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

Senior Priest: Rev. Nick Pasadilla
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Richard McNeillie
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

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

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

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): ..... 8:30 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 5:30-7:00 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 and Ceremony: Call the Parish Office to register

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

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
SEPTEMBER 6, 2015
To the parish family of St. Martha,
The Scripture readings for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time seem very timely for us today. The message begins with words of consolation from the Prophet Isaiah: “Say to those who are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes to save you.” Those who first heard this message were a people in exile and God’s presence was certainly not an obvious reality in their lives. They had been uprooted from their place of security and forced to live in a situation not of their own making. There was no burning bush, no thunderous voice from heaven, no bolt of lightning to change their plight. Instead there was the quiet voice of the prophet reassuring them that whatever happens, these events would not destroy them as a people. By using the images of the “eyes of the blind” being opened and the “ears of the deaf” being cleared, the prophet in essence said to the people of Israel: “Do not expect to see the presence of God in the things that will happen around you. Rather expect to discover God’s presence in those things that will happen within you.” God’s saving power would not be experienced in the removal of the hardships of their exile, but rather in their realization that even in captivity they could remain faithful to their God and they could accomplish great things with the assurance of God’s presence. Thus, Israel made it through the Babylonian exile just as they had journeyed through the desert many years before.

In a similar way, the miracle stories in the Gospels communicate the same message. Jesus frequently downplays the physical dimension of his healing miracles. So often when Jesus would heal someone, he would command the person not to tell anyone about what had happened. This is especially true in the Gospel of Mark. We see this in the story in today’s Gospel account about the healing of the deaf man with the speech impediment. The text tells us that Jesus “took him off by himself away from the crowd” and cured him. While the news of the cure would spread throughout the community and beyond, the intent of Jesus was to heal the man, restore him to health, and give him the possibility to hear. That man, once healed, could then enable others to hear the Good News of salvation. Undoubtedly Jesus could have used his divine power to rid the world of suffering and evil simply with a word. But that would have run contrary to his Father’s design for the salvation of the world, namely that salvation would come about not by force or power, but through the conversion of human hearts and minds. Note how often the miracles of Jesus were about healing the blind (enabling people to see with eyes of faith) and the deaf (enabling people to hear the Good News). When we learn to see as God sees and learn to listen to God’s call, then we will be moved to do what Jesus did, namely to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and the imprisoned, etc. In other words, we will begin to build God’s Kingdom around us even when things do not seem to go our way. We need only to have faith and reach out to touch the world with God’s goodness already present in our hearts.

Fr. Chester Borski
TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (Isaiah 35:4-7a).

Psalm — Praise the Lord, my soul! (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (James 2:1-5).

Gospel — Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (Mark 7:31-37).


READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass “For the Blessing of Human Labor,” nos. 907-911

Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Labor Day

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday: Patriot Day

Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Mary; Blessed Virgin Mary

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

That we may grow stronger in our faith, realizing that God does not measure us by what we possess but rather by what we do for one another.

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” (James 2:5)

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith we know that material things really do not matter and we are more willing to share what we have.

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

To add a loved one call: Jodi at 281-358-6637 or e-mail jodis@stmartha.com

† PLEASE REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS †

John Alba
Irene Glanz (mother of Jeanne Simonetti)
Consvelo Pena
Randy Yahner (brother of Debbie Damaratoski)
Donald Tracey


(If you would like to add a loved one’s name to the recently deceased or sick list, please call the parish office, 281-358-6637, or e-mail jodis@stmartha.com)
Monica's Hope: Prayerful Support for Parents of Troubled Children

Notice! Date and place change due to Labor Day! Our next meeting will be September 14, 7:30-9:00 in Room 3 (FLC, Woodland Hills Campus). Don't suffer in solitude. Within our Catholic community there are many with troubled children of all ages. Problems like addiction, criminality, mental illness, etc. Find support, strength and encouragement in a confidential environment. And, in the example of St. Monica, you can pray for your child and find peace. Questions? Call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288, e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com. Or Kathy Czubik at 713-213-7173, e-mail kczubik@mac.com.


This is a simple program of support, encouragement and recovery for those who find themselves separated or divorced and are looking for a way to navigate through the myriad of feelings and emotions in the aftermath. Led by a Spiritual Director and a team of divorced Catholics. Please join us knowing that the Church supports and wants you – you belong! Yes, we can be divorced and still Catholic.

Wednesday Evenings – 7:00 to 8:30 PM
(through November 11, 2015)
St. Martha Parish Office Conference Room
(Next to the Church)

For information and registration, please contact:
Francine Puglia 281.358.6637 francp@stmartha.com
Vicki Rück 713.927.8815 vickiruck@suddenlink.net

* Cost: $15 for the book but don’t let cost be a deterrent please!

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR RCIA PROCESS

Would you enjoy sharing your love of Christ with someone who is considering the Catholic faith? Sponsors do not teach the material. Sponsors are mentors who will introduce the participant to parish life and accompany them on their journey as a friend. Sponsors need to be practicing Catholics and members of St. Martha Parish. Please call for more information: RCIA office 281-713-8972 x 258 or Colette Levesque at 281-359-8197.

Interfaith Care Partners 2nd Family Team Meeting

Interfaith Care Partners 2nd Family Ministry will meet on Tues., Sept. 8th at 7 pm in FLC Room 6. All existing ministry member are encouraged to attend. Second Family is always in need of new team members. Volunteers only need to give 3 or 4 hours a month. This is the first of only 3 meetings that will be held this year. Second Family Care Team is a ministry that reaches out to care for those who are living with long term or terminal illnesses or seniors in need. If you would like to become a member of a Second Family Care Circle or know someone in need of help from a Second Family Care Team you are invited to the meeting or to call Peggy Wehe 281-360-3244 or e-mail stmartha2ndfamily@gmail.com.

Couples Pot-Luck

September marks the beginning of Couples Pot-Luck Dinners. Couples from St. Martha get together one Saturday a month to relax, enjoy the company and the food. Each couple hosts one dinner per year. This year, the first get-together will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 7 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please call Leida at 713-560-4286.

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 713-775-9213.

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES

Spread your wings! NORTEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLE AGES 40+, gathers on Wednesday, September 9, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 P.M. at Schlotzsky’s Deli, 9781 FM 1960 Bypass West in Humble. For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmu4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

Adult Faith Formation

Tuesday Morning: Breakfast & Bible Study, 9:15 – 10:30 am at St. Martha Parish. Please call for more information: RCIA office 281-713-8972 x 258 or Colette Levesque at 281-359-8197.

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.

For information on monthly meetings e-mail: stmarthamgn@gmail.com or call 713-775-9213.

St. Martha Adult Faith Formation Website: www.stmartha.com

Notice! Date and place change due to Labor Day! Our next meeting will be September 14, 7:30-9:00 in Room 3 (FLC, Woodland Hills Campus). Don't suffer in solitude. Within our Catholic community there are many with troubled children of all ages. Problems like addiction, criminality, mental illness, etc. Find support, strength and encouragement in a confidential environment. And, in the example of St. Monica, you can pray for your child and find peace. Questions? Call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288, e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com. Or Kathy Czubik at 713-213-7173, e-mail kczubik@mac.com.

For information on monthly meetings e-mail: stmarthamgn@gmail.com or call 713-775-9213.
**Out of Work, or Just Wishing for a Change? We can help!**

**Saturday Workshop**

**St. Martha Between Jobs and Beyond**

Saturday, September 12, from 9 am to Noon in Room 2 on the Faith Formation Campus (3702 Woodland Hills Drive)

If you or someone you know is unemployed, or unhappy with their current job and would just love to start a new career, we can HELP. St. Martha Between Jobs and Beyond will be holding workshops on the second Saturday of each month. Come see us on Saturday, September 12th to update your skills at résumé writing, networking and interviewing. Come, learn and participate!!

**Can you help??**

We have parishioners who are in need of a ride. If you can help, please contact the Home-bound Errand Committee Coordinator, Greta Verhalen at 832-264-7755

- Ride to the YMCA each week
- Ride to the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass each week at St. Martha.

**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.

**Men’s ACTS Retreat**

**September 10-13, 2015**

For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact the retreat director, Kevin Campisi, at stmarthamensacts.m17@gmail.com or you can call 713-560-7411.

**You are cordially invited to Serra Club Northeast of Houston’s Monthly Meeting**

Serra Clubs foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life; encourage and affirm vocations to the consecrated life and nurture the spiritual growth and formation of its lay members. Membership is open to all Catholics. Monsignor Borski, our Club’s Chaplain, will open the meeting in prayer.

Please join us: Monday, September 28th
6:30 pm Social
7:00 to 8:30 pm Dinner and Program
Italiano’s Restaurant
217 FM 1960 at Bypass Road East in Humble, Texas
The cost for dinner is $15.00 per person

Our guest speaker will be Rhonda Gruenewald, author of “Hundredfold, A guide to Parish Vocation Ministry”. She will speak to us about the expected new wave of Vocations!

RSVP: Diddy Muck
muck@kingwoodcable.net
281-615-2015

**Women’s Familia**

Mothers of Young Children, working in the home or outside of the home…finally…something just for you! Want an opportunity to grow in solid friendships with other moms just like you, delve more deeply into who you are as a woman, wife and mother in the light of your faith and equip yourself with practical tools that can be applied right away: Call Christiana Chavez at 713-303-1749 or miller_christiana@hotmail.com to learn more.

You have two choices:

Year 1 on the 2nd/4th Monday of the month from 9:30 – 11:00 in the FLC with babysitting provided OR the 2nd/4th Saturday, time and location TBD.

The cost for the Familia book is $35; partial scholarships are available. Familia is a division of Cana Family Institute.

**Men’s Familia**

Do you want to be a better man….for your wife, for your children, for yourself? Make your family GREAT – Experience friendship with other Catholic men as you explore principles to help you make decisions at work, as a husband, father and leader of your family.

The Men’s Familia team will meet monthly from September – April, day of the week, time and location TBD. The cost for the book is $35; partial scholarships are available. Contact John Ehlig at jehlig@gmail.com for more information. Familia is a division of Cana Family Institute.

**July 22 - August 3, 2016**

We are going on a pilgrimage to see Pope Francis! Prague, Poland and Vienna
Ages 17 (Senior in HS by 2016) to 40+
If you would be interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact Shannon Deitz
shannonmdeitz@gmail.com ASAP
Parents of High-Schoolers

Join your prayers with other parents of the parish praying for our high school youth. Adopt one day a month to pray privately (no meetings to attend) and together we will “cover” our students in prayer every day of the school year. To be given a day, contact Lori DiSorbo, lrdisorbo@gmail.com.

CCE registration continues!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—
FF is looking for adults that want to share their love of Christ with the children of CCE!

Join the team of Catechists!!
Call 281-713-8969! Volunteers are a important part of the ministry! Catechist in-service will be on Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.—2 p.m.

Collegian Moms Prayer Group:

Sending a son or daughter off to college?
What better way to send them than covered in prayers. The Collegian Moms Prayer Group will meet on Monday, September 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Meeting Room 1 of the Family Life Center at the Woodland Hills Campus. All moms with children preparing for college, currently enrolled in college, or recently graduated from college are cordially invited. Questions? E-mail Gloria Gamez at mornglor@yahoo.com.

Rite of Candidacy

On August 23, 2015, Seminarian and St. Martha parishioner Michael Appelgate celebrated the “Rite of Candidacy” from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Also receiving candidacy was Michael McFall, who spent his pastoral year at St. Martha. In this ceremony the church formally recognizes the seminarian as being worthy to be ordained. They will continue studying Theology at St. Mary Seminary in preparation for their Transitional Diaconate Ordinations in May 2016. Please remember them and all of our seminarians in your prayers.
SIGN UP SUNDAY is next week!
You’ve been hearing a lot about the ARISE Together with Christ program and now is the time to SIGN UP for a group! We will have groups meeting most days of the week, during the day, in the evenings, and in all areas of the Porter, New Caney, Kingwood, Atascocita area. Next week you will have the opportunity to SIGN UP to participate!

What is ARISE Together in Christ? It is a parish centered process for spiritual renewal that enables people to develop a closer relationship with Christ and to grow in community by participating in small faith sharing groups. These groups will meet for six consecutive weeks in the fall and the spring.

Interested in being a small group facilitator or hosting a small group in your house? We will be training small group facilitators the week of Sept. 20th. You don’t need to be a Bible scholar or teacher to lead a group — all it takes is a desire to meet new people and grow in your faith! Also, you don’t have to be both a host and a facilitator; we can pair host families with facilitators so you might want to offer your home as a meeting place. For more information, contact Carla Lewton: carlal@stmartha.com or 281-713-8968.

St. Martha Festival and Fall Market
Saturday, Oct. 3 from Noon to 8 pm at the New Campus!!!
This year's festival will have great food, exciting games, amazing entertainment, and captivating fall market and auctions
ALL at family friendly prices

Fall Market  Ministries, clubs, and businesses alike will have the opportunity to rent a space and showcase their products. Space is limited. For an application to participate in this year's Fall Market contact stmarthafallmarket@gmail.com

Silent Auction  Ministries are encouraged to submit items/baskets for the Silent Auction. Each ministry will receive 90% of the final bid price of each item! The other 10% will help cover the cost of the tent. Ministries can submit as many silent auction items as they want! Alcoholic beverages can be included. Baskets containing alcohol must be turned in no later than September 10, 2015. For details, contact: smfestivalsilentauuction@gmail.com

Live Auction  We are currently looking for higher value, uniquely wonderful items/packages to place in the live auction. All proceeds from the live auction will go to defray the cost of the festival and reduce our debt. For more information, contact: smfestivalliveauction@gmail.com

Raffle Tickets  Ticket sale prices: 1 for $5 or 11 for $50. $1 from each ticket sold may be donated to the ministry of your choice. 3 great prizes!! See tickets for details. Ticket distribution began after all Masses on August 22-23 and will be distributed again after all Masses on August 29-30 & September 19-20 as well. You may also pick up tickets at the Parish office.

Sponsorships  The cash donations below will go to defray the cost of the festival and help reduce the church debt.
  St. Martha Level - $5000 +
  St. Mary Level - $2000 to $4999
  St. Lazarus Level - $501 to $1,999
  Friends Level - Up to $500

For more information, contact: smfestivalsponsorship@gmail.com

Would you like to help work for a couple of hours the day of the festival?
We'd love to have you! Contact Kathy Remkes at 281-360-8282, or Kathy.Remkes@suddenlink.net or you can sign up after Masses on September 20 and 27.
Join us as we learn and experience the caring, compassionate life of Christ in

In teaching us about and making us feel at home with the human Jesus, Luke also shows us how to be intimate with the divine Christ.

When:
- Ladies' groups - Wednesday mornings 9:45 AM - 12 Noon
- Ladies' groups in Spanish – Wednesdays 9:45 AM - 12 Noon
  (Childcare available Wednesday class only)
- Ladies' groups - Tuesday evenings 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Men’s groups - Tuesday evenings 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Men & Women’s group in Spanish – Tues. 7:00 – 9:00 PM

All Are Welcome

Visitor's Day for inquiries: Day class: September 16th
Evening class: September 22nd

Where:
- Day Class – Activity Center - Faith Formation campus
- Evening class – Adult Faith Formation classroom 2

To Register or questions Contact:
- English: Ray Baudier, (281) 467-8321 or raybau@suddenlink.net
- Spanish speakers: Zuri Jackson, (281)733-7571 or zurijackson@msn.com

Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace Course: From Mon., Sept. 14th to Mon., Nov. 9th the Financial Planning Committee will be offering Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. There is no charge for the course other than the course materials which should be purchased directly from Dave Ramsey. Information about the class, registration and purchase of the course material can be done at the following link:
http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1000301
This link can also be found on the St. Martha’s Financial Committee webpage at ww.stmartha.com. For more information, please call Patty Schulze at 713-560-7444.

Final Call for Italy pilgrimage: There are a few spaces left for the December 4-11 pilgrimage to Rome for the Celebration of Vatican II's 50th Anniversary. Msgr. Borski will be our spiritual director as we visit St. Peter's Basilica, the catacombs, have an audience with Pope Francis and experience the opening of the doors to the Basilica for the beginning of the Holy Year of Mercy. If you are interested, please contact Carla Lewton (carlal@stmartha.com; 281-713-8968) or Anne Comeaux at 713-582-9935. Mid-September is our last time for registrations.
2015 Stewardship Renewal
If you haven’t filled out your Stewardship Covenant, it’s not too late! Every family is asked to participate in our Stewardship Renewal. You will also have an opportunity on the following weekends to meet with ministry representatives to ask questions and sign up. Please join us in the Narthex after each Mass:

September 26 & 27: Community Life Ministries

October 24 & 25: Outreach, School, & Administration Ministries

(For a complete listing of St. Martha ministry please see the second page of the bulletin under Stewardship—Time, Talent and Treasure)

Save the Date! 28th National Life Chain, Sunday, October 4, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Town Center: West Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Dr.

On the first Sunday of October in 1,900 locations across the United States and Canada, tens of thousands of pro-life people will gather beside main streets. They will peacefully show solidarity in the Christian community for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. They will stand in honor of the 56 million lives who have been lost to abortion. Every year young women report deciding not to have an abortion after reading the signs and seeing the people praying.

"I was driving by the Life Chain and considered it a sign from God that I should not abort my twins." "I'm so glad you were here ten years ago because I decided not to abort my baby." "Thank you for being here."

These are lives impacted by the Life Chain.

Please join our St. Martha community in October for the annual Life Chain. You never know whose life you will change just by standing for life! Be a voice for the voiceless! Additional information is on http://NationalLifeChain.org or Paula Amsler at paula_amsler@msn.com

The Serra Club Northeast of Houston

You are invited to join together in prayer once a month to pray for vocations and implore Our Lord to send laborers into the vineyard.

Where: St. Martha Catholic Church
When: Every second Tuesday of the month beginning September 8 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

The intent is to focus our prayer for vocations one special night a month. This Holy Hour will include Exposition and Benediction with a special monstrance blessed by Saint John Paul II for the sole purpose of uniting us in prayer for vocations. All are invited as we embark upon this tremendous opportunity to ask the Lord of the Harvest to provide the vocations needed to serve His Church!

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few!

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

OPEN HOUR: FIRST AND SECOND ADORERS ARE NEEDED ON FRIDAY 7-8 PM!

Second adorers are needed for the following hours:

Sunday: 1-2 AM, Noon-1 PM, 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM, 7-8 PM, Monday: 1-2 AM, 6-7 PM, 8-9 PM, 11 PM-Midnight, Tuesday: 2-3 AM, Wednesday: 1-2 AM, Thursday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 AM, Friday: 1-2 AM, 9-10 PM, 10-11 PM, Saturday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 AM, 2-3 PM, 9-10 PM.

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@mbarqmail.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.

CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS: Please join the CANALES FAMILY in prayer this week as they host the Chalice and pray for Vocations. Interested? Please contact Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 or by e-mail at karenehlig@gmail.com to schedule a week.
Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,
Las lecturas bíblicas para el 23o domingo del Tiempo Ordinario parecen muy oportunas para nosotros hoy.
El mensaje comienza con palabras de consuelo del profeta Isaías: “Dí a los que están asustados: Sean fuertes, no temáis! Aquí está vuestro Dios, él viene a salvarte”. Los que primero escucharon este mensaje eran un pueblo en el exilio y la presencia de Dios ciertamente no era una realidad evidente en sus vidas. Ellos habían sido arrancados de su lugar seguro y obligados a vivir en una situación no de su propia creación. No había ningún arbusto ardiente, ninguna voz de trueno del cielo, sino rayó que cambiar su situación. En su lugar estaba la tranquila voz del profeta asegurándoles que pase lo que pase, estos eventos no los destruirían como pueblo. Mediante el uso de las imágenes de los "ojos de los ciegos" que se abren y los "oídos de los sordos" que se limpian, el profeta, en esencia, dijo al pueblo de Israel: “No esperen ver la presencia de Dios en las cosas que van a suceder a tu alrededor. Más bien esperen descubrir la presencia de Dios en las cosas que van a pasar dentro de ti”. El poder salvador de Dios no iba a ser experimentado en la eliminación de las dificultades de su exilio, sino más bien en su comprensión de que incluso en cautiverio podrían permanecer fieles a su Dios y podrían lograr grandes cosas con la seguridad de la presencia de Dios. Por lo tanto, Israel entró por el exilio de Babilonia tal como lo habían viajado por el desierto muchos años antes.

De manera similar, las historias de milagros en los Evangelios comunican el mismo mensaje. Jesús resta importancia a la dimensión física de sus milagros de curación. Muy a menudo, cuando Jesús sanaba a alguien, él mandaría a la persona que no dijeran a nadie lo que había sucedido. Esto es especialmente cierto en el Evangelio de Marcos. Esto lo vemos en la historia en el relato del Evangelio de hoy acerca de la curación del hombre sordo con el impedimento del habla. El texto nos dice que Jesús “se lo llevó con sí mismo lejos de la multitud”, y lo curó. Si bien la noticia de la cura se extendería por todo el mundo, el que lo hizo, no lo dijo a nadie que lo había sucedido. Esto es especialmente cierto en el Evangelio de Marcos. Esto lo vemos en la historia en el relato del Evangelio de hoy acerca de la curación del hombre sordo con el impedimento del habla. El texto nos dice que Jesús “se lo llevó con sí mismo lejos de la multitud”, y lo curó. Si bien la noticia de la cura se extendería por toda la comunidad y más allá, la intención de Jesús era de curar al hombre, de devolverle la salud, y darle la posibilidad de escuchar. Ese hombre, una vez curado, entonces podría permitir a otros a escuchar la Buena Nueva de la salvación.

Reflexión sobre las lecturas:
Santiago, en su carta, advierte a sus hermanos que no tengan favoritismos con los demás y da un ejemplo de cómo una persona trata mejor a alguien que viene vestido con lujos que a uno que es pobre. ¿Cuántas veces no hacemos nosotros lo mismo y tratamos a las personas que tienen más, materialmente hablando, a que a las personas pobres? De hecho, los Hispanos tenemos un dicho que dice: “Como te ven, te tratan” y, desafortunadamente, es muchas veces cierto. Pero Jesús nos pide ser diferentes a los demás, a tratar a todos nuestros hermanos con el mismo amor fraterno con el que Jesús trató a sus discípulos y nos sigue tratando a nosotros. De hecho, Jesús, tenía preferencia por los pobres y por los pecadores, porque sabía que ellos no lo necesitaban más. De igual forma, nosotros tenemos que buscar a aquellos hermanos que necesitan de nosotros, de nuestra misericordia. A través de nuestros actos de misericordia con el prójimo alcanzaremos nuestra salvación. Jesús mismo nos dijo: “Mayor felicidad hay en dar que en recibir” (Hch 20, 35).

Compromiso de la semana: Ayudaré a alguien que lo necesite y trabajaré en hacer lo que hizo Jesús, es decir, alimentar al hambre, vestir al desnudo, visitar a los enfermos y los encarcelados, etc. En otras palabras, vamos a empezar a construir el Reino de Dios a nuestro alrededor, incluso cuando las cosas no parezcan ir en nuestro camino. Nuestros hermanos lo necesitan más, materialmente hablando, que a los que tienen más. ¿Cuántas veces no hacemos lo mismo y tratamos a las personas que tienen más, materialmente hablando, a que a las personas pobres? De hecho, los Hispanos tenemos un dicho que dice: “Como te ven, te tratan” y, desafortunadamente, es muchas veces cierto. Pero Jesús nos pide ser diferentes a los demás, a tratar a todos nuestros hermanos con el mismo amor fraterno con el que Jesús trató a sus discípulos y nos sigue tratando a nosotros. De hecho, Jesús, tenía preferencia por los pobres y por los pecadores, porque sabía que ellos no lo necesitaban más. De igual forma, nosotros tenemos que buscar a aquellos hermanos que necesitan de nosotros, de nuestra misericordia. A través de nuestros actos de misericordia con el prójimo alcanzaremos nuestra salvación. Jesús mismo nos dijo: “Mayor felicidad hay en dar que en recibir” (Hch 20, 35).

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

Festival y Mercado de St. Martha Festival and Fall Market
Sabado, Oct. 3 desde mediodía hasta las 8 pm en el Campus Nuevo!!

Este año el festival contara con comida deliciosa, juegos muy divertidos y un increíble entretenimiento; así como un mercado y subastas.

TODA a precios accesibles para la familia.

**Mercado**

Ministerios, clubs y negocios tendrán la oportunidad de rentar un espacio y mostrar sus productos. El espacio es limitado. Para obtener una aplicación de participación en el Mercado favor de contactar a stmarthafallmarket@gmail.com

**Subasta silenciosa**

Se invita a los Ministerios a donar artículos-canastas para la subasta. Cada Ministerio recibirá 90% del precio final de cada artículo! El restante 10% servirá para ayudar a cubrir el costo de la carpa. Los ministerios pueden donar todos los artículos-canastas que deseen incluyendo bebidas alcohólicas. Las canastas que incluyan bebidas alcohólicas deberán ser entregadas antes de Septiembre 10, 2015. Para más detalles y preguntas, contactar a smfestivalsilentauction@gmail.com

**Subasta en vivo**

Actualmente estamos en búsqueda de artículos y paquetes de gran valor y únicos para esta subasta. Todas las ganancias de esta subasta se destinarán a sufragar los costos del festival y reducir la deuda de la Iglesia. Para mayor información, contactar a smfestivalliveauction@gmail.com

**Boletos para Rifa**

Los precios de los boletos son: 1 boleto por $5 u 10 por $50. $1 de cada boleto vendido se donará al Ministerio escogido por el comprador. 3 grandes premios!! Ver los boletos para detalles. La distribución de los boletos empezó entre Agosto 22-23 después de las misas y se repetirá en todas las misas entre Agosto 29-30 y Septiembre 19-20. También se pueden pedir boletos en el Oficina de la Iglesia.

**Patrocinadores**

Las donaciones en efectivo detalladas se asignarán para sufragar los costos del festival y reducir la deuda de la Iglesia.

St. Martha Level - $5000+
St. Mary Level - $2000 to $4999
St. Lazarus Level - $501 to $1,999
Friends Level – Hasta $500

Para mayor información, contactar a: smfestivalsponsorship@gmail.com

**Quieres ayudar a la Parroquia trabajando un par de horas durante el Festival?**

Nos encantaria contar con su ayuda! Contactar a Kathy Remkes al 281 360-8282, o Kathy.Remkes@suddenlink.net o también puede anotarse después de las misas de Septiembre 20 y 27.

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**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.

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**PARA VICTIMAS DE ABUSO**

**María Goretti Network en Español**

En Septiembre próximo comenzará en St. Martha un grupo de apoyo conformado por hombres y mujeres que hayan sido abusados en algún momento de su vida y que buscan sanación y perdón. Para mayor información llame al teléfono 281-389-1210 o envíe un email a mariagorettiespanol@gmail.com. Allí le informaremos el lugar y hora de las reuniones y contestaremos sus preguntas.

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**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

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**RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS**

Los Sacramentos son ayudas, medios, herramientas, gracias que Jesus nos dejo para poder seguirlo por el camino de nuestra vida diaria, que no siempre es fácil, por eso nos invita a tomar nuestra cruz y seguirle hacia la vida eterna. Estas ayudas-sacramentos estan aquí en la Iglesia y son para todos a nadie se le pueden negar si está dispuesto a seguir a Jesus. Pero muchos de nosotros solo nos bautizaron y no tenemos todos nuestros Sacramentos de iniciación que son: El Bautismo, La Confirmación y La Eucaristía; por tal razón no participamos de estas ayudas que nuestro Señor Jesus le dejó a su iglesia por medio de su sacrificio en la cruz. Si este es tu caso (y eres mayor de 18 años) o conoces a alguien que quiere unirse a nuestra Iglesia Católica? Ayudalo y pasale este anuncio, invitalo a participar en el proceso del RICA.

Este proceso es para Católicos y No Católicos que tienen muchas preguntas o dudas y quieren entender nuestra fe o completar sus sacramentos. Ven y participa con nosotros. Las reuniones son los Jueves de 6.30-9.00 p.m. comenzamos con una cena antes de nuestra plática.

Comunícate con Jaime Gómez (281-973-1857) sacramentos@stmarth.co

Participa en el RICA en Español.

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La guardería para niños de 2 a 4 años está disponible para la misa de 1pm en español. Les recomendamos llegar unos minutos antes para registrar y dejar a sus hijos.