



December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MAY IT BE
DONE TO ME
ACCORDING TO
YOUR WORD.

— LUKE 1:35 —



**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 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 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM Masses

The Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Masses - 4:00 PM; 7:00 PM

Monday, December 25th

Pastoral Offices Closed - Christmas Day Observance

The Nativity of the Lord Masses - 12:00 AM (Midnight Mass);

8:30 AM; 10:30 AM

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House
- 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM Men's Small Study Group - AFF - Rm 120
- 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group - Rm 125

Tuesday, December 26th

- 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mary Queen Seniors - Mini Hall
- 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mary's Chain of Love Ministry - Rm 114/115
- 4:30 PM Exposition for Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel

Wednesday, December 27th

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Christian Meditation Prayer Group - Mary's House
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Confessions - Church
- 5:45 PM - 6:00 PM Benediction Concludes Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mary Queen Woodworkers - Mary's House

Thursday, December 28th

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

Friday, December 29th

Pastoral Offices Closed - New Year's Eve Observance

Saturday, December 30th

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Vigil Mass - 5:30 PM

- 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 23rd

- 5:30 PM †Harvey Jeffrey, †Oscar & †Cecilia Rivas, †Connie Banda

Sunday, December 24th

- 7:30 AM †George Whittet, †Maria Trang Do, Jerett Bell – Birthday Blessings
- 9:30 AM †Rita Cade, †Giacomuzzi Family, Lyn Handy Giacomuzzi

Christmas Eve – December 24th

- 4:00 PM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners
- 7:00 PM †Scott Durham, †Allen Carambat, †Dr. Charles & †Philomena St. George

Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day

- 12:00 AM †Ernie Heeb, †Nick & †Maria Lozano, †Carol Lorance
- 8:30 AM †Maria Trang Do, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of the Hess Family, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Ron & Carol Willenborg
- 10:30 AM †Bo Nguyen, †Hao Leba, Living & Deceased Loved Ones of Georgia Handwerk

Tuesday, December 26th

- 8:30 AM †Diana Peters, †Paul Ta, Miles Libby

Wednesday, December 27th

- 6:30 PM †Kenneth Luck, †Jesus Avillanoza, Miguel & Paula Camacho – Wedding Anniversary Blessings

Thursday, December 28th

- 8:30 AM †Roger Stanfield, †Lake & †Bess Mulleedy, †Roy Gautreaux, Sr. & Roy Gautreaux, Jr., Graciela & Aristeo De Los Santos

Friday, December 29th

- 8:30 AM †Antonio & †Agerica Gisbert, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Foster – 50th Wedding Anniversary Blessings, Melanie Bell – Birthday Blessings

Saturday, December 30th

- 5:30 PM †Joseph Swiader, †David Harrison, †Edward Patrick Mallini

Sunday, December 31st

- 7:30 AM †John Morriss, †Maria Trang Do, †Dorothy Donegan Barrow
- 9:30 AM †George Whittet, †Bruno Giacomuzzi, †Leola McBride
- 11:30 AM †Monica Garcia, †Bo Nguyen, †Roland Hewitt
- 4:30 PM All Our Mary Queen Parishioners

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 24

That like Mary, our lives too reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



TIME·TALENT·TREASURE

Offertory: December 2, 2023 - December 8, 2023

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

Weekly Offertory Received: \$49,254.13

Weekly Budgeted Amount: \$61,612.75

Difference: (-\$12,358.62)

MP-Debt Reduction: \$6,014.00

Future Development & Maintenance: \$5,225.00

Total Food Pantry Donations with online: \$4,444.79

**Loan Balance as of December 13, 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 13, 2023

Parish Goal: \$185,000.00

Total Amount Paid: \$168,818.00

Total Number of Mary Queen Donors: 356

Total Number of Gifts received: 754

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 13, 2023

Parish Goal: \$1,886,649.00

Total Amount Paid: \$527,673.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$591,091.54

Total Number of Gifts Received: 1,958

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.


Eucharistic Adoration



24 Hour Adoration
4:30 PM Tuesday - 5:45 PM Wednesday

First Friday Adoration
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
St. Joseph's Chapel

Respect Life Holy Hour



Sunday, January 14, 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

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day" — the day we received the gift of eternal family.

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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

Holy Days Mass Schedule

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th

5:30 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday, December 31st

7:30 AM

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31st

4:30 PM (Vigil Mass)

Monday, January 1st

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

Santo Niño Group of South Texas

Invites everyone to celebrate

11am - Rosary & Novena
followed by Holy Mass,
Procession and Reception
with lunch & Dancing

Saturday
January 13, 2024

SANTO NIÑO FIESTA

(Feast in honor of the Holy Infant Jesus)

Mary Queen Catholic Church
606 Cedarwood Drive
Friendswood, Texas 77546

Bring your image of the Santo Niño for the blessing and dancing of the Sinulog

The First Friday Family Fun Ministry
invites you to a

Church Scavenger Hunt
&
Pizza

Friday, January 5th
6 - 8 PM
In the Main Hall

PRACTICING CATHOLIC

PRAY & REFLECT

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

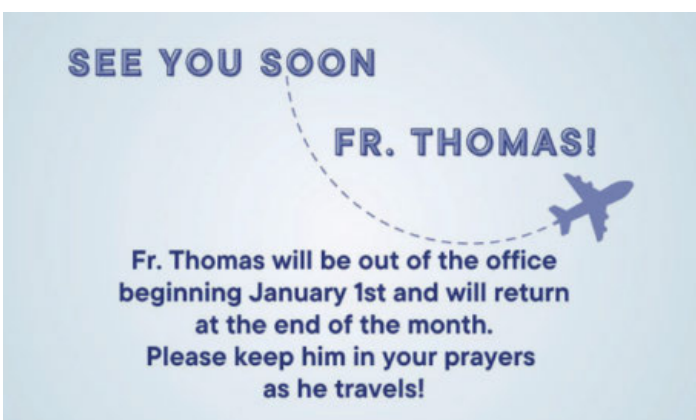
Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

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December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing. Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

— Father John Muir

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DAILY READINGS

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

Monday, December 25

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

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

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

Tuesday, December 26

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

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

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

Friday, December 29

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



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



RCIA Catechumens, Candidates & Adult Confirmation Candidates worshiped together as a group at the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A Family Gift!

In the spirit of Christmas, Mary Queen Catholic Church has a wonderful gift for you this Christmas. Following each of the Masses on December 24th & 25th, every family at Mary Queen will receive a complimentary copy of a wonderful Catholic book.



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
<https://bit.ly/MatthewBibleStudy>.

For more information, please contact Eby Kurian.



Fr. Thomas blessed and distributed the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) to all the RCIA Catechumens, Candidates & Adult Confirmation Candidates. Thanks to Women's Ministry for donating the Catechisms!



Photo Courtesy: Bobby Burns

Please join us in CONGRATULATING and WELCOMING THE NEWLY RECEIVED MEMBER (ADULT) INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Donald Taylor

who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist on December 10th – Second Sunday of Advent.

Photo Courtesy: Tommy McKenna





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



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

TRIVIA NIGHT

FUNDRAISER
SUPPORTING MARY QUEEN YOUTH MINISTRY

\$240

8-person table



\$30

individual ticket



REGISTER
TODAY!



JANUARY
27TH
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MARY QUEEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

THEME:
FAVORITE
ROCK BANDS

TO BECOME A
SPONSOR,
CONTACT JOANNA KRANCHER
713.591.1162
JOANNAKRANCHER@GMAIL.COM

MUST BE 21 YEARS AND OLDER TO ATTEND

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

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.



Fr. Thomas joined one of our Kindergarten classes for their Christmas Dance Party and showed off his dancing skills!

Elementary Faith students being the Two Hands of Christ!



THEME: SUPER BOWL

MEET ME AT THE PEW

Sunday, January 28th

4:30 p.m. - Mass

**Reserved seating will be available for Ark families*

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join us afterwards in the Main Hall for
pizza, games & fellowship

A parent/guardian **MUST** attend.
Dropping off students is **NOT** allowed.



RSVP Today!



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.

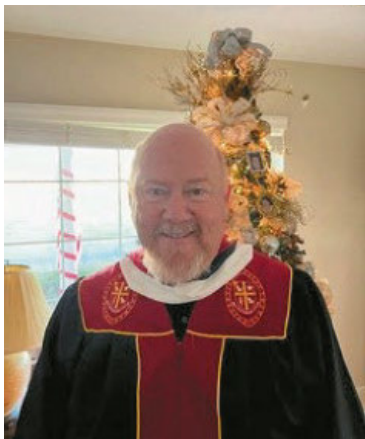
And so, we ask two things of you – first, if you have already pledged a donation but not completely funded it yet, please do so before the end of the year. Second, for those of you who have not yet committed to this cause, prayerfully consider contributing before December 31st.

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 give.archgh.org. 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.

Congratulations, Deacon Chuck Turner!



After 5 years, Deacon Chuck completed his requirements for a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas. To celebrate his accomplishment, he and other graduates attended a Baccalaureate Mass on Friday, December 15 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, TX. We are thrilled for you, Deacon Chuck!



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.

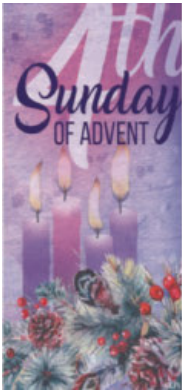
For more information, please contact Eby Kurian, Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA at ekurian@maryqueencatholicchurch.org or 281-710-8876.



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 www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org/employment-opportunities.

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.



Did you know?

The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve only fall on the same day every 6-7 years (except if a leap year occurs), making this year a unique occurrence! Since Christmas is a separate Holy Day of Obligation, Catholics are required to fulfill both obligations for Sunday Mass and Christmas Mass, meaning going to Mass twice although in the same day.



Staff Favorites: Christmas Edition

This year, our staff members were asked to share their favorite Christmas things! Here are their responses:

Favorite Christmas Family Tradition

Chris A.- Eating homemade Christmas candy at my parent's house on Christmas Eve or when "elves" delivered Christmas pajamas to my kids on Christmas Eve.

Eby- Setting out multiple Nativity sets and hanging stars (Star of David) around our home.

Fr. Thomas- As a child, spending Christmas Eve evening decorating the home and making the manger; at 11 PM, the church bells would ring and we would put out Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, then go to midnight Mass followed by Christmas dinner.

Favorite Christmas Gift Ever Received

Carol- Barbie's camper!

Anita- Purple suede purse with an outline of the Partridge Family

Favorite Christmas Gift Ever Given

John- An outdoor table that I handmade for my daughter and son-in-law.

Sofia- I made a rosary for my mom and each decade had beads that spelled out the names of me and my siblings.

Favorite Christmas Memory

Terri- One Christmas Eve, my husband and I bought gifts and went out to give them to retail workers who had to work that evening.

Tino- Elf on the Shelf!

Rose Mary- Christmas Eve as a child when my mother would individually hand out gifts to all 11 of us and my dad would make hot chocolate.

Favorite Christmas Meal

Charles- Turkey, dressing, and canned cranberry!

Ray- Ribeye roast

Favorite Christmas Movie

Deacon Chuck- White Christmas

Fr. Trey- A Charlie Brown Christmas (obviously) and Elf

Chris M.- Jingle All the Way

Loretta- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Favorite Christmas Ornament

Yolanda- A red cardinal

Olivia- Homemade baked cinnamon-scented ornaments from my youth



With a new year approaching, this is the perfect time to consider serving our parish in a unique way through one of our various ministries.

We hope you will find your place here at Mary Queen!

ACTS	Livestreaming Ministry
Acolytes	Maintenance/Grounds
Alb Laundering	Marriage Preparation
Altar Servers	Couple to Couple
Annulment Ministry	Mary's Chain of Love - Crochet &
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW)	Craft Ministry
Arts & Environment	Mary's Garden
Baptismal Preparation	Meals on Wheels
Bay Area Serra Club	Meals for Clergy
Bereavement Meals	Men's Ministry
Blood Drive	Ministry of Care
Boy Scout Troop 452	Ministry of Compassion
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Music Ministry
Christian Meditation Prayer Group	Nursery Ministry
Church Keepers	Offertory Counters
Coffee & Donuts	Our Lady of La Salette Prayer Group
Creation Care Ministry	Parish Festival Committee
Cub Scout Pack 452	Prison Ministry
Disaster Preparedness Committee	Queen Bee Quilters
Divorce Care	Respect Life
Emergency Management Committee	Sacramental Programs
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Safety and Security
Training & Scheduling	Mary Queen Seniors
Food Pantry	Sister Parish
Gabriel Project	Senior Savings
Hispanic Ministry	Special Friends
Hospitality Ministers (Ushers)	St. Joseph Guild
Knights of Columbus #8494	Vacation Bible School
La Salette Laity	Vocations Ministry
Lectors - Adult/Youth	Welcome Committee
	Women's Ministry
	Woodworkers Ministry

Contact our Parish Office for more information on any of these ministries or if you'd like to join one or more!



Attention Parishioners:

Incense may be used at Mass in various occasions.

In these instances, St. Joseph Chapel is available for you to sit in if you have a sensitivity.

The Chapel is always open for all to sit in and attend Mass on any day.

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.



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 anitashorosky@maryqueenchurch.org. Include the rank of the individual, their name and their branch of service.

Thank you and God Bless America!

"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



Don't give each other things this Christmas, give each other the gift of great communication, a deep love, and a marriage filled with God by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on February 16-18, 2024.

For more information, contact Brian & Tina Little at 281-773-4014 or go on-line to www.houstonme.org.

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

Enriquez Family
Patrick Ezeli

David Fattig
Guadalupe Flores
Milagro del Carmen
Sanchez Flores
Carol Foulker
Xavier Franco

Alonzo Ponce Garza
Natalie Genoa
Cloey Gomez
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
Suzie Kornblit
Gerry Kovach
Rev. James H.
Kuczynski, M.S.

Mark LaLonda
Samantha & Brad Laney
Chris Lobue
Johnny Lobue
Sue Lobue
Lhey Luna

Anita Mantzel
Jake Martinez
Jean Maxwell
Robert McAnelly
Robert Mireles Family
Gregorio Montoya

Mary Catherine Natali
Roger Pharris Family
Kelsey Phinney
Bob Pillow
Mark Pitre
Curtis Post

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

Joe Sambrano
Kitty Shedlack
Special Needs Families
Lexie Stine
Betty Suagee
Joe Suagee

Bianca Tellez
Steve Telxeira
Preston Trahan
Charles Trovato Family

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.













Dylan's Christmas Playlist

A list of top Christmas tunes from our Director of Liturgy and Music!

Favorite Christmas songs to listen to:

-  The Dream Isaiah Saw  ...
-  O Holy Night  ...
-  A Christmas Hallelujah  ...
-  Silent Night  ...
-  O Come All Ye Faithful  ...

Favorite Christmas songs to play:

-  O Come All Ye Faithful  ...
-  Joy to the World  ...
-  O Holy Night  ...
-  Of the Father's Love Begotten  ...
-  What Child is This (actually an Epiphany song)  ...

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.

January 14—already submitted
January 21—December 27



Lighting Candles in Church

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints. ©LPi

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.



Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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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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