readings from Mass.

Pick up the *Advent issue for December* in the Narthex!

The magazine is free to all, but donations are greatly appreciated and will be used to cover the subscription cost.

Donate at bit.ly/AdultFaithDonation or scan the QR code.



Join the MQ Arts & Environment Team for a

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Dec. 9th | 10-11:30 AM | \$75 | Mary's House

This Christmas season, deck your door with a special holiday wreath!

Create your own wreath using fresh greenery, perfect for inviting guests in with holiday cheer.

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/MQFlowers>



GUADALUPE CHOIR

Our annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass is on Saturday, December 9th!

The Guadalupe Choir is open to ALL and is looking for bilingual members to join.

If you are interested in singing with us at the Mass, please contact

Dylan Ramirez at dramirez@maryqueenchurch.org for more information.



Looking for a meaningful gift to give for Christmas?

Consider our Christmas Gift Catalog!

Giving Tuesday and Christmas are right around the corner! Please consider donating a gift from our Mary Queen Social Concerns Gift Catalog in honor of a loved one. There are many options to choose from, ranging from \$5 to \$1,700. Each donation receives a card to send to the person whom you are gifting. Families in need will greatly benefit from your gift.

For more information, pick up a Gift Catalog from the Narthex or Reception Desk, or scan the QR code.

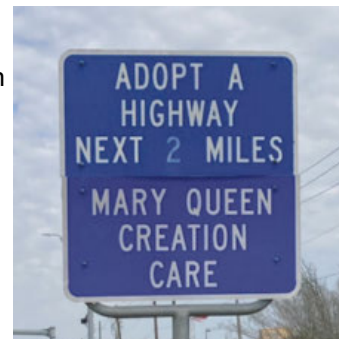


Our Christmas Giving Tree tags are now available.

Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 10th.

The Mary Queen Creation Care Ministry will be having an Adopt-a-Highway event on Saturday, December 16th. We will meet in the parking lot of Windsong Elementary School at 7:30 AM.

For more information, contact Jen Hammerle at 281-961-1796.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation Mass Times



**Thursday,
December 7th
7:00 PM - Vigil**

**Friday,
December 8th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM
7:00 PM**

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

What do we celebrate on this Holy Day of Obligation?

We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception," and though these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam."

This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism.

After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!"

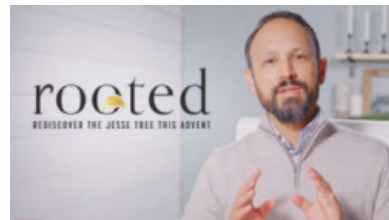
Join us at one of our Masses on this feast day to celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

Prepare for the birth of Christ with new Advent series options available on FORMED!

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model

traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection. Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Rooted helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching. Episodes begin on December 3rd, the First Sunday of Advent, and end on December 24th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



Drawing Closer to God

Journey through Advent with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from the

Christmas story, including the Annunciation, shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition. As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections between the big picture of God's story and their place within it.

Find more great content perfect for the seasons of Advent and Christmas on the FORMED website! Visit <https://daily.formed.org/advent> for more resources.

Don't have a FORMED account? See pg. 4 of our bulletin for information on how to sign up or scan the QR code below.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bus Trip

Sight Seeing Christmas Lights in Houston Area
 Wednesday, December 6th from 3:30 to ~8:30 PM
 Meet at St. Bernadette Catholic Church (back parking lot
 fence) - 15500 El Camino Real
 Men and women 50 years of age or older are welcomed.
 Cost is \$15. Dinner is on your own.

For more information or to RSVP by December 4th,
 contact Gretchen at 832-605-8360 or
Gretchenmitchell@gmail.com.

Fundraiser sponsored by Bay Area Deanery Council of
 Catholic Women.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

All the community of the Archdiocese of Galveston-
 Houston is invited to celebrate together the 51st annual
 Archdiocesan celebration in honor of Our Lady of
 Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas.

The celebration will be on Saturday, December 9th.
 There will be a procession at 8 AM followed by Mass
 at 10 AM and traditional dancing at noon.

Location: Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,
 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy., Houston TX 77002

For more information, contact Jose Luis Vilchis at
 832-259-4560 or Patricia Morales at 832-513-3465.



"Come and Click" 2024

7 pm ET via ZOOM

January 22, February 26,

March 25, April 22

"Come and See" Weekend

June 7-11, 2024

contact

lasalettevocations@gmail.com to
 register or for more info



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

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 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,
 2LT Julian Monroig, 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,
 CPT Christopher Zavesky

US Marine Corps:

2ndLt Ryan Cunningham, Capt Joshua Butts,
 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

US Coast Guard:

Cadet 4/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!

WE PRAY FOR...

Thekla Adam
Jonie Adams
Cindy Aguirre
Maria Mercedes Alva
Jose Arellano
George Arnold

Mike Barnard
Dolores Bolanos
Lucia Boone
Jonathan Brezinia
Toni Brown
Jesse Bustamante Family
Timothy Buzby

Rachel Chavez
Frances Collins
Thomas Cunningham

Dement Family
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Juan Gonzalez
Matthew Gonzalez
Rev. Hugh Grace
Henry Gutierrez

Glenn Hannigan
Hunter Harris
Torivia Huerta

Renee Ives

Jose Juarez

Cati Kennepohl
Larry Kinane
Mimi Kinane
Brianna Kocher
Suzie Kornblit
Gerry Kovach
Rev. James H.
Kuczynski, M.S.

Mark LaLonda
Samantha & Brad Laney
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Gregorio Montoya
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Roger Pharris Family
Patty Phillips
Kelsey Phinney
Bob Pillow
Mark Pitre
Curtis Post

Al Radous
Joan Radous
John Revell
Karen Riley-Campbell
Ritchey Family
Leonard Rodriguez
Maria Rodriguez
Rohan Family

Endalecio Salinas
Mary Alice Salinas
Joe Sambrano
Jose Segovia
Short Family
Special Needs Families
Lexie Stine

Bianca Tellez
Steve Telxeira
Preston Trahan

Unborn In The Womb

Ofelia Valdez
Audrey Van Buren
Sandy VanDyke
Zoe Vontour

Jeff Weihe
Judith Wright

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



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.

Advent Penance Services

MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

ST. MARY OF THE EXPECTATION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

ST. HYACINTH CATHOLIC CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

*All services begin at 7PM.



Communications Requests - Guidelines & Deadlines

**Bulletin, eNews, pulpit announcements,
website, or social media**

Contact: Sofia Medrano, Communications Coordinator
email: smedrano@maryqueenchurch.org
phone: 281-482-1391 x334
text: 409-218-8213

Send pulpit announcement requests to **Sofia Medrano**
by the Tuesday before the requested Mass date.
(Requests will be announced upon the pastor's approval.)

Send bulletin submissions by noon on the deadline
dates listed below.

December 24—already submitted
December 31—due December 5
January 7—due December 13



Wine Distribution

Question:

Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

Answer:

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood of the Lord.

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In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has

been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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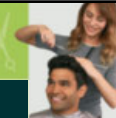
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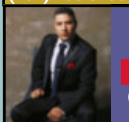
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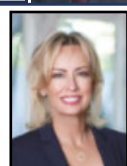
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Your prayers, donations and gifts are greatly appreciated and help our "Saints" grow in wisdom, age, and grace!



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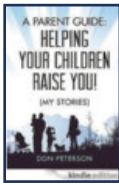
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