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 Kleinguel, 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.

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

December 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).


**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).


**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27</td>
<td>Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17 -18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32</td>
<td>Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17</td>
<td>Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25</td>
<td>Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25</td>
<td>Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38</td>
<td>2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38</td>
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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Third Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Las Posadas begins; Hanukkah begins at sunset</td>
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**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

In today’s second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as its members wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This sounds easy but it’s not. The two words that make this task difficult are “always” and “all”. This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon./Dec. 15</th>
<th>Tues./Dec. 16</th>
<th>Wed./Dec. 17</th>
<th>Thurs./Dec. 18</th>
<th>Fri./Dec. 19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am †Christine Beseda</td>
<td>8:30 am †Blaze Baker</td>
<td>8:30 am †Chris Burns, Sr.</td>
<td>6:30 am †Joseph Harlan</td>
<td>8:30 am †Mary Diane Smithy</td>
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<td>7:00 pm †For the Parish</td>
<td>10:00 am †Pauline &amp; Benny Pennucci</td>
<td>10:00 am †Theodore Bella</td>
<td>8:30 am †Ana Maria MacDonald</td>
<td>7:00 am †Mima Bella</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11:00 am †Robert &amp; Mildred Guillerman</td>
<td>1:00 pm †Alicia Brand</td>
<td>9:00 am †James McIver</td>
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<td>5:30 pm †Can &amp; Lan Le</td>
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† PLEASE REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS †

David Bannmiller (son of Dave and Amy Bannmiller)
Sybil Ford (mother of Teri Hottovy)
Fannie Ruth Gilbert (mother of Greta Verhalen)
Margarita Garcia (mother of Alfredo Garcia)
Walter Francis Foley, Jr. (husband of Colette Foley)
Ruth McDonald (mother of Rick & mother-in-law of Jeanine McDonald)

Please remember the sick and their families in your prayers:

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From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent give us a clue about what waiting and preparing for the coming of the Lord should begin to feel like in our lives. The concepts we hear most frequently in the liturgy at this half-way point of Advent are words like peace, gratitude, and joy. The waiting should not be one of frustration, emptiness, or feeling overwhelmed with things that need to be done. The consistent Advent message from God’s Word is that, despite whatever setbacks we may experience at our job, at home, or with society in general, we must never let those experiences begin to dampen our fundamental joy and gratitude for life. The uplifting experience at this time of the year is clearly the gift of the Messiah. Someone once remarked that many of us “sin by needlessly disobeying the Church’s call to rejoice.”

In a world that frequently seems poised to self-destruct through greed for wealth and power, it can seem that to rejoice and be grateful for the gift of life is a flight from reality. Most of what our culture calls happiness, frequently expressed through overeating and the heavy consumption of alcohol during this holiday season, is really a weak imitation of the authentic joy and gratitude described by the prophet Isaiah in our first reading: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the world.”

The reason for our joy and gratitude as an “Advent people” is the fact that God has already called us to share in the very gift of eternal life for which we long. We can understand the world and our place in it, not simply in terms of our own experience, but rather in terms of the plan God has for us in Christ Jesus. When Isaiah wrote the passage we hear in the first reading, he was enslaved and forced into service under the king of Babylon. There was certainly little in Isaiah’s experience about which he could rejoice. However, he did so because he could see the hand of God guiding the people even in the experience of their painful exile. In a similar way John the Baptist who “came to testify to the light” did so in the midst of the darkness of rejection and imprisonment. He would die and not see the fullness of the arrival of God’s Kingdom in the person of Jesus Christ. Like Isaiah and John, we are called to be witnesses to the Light of the world and help banish the darkness that tries to overshadow our lives at times. For this reason St. Paul urges us in his first letter to the Thessalonians to “rejoice always” through constant prayer and grateful hearts. On this Sharing Sunday let us ask God to help us become signs of hope and joy to the lives of others who struggle to experience the presence of the Savior.

Fr. Chester Borski

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, Dec. 20 & 21, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food and personal care items. Donations will benefit St. John of the Cross Food Pantry in New Caney. Thank you for your continued generosity by contributing non-perishable grocery items to help those in need. (Please place your Food Donation in the Rotunda before Mass. There will be a sign in the Narthex directing everyone to the Rotunda and a sign in the Rotunda showing where to place the food.)

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24 (Vigil):
4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass (Nativity Pageant begins at 3:30 p.m.),
7:00 p.m., Midnight (Music begins at 11:30 p.m.).

December 25:
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass)

Please note...The parish office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24th through Friday, Dec. 26th and will re-open on Monday, Dec. 29th at 9:00 a.m.

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.
**Adult Organizations and Opportunities**

**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. Remaining Series Date: Dec. 14.

**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. Remaining December Date: 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 Arl Rocha at 832-527-2729.

**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

**ROSARY GUILD**

The Rosary Guild will no longer collect items for Dickinson after January 2015. Beginning in February 2015, only prayer books, holy cards, bibles, CCD textbooks, rosaries, and religious articles will be collected. For more information or questions, please contact JoAnna at 281-361-0391 or jloup3@yahoo.com.

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES**

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, gathers on Wednesday, December 17, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 p.m. at Jason's Deli, 1275 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood. On Saturday, December 20, we travel for the 2 p.m. Liberty Opry Christmas Show, 1816 Sam Houston, Liberty, Texas 77575. To purchase $15 ticket, call 1-877-729-9103. For more info about the group, contact Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmmom4@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

**Marriage and A New Way to Love**

Marriage is sacred, exciting, and fun but it can also be boring, challenging, and just okay at times. A NEW WAY TO LOVE – is a six week marriage enrichment series on living God’s purpose for your marriage.

It will start Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (Woodland Hills). It is a great gift to give your spouse whether you are engaged to be married, married six months or 60 years. **Registration is required.**

For questions or registration, e-mail Francine at franp@stmartha.com.

Childcare may be requested with your registration. To cover the cost of each participant manual, $30.00 per couple will be collected at the first session.
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.

Frassati Catholic High School
Application Deadline
The priority application deadline for the 2015-2016 school year is January 15, 2015. Apply today at frassaticatholic.org! To schedule a tour, arrange a shadow day, or for more information about Frassati Catholic High School, call 832-616-3227.

Children’s Adoration Hour
Every Tuesday—10 a.m. in the Chapel
Bring your children and grandchildren to a special hour with Christ. They will learn to offer prayer intentions, grow in their love for Christ, his mother Mary, and our Church and the Pope. We have time for silent prayer, a decade of the rosary, we talk about saints and reflect on gospel passages and sing songs. Parents and kids receive many graces from spending an hour a week with Christ. We hope you will come and see what it’s all about. Contact Annatte Salazar at asalazar77339@yahoo.com or 281-358-1492 if you have any questions.

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.
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the Woodland Hills chapel. Everyone welcome.

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
(Holy Day of Obligation)  
December 31 (Vigil): 5:30 PM  
January 1: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM  
and 1:00 PM (Bi-lingual Mass)  

PLEASE NOTE: The parish office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd.

MARTHA’S QUILTERS:  
Martha's Quilters provide handmade blessed quilts to infirm 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.

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:  

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.

Tuesday, December 16  
7:30 – 9:00 PM  
In the Family Life Center  

We would like to welcome all families, youth, young adults, and adults, to this free music experience that will be a time of intimate prayer and worship with messages to reflect on the Advent season.

THE 2015 SUNDAY MISSALS AND CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!  
Sunday Missal - $2.00/Calendar - $1.00  
Available in the Narthex or the Parish Office.
Caring Cooks:

Thank you to all of our Caring Cooks who have so generously given of their time to make meals for those in our parish community who are truly in need at a difficult time and have no one to provide meals for them. This is an awesome ministry open to anyone who would like to provide a meal every now and then to a fellow parishioner in need. We are a blessed community in that we have so many caring and helpful folks to help out when one of us is in need. If you would like to be a part of this truly rewarding team of caring cooks please call: Karen Rexer 281-354-8857 or Marian Brown 281-360-6914 to sign up. And as always, if you should find yourself or someone you know in need of help with meals during a very difficult time please know there is someone there to help.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”
Matthew 25:35

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

St. Martha Catholic School Invites You to “The First Christmas”
Wednesday, December 17, 6 p.m.
St. Martha Catholic Church

The students and staff of St. Martha Catholic School invite you to join them in St. Martha Catholic Church for a beautiful re-creation of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. All parishioners and community members are welcome to enjoy our wonderful presentation of the scenes leading up to the birth of our Savior. Admittance is free and no reservations are necessary. For more information, please contact Jan Rodine at 281-358-5523.

SPECIAL BULLETIN DEADLINES
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.

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.

Knights of Columbus
Tamale Sale
December 21-22
$12.00 per Dz. Pork or Chicken
Contact Ronnie Gonzales
ronnieg@nationalterrazzo.com
Please welcome those who entered the Church through Baptism at the Christ the King Service on Sunday, November 23rd, 2014

Cheryl Holmes and Joseph Suarez

Those who entered into Full Communion through Eucharist and Confirmation

Jason Congram, Sandra Evans, Michael Herron, Stephen Morris and Jennifer Werner

STEWARDSHIP—A WAY OF LIFE
Fruits of Your Labor...

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is personal time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel, located in the back of the church. Adorers commit to one hour each week to spend time in the presence of Christ, strengthening their personal relationship with Him. In the month of November, we had 1,254 hours logged with our regular committed adorers. In addition to this, we had 399 visitors! Our visitors pray for varying amounts of time, so it is impossible for us to give an exact number of hours devoted by them. However, their presence is still a huge statement to the power of prayer and the devotion of our parish to this ministry. We are also so proud of the children who come to pray on Tuesday mornings during their weekly adoration hour! All involved in Eucharistic Adoration bring blessings to the entire parish through their devotion and prayer. Your family is encouraged to attend together at any time.

What is Catholics Returning Home?

Catholics Returning Home is a program that invites non-practicing Catholics, of any age, to return home to the Catholic Church and resume active practice of their faith. If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church for a while, this invitation is for you.

No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join us for informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith facilitated by former non-practicing Catholics.

January 13 – February 17, 2015
Tuesday Evenings - 7 pm – 8:30 pm
Room #3 in the building next to the Family Life Center
3702 Woodland Hills Drive

The Catholics Returning Home sessions provide updated information on the basics of Catholicism in a non-threatening, support group format. The sessions are informational and formational. Topics of the six week sessions are:

♦ Welcome and Overview of the Series: Sharing by Team and Participants
♦ Further sharing and discussion
♦ The Church Today – Changes since Vatican II, Q&A
♦ Explanation of Reconciliation/Confession, Q&A
♦ Explanation/Walk-through of the Mass, Q&A
♦ The Creed: What Catholics Believe Wrap-Up, Q&A

If you would like more information or to participate, please contact: Carla Lewton at carlal@stmartha.com or call 281-713-8968

* Babysitting is available upon request.
* All who choose to participate in this program will remain in confidence with the CRH Team and other fellow participants.
Unemployed or underemployed?
Are you or do you know an individual who’s unemployed or underemployed and looking for direction? Losing your job or being underemployed can cause anxiousness and stress, which can make it more challenging to find a better job. St. Martha’s Between Jobs and Beyond ministry helps those who are looking for a new and more satisfying job.

- We can help with résumé writing, with interview preparation and with networking.
- We also can help you get your head in the right place, spiritually and emotionally, which is critical for effective job-seeking. It is very difficult to be at your best when you feel at your worst – we can help.
- We encourage a spirit of service to others. When we help others, we feel better.

We meet every Friday at 9:15 a.m. in Room 2 of the Faith Formation Campus (Woodland Hills campus). Please come and see us, or tell others about us. We are here to help! If you have questions, please e-mail stmarthabetweenjobs@gmail.com or call Bob Simpson at 713-410-2844.

MARTHA'S KITCHEN NEWS
During this beautiful season of Advent, Martha's Kitchen is reminded of all of the blessings that the parishioners and clergy of St. Martha Church have bestowed upon our ministry. We are blessed to be the recipient of your continued generosity and volunteer spirit during these days of preparation to honor our dear Savior's birth. May you and your family experience this spiritual journey joyously at Christmas and also during 2015!

Please note: Martha's Kitchen will close on Dec. 23 and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5.

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.

For Survivors of Abuse—Maria Goretti 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.

GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME
Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for many years for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Your gift to this weekend’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

HELP US REDUCE OUR DEBT ON THE CHURCH BUILDING
At all Christmas Masses, there will be a second collection to reduce the debt on our Church! Your prayerful consideration and generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

CANCARE—
St. Martha is an affiliated faith-based member of CanCare. CanCare is a network of trained volunteers including cancer survivors, family members of cancer survivors and medical professionals who provide emotional support to others facing cancer. If you (or someone close to you) have been diagnosed with cancer and would like to talk to someone, CanCare can match you with a cancer survivor or caregiver for one-on-one emotional support. Founded in 1990, CanCare is now partnered with over 100 congregations of varied faiths, hospitals and corporations. All services are confidential and without charge. You may visit the website at www.cancare.org, or call CanCare direct at 713-461-0028 (please mention you are a member of St. Martha Catholic Church). For more details contact the St. Martha CanCare coordinator, Roger Schuelke, at 281-358-8060.
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

Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,
Las lecturas bíblicas para el 3er domingo de Adviento nos dan una idea de lo que esperar y prepararse para la venida del Señor debe comenzar a sentirse en nuestras vidas. Los conceptos que escuchamos con más frecuencia en la liturgia en este punto de Adviento son palabras como paz, gratitud y alegría. La espera no debe ser una frustración, vacío, o sentirse abrumado con las cosas que se necesitan tener hachas. El mensaje constante de Adviento de la Palabra de Dios es que, a pesar de cualquier contratiempo que podamos experimentar en nuestro trabajo, en casa, o con la sociedad en general, nunca debemos dejar que esas experiencias comiencen a amortiguar nuestra alegría y gratitud fundamental con la vida. La experiencia edificante en esta época del año es claramente el regalo del Mesías. Alguien dijo una vez que muchos de nosotros "pecamos por innecesariamente desobedecer el llamado de la Iglesia a la alegría". En un mundo que con frecuencia parece a punto de autodestruirse a través de la codicia por la riqueza y el poder, puede parecer que a estad alegres y agradecidos por el don de la vida es una fuga de la realidad. La mayor parte de lo que nuestra cultura llama felicidad, expresada con frecuencia a través de comer en exceso y el consumo excesivo de alcohol durante esta temporada de vacaciones, es realmente una débil imitación de la auténtica alegría y gratitud descrito por el profeta Isaías en la primera lectura: "El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque Dios me ha ungido para anunciar la buena noticia" para el mundo. La razón de nuestra alegría y gratitud como un "pueblo de Adviento" es el hecho de que Dios ya nos ha llamado a participar del mismo regalo de la vida eterna que anhelamos. Podemos entender el mundo y nuestro lugar en él, no sólo en términos de nuestra propia experiencia, sino más bien en términos del plan que Dios tiene para con nosotros en Cristo Jesús. Cuando Isaías escribió el pasaje que escuchamos en la primera lectura, fue esclavizado y obligado al servicio bajo el rey de Babilonia. Ciertamente, hubo poco en la experiencia de Isaías sobre lo que podía regocijarse. Sin embargo, lo hizo porque podía ver la mano de Dios guiando al pueblo, incluso en la experiencia de su doloroso exilio. De una manera similar a Juan el Bautista, que "vino a dar testimonio de la luz" lo hizo en medio de la oscuridad del rechazo y el encarcelamiento. El moriría y no vería la plenitud de la llegada del Reino de Dios en la persona de Jesucristo. Como Isaías y Juan, estamos llamados a ser testigos de la Luz del mundo y ayudar a desterrar la oscuridad que intenta opacar nuestra vida a veces. Por esta razón St. Paul nos impulsa en su primera carta a los Tesalonicenses "Regocijamos siempre" a través de la oración constante y corazones agradecidos. En este “Sharing Sunday” pidamos a Dios que nos ayude a ser signos de esperanza y alegría a la vida de otros que luchan para experimentar la presencia del Salvador.

Fr. Chester Borski

3º Domingo de Adviento
Reflexión sobre las lecturas:
Seguimos en la temporada del Adviento, preparando nuestros corazones para la celebrar la venida de Jesús a este mundo. Un requisito para poder recibir a Jesús es la humildad como nos lo muestran María, quien dijo: “Proclama mi alma la grandeza del Señor, se alegra mi espíritu en Dios, mi salvador; porque ha mirado la humillación de su esclava” y Juan el Bautista, quien dijo: “y al que no soy digno de desatar la correa de la sandalia”. A menos que nos reconozcamos como criaturas de Dios, a quien todo debemos, nos será muy difícil recibirlo en nuestros corazones. Tenemos que vaciar esos corazones de nuestro orgullo, nuestras posesiones, nuestras envidias, nuestros rencores, nuestros pecados y todo aquello que nos aleja de Dios; solo así habrá espacio para Jesús en esta Navidad. Aprovechemos esta temporada de Adviento para limpiar y preparar nuestros corazones para que Jesús tenga un lugar donde quedarse con nosotros y así tengamos una Feliz Navidad en nuestro corazón.

Compromiso de la semana: Meditaré en aquello que me aleja de Dios y me comprometeré en vaciar mi corazón de esas cosas.

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

RICA:
No estás bautizado, no haz hecho tu primera comunión o no está 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. Comunícate con Jaime Gomez 281-973-1857 o escribe a sacramentos@stmartha.co hoy mismo!!!!!

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 a 281-706-5068 o puedes comunicarte por email: matrimonios@stmartha.co

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.

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.

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.

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Kevin & Michelle Campisi  281.361.4201
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Nancy Karpinski  713-594-4430

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