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

Senior Priest: Rev. Nick Pasadena
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
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — I will fix a place for my people. (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

**Psalm** — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

**Second Reading** — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

**Gospel** — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).


**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1-4, 8-10; Lk 1:44-56

**Tuesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 16bc, 17; Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79


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

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

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

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent; Winter begins

**Tuesday:** St. John of Kanty

**Wednesday:** The Vigil of Christmas

**Thursday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

**Friday:** St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

**Saturday:** St. John

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

*That we take time to open our hearts through prayer to receive the gift of God’s grace.*

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” — Luke 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. During this Christmas season take time in silence and pray to God. Thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God’s grace.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Name of Intentee with Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon./Dec. 22</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>† Anthony Skufca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues./Dec. 23</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>† Jesus Guzman</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>† Clotilde Inez Pinedo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed./Dec. 24/Christmas Eve</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>† Remedios Majul</td>
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<td>Thurs./Dec. 25/Christmas</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>† Eugene &amp; Catherine Goli</td>
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<td>Fri./Dec. 26</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>† Teresa Parissi</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>† Jorge Muller</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>† John Bree</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 Jeannie McDonald)
Patricia Ann Myer
Michelle Berube (wife of Steve Berube)
Tom Spears (brother of Christy Keeling)
Gloria Lehay (mother of Laura and mother-in-law of Tony Cardella)


**IMPORANT SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

Please note that beginning January 1, 2015, the Saturday Pro-Life Mass time will be changed to 8:30 am. 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.

**CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS:**

Please join the Bannmiller 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.
To the parish family of St. Martha,

The dynamic events described for us in the Scriptural passages for this 4th Sunday of Advent are those in which God initiates some action and then invites his people to respond and follow his lead. Our God does not reside on some distant mountaintop and observe our lives with an amused disinterest. God “leaps down from heaven,” involves himself in human affairs, and asks for a concrete response from us. God’s Word is creative, and if we are open to that Word, we will be changed and transformed. The first reading from II Samuel 7 describes a time when Israel had finally become a nation and was united under King David. The king no longer had to camp out in a tent in the desert. Instead he now enjoyed living in a palace. Feeling a twinge of conscience, David decided that the Ark of the Covenant deserved a special dwelling place as well. In place of a tent or tabernacle David wanted to build a large temple and let everyone know that this was God’s dwelling place among his people. However, God told David through the prophet Nathan that this was not his wish at that time. God’s dwelling would be with his people in a special way and that plan would be fulfilled through David’s lineage. (David’s son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple in Jerusalem.) The reading closes with the prophecy or promise that God has in mind another tabernacle in which to dwell.

That promise is fulfilled in the Gospel of St. Luke and the account of the Annunciation. God’s tabernacle would be the human body in the womb of a woman. Notice how the sacred text tells this wonderful story of God involving himself in our human history: “The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.” Mary fully expected to live out her life as a carpenter’s wife in a small village without any fanfare, but those plans were to change dramatically when she gave her “Yes” to the angel’s invitation. And with that “Yes” not only was her life transformed but so was that of all humanity. The words Gabriel spoke to Mary were not a command. She had the freedom to choose and could have said “No.” She did express her doubts and concerns. However, the response that Gabriel gave to Mary’s concerns is the only one that God consistently gives to his children: “Do not be afraid. Simply do as you are asked and God will take care of the rest.” And following Mary’s example and trusting faith, let us allow her words in the Gospel to become our consistent prayer as we conclude this Advent season: “May it be done to me according to your Word.”

Fr. Chester Borski

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.

A Special Request from St. Martha Parish at this Special Time of Year

We appreciate that many parishioners and loved ones from other parishes will attend our Christmas Masses. Thank you for joining our celebration! To help everyone feel welcome, please follow these guidelines:

♦ If you’d like your group to sit together, arrive early and together ... particularly if your group is large.
♦ Do not save seats for those not yet arrived. Seats must be available to those who arrive the earliest.
♦ Sit as close together as possible, placing items on the floor and small children on your laps as able.
♦ Reserve all chairs in the rear center sections for the elderly and handicapped until the Mass begins.
♦ Assist the Ushers as they strive to seat as many as possible and provide for those with special needs.

Merry Christmas to you and yours, and a very Happy New Year!
Adult Organizations and Opportunities

**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.

**PROJECT RACHEL**
New Project Rachel group begins January 6th. Call for more information and directions to off site location!

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**
The next gathering of NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, will be for 5:30 P.M. Mass at St. Mary Magdalene’s in Humble on Saturday, January 3. Join us at 5:15 in the narthax of church; meal afterwards at Italiano’s, 217 FM 1960 Bypass East in Humble. For more info about the group, contact Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybymom4@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.

**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 jlooup@yahoo.com.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**
The Faith Formation Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday, beginning Monday, December 22, 2014 and will re-open, Monday, January 5, 2015 at 9:00 AM. Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

See future bulletins for upcoming Faith Formation Programs.

**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. Bible Study will resume, Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

**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 You Tube. Click the You Tube 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.

**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

**ST. 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.
**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 **January 5, 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

**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 Annette Salazar at asalazar77339@yahoo.com or 281-358-1492 if you have any questions.

**JUST SHOW UP AND HAVE FUN**

Drinks, Snacks, and Awards

Contact: Mark Roseland
Phone: 713-805-4959
E-mail: mark.roeland@bakerhughes.com

Date of Competition: January 10, 2015
Location: St. Martha Activity Center
Time: 2:30 to 4:30 PM
Sponsored by: St. Martha Knights of Columbus Council # 12320

Please note: Entrants may compete in only one local competition.
Age as of January 1, 2015: 9-14 years old.
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.
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the Woodland Hills chapel. Everyone welcome.

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.

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.

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

The 2015 Sunday Missals and Calendars have arrived!
Sunday Missal - $2.00/Calendar - $1.00
Available in the Narthex or the Parish Office.

Teams of Our Lady presents "One In The Lord"
Deacon Tom Vicknair returns to St. Martha for a day of marriage enrichment
at the Family Life Center on Saturday, February 7th, 2015
beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending with 5:30 p.m. Mass.
Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Nick and Joannah Landry nslandry@mac.com by January 15th if childcare is needed. Child must be 12 months or older.
We look forward to breaking bread and celebrating our marriage vocation with all of you!

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.
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

St. Joseph Helpers are available to help parishioners who are in need of assistance with home repairs or building projects such as wheelchair ramps, etc. For more information contact Bill Beck, 281-360-7023.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OFFER MASS CARDS
Mass Cards benefiting St. Mary’s Seminary are available in the parish office from Monday through Friday from 9:00-4:00. Cards are $3.00 per person/$4.00 per couple/$10 per family for monthly remembrances and $25.00 for perpetual remembrances.
All Masses are said at St. Mary’s Seminary, and cannot be scheduled for a particular time. Make checks payable to the Catholic Daughters, Court of St. Martha.

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.

Knights of Columbus
Tamale Sale
December 21-22
$12.00 per Dz. Pork or Chicken
Contact Ronnie Gonzales
ronnieg@nationalterrazzo.com

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

The 2014 ornament is $10.00
Or buy the 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 set for $20.00
You can buy them in the Administration Building

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.
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.

Respect Life Mass & Rosary:
Feast of the Holy Innocents Vigil
We invite you to join the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants in a peaceful, prayerful Vigil and Rosary on Saturday, December 27.
The Feast of the Holy Innocents vigil will be held at two locations:
✦ English: Shrine of the True Cross, 300 FM 517 Rd. E. Dickinson, TX 77539 at 4:30 p.m., followed by a candlelight Rosary at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Dickinson, TX
✦ Spanish: Queen of Peace, 3011 Telephone Rd. Houston, TX 77023 at 7:00 p.m., followed by a candlelight Rosary at Planned Parenthood, 4600 Gulf Freeway

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.

Pro-Life Mass & Rosary:
Every 1st Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Please join us Saturday, January 3.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE
THIS WEEKEND
This 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.)

Mustard Seed Upscale Resale Shop—
A Project of Magnificat Houses
To support the homeless
1410 Elgin, 77004
Corner of LaBranch and Elgin
Mon-Sat 10 a.m.– 4 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.—6 p.m.
713-524-7333
mhimustardseed@gmail.com
Donations and Consignments are welcome.

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.

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.
Los eventos dinámicos descritos por nosotros en los pasajes bíblicos de este cuarto domingo de Adviento son aquellos en los que Dios inicia alguna acción y luego invita a su pueblo a responder y seguir su ejemplo. Nuestro Dios no reside en alguna montaña lejana y observar nuestras vidas con un desinterés. Dios “salta desde los cielos”, se involucra en los asuntos humanos, y nos pide una respuesta concreta. La Palabra de Dios es creativa, y si estamos abiertos a ella, se remos cambiados y transformados. La primera lectura de II Samuel 7 describe un momento en que Israel finalmente se había convertido en una nación y se unió bajo el rey David. El rey ya no tenía que acampar en una tienda de campaña en el desierto. En su lugar, ahora disfrutaba vivir en un palacio. Sintiendo una punzada de remordimiento, David decidió que el Arca de la Alianza se merecía también una vivienda en un lugar especial. En lugar de una tienda o tabernáculo David quería construir un gran templo y que todos supieran que esta era la morada de Dios entre su pueblo. Sin embargo, Dios le dijo a David por medio del profeta Natán que este no era su deseo en ese momento. La morada de Dios estaría con su pueblo de una manera especial y que el plan se cumpliría a través del linaje de David. (El hijo de David, Salomón, sería el que construiría el templo en Jerusalén). La lectura se cierra con la profecía o promesa de que Dios tiene en mente otro sagrario en el que habitar.

Esa promesa se cumple en el Evangelio de San Lucas y el relato de la Anunciación. El Tabernáculo de Dios sería el cuerpo humano en el útero de una mujer. Observe cómo el texto sagrado dice esta historia maravillosa de Dios involuciándose en nuestra historia de la humanidad: “El ángel Gabriel fue enviado por Dios a una ciudad de Galilea, llamada Nazaret, a una virgen desposada con un hombre llamado José, de la casa de David, y el nombre de la virgen era María”. María plenamente espera vivir su vida como esposa de un carpintero en un pequeño pueblo sin ninguna fanfarria, pero esos planes fueron a cambiar dramáticamente cuando dio su “Sí” a la invitación del ángel. Y con ese “Sí” no sólo fue su vida transformada pero también lo era la de toda la humanidad. Las palabras que Gabriel dirigió a María no eran una orden. Ella tenía la libertad de elegir y podría haber dicho “No”. Ella expresó sus dudas e inquietudes. Sin embargo, la respuesta que Gabriel dio a las preocupaciones de María es el único que Dios da constantemente a sus hijos: “No tengan miedo. Simplemente hagan lo que se les pide y Dios se encargará del resto”. Y siguiendo el ejemplo de María y la fe confiada, dejemos que sus palabras en el Evangelio se conviertan en nuestra oración constante al concluir esta temporada de Adviento: “Que se haga en mí según tu Palabra”.

Monseñor Chester Borski

4º Domingo de Adviento
Reflexión sobre las lecturas:
Dios estuvo preparando la venida de Jesús a este mundo a lo largo de varias generaciones, pero para poder hacerse hombre necesitó la aceptación de María para que fuera Su madre. Dios ha creado a todos los hombres y mujeres libres de decidir, incluyendo a María, así que ella tenía que libremente decidir ser la madre de Jesús con todas sus consecuencias. Ese “sí” de María estuvo cimentado en su Fe en Dios, en creer que lo que el Angel le dijo sería cierto, y en su humildad como criatura: “Aquí está la esclava del Señor; hágase en mí según tu palabra”. Estas 2 cualidades son necesarias para aceptar a Jesús: Fe para creer en lo que Dios nos comunica a través de las Escrituras e humildad para aceptar su voluntad para nuestras vidas. Aprendamos de María que dijo sí a Dios y se mantuvo fiel a través de su vida, a pesar de las penas y pruebas que tuvo que pasar como la madre de Jesús.

Compromiso de la semana:
Meditaré en lo que me hace falta para poder darle un “sí” definitivo a Jesús, para aceptar Su voluntad para mi vida.

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

**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.

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

**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!!!!!
COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE
Francine Puglia  281.713.8954

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Nancy Landvogt  281.358.6637, x202
Nancy Karpiński  713-594-4430

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BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY
Carla Lewton  281.358-1959x213
CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
Pam Rockwell  281.358.1959x230

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Charles & Lisa Ferger  281.358.1959x258

SMYA AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
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Patty Jost  281.713.8969

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Martha Burns  281.358.5523

CONFIRMATION
Derek Gallardo  281.713.8915

MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR (EDGE)
Lisa Hartsfield  281.358.1959x241

HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR (LIFE TEEN)
Laura Gallardo  281.358.1959x252

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Dr. Rick Lopez  rickl@stmartha.com

LITURGY COORDINATOR FOR LIFETEEN
Joy Ehrman  281.358.1959x251

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281.358.6637

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CHILDREN’S ADOPTION
Annette Salaza  281.358.1492

CHILDREN’S CHOIR
Dr. Rick Lopez  rickl@stmartha.com

COMMUNION TO THE SICK
Hospital Visit
Angela Wemysy  281.361.9720
Nursing Home & Homebound
Pat Timpanaro  281.361.9338
Hispanic Communion to the Sick
Amelia Murphy  713.865.6946

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GREETERS
Nora Thwy  281.814.5431
GREETERS-FAMILY MASS
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TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAM
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USHERS
Barry Robichaux  Barry.Robichaux@us.ibm.com

OUTREACH MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Dcn. Alfredo Soto  281.713.8917

SUNDAY CATECHISM
Roger Schuelke  281.358.8060

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY
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Joseph Ortego  713.822.2825

E-MAIL PRAYER WARRIORS
Donna Rueby  dmruuey@earthlink.net

H.A.M.
Luisa Montiel  713.492.4066

HOSPITAL MINISTRY
Sarah Clark  281.361.8832
Sheila Yepsen  281.358.5585

MAREA GORETTI NETWORK
Shannon Deltz  281.360.4045

MARTHA’S KITCHEN
Sr. Maria Elena  713.224.2522

MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY
Paola Lam  832-284-1891

PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)
713.225.5826

PROJECT RACHEL
Bonnie Deville  281.912.8641

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE
Marie Burke  281.361.3650

ST. JOSEPH HELPERS
Bill Beck  281.360.7023

ST. MARTHA BETWEEN JOBS AND BEYOND
Bob Simpson  713.410.2844

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Peggy Wehner  281.360.3244

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PRINCIPAL PK-3RD
Tina Lewis  281.358.5523

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Lynn Lucas  281.358.5023x326

REGISTRAR
Jan Rodine  281.358.5523x314

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COORDINADOR DE CATECISMO PARA JÓVENES Y SACRAMENTOS
Irene Soto  281.358.1959x269

CORO DE ADULTOS
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GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
Carmen Ogando  832-767-8826

HOSPITALIDAD
Gustavo Zapata  832-247.9955

LECTORES
Cristina Gabas  281.796.9064

MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS
DE LA EUCARISTIA
Juan Russo  854.439.1127

MONAGUÍLLOS
Pastor Pastora  832.514.5741/832.633.0145

RICA
Jaime Gomez  281.973.1857

GIFTS OF STEWARDSHIP
For the weekend of Dec. 6 & 7
your gifts of treasure resulted in:

Weekly Budget  $74,433
Sunday Collection  $61,112
Immaculate Conception  $7,164
Over/(Under)  $ (6,157)

Year To Date:
Weekly Budget  $1,711,959
Sunday Collection  $1,560,972
Over/(Under)  $ (150,987)

Special collections:
Capital Campaign  $66,020
Martha’s Kitchen  $5,994
Retirement fund for Religious  $1,990

Current Loan Debt:  $14,371,500
2014 DSF Goal:  $295,000
Payments to date:  $298,265

STEWARDSHIP of Time, Talent and Treasure