Welcome to Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Friends of Jesus Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Senior Priest: Rev. Nick Pasadilla
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Alfonso Tran
Deacons: Mr. Jon Barfield, Mr. Tony Cardella, Mr. Ed Kleinguetl, Mr. Bob MacFarlane, Mr. Al O’Brien, Mr. Guy T. Puglia, Mr. John Schuster, and Mr. Alfredo Soto

Parish Office hours:
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday-Friday

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): .... 10:00 AM
Saturday Vigil: .......................... 5:30 PM
Sunday: .......... 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
En Español ............................. 1:00 PM
Life Teen: ............................. 5:30 PM
Nursery at 9:00, 11:00 & 5:30 Life Teen

Weekday Masses
Monday: ............................. 8:30 AM
Tuesday: ........ 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM
Wednesday: ...... 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Thursday: .......... 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Friday: ............................. 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Penance
Tuesday:
Church ............................. 6:30 -7:00 PM
Saturday:
Church ............................. 10:30-11:45 AM
Church ............................. 4:30-5:20 PM

Perpetual Adoration
Adoration Chapel .......... 24 hrs.

Anointing of the Sick
Please call for a priest if you are seriously ill at home, about to enter the hospital, or if someone is close to death.

Baptism
Classes: Last Sunday of the month, call the Parish Office to register
Ceremony: First Sunday of the month

Marriage
Preparation at least six months before the wedding. Register to attend an information meeting by calling 281-358-6637.

Baptized into Christ Jesus, we worship as one and reach out to all.

November 30, 2014

First SUNDAY of ADVENT

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

Isaiah 63:19b; 64:2–3

4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365
281-358-6637 • fax 281-358-7973 • www.stmartha.com

**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).

**Psalm** — 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).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Monday: World AIDS Awareness Day
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier
Thursday: St. John Damascene
Friday: First Friday
Saturday: St. Nicholas; First Saturday

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, everyday, and listen to what God is saying to you.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

| Mon./Dec. 1 | 8:30 am ♠Harlan Carothers |
| Tues./Dec. 2 | 8:30 am ♠Dell Bradshaw |
| Wed./Dec. 3 | 8:30 am ♠Davie Family |
| Thurs./Dec. 4 | 6:30 am ♠Kristene Kirsch |
| Fri./Dec. 5 | 8:30 am ♠John Wakefield |
| Sat./Dec. 6 | 10:00 am ♠Pro-Life Mass |
| Sun./Dec. 7 | 7:00 am ♠Pat & Kim Ford |

**PRO-LIFE MASS & ROSARY:** Please join us Saturday, December 6th, at 10:00 a.m.

**IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Please note that beginning January 1, 2015, the Saturday Pro-Life Mass time will be changed to 8:30 a.m. Also, the monthly Baptisms which have been scheduled on the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. will now be moved to the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m.
From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent, a special time of preparation for the coming of the Lord in our lives. The brief parable in Mark’s Gospel reminds us that the Lord will come at times and in circumstances we least expect. Thus, we need to be attentive to the signs of God’s presence and learn to wait patiently. Waiting is a prominent theme in the Scripture readings throughout the entire season of Advent. As the first reading from the prophet Isaiah suggests, some people wait to be released from suffering and persecution. This is especially true of some of our fellow Christians in many parts of the world. Some people anxiously await the return of loved ones who are serving their country in foreign lands. Others wait for news from doctors and medical professionals about their illness and treatment. Waiting is not easy and can sap our energy and stifle our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder. Many ask, “Where is God in all the events and happenings in our world these days? Why doesn’t God shed light on our darkness and show us the way we should proceed?” The Word of God invites us to learn to wait with patient expectation and learn to read the signs of the times. While we wait, we are to renew our hope in God’s promise of salvation and recognize that we have a future worth waiting for because God always fulfills His promises.

Pope Francis has given us a reason for hope and a special way to recognize God’s presence among us. He has announced that the Year of Consecrated Life will begin this first weekend of Advent and continue throughout next year with the theme: ‘Wake up the World!’ The objectives of this special year focusing on consecrated life are three-fold: (1) to thank God for the gift of consecrated life especially in the recent past; (2) to embrace the future with hope; and (3) to live the present with passion. We commonly refer to those in consecrated life as religious sisters, brothers, and priests. As explained in Vita Consecrata #1, “In every age there have been men and women who, obedient to the Father’s call and to the prompting of the Spirit, have chosen this special way of following Christ, in order to devote themselves to him with an ‘undivided heart’ (cf. I Cor.7:34). Like the Apostles, they too have left everything behind in order to be with Christ and to put themselves, as He did, at the service of God and their brothers and sisters.” I invite our whole parish to pray in a special way for those in consecrated life (e.g. the Carmelite Sisters in Roman Forest and the various religious who serve in our archdiocese) and to encourage our young men and women to consider serving the Lord as religious sisters and brothers.

Fr. Chester Borski

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION— DECEMBER 8TH

(Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass times: 6:30 a.m., 12 noon, & 7:30 p.m.
School Mass (Woodland Hills Campus) — 8:30 a.m.

Please Note: The parish office will be closed Monday, December 8th.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:
There will be an Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Young at Heart Luncheon - Donation Requests

The Christmas Young at Heart Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, December 10. We need door prize donations for our senior guests (men and women). Donation ideas: gift cards, home or Christmas decor, jewelry, games, candy, food baskets (non-perishable), movie theater gift cards, sports merchandise, picture frames, or battery powered candles, household items, or lightweight tool sets. Donations can be dropped off to Nancy Landvogt, Monday-Wednesday 9 am-4 pm and Friday 9 am-4 pm at the original Church campus or you can bring on the day of the event. All donations are appreciated! If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail Minnie Romo at minerva.romo@gmail.com. Wishing you a blessed Advent season!
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Morning: SYMBOLON: THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED: “Knowing and Living Our Catholic Faith” Video Series “An opportunity to learn while your children are learning”
Join us during the elementary Faith Formation sessions for an informal video series for adults. This semester we will be focusing on “Knowing and Living Our Faith.” Drop in for a light breakfast, stimulating video presentation and lively conversation!
10:45 am – 11:45 am, Woodland Hills Campus – Room 2.

Tuesday Morning: Breakfast & Bible Study, 9:15–10:30 am – Faith Formation Center, Room 2. Reading, studying & sharing on the Sunday Scriptures led by Carla Lewton. All are welcome. December Dates: 2, 9, 16.

St. Martha Adult Faith Formation
Website: www.stmartha.com. Recordings of previous adult classes, handouts, PowerPoints, upcoming events, schedules, important links, music, and more… check it out!
Adult Faith Formation videos available for viewing on YouTube. Click the YouTube icon on the website home page to view. LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! Up To The Minute AFF Information. Click the Facebook icon on the website home page and join.

SPANISH ACTS RETREAT FOR MEN
The fifth ACTS men’s retreat in Spanish (MS-5) will take place on January 22-25, 2015. For additional information, please contact Art Rocha at 832-527-2729.

MARTHA’S QUILTERS:
Martha's Quilters provide handmade blessed quilts to infrom St. Martha parishioners as a tangible reminder of God's love during times of illness. To request a quilt, be placed on our prayer list, or make a donation, please contact Noreen Borys at njborys@embarqmail.com - 832-259-1848 or Angela Wemyss at angelawemyss@hotmail.com - 281-361-9720. Martha's Quilters meet every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in Rm 3.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Enclosed in your envelopes for December is a special envelope marked “Special Offering for Christmas Flowers.” All donations in these envelopes will be dedicated to the purchase of the flowers and greens used in the Church. There is a place on the back of the envelope for you to indicate in whose memory you would like the donation to be. Deadline to turn envelopes in is Sunday, December 14.

St. Martha's Men's Retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center
January 9-11, 2015
Start the New Year with a relaxing Retreat Weekend.
Retreat Theme "Meeting the Jesus I Never Knew"
Becoming Companions at the Foot of the Cross
“So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God”--Ephesians 2:19
For more information contact Bruce Farmer: at 281-360-4047
Or register online: www.passionist.org/holyname/weekendretreats

PROJECT RACHEL
Project Rachel is the confidential and compassionate outreach to women who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion. Its purpose is to foster reconciliation and healing between the parent and Christ, His Church, the child, and all other significant relationships. Questions? Contact Bonnie Develle, L.P.C., 281-812-8641, 713-435-9215, or bdevelle@comcast.net.

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES
Have some fun! Come join NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, on Wednesday, December 3, to talk/drink/eat at 7:00 p.m. at Zachary’s Cajun Cafe, 716 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood. On Saturday, December 6, join us for 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Martha’s, 4301 Woodridge Pkwy.; meal afterwards at El Ranchero Mexican Restaurant, 24551 Loop 494 (near Northpark Dr.), in Kingwood. Meet in the narthex at 5:15 p.m. For more info about the group, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote on either St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.
**COURAGEOUS PRAYER –**

*Different Experiences of Prayer – Advent Series*

Would you like to develop a deeper personal prayer life? For our Advent experience this year we will be exploring “Many Ways to Pray”. Please join us for a variety of workshops on prayer.

**Faith Formation Campus – Family Life Center (3702 Woodland Hills Dr.)**
- Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m.: St. Luke Productions “Faustina: Messenger of Mercy”
- St. Martha Catholic Church – Main Church (4301 Woodridge Pkwy.)
  - Dec. 5, 7:00 p.m.: An Evening of Prayer
  - Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m.: Arise - Evening of Praise & Worship with Adoration

For additional information or questions, contact Carla Lewton carlal@stmartha.com or check our Adult Faith Formation Web-site: Fall Schedule Page www.stmarthaaff.com

**WOMEN’S RETREAT—**

Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center invites you to a weekend of quiet, rest, and prayer on December 5-7, 2014.

Our theme this year is: *Meeting the Jesus I Never Knew: Becoming Companions at the Foot of the Cross.*

Holy Name Retreat Center is located in Houston on 10 quiet acres at 430 Bunker Hill Road and offers inspiring talks by religious men, women, and laity. Enjoy award-winning gardens, Outdoor Stations of the Cross, a Labyrinth, prayerful massages, and private rooms with private baths. And most importantly, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

This is your chance to spend a weekend with God. For more information, please call the retreat center at 713-464-0211, or go online to www.passionist.org/holynname. You may also call Jan Rodine at 281-354-3646 for additional information. Carpooling and transportation can be arranged.

**GriefShare – a journey from mourning to joy**

*GriefShare* is a seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close. It’s an opportunity to be around others who understand what you are feeling, learn valuable information and renew your hope for the future.

The series is held on Monday evenings (through December 8th), 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Martha’s Woodland Hills Campus, 3702 Woodland Hills Drive, Kingwood TX 77339 in Room 2.

Each session includes a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery followed by participation in small group discussion. You are welcome to begin attending at any session. Each session is ‘self-contained’ so that you do not have to attend in sequence. This series is hosted by two gifted facilitators: Laurie Cardella (the lead facilitator), and Peggy Rittenhouse. *Registration is requested and there is a fee for the book - $15.00 payable at your first meeting.* For more information or to register, please contact Jill Crawford, 603-674-1025, jcrawford0416@hotmail.com or Laurie Cardella, 281-360-2714, laurie@kingwoodcable.com.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON - Christmas Luncheon & Celebration**

Young at Heart-ers - Christmas is coming and so is our Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon and Celebration. Come join your YAH (Young at Heart) family and enjoy a delicious Christmas luncheon just for you. There will be entertainment, gifts, and fellowship (sorry, no bingo this month). Join us for the festivities at St. Martha's Family Life Center on **Wednesday, December 10 at 11 am**. Bring a friend with you and join the fun! If transportation is needed, contact Minnie Romo at minerva.romo@gmail.com or Domenica Seitz at 713-899-1016. If you have any questions, please call Nancy at 281-358-6637 x 202, e-mail nancyl@stmartha.com or Nancy Karpinski, 713-594-4430.

Please **pray for our active military** as seen on the wreath in the Narthex.

To add a loved one call: Carole Parslow 832-689-5824 or e-mail carolep8359@gmail.com.
**St. Martha School Scoops**

St. Martha Catholic School is a fully accredited school for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our curriculum builds strong academic skills, Catholic values and moral character in a safe, secure, and caring environment. Our students attend weekly Mass and celebrate reconciliation during the school day throughout the school year. We are blessed to have the involvement of our parish priests in many of our school activities. We offer the sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, track, volleyball and girls' softball. We also support a drama club, a band program, Rosary Guild, Student Council, BETA Club and other student activities.

Visit our school website at www.stmarthacs.org for more information or contact Registrar Jan Rodine at 281-358-5523 for a tour.

The Mission of St. Martha Catholic School is to provide a quality education sharing in the total Catholic formation of each person by developing mind, heart and spirit.

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**Parenting/Youth Events**

**Monica's Hope: Prayerful Support for Parents of Troubled Children**

Don't suffer in silence and solitude. Within our Catholic Community there are many with seriously troubled children of all ages. Problems like addiction, criminality, and mental disorder. Our experience is that sharing the burden lightens the load. And in the example of St. Monica you can pray for your child and you can find peace. The next meeting will be **December 1**, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Room 1 (Library). Questions? Call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288 or e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com

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**MOM'S PRAYER GROUP:**

**Have a child going to college?** There are lots of changes and decisions at this time for our youth. What better way to send them to college than covered in prayer? Join other moms in prayer the **second Tuesday** of every month (December 9) at 7:00 p.m. in **Room 5 of the Family Life Center**. If you can, bring your rosary or one will be provided. Questions? E-mail Pat Azzollini at patlini2000@yahoo.com.

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**ST. MARTHA SUNDAY NURSERY**

**Sundays- 9 AM, 11 AM and 5:30 PM (Life Teen)**

Open every Sunday, with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter. Ages: 12 months old through age 4.

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**This and That**

**SPECIAL BULLETIN DEADLINES**

The deadline to submit information for the December 21st bulletin is 11:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 10th**.

The deadline to submit information for the December 28th bulletin is 11:00 a.m. on **Monday, December 15th**.

The deadline to submit information for the January 4th bulletin is 11:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 17th**.

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**REJOICE TOUR**

**AN ADVENT NIGHT OF WORSHIP**

Featuring: John Finch & Rita West

Join the St. Martha community for a night of prayer and music to celebrate this Advent season

**Tuesday, December 16**

[7:30 pm]

**In the Family Life Center**
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DEVOTION TO PRAYER IN ST. MARTHA PARISH

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?” Mark 14:37

Our parish is incredibly blessed to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration available in our adoration chapel twenty-four hours a day. Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of His infinite love for each one of us, and He is always present there in the Blessed Sacrament patiently waiting for us to come and spend time with Him.

Listed below are hours that are most in need of adorers at this time. However, please note that no hour is really ever “filled” because parishioners are always invited to choose an hour that works best for them, regardless of whether or not there are other adorers already there in prayer.

Both regular adorers and substitutes are needed at this time. Even if you do not have a regular hour, please feel free to visit our Blessed Lord at any time knowing that He is always waiting for us with joyful anticipation.

Second adorers are needed for the following hours:
- Sunday: 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, Noon-1PM, 2-3PM, 3-4PM.
- Monday: 1-2 AM, 2-3AM, 8-9PM, 5-6PM, 11PM-Midnight.
- Tuesday: 2-3AM.
- Wednesday: 6-7AM.
- Thursday: 1-2 AM, 5-6PM.
- Friday: 1-2 AM, 11AM-Noon, 5-6PM, 6-7PM.
- Saturday: 1-2AM, 2-3PM, 11PM-Midnight.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact Robyn Laumbach at either 281-360-7897 or robynbfly@embarqmail.com. If you need a substitute, please call one of our division leaders: Robyn Laumbach at 281-360-7897 for Midnight-6 AM, Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 for 6 AM-Noon, Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 for Noon-6 PM, and Beth Beckham at 281-435-1439 for 6 PM-Midnight.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Martha Conference of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank the Parish for its generous support of our recent Black Bag Collection. Donations from this collection totaled $21,211.70. Because of your compassion and generosity, our Conference will be able to continue its mission to assist those in need in our community.

September and October were a particularly active period as we helped 696 people with Rent, Mortgage, Utilities, Food, Medical, and Auto Expenses totaling $23,544.29. As we begin Advent we are called to “Be watchful! Be alert!” as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Your gifts to St. Vincent de Paul will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers for this ministry and may God bless you and your family.

SHARING SUNDAY ~
December 13 & 14

Each year during Advent our parish makes a special effort to share our blessings with other parishes in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese. Through our annual Sharing Sunday we are able to help local parishes distribute food and gifts to needy families. Gifts are needed for children, adults, and senior citizens. Please wrap and tag these gifts with the age and gender of the recipient (for example, boy age 10-12). Grocery items are also needed but do not need to be wrapped. Take time to discuss with your family ways that your Christmas can be shared with other families.

ADOPT A FAMILY

Through the St. Martha Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, our church assists many families during the Christmas season. This year, we’d like to again give our parishioners the opportunity to adopt one of these families from our area. This will be done in connection with Sharing Sunday, December 13th and 14th, and all gifts will be brought up to the altar on that weekend. If you are interested, please contact Alice Jones at 281-361-6181, or by e-mail at jones@kingwoodcable.com.
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the Woodland Hills chapel. Everyone welcome.

For Survivors of Abuse—Maria Gorettí Network (MGN)
A peer to peer self help support group for women and men focusing on healing and forgiveness. For information on monthly meetings e-mail: stmarthamgn@gmail.com or call (281) 360-4045.

Communion to the Sick:
If you or a loved one are in Kingwood Hospital, and would like a Communion Minister to visit, call the church office at 281-358-6637 to let us know. Hospital regulations require us to have the patient’s name and room number before we send someone.

The Texas Catholic Conference is hosting:
Principles and Policies for End-of-Life Care
December 9th at the University of St. Thomas
12:00-4:30 p.m.
Join the Texas Catholic Bishops for an in-depth conference on end-of-life care, policies, principles, and pastoral care. For registration please visit: www.txcatholic-advance-directives.org or call 512-339-9882

The name Guadalupe comes from the Nahuatl dialect “Coatlaxopeuh” meaning Coa- Serpent Tla - the Xopeuh- Crush “The Lady who crushes the serpent”

It’s Here…
… the 2014 St. Martha Christmas Ornament

The 2014 ornament is $20.00
Or buy the 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 set for $35.00
You can buy them in the Administration Building

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, the moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Martha Family Life Center on Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ’s Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up.
Admission is a free-will offering. For additional information, contact Carla Lewton at St. Martha Faith Formation Office at (281) 713-8968 or carlal@stmartha.com.
Watch the trailer & learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS:
Please join the MASKOW Family in prayer this week as they host the Chalice and pray for vocations. Interested? Please contact Albert Holden at 713-292-6066 or by e-mail at aaholden@embarqmail.com to schedule a week.
### December 2014

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<td>10:45 am SYMBO- LON Video Series, Rm 2</td>
<td>Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass times: 6:30 am, 8:30 am (School Mass), Noon &amp; 7:30 pm</td>
<td>9:15 am Breakfast &amp; Bible Study 7 pm Cornerstone Bible Study, Rm 2 7:30 pm Rejoice Tour: Advent Prayer, FLC</td>
<td>9:45 am Cornerstone Bible Study 7:30 pm Cornerstone Bible Study, Rm 2</td>
<td>6:15 pm RCIA</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
<td>10 am Pro-Life Mass</td>
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<td>3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
<td>9:15 am Little Rock Study, FLC 7:30 pm Monica’s Hope Support Group, Rm 1</td>
<td>9:15 am Breakfast &amp; Bible Study 7 pm Cornerstone Bible Study, Rm 2</td>
<td>8:30 am School Mass 9:45 am Cornerstone Bible Study, Activity Center 10:30 am Martha’s Quilters, Rm 3</td>
<td>6:15 pm RCIA 7:30 pm Courageous Prayer-St. Faustina Production, FLC</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
<td>10 am Pro-Life Mass</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Parish Penance Service 6:15 pm RCIA</td>
<td>8:30 am School Mass SMCS Early Missal (11 am) 9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
<td>St. John of the Cross Food Drive</td>
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<td>3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
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<td>6:30-8 pm EDGE Night, FLC</td>
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<td>9 am Mass-Children’s Choir 3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy St. John of the Cross Food Drive</td>
<td>9 am Christmas Eve Mass times: 4:00pm, 7:00pm Midnight</td>
<td>Parish Office Closed</td>
<td>MERRY CHRISTMAS Christmas Mass times: 7:00 am, 9:00am, 11:00am, &amp; 1:00 pm (Spanish Mass)</td>
<td>Parish Office Closed</td>
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<td>3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
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The birth of Jesus brings the divine message of love directly to humankind. Jesus came to teach us the way to follow God’s will. During this season of light, we reflect in awe. While we may sometimes feel as if there is "no room in the inn" for us, we trust that Jesus has a place ready for his faithful stewards.
Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,

Este fin de semana comienza el tiempo de Adviento, un tiempo especial de preparación para la venida del Señor en nuestras vidas. La breve parábola del Evangelio de Marcos nos recuerda que el Señor vendrá a veces y en circunstancias que menos lo esperamos. Por lo tanto, tenemos que estar atentos a los signos de la presencia de Dios y aprender a esperar pacientemente. La espera es un tema prominente en las lecturas de las Escrituras a través de todo el tiempo de Adviento. Como la primera lectura del profeta Isaías sugiere, algunas personas esperan para ser liberado de sufrimiento y persecución. Esto es especialmente cierto de algunos de nuestros hermanos cristianos en muchas partes del mundo. Algunas personas esperan ansiosamente el regreso de sus seres queridos que están sirviendo a su país en tierras extranjeras. Otros esperan noticias de los médicos y profesionales de los resultados médicos acerca de su enfermedad y tratamiento. Esperar no es fácil y puede minar nuestra energía y sofocar nuestro entusiasmo. Sin embargo, tenemos que esperar, y mientras esperamos, nos preguntamos. Muchos se preguntan, “¿Dónde está Dios en todos los eventos y acontecimientos en nuestro mundo en estos días? ¿Por qué Dios no arroja una luz sobre nuestra oscuridad y nos muestra el camino en que debemos proceder? “La Palabra de Dios nos invita a aprender a esperar con expectativa paciente y aprender a leer los signos de los tiempos. Mientras esperamos, vamos renovando nuestra esperanza en la promesa de la salvación de Dios y reconocemos que tenemos un futuro que vale la pena en la espera porque Dios siempre cumple sus promesas.

El Papa Francisco nos ha dado una razón para la esperanza y una manera especial de reconocer la presencia de Dios entre nosotros. Ha anunciado que el Año de la Vida Consagrada se iniciará este primer fin de semana de Adviento y continuará durante todo el próximo año con el lema: "¡Despierta el mundo!" Los objetivos de este año especial que se centran en la vida consagrada son tres: (1) dar gracias a Dios por el don de la vida consagrada, especialmente en el pasado reciente; (2) abrazar el futuro con esperanza; y (3) vivir el presente con pasión. Nos referimos comúnmente a los de la vida consagrada como religiosas, hermanos y sacerdotes. Como se explica en Vita Consecrata # 1, "En todas las épocas ha habido hombres y mujeres que, dóciles a la llamada del Padre ya con la moción del Espíritu, han elegido este camino de especial seguimiento de Cristo, con el fin de dedicarse a él con un 'corazón indiviso' "(ver I Corintios 7: 34). Al igual que los Apóstoles, ellos también han dejado todo atrás para estar con Jesucristo y ponerse, como Él lo hizo, al servicio de Dios y de sus hermanos y hermanas”. Invito a toda nuestra parroquia a rezar de una manera especial para aquellos en la vida consagrada (por ejemplo, las Hermanas Carmelitas en "Roman Forest" y los distintos religiosos que sirven en nuestra arquidiócesis) y animar a nuestros jóvenes hombres y mujeres a considerar el servicio al Señor como hermanas y hermanos religiosos.

Fr. Chester Borski

1er Domingo de Adviento

Reflexión sobre las lecturas:

Jesús nos insiste en el Evangelio de San Marcos a que velemos: “¡Velad!” Pero para velar necesitamos hacer conciencia de que es lo que nos puede hacer daño. El trabajo de un velador es el de estar preparado para evitar que se meta un ladrón a robar. Cuando Jesús nos pide que velemos para que estemos pendientes y preparados para evitar que el demonio nos robe la Gracia de Dios al engañarnos para pecar. Tenemos que estar conscientes de los pecados que cometemos con mayor frecuencia para poner medios para evitar la tentación cada vez que aparezca. La oración es el medio más fuerte que tenemos para velar y estar preparados. Nosotros solos no podemos con la lucha, necesitamos de la ayuda de Dios y por eso es importante mantenernos en Gracia y en oración continua. Sólo Dios nos puede dar la fuerza para mantenernos en Gracia y superar las tentaciones.

Compromiso de la semana: Meditaré sobre mis pecados más frecuentes y pediré a Dios la Gracia y la fuerza para superarlos. Dedicaré unos minutos diarios a la oración para estar cerca de Dios.

Recibimos sus comentarios a esta columna o al contenido en español de este boletín en el correo electrónico: boletin@stmartha.co
Ministerio Hispano

Convalidación de Matrimonios:
¿Te falta el Sacramento de Matrimonio? ¿Necesitas ayuda emocional o espiritual en tu Matrimonio? Para más información llama al Sr. Rubén o Sra. Janett Manosalva al 281-706-5068 o puedes comunicarte por email: matrimonios@stmartha.co

RICA
No estás bautizado, no haz hecho tu primera comunión o no estás confirmado!!!! Piensas que como no lo hiciste de niño es muy difícil recibirlos como adulto? Conoces a alguien que no tiene todos sus sacramentos? No es difícil. Nosotros te ayudamos en el proceso. Pero tu tienes que dar el primer paso. Comunicate con Jaime Gomez 281-973-1857 o escribe a sacramentos@stmartha.co. hoy mismo!!!!!

Cáliz de Vocaciones
Está interesado de tener el Cáliz de Vocaciones en su hogar, Para más información favor de llamar al Sr. Pastora al 832-514-5741 o por email al: comitecalizdevocaciones@stmartha.co.

RETIRO EN ESPAÑOL DE ACTS PARA HOMBRES
El quinto retiro para hombres ACTS MS-5 en español tendrá lugar del 22 al 25 de enero del 2015. Las inscripciones seguirán abiertas en el Nártex de la Iglesia, una vez finalizada la misa de la 1:00 pm. Para mayor información llamar a Arturo Rocha al 832-527-2729.

Proyecto Gabriel
¿Está embarazada? ¿Necesita ayuda durante su embarazo? No importa su edad! Para más información favor de llamar a 713-225-5826

Monaguillos:
Si su niño/a está interesado a servir de Monaguillo, Favor de llamar al Sr. Pastora al 832-514-5741 o por email al: monaguillos@stmartha.co.

Ministerio Legión de María:
Están cordialmente invitados todos los viernes a las 7:00 PM en el salón 2 de las instalaciones de Woodland Hills Dr. Mayores informes con la Sra. Veronica Reyes (281.728.9843) o por email: legiondemaria@stmartha.co

Iglesia Católica De Santa Marta, Santa María y San Lázaro
SOLICITUD DE ORACIÓN
Orando con Jesús y María

Deposite esta tarjeta una vez su petición esté completa en la urna que se encuentra en la entrada de la iglesia.

Escriba aquí su petición __________________________

Esta solicitud también se puede hacer por email o internet. Escribámos a: OrandoConJesusYMaria@stmartha.co o en el web site: www.stmartha.com (sección de Español). Para comunicarse por teléfono llame al número: 832-409-3625
Advent provides an opportunity for us to begin again and to prepare ourselves anew for the coming of Jesus Christ. It is a time of waiting and expectation, of anticipation and preparation. We can use the coming weeks for personal prayer, growth and change in the way we live. Anticipating the Nativity of Jesus, we can dedicate special time toward our relationship with him. As we recall previous Advents, we reconsider our relationship with him. We can begin again and to prepare ourselves anew for the coming of Jesus Christ.