

# St. Justin Martyr Parish

## Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



### Mass Schedule

**Saturday:** (Vigil Mass) 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.  
12:00 p.m. in Vietnamese;  
5:00 p.m. in Spanish

**Monday and Tuesday:**  
7:00 p.m. (Chapel)

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday**  
9:00 a.m. (Chapel)

**Friday**  
6:30 p.m. (Chapel) in Vietnamese

### Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday:

9:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m. (Chapel)

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

**Saturday:** 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** 6:30 p.m.

By appointment. Call the parish office.



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## *First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017*

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13350 Ashford Point Drive • Houston, TX 77082-5100

Telephone: 281-556-5116 • FAX: 281-556-6932

E-Mail: [sjm@sjmtx.com](mailto:sjm@sjmtx.com) • Web page: [www.sjmtx.org](http://www.sjmtx.org)

Fr. Paul Chovanec, Pastor

Fr. Peter Thang Nguyen, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Corney Llorens

Deacon Nhat Tran

Deacon Gary Boyd

### **ADULT BAPTISM AND ENTERING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process is ongoing. Contact one of the priests in the parish office.

### **ADULT CONFIRMATION FOR PRACTICING CATHOLICS**

Please phone the parish office.

### **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Please contact Dolores Gonzalez at 281-902-5711 or [dgonzalez@sjmtx.com](mailto:dgonzalez@sjmtx.com) six months to two years prior to the desired date.

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN**

Baptism for children through age six is held monthly except during the season of Lent. There are no private baptisms. There are required preparation sessions for the parents. At least one parent must be a registered member of the parish and a practicing Catholic. Expectant parents are asked to begin this process during the second trimester of pregnancy.

Please phone the parish office.

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN SEVEN AND OLDER**

Please contact the Religious Education office about the RCIA process, 281-902-5701.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please phone the parish office as soon as you or someone in your family schedules surgery/hospitalization or suffers an illness or injury. PLEASE DON'T DELAY in this prayer for Christian healing! The Sacrament is celebrated the fourth Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. Mass.

### **FIRST COMMUNION, FIRST PENANCE, CONFIRMATION AND QUINCEAÑERA CELEBRATIONS**

Please contact the Religious Education office, 281-902-5701.

### **NURSERY**

The nursery is open during weekend Masses and other parish activities. It is located in the Christian Formation Center building.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. JUSTIN MARTYR**

There are various activities for Middle and High School Youth throughout the year. Youth Nights take place every Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m. and are a time for youth to make friends, have fun and learn more about their faith.

For more information contact the Youth Ministry Office at 281-902-5710.

### **ST. JUSTIN MARTYR PRESCHOOL**

Early childhood education - 18 months to Pre-K Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For information, please call 281-556-1260.

### **ST. JUSTIN MARTYR PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other times, call 281-556-6882. Fax is 281-752-5985.

### **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Bulletin e-mail: [martha@sjmtx.com](mailto:martha@sjmtx.com)

### **WELCOME TO ST. JUSTIN MARTYR**

Please let us know you have arrived. We are anxious to meet you. Contact the parish office for a welcoming packet.

### **ST. JUSTIN MARTYR PARISH BOUNDARIES**

Beginning at a point on Barker Reservoir Dam at Briar Forest Street, East on Briar Forest to Dairy Ashford; thence South on Dairy Ashford to Westheimer Road; thence East on Westheimer Road to Old Westheimer Road; thence South on Old Westheimer Road, to Alief-Clodine; thence West on Alief-Clodine to Dairy Ashford; thence South on Dairy Ashford Bellaire Blvd; thence West on Bellaire Blvd. to Eldridge; thence South on to Beechnut; thence West on Beechnut to Addicks-Howell Road (Hwy 6); thence South on Addicks Howell Road to Keegans Bayou; thence West on Keegans Bayou to O'Brien Road; thence North on O'Brien Road to Barker Reservoir Dam; thence Northeast along the Dam to the point of beginning at Briar Forest.

## Pastoral Staff

**Dolores Gonzalez**  
Coordinator of Adult Ministry

**Lisa Hachicho**  
Director of Preschool

**Alyssa Avila**  
DRE

**Karen Rachal**  
Parish Administrator

**Vacant**  
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

## Clergy Reflection

### God Has A Different Plan

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

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### Today's Readings

**First Reading** — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands.

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

**Psalms** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. Psalm 80

**Second Reading** — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son. 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Gospel** — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. Mark 13:33-37

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997. All rights reserved.

## Financial Stewardship

### Weekend Collection

November 19	\$18,533
On-line Giving	\$ 754
November 26	\$17,299
On-line Giving	\$ 40
Required Weekly Budget Amount	\$20,300
Building Improvements	\$ 60
Social Ministry	\$ 20
Registered Families	1851
Campaign for Human Development	\$3,123

### Diocesan Services Fund 2017

Parish Goal:	\$124,780
Parish Amount Pledged:	\$111,044
Parish Contributions:	\$104,189
<b>Balance Due:</b>	<b>\$ 20,591</b>
Number of Participants	521

### Upcoming Second Collections

December 10 Retirement Fund for Religious

***Thank you for your continued support of St. Justin Martyr Parish!***

### Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Next weekend, December 9 & 10, is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal. Almost 33,000 women religious and more than 5,500 men religious are past the age of 70. Though they may withdraw from a paid full time ministry, religious continue to visit the sick, tutor children and volunteer in parishes among refugee populations. Your donations help alleviate the spiraling cost of health care.

## Prayer Needs

### Mass Intentions

**December 2nd ~ December 10th**

<b>Sat.</b>	Dec 2nd	5:30 p.m.	+ Chester Bennington
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 3rd	8:00 a.m.	People of St. Justin
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 3rd	10:00 a.m.	Cecile Ngamboe
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 3rd	12:00 p.m.	+ Cuong Nguyen
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 3rd	5:00 p.m.	+ Faustino R. Aguilar
<b>Mon.</b>	Dec 4th	7:00 p.m.	+ Rev. Frederico J. G. Ablog,SSS
<b>Tue.</b>	Dec 5th	7:00 p.m.	No Mass
<b>Wed.</b>	Dec 6th	9:00 a.m.	People of St. Justin
<b>Wed.</b>	Dec 6th	9:00 a.m.	+ Linda Vaughan McKernan
<b>Thurs.</b>	Dec 7th	9:00 a.m.	Maria Yu Yin
<b>Thurs.</b>	Dec 7th	7:00 p.m.	Joseph Cao Duc Hung
<b>Fri.</b>	Dec 8th	6:00 a.m.	+ Margarita Alcalá
<b>Fri.</b>	Dec 8th	9:00 a.m.	+ Maria Dang
<b>Fri.</b>	Dec 8th	6:30 p.m.	No Mass
<b>Fri.</b>	Dec 8th	7:00 p.m.	Rev. Paul Chovanec
<b>Sat.</b>	Dec 9th	9:00 a.m.	+ Juan Ponce Pinto
<b>Sat.</b>	Dec 9th	5:30 p.m.	+ Deceased Members of the Farnon Family
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 10th	8:00 a.m.	Miriam Onyenobi
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 10th	10:00 a.m.	+ Loreto Abarca
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 10th	12:00 p.m.	+ St. Anne
<b>Sun.</b>	Dec 10th	5:00 p.m.	+ Michael Helms

## Readings for the Week

Sun., Dec 3rd	Is 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7/ 1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Mon., Dec 4th	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tues., Dec 5th	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wed., Dec 6th	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thurs., Dec 7th:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21,24-27
Fri., Dec 8th:	Gn 3:9-15,20/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
Sat., Dec 9th:	Is 30:19-21,23-26/ Mt 9:35—10:1,5a,6-8
Sun., Dec 10th	Is 40:1-5,9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

## Parish Events

### Sunday, December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Mass  
 10:00 a.m. Mass  
 10:00 a.m. Little Church  
 12:00 p.m. Vietnamese Mass  
 5:00 p.m. Spanish Mass  
 6:30 p.m. Middle School & High School CCE

### Monday, December 4th

5:30 p.m. Elementary CCE  
 7:00 p.m. Mass

### Tuesday, December 5th

6:30 p.m. Penance Service  
 7:00 p.m. NO Mass  
 7:00 p.m. NO Young Adults  
 7:30 p.m. NO Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary

### Wednesday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Mass  
 9:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:00 p.m. RCIA Pre-Catechumenate  
 7:00 p.m. RCIA  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Sacrament Class  
 7:00 p.m. Youth Night  
 7:00 p.m. Elementary CCE

### Thursday, December 7th

9:00 a.m. Mass  
 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

### Friday, December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

6:00 a.m. Mass  
 9:00 a.m. Mass  
 6:30 p.m. No Mass  
 7:00 p.m. Mass

### Saturday, December 9th

9:00 a.m. Mass  
 9:00 a.m. Elementary CCE  
 4:00 p.m. Penance  
 5:30 p.m. Mass

### Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Mass  
 10:00 a.m. Mass  
 10:00 a.m. Little Church  
 12:00 p.m. Vietnamese Mass  
 5:00 p.m. Spanish Mass  
 6:30 p.m. Middle School & High School CCE

### *A Stewardship Prayer*

Jesus, I give my whole life to you, I thank you for creating me, dying for me, and rising for me.

Please give me a spirit of service and love so I can pour out myself for others as you did for me.

In gratitude, I offer myself to you, asking for the grace to keep you first in my heart.

Help me to use everything You have given me to serve You, my parish, and all those around me. Amen

# Parish Life

## Dear St. Justin's

When have you seen real MISTLETOE in Houston? The Boy Scout Troop of St. Justin has come across some for this holiday season. They will be selling real mistletoe after Mass today in the parish hall as a fundraiser for the troop. Please stop by their table to purchase some today.

## Please Welcome Our Newest Members

Baptized last weekend:  
Chimamanda Toluwani Igbo Osunbayo  
Purity Ireoluwa Lamai  
Landon Edward Hartley  
Adrian Malik Sharara  
Olivia Mmesomachuk Wu Nwoko

### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

Remember a loved one at Christmas by donating towards the Poinsettias to decorate the church. Donors and the names of loved ones will be listed in the Bulletin. Price is \$10.00 for each Memorial.

Fill in the information below and bring with payment to the Church Office or drop it in the Sunday Collection. Make your check payable to St. Justin Martyr.

### — Poinsettias for Christmas —

I would like to donate towards decorating the Church with Poinsettias at \$10.00 per Memorial, for the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Sleeping Bags For The Homeless

The Respect Life committee will collect and distribute sleeping bags to homeless people again this Winter. Please bring clean, preferably new, sleeping bags to the parish hall during the month of November; the deadline is December 8. They will be distributed during the first cold snap of December. Anyone wishing to help the Committee to distribute the sleeping bags, is welcome to submit a request in writing (with name, address and phone number/e-mail address) addressed to the Respect Life committee and delivered to the parish office.

## Immaculate Conception of Mary

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is the day we remember and celebrate that she was conceived without original sin in preparation for her vocation as the Mother of God.

Mary, under this title, is also the patroness of the United States of America. This Holy Day of Obligation is therefore a special opportunity and time to pray for our nation.

We will celebrate the Holy Day at the following Masses:

December 7: 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

December 8: 6:00 a.m.

December 8: 9:00 a.m.

December 8: 7:00 p.m.

**If you are a St. Justin Martyr Liturgical Minister please consider serving at Mass. Sign-up in the brides-room.**

## African Community of St. Justin Martyr

**December 3** - General meeting after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the CFC building room 212. New members are welcome to attend.

**December 10** - Choir practice after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the CFC building room 212. New members are welcome.

**December 17** - African Community Christmas party after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

For more information, contact Okey Okafor at 832-526-6668.

**Today, Sunday, December 3, there are  
NO Food Sales.**

**Next Sunday, December 10, enjoy Vietnamese Food  
on sale in the parish hall after morning Masses.**

# Parish Life

## St. Justin Martyr Catholic Preschool News

It is so hard to believe we only have three weeks until the preschool breaks for the Christmas holidays! This is such a busy month with lots of fun activities planned. The preschool will be closed December 18 through January 3.

### ***Daughters of Isabella***

Unity, Friendship and Charity

“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Lasagna House. We will have a gift exchange for whomever wants to participate. There is a \$20 limit on the gift. Please RSVP to Mary Christo at 832-788-5897.

Mark your calendars for the Mercy Festival on January 13.

If you are interested in finding out about or joining our wonderful organization, please call Bette Breaz at 281-493-6855.

## Knights of Columbus-SJM Council 8293

The Next Council Business Meeting is Thursday December 7, at St. Justin Martyr in the parish hall at 7:00 p.m.

### **Calendar Activities:**

December 7 - KC Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

December 12 - KC Chapter Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

December 21 - KC Christmas Party at 7:00 p.m. at St Justin Martyr in the parish hall.

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, call Grand Knight Michael Akiboh [281-707-4444](tel:281-707-4444)

### ***Mark Your Calendar Mercy Festival - January 13***

Next weekend the Ministry Spotlight  
will be on the

**- Music Ministry -**

Visit the table in the Narthex after Mass  
next weekend to learn more about  
this Ministry.

## News About the Mavericks

**December 10 – Sunday** – Bus trip to see “A Charlie Brown Christmas” at Crighton Theater in Conroe. Cost \$18. Dinner at Vernon’s Kuntry Katfish. Entrees \$10 - \$15. Sandwiches and burgers \$6 - \$8. Will see Christmas lights and decorations in Conroe and North Houston neighborhoods. Bus leaves at 12 noon from the church parking lot. Call Marge at 281-498-3413 for last minute reservations.

**December 12 – Tuesday – 3:00 p.m.** – Monthly birthday party for residents at West Oaks Geriatric Center. If interested in bringing cheer to these shut-ins call Joanne at 281-395-2123.

**December 16 – Saturday – 1:30 p.m.** – Club Christmas party in the parish hall. Pot luck meal followed by a “white elephant” gift exchange. Turkey and ham will be provided.

The Mavericks is an organization of and for individuals 50 years and older that provides opportunities of fellowship, spiritual growth and service. For more information call Jim at 281-293-8206.

## Christmas Concert

On Saturday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the church enjoy an Emmanuel Melody with Gerald Ileka noted Tenor & Guest Musicians. Tickets are \$15 per person, ages 12 & under are \$10. They are available at the parish office.

## ***Social Ministry News***

While he lived St. Nicholas gave the little ones he met, small gifts . . . some candy, a toy. The children learned what a beautiful thing giving is. He once said: “It’s good to give and have only God know.”

St. Justin is celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas today, Sunday, December 3. We invite everyone to celebrate the gift of giving.

Your giving will bring joy to a child whose Christmas might otherwise be sad, as well as helping your family to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. God bless you.

Reminder: Wish Ornament gifts are due back by December 6.

Social Ministry gave 13 Thanksgiving Meals to needy families.

# Parish Life

## XV Anos Preparation Class

When: December 9  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
Where: CFC building room 101

## St. Justin's Young Adult Group

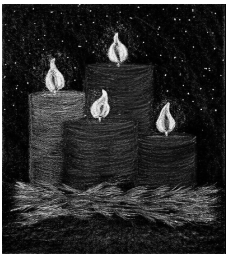
Are you, your child, or your grandchild between 18 and 35ish? Join the Young Adult Community for faith and fellowship.

**December 5 - Monthly Trivia.** Join us at 7:30 p.m. for Harry Potter themed trivia at Houston Flying Saucer (705 Main St, Houston, Texas 77002). Come in costume to snag bonus points for your house. Carpool from CityCentre at 6:15 p.m. Meet at Salata.

**December 12 - Why Evil Exists?** Join us in CFC 211 (Library) at 7:00 p.m. as we learn and discuss various views on why evil exists.

**December 19 - Monthly Dinner.** TBD.

**December 26 - NO Meeting.** Merry Christmas! Questions, call Robert Ontko at [832-372-9928](tel:832-372-9928).



## Advent Penance Service

The Advent Penance Service is coming soon. It is Tuesday, December 5.

There is **NO Mass on Tuesday, December 5, due to the Penance Service being held at 7:00 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend at that time, Penance Services will also be held at the following churches: St. Francis de Sales, St. Michael's and Notre Dame. Please phone these parishes for their dates and times.

## Christ the Incarnate Word Penance Services

Their Penance Services will be on December 4 & 5 and again on December 11 & 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Annual Ukrainian Christmas Celebration

The Pokrova Ukrainian Church cordially invites you to their celebration and bazaar on Sunday, December 10 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. at 9102 Meadowshire St., Houston, Texas. They will have lunch, music and entertainment.

## Many Thanks

Many thanks to Gary & Fae Knight for providing the Wine and Hosts for St. Justin Martyr for the month of December.

## Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration on Tuesday, December 12, Mananitas and Rosary at 5:30 a.m. Evening service will begin with a rosary at 6:15 p.m. followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. There will be a reception in the parish hall after Mass where traditional foods will be served. Please join us in honoring our Blessed Mother. All services will be in Spanish.

## Simbang Gabi Christmas Celebration

Everyone is invited to attend the annual Simbang Gabi a Filipino Christmas tradition on Friday, December 15. It will begin with a Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by fellowship in the parish hall. For more information please call Phillip Mendoza at 832-491-3767 or Connie Herber at 832-877-4557.

## **ACTS Mission - WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT** **"In the shadow of your Wings I shout for Joy"**

**PS 63:8**

Yes, you heard it correctly. The Women's ACTS Retreat has been rescheduled! **Our new retreat date is February 8-11, 2018, at Our Lady of Lourdes Retreat Center, Houston, Texas, 77047.**

Women, if God is calling you to attend this spirit filled retreat please email or call; Mary Lou Grothaus at [momgrothaus@gmail.com](mailto:momgrothaus@gmail.com) / 713-582-6091, or Susan Pyle at [susan.pyle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susan.pyle@sbcglobal.net) / 713-826-0783, for your registration form. A table will soon be available in the Narthex after each Mass to sign you up and answer any questions you may have. If you have already attended a Women's ACTS retreat and are interested in teaming with a wonderful group of your sisters, we would love to have you! Meetings are Tuesday evenings in room 110 CFC building, at 7:00 p.m. (Food and fellowship starts at 6:30 p.m.) Next meeting is Tuesday, 12/5/17. (No meetings on December 19 and December 26 for the Holidays. Please join us!

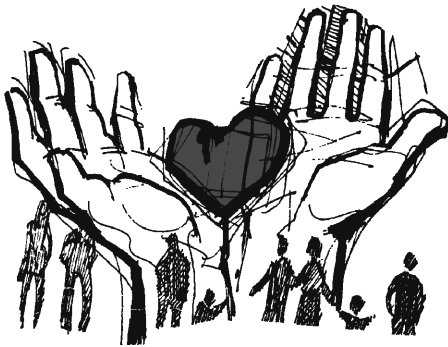
# CCE News

Contact  
Us

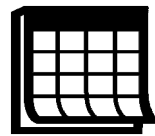
Alyssa Avila  
Director of Religious  
Ed.  
aavila@sjmtx.com  
281-902-5701

Perla Galvan-Sainz  
CCE Assistant  
281-902-5712

Starting this week, we will have a children's collection. We invite your family to participate in this collection to teach our children the importance of tithing.



**Our next sacrament class will be on December 16 from 12-2 PM**  
Please check calendar for sacrament class dates.



*Check your calendars!*

There will be **NO CCE** from **December 18 through January 7**. We will see you back on January 8.

## Middle and High School Youth Ministry

For more information about youth events and activities contact:

Vacant, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

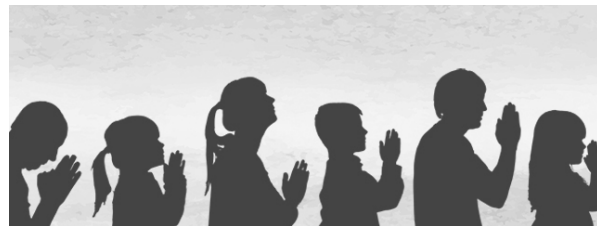
281-902-5710

Information is also available on the Youth Ministry page of the parish website at [www.sjmtx.org](http://www.sjmtx.org).

## Important Days To Remember

Sunday, December 24 & Sunday, December 31 there are **NO CCE Classes**

Wednesday, December 20 & Wednesday, December 27 there are **NO Youth Nights**





INFORMATION SHEET:

Church name & address  
St. Justin Martyr #515169  
13350 Ashford Point Drive  
Houston, Texas 77082

Contact person: Martha Martin @ 281-556-5116

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