



# St. Mary Catholic Church ~ St. Joseph Catholic Mission

## February 2026



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
 Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez  
 Fr. Edward C. Kucera, Jr. ~ Pastor  
 Fr. Paul Lockey - Visiting Priest  
 Deacon David G. Garvis  
 Deacon Anthony Olivieri  
 Deacon Frank Ashley



Parish Office  
 PO Box 388, Plantersville, TX 77363  
 936-894-2223  
 Parish Fax - 936-894-3613  
 Email: info@stmaryandjoseph.org  
 Website: smsj.org  
 Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Friday: 8:00 am - 12 pm  
 Lunch: Closed from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### St. Mary - Plantersville

Monday through Thursday & First Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. &

Sunday - 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

#### St. Joseph - Stoneham

Sunday—7:30 a.m.

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

1st & 3rd Wednesday: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 5-6 p.m.  
(Subject to change)

Or by Appointment - Please Call the Office

### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Please call the parish office for information concerning the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony or Anointing of the Sick.

## *Church Organizations & Ministries at St. Mary's & St. Joseph's*

#### Parish Administrator

Bob Daves 832.205.2791

#### AA

Deb Waters 281.701.4177

#### ACTS Retreat

Diane Pasket 936.232.0864

#### Adult Bible Study & Spiritual Enrichment

Suiki Boardman 713.254.6943

#### Adult Confirmation

Sharon Skeans 281.467.0217

#### Annulments

Cindy Olivieri 713.206.0621

#### Art & Environment...etc.

Liz Torres 936.894.2223

#### Baptism Preparation for Infants to 6

Email: baptism@stmaryandjoseph.org

#### CCE / RE

Nicci Potter 936.894.2223

Email: cce@stmaryandjoseph.org

#### Church Greeters

Call Parish Office 936.894.2223

#### Gabriel Project

Amy Schnell 904.556.3486

#### GriefShare

Pam Milek 281.686.7552

#### Guardian Angels Senior Group

Teresa Swonke 979.450.2907

#### Homebound Ministry

Bobby Williams 832.540.2250

#### Lectors

Richard Prokop 936.827.1125

#### Little Lambs Playgroup

Wanda O'Brien 936.597.6328

#### Marriage Preparation

Dcn. Anthony Olivieri 936.522.8146

Cindy Olivieri 713.206.0621

#### Music Coordinator

Meara O'Neill 936.894.2223

#### OCIA / Adult Faith Formation

Thomas Johnson 936.697.2821

#### Pro-Life Outreach

Nance Shaw 936.894.2512

#### Quinceanera Coordinator:

Martha Lucas 512.608.3519

#### Rummage Sale Coordinator

Lauren Twining 281.813.5355

#### St. Joseph - Altar Society

Marcy Pavlock 936.661.6662

#### St. Joseph - Cemetery

Justin Mock 979.777.4993

#### St. Joseph - Men's Club

Donovan Pavlock 936.900.4903

#### St. Mary - Altar Servers

Steve Twining 936.306.9188

#### St. Mary - Altar Society

Betty Hollas 713.419.6106

#### St. Mary - Cemetery

Rita Swonke 713.557.5817

#### St. Mary - Corner Shoppe

Lora Cox 254.216.3316

#### St. Mary - Extraordinary Ministers -

#### Holy Communion & Sacristans

Kerry Masson 713.824.8599

#### St. Mary - Men's Club

Shanon Salsbury 936.444.5988

#### Stitchin' Sisters

Juli Murphy 936.206.0677

#### St. Vincent de Paul (for help, 936.894.2362)

Everette Johnson 713.204.3016

#### Wedding Coordinator:

Martha Lucas 512.608.3519

#### Young Catholic Married Couples (YCMC)

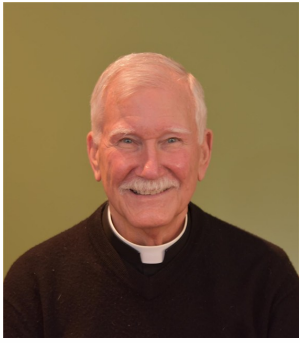
Michael Tann 346.373.0369

#### Youth Confirmation

Email: youthconfirmation@stmaryandjoseph.org

If you would like to become a member of our parish, please pick up a registration form in back of the church or complete online at [www.smsj.org](http://www.smsj.org).

## AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...(page 1)



I think it's time to wrap up my travel adventure. Four installments is a little too much. But get me started and I don't know when to quit...lol.

In my last installment, I recounted the adventure of the lost piece of luggage and it's almost miraculous reappearance, following us from Montenegro to Bosnia. (see Part 3).

In Bosnia-Herzegovina we visited the city of Mostar, an ancient city with a mixed population of Christians and Moslems. Incidentally, they don't get along. The Christians reside on one side of the river, the Moslems on the other. Some boast they've never been on the other side of the river. The civil war of the 90's took its toll on the area.

The calling card of the city is its ancient bridge built in the 16th century. The story goes that the Ottoman ruler wanted the most beautiful bridge in the world built over the river. He enlisted an architect who designed and oversaw its construction. However, just before its completion, he fled and was never seen again. He feared the ruler might not like the bridge or it might collapse. The ruler was well pleased but never found the architect to reward him. Unfortunately, the bridge was destroyed in 1993 during the civil war but rebuilt meticulously in 2004. During the warmer times of the year, guys jump from the bridge into the river...for a price. Mostar is a beautiful city. The bridge is stunning, especially at night. We stayed in the Old City with very narrow streets, lots of shops, restaurants, and small hotels. The rest of the town is like any modern city.

We didn't visit any other Bosnian town, except to drive through. Bosnia is rather behind the times and not very developed according to Western standards. Credit cards are generally not accepted. Cash is king. Bargaining is expected. Not so in Croatia.

From Bosnia, we returned to Croatia and stayed at the seaside town of Zadar. Again, a very typical small town on the Adriatic Sea. Beautiful and restful.

A decision had to be made...where to now? We had a time schedule to meet up with the parish pilgrimage in Milan, Italy. We had some time to kill so we took a map and decided to go to Slovenia. Decided on the capital, Ljubljana (Lu-bi-ah-nab). A surprisingly beautiful, clean and friendly to Americans. I charmed the gal at the registration desk and got a fantastic room ...lol. There is a lot of Austrian influence, so the area is heavily Catholic with beautiful churches.

From Ljubljana we headed to Venice to join a family celebrating their mother's 80th birthday. It just so happened we were all traveling at the same time. We only stayed one night 'cause the parish pilgrimage would end up there.

After a quick stay in Venice and celebrating the 80th birthday, we headed to Lake Como in Italy. Finding a hotel proved a challenge. We found an apartment with a great 5th floor view of the lake. Only we didn't read the small print...no elevator...and the stairs were like straight up. Needless-to-say, one trip up with luggage convinced me to get our deposit back. After a bit of a debate (but being nice), we got the deposit back and found a great hotel with an elevator and a room on the 2nd floor overlooking the lake.

On leaving Lake Como, somehow the car's trunk didn't latch. When we were flagged over by a driver waving and pointing, we stopped in the middle of the street to discover that the two bags containing our toiletries and beverages were missing. After a scramble parking and 30 minutes searching, not a sign of the bags or their contents were found. All I can think of is that the trunk came open, we were in slow traffic, and someone walked between cars and lifted up our bags. Rather a different outcome than when we lost our luggage in Montenegro, it remaining on the sidewalk for 5 hours and returned. Italy, on the other hand, has become a country where one has to be so careful. Robbery is rampant.

From Lake Como to Milan is a short drive. We arrived a day before the pilgrimage group. That day was principally spent shopping for new toiletries and restocking beverages.

## AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...(page 2)

Milan is a big, industrial city, though has an ancient core and history. We toured the great cathedral which is world famous. Near the cathedral is the also famous Galleria, the world's first covered shopping center. We visited beautiful churches, especially interesting was the church honoring St. Charles Borromeo, a pioneer in the renewal of the church in the late 1500's. He is credited in founding 'seminaries' where candidates would be educated and trained for the Priesthood.

From Milan, we went to Padua where St. Anthony of Padua lived and died. He was originally from Lisbon, Portugal. Portugal still claims him and calls him St. Anthony of Lisbon...lol. His church there is gigantic and beautiful. I should add here that I was so privileged to celebrate Mass in the churches we visited. Padua still retains much of its medieval character.

From Padua we ventured to Verona, again a very mediaeval town, famous for Romeo and Juliet. We had a good tour of the old town and the places where there historical Romeo and Juliet lived. We celebrated Mass in a church associated with the lovers, or so it was said...lol.

Our final city on our pilgrimage was Venice, a beautiful city with a fascinating history. We stayed smack in the middle, a hotel with interesting rooms. The layout was a bit challenging. It was nice to just walk out the hotel entrance and be in the flow of the city. We had a great tour of the cathedral. It's actually difficult to get such a private tour. The highlight was celebrating Mass in a small side chapel in the cathedral.

Even the pilgrimage had its adventure. The weather was to say-the-least not what we prayed for. It was at first ok then changed to cold, windy, and rainy. Yep. But our group was undeterred and troopers. We visited the islands famous for glass and lace/embroidery. I'll always remember our leaving our hotel to go to the airport. We left the hotel c. 5am... crossed the deserted main piazza with a howling wind and cold rain, getting on the boats that would take us across the canal to the airport. We all helped each other and had a blast laughing at the experience we would remember for a long time.

In all, it was a great holiday. The Pilgrimage was the highlight of my travels. Being with such a great group, celebrating daily Mass, getting to know each other, taking in the hold sights... what more can you ask?

Our next pilgrimage is being planned as I write. Stay tuned.



I hope you have heard about St. Mary's planning study, which includes a comprehensive survey of the entire parish. This study will help gauge support for our plan to build a new sanctuary. Every registered household was mailed a fact sheet providing some details about the project and a request to share your thoughts by either interviewing with the Steier Group representative or submitting a survey that was included in the mailing.

I would like to thank all of you who have already participated in the study. Your thoughts are extremely valuable to us during this planning process. I highly encourage **everyone** who has not responded to do so. Your input will help us make informed decisions regarding our long-range plans.

We hope to have all completed surveys returned by Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. You can return the paper version of the survey by mail, drop it off at the parish office, or put it in the offertory basket at any of the Masses on or before the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## A Reflection on the Storm of January 2026

Why-Oh-Why did the Arctic Storm have to arrive on a weekend?! I'm sure many a pastor of whatever Christian church asked the Lord that question. But it did. The Lord has His ways.

I waited for some guidance from the Chancery as to what to do about the weekend Masses. Nothing came but that we were directed to take care that the property was adequately prepared for the freezing storm approaching. I presume there could not be a blanket advisory about Masses because parishes down south would be less affected. Never-the-less, the decision was ours to make.

The decision was even more difficult because the weatherman kept changing his mind. After discussion with our Administrator, office staff and getting input from our daily Mass attendees, I decided to move up the Saturday Vigil to 3pm so people could arrive when it was light and leave before dark. It worked out great! The church was packed, Mary Jane braved the drive from Navasota, members of the choir were in high spirits and undeterred by the weather. The same can be said of the sacristan, lector, hospitality ministers and the brave souls who filled the church and made it the special Vigil that it was.

The decision, after prayer and waiting for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, was made to cancel the Sunday Masses. No pastor does that lightly. Just this of the 'collection'! But the over-riding consideration was for the safety of each and every one of you. On a good Sunday, Hwy 105 can be a bit dicey. FM 1774 in an ice storm or even heavy rain can be treacherous. The distance so many of you must travel also made the decision rather easy: cancel the Sunday Masses for St. Mary and St. Joseph.

Some were concerned about missing Mass on Sunday.

Remember, the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Often in the Gospels, Jesus is confronted by someone who needs a healing. His disciples were rebuked by the Pharisees for picking grain on the Sabbath.

Knowing the sacredness of the Sabbath but also moved with compassion for the individual before Him, He cures the individual, much to the ire and consternation of the Pharisees. In doing so, He showed us that exceptions can be made that still keep the Sabbath holy.

I don't need to remind everyone about the bishops' closing churches and abrogating (look it up) the Sunday celebration. It was done for the safety of the People of God. So too, because of the danger of you, the Assembly, being on the road is such dangerous weather (with the added caution of the civil authorities), I decided the Lord would not want y'all on the road risking your lives and/or those of your family.

I have to say Sunday on the premises was 'eerie'. Even Bridget knew something was amiss. It was strange not having to open the hall, get the coffee going, hearing the hospitality teams come in and chatter away. I actually woke up a bit later... 6:30am...I looked out to see if there might be someone who didn't get the email. Nope. Not one vehicle. Thank God! I was prepared to invite them in for coffee.

I did get out Saturday after the 3pm Mass for an Auction Bazaar Supper that was bravely still on. It was a wonderful evening with everyone conscious of the weather and not staying too long. (I had the hosts drive me home... I have a low trust level on my driving when it might get icy).

Hopefully, the occasion of having to cancel the Sunday Celebration won't happen again for a long time. I missed y'all terribly. But remember, Jesus understands and had to confront the same unfortunate situation. Things happen. The person/people come first. He wanted you all safe, warm and praying at home till we'd come together again and celebrate as a Community of Faith on the day we know as 'The Lord's Day', His Day.

**Ok, weather might impact the Sunday Celebration  
But we're praying for a huge turnout for  
our Sweetheart Valentine party & dance  
Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
St. Mary Hall  
(See details here in bulletin)  
I'll definitely be there!!!**

## Please keep our sick in your prayers:

Carol Anderson, MaryAnn Benitz, Bernie & JoAnn Borski, Courtney Boyett, Delores Boyett, Blanca Bradley, James & Meredith Buck, Charlie Burzinski, Jr., Francis "Frank" Bushey, Gary Carmouche, Carol Clary, Florence Corolla, Jay Creighton, John Duffy, Melissa Duffy, Don Faughn, Jeff Faughn, Beckham Fox, Liliana Fredo, Carol Fryman, Patricia Gehring, Melody Gensheimer, Holly Gilstrap, Russell Grasshoff, Frances Griffith, Cassy Guillory, Jamie Hafla, John Hannemann, Hudson Hall, Briana Herzog Burns, Timothy & Catherine Hoffart, Irene Hoffpauir, Barbara Hyde, Michele Imhoff, Alice Johnston, Will Kaus, Jason Keasling, Hiltraud "Hillie" Keller, Deborah Kennamore, Ruth Kolek, Jimmy Kubeczka, Shirley Kuzma, Greta La Fluer, Grant Larson, Jack Letobitz, Chris Lobue, Kayla Reneé Luck, Laveta Malek, Fritz Manuel, Amanda Martinez, Natalie Mattern, Frankie McIntosh, Kerri McLeod, Mike Meador & Janie Houser Meador, Linda Merdian, Hailey Minor, Chad Mock, John M. Mock, Tammy Rabun, CeCe Ray, Josephine Shannon, David Shrader, John Simmons, Fred Smith, Brian Stehling, Marie Staples, Craig Strickler, Daniela Syzdek, Dr. Linda Ann Walker, Clara Walkoviak, Jessica Weisenbach



*We need your help to clean up our prayer list. Please get in touch with the office if there is anyone we can remove from the prayer list, if there is a loved one you would like to remain on the list, or if you would like to add someone to the list. Contact at [info@smsj.org](mailto:info@smsj.org) or 936-894-2223*

## THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**Pope's Intention:** For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



## **CONFESSIONS**

Confessions will be heard on

**Wednesday, February 11**  
**10:00am-noon & 5:00-6:00pm**  
(Subject to change)



Otherwise, if available, Fr. Ed would be happy to hear confessions.

Call the office for an appointment  
at 936-894-2223.

## **Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule** **February 18 at St. Mary**

**9:00 am & 6:30 pm**

**Anointing Mass for the**  
**Sick and Elderly**  
**Wednesday, February 11**

**No First Friday Mass**

## St. Joseph Mass Intentions February 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intentions</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
Sun., Feb. 1	7:30am	Tony Wetuski Family Lester Tomkivits	Wetuski Family George & Janie Wishkoski
Sun., Feb. 8	7:30am	Albert & Theresa Smith Frank, Elizabeth & Bernard Kuta	Mary Posinski Genevieve Kuta
Sun., Feb. 15	7:30am	Clara Fryde & Shirley Bailey Laura Imhoff Grady M. Drawdy III	Theresa Rausheck Joette & the late Harlan Jochen Sandra D. Rios
Sun., Feb. 22	7:30am	Randy Nicholson Ginny Lampasas	Family Morgan & Shirley Cook

### **A Message from Archbishop Joe S. Vásquez**

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Recently, I visited one of our priests in the hospital. I was comforted to see how our priest chaplains and pastoral visitors care for our priests and for all who suffer and seek the healing presence of Christ in moments of illness. This ministry—and many like it—is made possible through your support of the **Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)**.

DSF supports sixty-four ministries that bring Christ's mercy and hope to many by forming young disciples, supporting Catholic schools, and serving families and neighbors in need.

This year's DSF theme, drawn from **Pope Leo XIV's motto *In Illo Uno Unum*** ("In the One, We are One"), reminds us that in Christ we find our peace, our strength, and our purpose. Your generosity to DSF is a living witness of the communion we share as His disciples. Together, we bring the Gospel and the compassion of Christ to those most in need.

I invite you to renew your support today and help ensure the Church remains a beacon of unity, faith, and love for all who turn to it.

Thank you for your faith, your love of the Church, and your generous support.

**St. Mary's approved goal for 2026 is \$120,937.50.**

**St. Joseph's approved goal for 2026 is \$13,760.00.**

### SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

February 18: Archdiocesan Social Ministries Collection

February 22: **DSF Kick-Off Weekend**

February 22: **Black & Indian Mission Collection**

March 15: Catholic Relief Services Collection



### St. Mary Mass Intentions for February 2026

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested by</b>
Sun., Feb. 1	7:00am	For the People	---
Sun., Feb. 1	8:30am	Jacob Diehl	Beatrice Diehl
		Theresa Killen	Carol & Harold Wishkoski
Sun., Feb. 1	10:00am	Leland Fougeron	Nicholas Grupa
Sun., Feb. 1	11:30am	Sharon Hatter	Hatter Family
Mon., Feb. 2	9:00am	NO MASS	---
Tue., Feb. 3	9:00am	NO MASS	---
Wed., Feb. 4	9:00am	NO MASS	---
Thur., Feb. 5	9:00am	NO MASS	---
Fri., Feb. 6	9:00am	NO FIRST FRIDAY MASS	---
Sat., Feb. 7	5:00pm	John & Kevin Nosich	Keith Nosich
Sun., Feb. 8	7:00am	Rose Calhoun	Brenda & Margaret Wishkoski
Sun., Feb. 8	8:30am	Betty Wischnewsky & Rob Lowery	Deborah Pruitt
Sun., Feb. 8	10:00am	For the People	---
Sun., Feb. 8	11:30am	Marian Cecelia Loftus	---
Mon., Feb. 9	9:00am	Harold Wisnoski	Family
Tue., Feb. 10	9:00am	Josephine Swonke	Family
Wed., Feb. 11	9:00am	Hayden O'Brien	Leo Wick
Thur., Feb. 12	9:00am	Marilyn Sue Frenzel	---
Sat., Feb. 14	5:00pm	Patti Lott Stafford	Tootsie Mock
Sun., Feb. 15	7:00am	Lisa Seigle	Family
Sun., Feb. 15	8:30am	For the People	---
Sun., Feb. 15	10:00am	Matthew Wishkoski	Carol & Harold Wishkoski
Sun., Feb. 15	11:30am	Bob Riedle	Mary & Susan Riedle
Mon., Feb. 16	9:00am	J. William Soderman	Family
Tue., Feb. 17	9:00am	Marshall Perry	---
Wed., Feb. 18	9:00am	Sylvester & Lillie Pavlock	Robert & Patricia Kimich
Wed./ Feb/ 18	6:30pm	Pat Holt	---
Thur., Feb. 19	9:00am	Dorothy Gast	Family
Sat., Feb. 21	5:00pm	William Bailey	Catherine Rudel & Mildred Rosenberg
		Kathy Capshaw	Kathy & Ron Arnoldi
Sun., Feb. 22	7:00am	Dolores Hoffart	Family
Sun., Feb. 22	8:30am	Ron Michno	Pauline Michno
Sun., Feb. 22	10:00am	For the People	---
Sun., Feb. 22	11:30am	Buck & Angelina McLaurin-Till	Thomas & Francis Kowis
Mon., Feb. 23	9:00am	Billy Uilkie	Family
Tue., Feb. 24	9:00am	Irene Kerr	---
Wed., Feb. 25	9:00am	Bill Malek	Malek Family
Thur., Feb. 26	9:00am	Michael Saunders	Saunders Family
Sat., Feb. 28	5:00pm	Charles Mock	Aleen Mock
		Frank Mock	Linette Mock

GUARDIAN ANGELS

# SWEETHEART

## *Dance*

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**FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 6PM**

*St. Mary's Parish Hall*  
*Tickets \$20 advanced sale or \$25 at the door*

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ENTERTAINMENT BY BILL MOCK  
AND THE HWY 105 BAND • HOR  
D'OEURVES, SNACKS, DESSERTS,  
BEER, WINE, SODA, AND WATER  
PROVIDED • VALENTINE'S-  
THEMED PHOTO AREA

MUST BE PRESENT FOR DOOR PRIZE  
DRAWING

## St. Mary's Mid-Year Financial Report

July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

(Our fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup>)

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Income:	\$1,063,950.06	\$1,772,968.21
Less Expenses:	\$ 922,833.66	\$1,036,890.43
Less Capital Improv:	<u>\$ 149,999.94</u>	<u>\$ 135,477.10</u>
Net:	\$ 141,116.40	\$ 763,077.78

### Total Cash as of 12-31-2025

Checking:	\$ 250,768.07
Main Savings:	\$3,798,772.00
Reserve:	\$ 507,976.74
Other:	<u>\$ 110,898.10</u>
Total:	\$5,901,679.42

\*Less Claims by other groups

Other Groups:	<u>\$ 447,711.10</u>
Total Cash Available:	\$5,267,087.17

We have no debt or loans

\*Men's Club, Altar Society, Guardian Angels, ACT's, and Cemetery group.

As you can see, you, the parishioners of St. Mary, are very generous with your time, talent and treasure. We take pride in being good stewards of St. Mary's facilities and assets. Our buildings are all getting older by the day, Fr. Ed's rectory is 101 years old this year. The Klein House (our office) is 98 years old; our church that was originally built in 1917 is 109 years old. These, along with our other structures, require more and more maintenance. As you know we are experiencing substantial growth in our area, and we are seeing more and more new faces at every Mass on the weekends. Fr. Ed has announced our intention to build a new church, and we have been saving with this in mind. Fr. Ed will be updating you as more information becomes available.

## Music Ministry Announcements

### Adult Choir

Join us as we prepare reflective sacred music for Lent (Ash Wednesday, Feb 18). Opportunities for solos and special ensembles.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6:30–8:00pm in the church (with some exceptions when schedules conflict). Sing at 8:30am & 10:00am Sunday Masses. Ages 15+, new voices welcome!

### Cantors

Lead our parish in sung prayer this Lent! Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6:00–6:30pm in the church before choir practice. Flexible Mass assignments. Next quarterly workshops: Feb 4 & 10 (after Adult Choir). Come grow in this vital ministry!

### Children's Choir

Bring joyful young voices to our parish! Ages 6–15. Rehearsals: Wednesdays 5:30–6:30pm in the music room (before CCE). Sing at 11:30am Mass & special events like Benedictions. New members encouraged—let your child sing for the Lord!

### NEW: Resurrection Choir

Launch of our Resurrection Choir for funeral ministry! Provide hopeful sacred music at parish funerals (hymns of Resurrection & eternal life). Flexible rehearsals/training. No experience needed—just a heart for service. Contact the music director to join!

Music ministry deepens our Lenten journey of prayer and hope. Contact the music director to sign up or learn more—your voice is needed!



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS, LENT 2026

As a Community, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent **each Friday at 7:00 pm and each Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass**. Stations on Wednesdays will be guided by Parish Members, and on Fridays by the groups indicated below. All Stations of the Cross will be at St. Mary Church with one exception, April 3rd, Good Friday. These Stations will be at St. Joseph, at 7:00 pm.

**Station Guides will be provided for use in Church on Friday evenings and Wednesday mornings.** Use your own Station Guides when you, your families and groups pray together in Church and at home. Our Corner Shoppe and shops in other parishes can show you a choice of Station Guides.

Every life has suffering, temptation, burial and resurrection. We pray and meditate at each Station, that Jesus may guide us to live our lives in His Service as He wills.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Feb. 20	7pm	Fr. Edward C. Kucera /Dcn Olivieri/Dcn Ashley @ SM
Feb. 27	7pm	Confirmation Class @ SM
March 6	7pm	St. Mary's Altar Society @ SM
March 13	7pm	St. Vincent de Paul @ SM
March 20	7pm	Choir @ SM
March 27	7pm	ACTS @ SM
April 3	7pm	St. Joseph's Catholic Church @ SJ



**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANER PROGRAM**

St. Mary's has a loaner program for anyone in need of Medical equipment. For equipment availability, and to set up a pick up time please contact the office at 936-894-2223.

We have walkers, bedside commodes, & other durable medical devices.



**SUNDAY FUNDAY**



Children of all ages - join in the FUN during SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP in the corner of the HALL EVERY SUNDAY after every Mass. Fun things to PLAY with and FRIENDS to meet. Let's enjoy our CATHOLIC FAITH together!

**FORMED:** Dive into the treasures of the Church, from daily reflections to small group studies, all designed to nourish your faith journey. To sign up or sign in go to <https://formed.org/signup>

**AA MEETINGS:**

**Every Monday evening @ 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Kelly House (KH)**



**Volunteers Needed**

If you are new to our Parish or have been thinking about getting involved with one of our many Church Organizations or Ministries, please refer to the front page of the bulletin. You will find a list with the contact information of the person that can get you signed up. If you don't see what you are looking for please ask. We always need helping hands!!

**St. Mary's Cemetery News**

2025 was a very busy year for the cemetery committee. Some of the projects in Section A, our oldest section, were: restoring the large cross monument; cleaning the Jesus statue; resurfacing some of the grave markers and replacing 8 of them. Twelve more are on order for this section as we want to honor the founders of our church. Eighteen Veterans' graves foot markers were reset as they were beginning to sink into the ground. This is an ongoing project. The lights on the flagpole in the older section were replaced and an Eagle Scout project by Tyler Hayden was to revamp the area around the flagpole. There were leaning headstones that had to be addressed, as well as the Fence Donor Memorial. Also, the landscaping around the Columbaria was addressed. Some projects were completed by members of the cemetery committee and some had to be done by professionals. Our beautiful cemetery is always a work in progress.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society:



Dear Lord, as Vincentians, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the countless opportunities to serve others. Thank You for the chance to make a difference in the lives of those around us. May we embrace each moment with joy and humility, reflecting Your love and grace.

Help us to be faithful stewards of the gifts You have given us.

Amen.

As February arrives, let us remember to cherish the bonds we share and seek ways to show kindness every day. Whether through small acts or heartfelt words, may we bring warmth and encouragement to those around us, making this month a time of genuine connection and love.

We are deeply grateful for your generous donations to our pantry. Your support throughout the year helps us continue to serve those in need. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Everette Johnson

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 24 at 10:00 am in the parish hall.

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**If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance from the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call:  
(936) 894-2362**

## ST. MARY'S MEN'S CLUB

February 18<sup>th</sup> starts the Season of Lent, it's a time to reflect and become closer with our Lord. So many times we look for things to "Give Up", while that is awesome and often very fitting, sometimes we can do the opposite and use it as a season to "Do Something"... Maybe join a ministry, read the bible, go on a retreat, etc. I feel whatever you decide, do it to bring you closer with our Lord. God Bless You from the Men's Club.



Monthly dinner & meeting on Tuesday, February 17  
at 6:15pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall.

**St. Mary's Men's Club  
Blood Drive & Breakfast  
Sunday, March 8  
8:00am - 1:30pm**

Please make plans to donate.  
If you are unable to, please  
encourage a friend or family  
member to do so.

**SM Parish Hall**

## *The Corner Shoppe*

St. Mary's Religious Articles Store

Stop in after all Weekend Masses and **also**  
**on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to shop**  
**for:**

*Catholic Devotional Items \* Sacrament Gifts \*  
Wedding and Anniversary Gifts \*  
Greeting Cards \* Rosaries*

If you are interested in volunteering to  
work in the Corner Shoppe, please contact  
any of our volunteers.



The GriefShare ministry will begin again on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. We will meet in the **Kelly House** for this 13-week program from **10am to noon**.

This is a Christ-centered support program to help people who are mourning the death of a loved one. It offers a safe, caring space where participants can understand their grief, share their experiences and find hope and healing.

We are prayerfully seeking volunteer facilitators to help lead and support this ministry.

Contact information: Pam Milek  
Ph: 281-686-7552  
Email: [Pamela.Milek@aol.com](mailto:Pamela.Milek@aol.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY** \*  
\* MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! \*  
\* **Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00am** \*  
\* **In the parish hall.** \*  
\* Come and check us out! \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



**ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR SOCIETY**  
**Meeting in the parish hall on**  
**February 3 at 6:00pm**  
Anyone who is not currently a member of the Altar Society, but would like to be, please plan on attending.

**The Montgomery County Women's Center** is an outreach of the St. Mary's Altar Society.

The Center offers support to women and families experiencing difficult circumstances with domestic violence.

The current needs are:

**Baby formula**  
**Warm pajamas(adult & children**  
**Laundry detergent**  
**Bath towels**  
**Wash towels**  
**Paper plates**  
**Cups**  
**Cleaning products**  
(Clorox wipes, Lysol, bleach, Dawn, Pinesol, etc)

Please place your donations in the baskets provided in the church and hall.

Thank You from the Women's Center for all of your donations. For more information about the Women's Center go to <https://mcwctx.org>



**Celebrating St. Joseph's Feast Day**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2026**  
**@ 5:30pm**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Mission,**  
**Stoneham, TX**  
**Fantastic Beef Stew, wonderful bread & homemade pies**  
**Supper will be served in the Parish Hall after Mass.**  
**ADULTS - \$15.00**  
**CHILDREN (12 & under) - \$5.00**



*We must remember that God has no other hands but ours, no other feet but ours, no other mouth but ours. Therefore, God is still going to work miracles of love, miracles of freedom and liberation through people like you and me.”*

*~Blessed Mother Theresa*

### LITTLE LAMBS PLAYGROUP

Are you looking for a playgroup for your children to get together with others? Moms or Dads, are you looking to connect with other parents and visit while your children play? Homeschool families, are you looking for a few hours of socialization for your children and conversation with adults? If the answer is YES, then come and join us this month in the hall at St. Mary's from 9-11am on Friday, February 27.



### ST. MARY'S GUARDIAN ANGELS SENIOR GROUP NEWS

Meeting on Tuesday, February 3 @ 10:00am upstairs in the Family Life Center

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Game Day Tuesday, February 17 @ 10:00am to 2:00pm in SM parish hall.  
Please bring a dish to share.

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The Domino Club will play 42 on Tuesdays in the Family Life Center Kitchen.  
We are looking for more players. Please bring a dish to share with everyone.

### Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) - Choose Catholic Schools

Starting in the 2026 school year, Texas will launch a brand-new Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program with up to \$1 billion in funding to help families cover educational expenses for students in PreK through 12th grade. Parishioners who have wanted to send their children to Catholic school but were concerned about costs can now do so with tuition funded by the State of Texas. Texas has approved school choice, and the deadline to receive \$10,000+ per child begins February 4. Inform your parishioners now.

**Parents must apply during the February 4 - March 17 application period.** Sign up to receive information on applying at [www.choosecatholicschools.org/TEFA](http://www.choosecatholicschools.org/TEFA).

**The Gabriel Project** is the pro-life apostolate offering assistance to a woman and her family during and after her pregnancy. We offer the following to ALL parishioners and those in the surrounding community:



- Maternity clothing
- Baby & Infant clothing from size 0 thru 2T
- Diapers/wipes/toiletries
- Crib/car seat/toys/other baby needs

We have a **well-stocked storage room** of new and very gently used items **waiting to be gifted** to our parish families and those in the area who are pregnant or have little ones!

Contact Amy Schnell 904.556.3486 to set up a time to pick up the items needed or to visit with us for any special needs.

The GABRIEL PROJECT will accept your BABY/TODDLER items (clothes, car seats, infant toys, etc.). Drop off on the porch of THE GABRIEL STORAGE ROOM or contact Amy Schnell for assistance.

Women's ACTS Retreat – February 26-March 1, 2026



**FINAL REGISTRATION NOTICE – Deadline: February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This February, women of our parish are invited to step away from daily distractions and enter into a sacred weekend of prayer, renewal, and encounter with Christ.

The Women's ACTS Retreat offers a powerful opportunity to deepen your faith through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service, while forming meaningful connections with other women walking the same faith journey.

**Please Note:** This will be the **last Women's ACTS Retreat until 2028.**

If God has placed this opportunity on your heart – now is the time to respond.

When you step away and say yes to God, beautiful things happen. Read how the Women's ACTS Retreat touched the hearts of two fellow parishioners:

**“Discovering God’s Constant Love” – Ann Belongia**

*Attending the ACTS retreat gave me the chance to step away from the influences of the world and reflect on what truly matters. It opened my eyes to see that God has been with me throughout my entire journey, faithfully guiding me even when I didn't notice.*

*The retreat reminded me that God never gives up on me – and He never will. It strengthened my hope and helped me trust more deeply in His constant love.*

**“Trust the Nudge” – Diane Pasket**

*From the very first day, I began to feel something different – something powerful. Each moment, each prayer, and each encounter carried a special grace. By the end of the weekend, my heart was overflowing, renewed, and on fire with God's love.*

*If you feel that gentle nudge to attend an ACTS Retreat, don't ignore it. Step forward in faith. Let God surprise you with the love, healing, and peace He has been longing to pour into your heart.*

You can find the bulletin on our website [www.smsj.org/bulletins](http://www.smsj.org/bulletins)

## RUMMAGE NEWS:

It's time to start your Spring cleaning! The Rummage Barn will be open for business on Wed. March 4th 8am-noon. Carts will be available to accept your items after weekend Masses. Drop-offs are Wednesday mornings, or call Lauren Twining for a furniture pick up. (281-813-5355)

Parishioners, please consider donating **new or very gently used items**. We accept household items, rugs, furniture, toys, home decor, tools, outdoor items, antiques and clothing!  
(Furniture that is damaged or items that are in disrepair must be disposed of at the expense of the parish. Books will be accepted on an extremely limited basis: we accept only children's books and best sellers.)

We look forward to another successful rummage sale in November of this year!! Thank you to all that donate each year.

## Faith Formation & Children's Sacraments

Join us for our February Classes

✨ CCE Schedule ✨

**Wednesdays: February 4 & 25**

**Sundays: February 1 & 22**



## Infant Baptism Information

Interested in infant baptism at St. Mary? Join us for an in-person information session where we will discuss requirements, parent and godparent roles and responsibilities, the Rite, and Q&A.

At least one parent is required to attend an Information Session, and godparents are encouraged to attend. Information Sessions will be held at 1PM in the Family Life Center on the following Sundays:

March 1, 2026  
May 3, 2026  
August 2, 2026  
October 4, 2026  
November 1, 2026



We look forward to serving you and your family in preparation for this blessed sacrament. Please send us an email if you plan on attending -

[baptism@stmaryandjoseph.org](mailto:baptism@stmaryandjoseph.org)

## Quinceañera

The celebration of a young lady's transition from childhood to adolescence. It begins with the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift of life and asking for a blessing from God for the coming years.

It is an opportunity for family and friends to share in this important celebration. It usually ends with a dinner and/or dance. **Those who are considering having a Quinceañera in the upcoming year are asked to attend an informational meeting.**

The meetings are planned for each January and June before the date of the celebration. Please contact Martha Lucas at (512) 608-3519 or [emslucas@yahoo.com](mailto:emslucas@yahoo.com) for more information.





## **2026 St. Mary Men's Club Scholarship**

Scholarship applications for 2026 are now available in the parish office (see Karen Molina). The applicant must be an active member of the parish of St. Mary Plantersville Catholic Church or St. Joseph Stoneham Catholic Mission for a minimum of one full year and must also be a graduating high school senior.

This scholarship is awarded by the St. Mary Men's Club and is a two year scholarship. Students must be attending a state-accredited trade school, college or university full time (12 plus hours per semester). The scholarship is to be used for tuition, school fees, required class books and living expenses directly related to school.

Grades are not the major criteria in the award of this scholarship. Emphasis is placed on work ethic, attitude, and service. Participation in parish activities (bazaar, rummage sale, etc.) counts heavily.

Completed applications are to be returned to Karen Molina in the parish office by Wednesday April 22, 2026, no later than 4:00pm.

**Do not wait until the last minute to submit your applications!**

## **St. Vincent de Paul Vehicle Donations Needs**

In the area which we serve, the lack of dependable transportation is one of the major issues of concern we face. Because of this, many of those we serve are significantly limited in their ability to find and keep jobs sufficient to support their families.

As there is no public transportation in our area, our SVDP Conference is embarking on a mission to try to address this issue. Accordingly, we have formed a transportation committee with the task of accepting donated vehicles, no matter their condition, and gifting them to eligible families for work purposes.

Once a vehicle is offered for donation the committee will:

- \*Have any mechanical work done to make sure the vehicle is in safe operating condition.
- \*Provide the donor with any documentation needed for a tax deduction.
- \*After a sufficient vetting process, of the friends we serve as SVDP, we will find an acceptable recipient for the vehicle.

The SVDP Conference will cover all expenses for any repair needed and all of the title and registration expenses and fees.

Several of our parishioners and their friends might be contemplating transitioning to a single vehicle family and thus may seek to dispose of one of their current vehicles. If you or anyone you know is in this position, please ask them to consider supporting SVDP with this transportation issue for those in our area.

**Father Edward C. Kucera, Jr., and the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph congratulate these adults who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Catholic Church in Katy, TX. The presider of this regional liturgical celebration was Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez. More than 1,000 adults were confirmed this January at similar archdiocesan liturgies.**



Jakob Holzer, Peter Pablo, Jose Castro, Diego Gonzalez, Grey Mashrouteh, Nancy Jimenez, Chris Jimenez, and Matthew Cucullu

*[If you are a practicing adult Catholic and have not yet celebrated Confirmation, contact Dr. Sharon Skeans. The next preparation course begins in the fall.]*

## Young Catholic Married Couples (YCMC)

Young Catholic Married Couples (ages 21-49)

Meeting on Monday,

February 23 @ 5:30pm in the Family Life Center Kitchen.

Contact Michael Tann with any questions: 936-306-2342 or email michaelj\_tann@hotmail.com.

### St. Joseph's Mid-Year Financial Report

July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

(Our fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup>)

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Income:	\$129,961.98	\$75,345.98
Less Expenses:	\$129,961.68	\$121,451.02
Less Capital Improv:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net:	\$ .30	(\$46,105.04)

We have no debt or loans.

Note: St Joseph's bazaar on Memorial Day weekend is a large portion of St. Joseph's annual revenue. Bazaar revenue is recorded in May and is not included in the mid-year report.

Thank you for all you do.



# Year of St. Francis

January 10, 2026 - January 10, 2027

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has arranged that, from the January 10, 2026,

to the January 10, 2027, the Year of St. Francis will be celebrated, during which all the Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace. The Apostolic Penitentiary grants the plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to those who participate devoutly in this extraordinary jubilee, which represents an ideal continuation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025.

This Jubilee Year is addressed especially to members of the Franciscan Families of the First, Second and Third Regular and Secular Orders, as well as to Institutes of Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life and Associations that observe the Rule of St. Francis or are inspired by its spirituality. However, the grace of this special year is also extended to all the faithful without distinction who, with their spirits removed from sin, visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis in any part of the world.

## Pilgrim Site

In the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the designated pilgrim site is:

### St. Francis of Assisi Church, Houston

5102 Dabney St. Houston, TX 77026-3015

713-672-7773

[stfrancisofhouston.org](http://stfrancisofhouston.org)

The elderly, the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave home will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining the Jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains or sufferings to God.

In this time of celebration that culminates eight hundred years of Franciscan memory, we cordially invite all the faithful to take an active part in this exceptional Jubilee. May the shining example of St. Francis, who knew how to make himself poor and humble in order to be true alter Christus on earth, inspire our hearts to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbor and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples. Following in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, let us transform the hope that made us pilgrims during the Holy Year into fervor and zeal of effective charity. May this Year of St Francis be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church.

## JOIN THE STITCHIN' SISTERS



Are you interested in bringing back a lost art?

Are you interested in having a good time with a great group of ladies?

Think about joining the Stitchin' Sisters. Hand quilting seems to be a lost art that we are trying to keep alive. We are a group of ladies that hand quilt three donation quilts a year. One for the Plantersville Fire Department Auction, one for St. Joseph's Bazaar Auction and one for St. Mary's Bazaar Auction.

If time permits between those quilts, we will quilt a member's quilt for a nominal fee. If you do not know how to quilt, we will do our best to help you out. We all have opinions! We can show you how to put up a quilt on a frame, how to mark it, how to quilt it, and how to finish it.

**We meet every Wednesday from 9:30 to 2:00 at the St. Joseph Hall. Bring your own lunch.**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**For more info, Juli Murphy: at 936-206-0677 or email julimurphy1988@gmail.com.**

# February 2026

## Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 (SM)

Sunday: 7:30 (SJ)

7:00, 8:30, 10:00am & 11:30am (SM)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Regular Mass Schedule *10:00am – CCE *1:00pm – Baptism Info Session – FLC – SM *After Masses – Sweetheart Dance ticket sales	NO MASS *8:00pm – AA Mtg. – KH - SM	NO MASS *10am – Guardian Angels Mtg. – FLC – SM *11:00am – Domino Club – FLC Kitchen - SM *6:00pm – SJ – Altar Society – SJ Hall	NO MASS *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters *6:45pm – CCE	NO MASS *10:00am-noon – Bible Study-SM Hall *7:00pm-9:00pm – Bible Study – SM Hall	NO MASS	*5:00 – Mass *After Mass – Sweetheart Dance ticket sales
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Regular Mass Schedule *After Masses – Sweetheart Dance ticket sales	*9:00am - Mass *8:00pm – AA Mtg. – KH - SM	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am – SM Altar Society *11:00am – Domino Club – FLC Kitchen - SM	*9:00am – Anointing Mass – SM *10am-noon & 5-6pm - Confessions *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am-noon – Bible Study-SM Hall *7:00pm-9:00pm – Bible Study – SM Hall	NO MASS *6:00pm – Sweetheart Dance	*5:00 – Mass *DSF Kick-Off Weekend
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Regular Mass Schedule *DSF Kick-Off Weekend	*9:00am - Mass *8:00pm – AA Mtg. – KH - SM	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am – GA Game Day-SM Hall *6:00pm – SM Men’s Club Mtg. - SM Hall	ASH WEDNESDAY *9:00am – Mass - SM *6:30pm – Mass – SM Archdiocesan Social Ministries Collection	*9:00am - Mass *10:00am-noon – Bible Study - SM Hall *7:00pm-9:00pm – Bible Study – SM Hall	NO MASS *5:00pm – Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - SM *7:00pm – Stations of the Cross - SM	*5:00 – Mass *Black & Indian Mission Collection
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Regular Mass Schedule *10:00am – CCE – FLC – SM *ACTS – final day to register for the Women’s ACTS Retreat. *Black & Indian Mission Collection	*9:00am – Mass *5:30pm – Young Catholic Married Couples – FLC - SM *8:00pm – AA Mtg. – KH – SM	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am – St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. – SM Hall *11:00am – Domino Club – FLC Kitchen – SM	*9:00am – Mass *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters *6:45pm – CCE – FLC – SM	*9:00am - Mass *10:00am-noon – Bible Study-SM Hall *7:00pm-9:00pm – Bible Study – SM Hall	NO MASS *11:00am – Little Lambs – SM Hall *7:00pm – Stations of the Cross - SM	*5:00 – Mass