

#### 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.

#### **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 Rvan

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 281-482-4886 (fax) 281-482-1391

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 17th    |                                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM       | RCIA - "Breaking Open the Word"- AFF - Mini Hall     |
| 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM        | Baptisms - Church                                    |
| 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 18th    |                                                      |
| 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM       | Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House                |
| 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM        | Special Friends Christmas Program - Main Hall        |
| 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM        | Men's Small Study Group - AFF - Rm 120               |
| 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM        | ACTS Core Team Meeting - Rm 110/Library              |
| 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM        | Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group - Rm 125         |
| Tuesday, December 19th   |                                                      |
| 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM       | Mary's Chain of Love Ministry - Rm 114/115           |
| 4:30 PM                  | Exposition for Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel        |
| 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM        | Pastoral Staff Christmas Party - Rectory             |
| Wednesday, December 20th |                                                      |
| 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     |
| 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM        | High School Fall Open Hours - Youth Ministry -       |
|                          | Youth Center                                         |
| 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM        | Confessions - Church                                 |
| 5:45 PM - 6:00 PM        | Benediction Concludes Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel |
| 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                |
| 7:15 PM - 9:15 PM        | Women's Ministry Gift Exchange - Main Hall           |
| 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM        | "Flow Camp" Faith Sharing Group - Rm 110/Library     |
| Thursday, December 21st  |                                                      |
| 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM        | RCIA & Adult Confirmation Sessions - Mini Hall       |

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM RCIA & Adult Confirmation Sessions - Mini Hall

Friday, December 22nd

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Eve Observance

Saturday, December 23rd

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Vigil Mass - 5:30PM

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

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Reconciliation - Church



## MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, December 16th

**†**Alan Norris, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of the 5:30 PM Crawford Family, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Billie & Milley Talley

#### Sunday, December 17th

7:30 AM †Thomas Chennadu, Carolina Pumarejo & Family, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Judy Hodges

9:30 AM +Whitney Wilson, +Ron & +Carol Handy, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Clint & Dottie Carlin, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Briggs & Smart Families

All Our Mary Queen Parishioners 11:30 AM

†Alma & †Frank Berger, George Camara, †Dana Adams 4:30 PM

Monday, December 18th

8:30 AM †Graciano Pina, Sr., †Larry Larson, †Guillermo & +Purificacion Guzman

#### Tuesday, December 19th

8:30 AM **†**Noel Clarin, **†**Larry Larson, Andrea Richards – Birthday Blessings

#### Wednesday, December 20th

6:30 PM †David Harrison, Eugene Sokora, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Nelson & Teresa Olavarria

#### Thursday, December 21st

8:30 AM +Fr. Moe Linehan, M.S., +Hao Leba, +Larry & **†**Wendy Hrncir

#### Friday, December 22nd

8:30 AM **†**Frank & **†**Carlotta Garza. **†**Hao Leba. **†**Rives Benoit

#### Saturday, December 23rd

THarvey Jeffrey, +Oscar & +Cecilia Rivas, 5:30 PM

**†**Connie Banda

#### Sunday, December 24th

7:30 AM +George Whittet, +Maria Trang Do, Jerett Bell -Birthday Blessings

†Rita Cade, †Giacomuzzi Family, Lyn Handy Giacomuzzi 9:30 AM

#### Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00 PM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners

+Scott Durham, +Allen Carambat, +Dr. Charles & 7:00 PM

†Philomena St. George

#### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 17

That we realize suffering is a gift and helps us build empathy for others and build our dependence on God.

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

## TIME.TALENT.TREASURE

Offertory: November 25, 2023 - December 1, 2023 This includes offertory at Mass, mail-in and online giving.

Weekly Offertory Received: \$37,406.44 Weekly Budgeted Amount: \$44,019.17

Difference: (-\$6,612.73) MP-Debt Reduction: \$820.88

**Future Development & Maintenance: \$1,024.88 Total Food Pantry Donations with online: \$2,748.06** 

> Loan Balance as of December 7, 2023 was \$1,263,567.52.

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

#### **Upcoming Special/2nd Collections**

December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

#### **Diocesan Services Fund** 2023 DSF Summary as of December 7, 2023

Parish Goal: \$185,000.00

**Total Amount Paid: \$166.883.00** 

**Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 352 Total Number of Gifts received: 747** 

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

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

#### **IGNITE Campaign**

2022 IGNITE Summary as of December 7, 2023

Parish Goal: \$1.886.649.00 **Total Amount Paid: \$526,570.00** Total Amount Pledged: \$591,091.54 **Total Number of Gifts Received: 1,945 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.

- Go to the following link https://galveston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com
- 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 Anita Shorosky at 281-482-1391 contact 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.





#### 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.



## LIVE THE LITURGY

In today's Gospel, the religious leaders of Jerusalem are as puzzled and uncertain as to who John the Baptist was. Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan? How do you approach friends or family in your life who are confused or questioning the faith?

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else. ©LPi

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# 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





\$240 8 possess table



REGISTER TODAY!



27TH 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

> MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

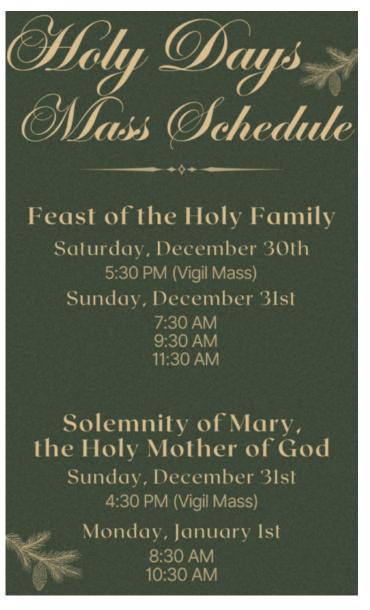
THEME: FAVORITE ROCK BANDS

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MUST BE 21 YEARS AND OLDER TO ATTEND

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





### PRACTICING CATHOLIC

#### **Testimony**

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

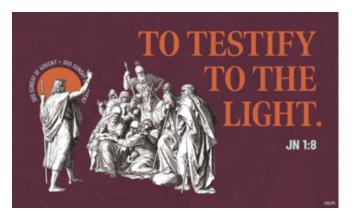
This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light."

— John 1:8

**©LPi** 



## PRAY & REFLECT

#### December 17, 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to -face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

- Father John Muir

**©LPi** 

## DAILY READINGS

#### Sunday, December 17

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

#### Monday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

#### Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

#### Wednesday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

#### Thursday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

#### Friday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

#### Saturday, December 23

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

#### Sunday, December 24

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



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

#### 'That Man is You!' (TMIY)



Fall 2023 Semester of 'That Man is You!' (TMIY) program in Mary Queen started on Wednesday, September 20th and will continue to meet until December 20th 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.'

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



New Bible Study for Adults starting in January 2024!

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

The book of Matthew brings the history of Christ to life. We see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, establishes the New Law, and inaugurates the

kingdom of heaven. Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, a twenty-four-part Bible study, explores how Jesus is challenging and empowering us to a new level of holiness and shows how we must be thoroughly immersed in the kingdom of heaven on earth, the Church, to live it.

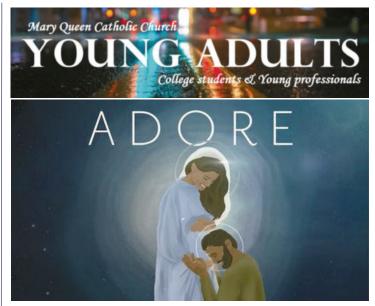
Mary Queen's Adult Faith Formation Department will begin Matthew: The King and His Kingdom on January 16th. The course includes 24-lessons, online access to videos (1-year), a

workbook & the small group discussions. All these are included in with purchase of the material for \$40.

Classes will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Mary's House.

Visit our website to register at <a href="https://bit.ly/MatthewBibleStudy">https://bit.ly/MatthewBibleStudy</a>.

For more information, please contact Eby Kurian.



Journey through Advent with Fr. John Burns

Calling all the 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 during this season of Advent- 'Adore'.

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

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

Join us on the following Wednesday evenings: December 6th, 13th & 20th after the 6:30 PM Holy Mass. All young adults of ages 18-35 are invited to attend our faith sharing small group session from 7:00-8:30 PM.

Please contact Eby Kurian at ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org or 281-482-1391 to get more information and/or to sign-up for this new series. To watch a promotional video of the series, visit <a href="https://bit.ly/AdorePromo">https://bit.ly/AdorePromo</a>.



Thanks to all who attended our Advent Family Prayer Gathering, Wreath Making & Blessing event on Sunday, December 3rd!

See more photos on page 11 of the bulletin.



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

#### **Final Meeting Dates of the Year**

#### **CAST**

#### <u>ARK</u>

December 17th (Christmas Party)

December 10th (Wear ugly Christmas sweater)



Scan the QR code to sign-up on Flocknote, or visit https://maryqueenchurch.flocknote.com/signup/145169.





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

## Enjoy the break and Merry Christmas from Elementary Faith Formation!

2024

**January Class Dates:** 

Tuesdays- 1/9, 1/16, 1/30 No Class on 1/23

Wednesdays- 1/10, 1/17, 1/31 No Class on 1/24

**First Holy Communion Sacrament Schedule** 

OPENING NIGHT!
Thursday, 1/11/24
Time: 6:30 - 7:45 PM
\*Parent & Child must attend.



Jolly St. Nicholas made an appearance at our Elementary Faith Formation classes last week! Many thanks to our volunteers for helping surprise students with sweet treats on St. Nicholas Day!

#### **Two Hands of Christ**

Only a few weeks remain in the year 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: 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.

#### Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) Update

With your gifts so far, our parish has funded \$167,000 toward our DSF commitment of \$185,000, leaving an unpaid balance of \$18,000, which is due by the end of the year.

And so, we ask two things of you – first, if you have already pledged a donation but not completely funded it yet, please do so before the end of the year. Second, for those of you who have not yet committed to this cause, prayerfully consider contributing before December 31st.

You can do so online through our Mary Queen app, by dropping off a check in the collection basket or at the church office, by scanning the QR code, or by visiting <a href="mailto:give.archgh.org">give.archgh.org</a>. Please make sure all checks have DSF written in the memo.



Thank you for your consideration, and may God continue to bless you, your families, and our Mary Queen community.



## Looking for a meaningful gift to give for Christmas?

#### **Consider our Christmas Gift Catalog!**

Christmas is only weeks away! Still looking for the perfect gift? 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.

# T H A N K S

Once again because of the great support of the parish, the Social Concerns Ministry of Mary Queen was able to bless 210 families totaling 597 people with all the groceries needed for a Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you for your continued support.

The Food Pantry would like to publicly thank Tim, the owner of Great Harvest (212 S. Friendswood Dr). He feels strongly about not throwing away food, so Food Pantry volunteers stop by Monday – Friday to pick up donated, day-old, made-from-scratch bread to be distributed to our pantry clients. If you visit Great Harvest anytime soon, feel free to thank him in person for his generosity!



Brought to you by St. Helen Catholic Church, Mary Queen Catholic Church, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church & The Cor Project:

MADE FOR MORE is an inspired blend of teaching, live music, and art that taps the deepest desires of the human heart revealing their ultimate purpose and goal.

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:00 – 9:30 PM St. Helen Catholic Church

Want to be inspired by beauty and the wisdom of the Church? Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they offer a vision of the Gospel like you've never heard through the lens of Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Tickets are on sale now for \$25 and are limited! Grab your tickets today in the parish office or online at M4MTX.EVENTBRITE.COM.

For more information, please contact Eby Kurian, Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

at ekurian@maryqueenchurch.org or 281-710-8876.



Dear Mary Queen Families,

After much discernment with her husband and family, Terri Ryan made the decision last spring to begin transitioning out of her staff position as Director of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization here at Mary Queen. Over the last nine months, our leadership has made significant progress in staffing the Youth Ministry Department with faithful, talented people that will be able to assist our next Director in picking up where Terri is leaving off to continue faithfully serving our Youth. She has loved her time serving the individuals and families of Mary Queen these last four and half years and wants to thank you for your support, friendship, and love. She has also expressed her gratitude for all the youth she has been able to share our Catholic faith with. They have given her the energy and drive necessary to strive to be the best she could be, and she will always cherish the time she had with them.

While Terri will be present for most of the remaining Sunday CAST nights scheduled for fall and spring, she is doing so as a volunteer. Her last official day as a staff member of Mary Queen will be on January 1st, 2024. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Terri for her time here and her willingness to assist Mary Queen in this period of transition. Our prayers are with her and her future ministry in the Church, and we'll be seeing Terri and her family in the pews here at Mary Queen.

## Mary Queen Catholic Church is currently seeking a full-time Director of Youth Ministry.

For more information about the position and to view the full job description, visit

<u>www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/employment-opportunities.</u>

Interested candidates who meet the requirements listed in the job description are invited to submit a cover letter, resume, and references via email to John Laine, Business Manager, at

jlaine@maryqueencatholicchurch.org.



We had a great turn out again this year for the 'Advent Family Prayer Gathering, Wreath Making & Blessing'!

It was a great way to begin the Season of Advent and all the families enjoyed making their own Advent wreath and special performances of short skits, puppet show & songs.

Find more photos from the event on our website at: <a href="https://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/parish-photos">https://www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/parish-photos</a>.







## COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### A Catholic Conference on Aging: January 2024

Nurturing the Roots of Our Communal Tree: A Catholic conference to honor and support aging

The event will be held in English and Spanish on January 27th for older adults and family members.

Saturday, January 27th
8:30 AM -12:30 PM
Prince of Peace Catholic Church
(St. Andrew Community Center)
19222 Tomball Parkway Houston, TX 77070

Presentations featuring:

-Support for In-Home Care
-Essential Legal Planning
-Pre-Planning Funerals
-Aging with a Healthier Lifestyle
-Spiritual Care for Aging
-Senior Care Housing Options
-Community Providers to Support Aging

Registration required. This is a free event but seating is limited. For questions or assistance with registration, please call 713-741-8712 or visit www.archgh.org/aging.



"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 asalettevocations@gmail.com to register or for more info

#### **Texas Catholic Herald**

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



## 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, 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 <a href="mailto:anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org">anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org</a>. 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 Jose Arellano

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

Rachel Chavez Frances Collins Thomas Cunningham

Dement Family Jordan deCardenas

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David Fattig
Guadalupe Flores
Milagro del Carmen
Sanchez Flores
Carol Foulker
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Unborn In The Womb

Ofelia Valdez Audrey Van Buren Zoe Vontour

Jeff Weihe

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

Don't miss the final penance services in our Deanery of the Advent season!

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 <u>Sofia Medrano</u> 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.

January 7—already submitted January 14—December 18

# Q&A

#### The Sign of Peace

#### Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

#### Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven. It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

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#### **A Constant Companion**

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of



God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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