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 Kleingue, 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):  ....
Saturday Vigil:              8:30 AM
Sunday:            7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
En Español                1:00 PM
Life Teen:                   5:30 PM
Nursery at 9:00, 11:00 & 1:00 Spanish Mass

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 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
COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE
Francine Puglia 281.713.8954

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES CONT.
YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON
Nancy Landvogt 281.358.6637, x202
Nancy Karpinchik 713.594-4430
YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON TRANSPORT.
Domenica Seitz 713.899.1016

CONFIRMATION
BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY
Carlita Lewton 281.358.1959x213
CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230

RCIA
RCIA@stmartha.org

YASM – Young Adults of St. Martha
youngadults@stmartha.org
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & VBS
Patty Jost 281.713.8969

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Martha Burns 281.358.5523
CONFIRMATION
Ana Leija 281.713.8915

MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR (EDGE)
Lisa Hartfield 281.358.1959x241
HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR (LIFE TEEN)
Laura Gallardo 281.358.1959x252

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF LITURGY
Mariel Parra 281.358.6637x280
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Rhonda Szymanowicz 281.358.6637

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES
LITURGY COORDINATOR FOR LIFETEEN
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251
ALTAR SERVERS
Mariel Parra 281.358.6637x280

BAPTISM
281.358.6637
CANTORS
281.358.6637

CHILDREN’S ADOPTION
Annette Salazar 281.358.1492
CHILDREN’S CHOIR
281.358.6637

COMMUNION TO THE SICK
Hospital Visit
Angela Wemyst 281.361.9720
Nursing Home & Homebound
Pat Timpanaro 281.361.9338

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230

GREETERS
Nora Tzoyhi 281.814.5431
GREETERS-FAMILY MASS
Casey Levy caseley@me.com
LECTORS
Erv Baumeier 281.358.4975

MARTHA’S ALTAR GUILD & DESIGNERS
Mariel Parra 281.358.6637x280
PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Robyn Laumbach 281.360.7997

SACRAMENTS
ART VOLLMANN 281.361.6117
SOUND BOARD MINISTRY
Bill Phillips 713.419.9277

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAM
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251

USHERS
Barry Robichaux Barry.Robichaux@us.ibm.com

OUTREACH MINISTRIES
SOCIAL SERVICES
SUNDAY NURSERY
CANCARE

Roger Schuelle 281.358.8060
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY
Jaime S. Gomez 281.973.1857
Joseph Ortigo 713.822.2825
E-MAIL PRAYER WARRIORS
Donna Rueby dmruery@earthlink.net

H.A.A.M.
Alejandra Gutierrez 832.860.4860

OUTREACH MINISTRIES CONT.
HOSPITAL MINISTRY
Sarah Clark 281.361.8832
Sheila Yepsen 281.358.5585

MARIA GORETTI NETWORK
Shannon Deitz 713.770.9213

MARTHA’S KITCHEN
Sr. Maria Elena 713.224.2522

MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY
Marita Paola Lam 832.284.1991

PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)
713.225.5826

PROJECT RACHEL
Bonnie Devez 281.360.8641

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE
Marie Burki 281.361.3650

ST. JOSEPH HELPERS
Bill Beck 281.360.7023

ST. MARTHA BETWEEN JOBS AND BEYOND
Bob Simpson 713.410.2844

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
281.358.8636

SECOND FAMILY MINISTRY
281.360.3244

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Bob Simpson 713.410.2844

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL/PK-8TH
Tina Lewis 281.358.5523

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Courtney Waguespack 281.358.5523x326

REGISTRAR
Jodie Richter 281.358.5523x314

MINISTERIOS EN ESPAÑOL
COORDINADOR DE MINISTERIOS HISPANOS
Omn. Alfredo Soto 281.713.8917

COORDINADORA DE CATECISMO PARA JÓVENES Y SACRAMENTOS
Irene Soto 281.358.1959x269

CORO DE ADULTOS
Luis Valles 832.820.1888

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
Carmen Ogando 832.767-8826

HOSPITALIDAD
Gustavo Zapata 832.247.9955

LECTORES
Kristina Cabas 281.796.9084

LEGIÓN DE MÉRITO
Verónica Reyes 832.742.9843

MARÍA GORETTI NETWORK EN ESPAÑOL
Patricia Lopez 281.389.1210

MATEMATOS Y SAGRADA FAMILIA
Janett o Ruben Manosalva 281.706.5068

MINISTROS EXTRAVELICOS DE LA EUCARISTÍA
Juan Russo 954.439.1127

MONAGUILLOS
Pastor Pastora 832.514.5741/832.633.0145

RICA
Jaime Gomez 281.973.1857

VOCACIONES Y CALIZ DE VOCACIONES
Tony Lasalle 646.489.1554

For the weekend of Nov. 28 & 29 your gifts of treasure resulted in:

Weekly Budget $ 72,051
Sunday Collection $ 57,850
Over/(Under) $ (14,201)

Year To Date:
Weekly Budget $ 1,585,122
Sunday Collection $ 1,541,864
Over/(Under) $ (43,258)

Special collections:
Capital Campaign $ 11,059
Martha’s Kitchen $ 2,603
RCIA $ 12,773,139

Current Loan Debt:
$ 12,773,139

2015 DSF Goal $ 295,000
DSF Payments to Date $ 325,850
From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,
The Gospel text from Luke 3:1-6 is used for the Second Sunday of Advent and introduces another principal figure for this special season: John the Baptist, the last of the great prophets. As a biblical prophet who speaks God’s word to us, John challenges us to “prepare the way of the Lord” and “make straight his paths.” The purpose of our Advent preparation is to take a personal inventory of our lives and learn to listen, to see, and to experience life itself. With this openness and attitude we can come to recognize the signs of God’s saving presence all around us. The Baptist reminds us of the words of the prophet Isaiah that “all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Today’s first reading from the prophet Baruch gives us a similar message of hope as he reassures a people in exile: “Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.” Most of us need to be roused from our spiritual drowsiness from time to time so that we can learn to see again with eyes of faith. Advent is that season that helps us to be awakened from our slumber and begin to recognize the many ways God reveals his love to us in daily life.

The Advent season of 2015 is made very special for all of us because Pope Francis has announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy which will run from December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, until November 20, 2016 which is the Feast of Christ the King. The Holy Father invites us to think about mercy as the “act by which God comes to meet us” through the incarnation of His compassion in His only Son, Jesus Christ. This is what Advent proclaims with great joy! Pope Francis also challenges us to see that mercy is the “fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life.” The rationale for this year of mercy is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Pope John XXIII opened that great council with this theme: “Nowadays the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity.” Throughout this coming year St. Martha and most parishes will provide many opportunities to celebrate the mercy of God. There will be special times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a parish mission focused on forgiveness, opportunities for individuals with invalid marriages to seek an annulment and a return to the sacraments, etc. The goal of the jubilee year is for us to become “merciful like the Father.”

Fr. Chester Borski

MASS TIMES FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—DECEMBER 8TH
(Holy Day of Obligation)
December 7 (Vigil): 7:30 p.m.
December 8: 12 noon & 7:30 p.m.
School Mass (Woodland Hills Campus) — 8:30 a.m.
The parish office will be closed Tuesday, December 8th.

The Divine Mercy ministry will hold a PRAYER SERVICE on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8th in the Chapel on the Woodland Hills Campus from 12 -1 pm. All are welcome for this Hour of Grace.

Jubilee Year of Mercy: Dec. 8, 2015—Nov. 20, 2016
Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy with a great new app from Our Sunday Visitor! 365 Days to Mercy is designed to accompany you on your spiritual journey during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The app includes daily reflections on mercy, everyday Scripture reflections, Pope Francis’ tweets, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, and lots more. Go to your app store and search “365 Days to Mercy” and install it today! Go to OSV.com/YOM to learn more.

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 13.

SHARING SUNDAY ~ DECEMBER 12 & 13
Each year during Advent our parish makes a special effort to share our blessings with other parishes in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese. Through our annual Sharing Sunday we are able to help local parishes distribute food and gifts to needy families. Gifts are needed for children, adults, and senior citizens. Please wrap and tag these gifts with the age and gender of the recipient (for example, boy age 10-12). Grocery items are also needed but do not need to be wrapped. Take time to discuss with your family ways that your Christmas can be shared with other families. ADOPT A FAMILY: Through the St. Martha Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, our church assists many families during the Christmas season. This year, we’d like to again give our parishioners the opportunity to adopt one of these families from our area. This will be done in coordination with SVdP volunteers the week before Sharing Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Alice Jones at 713-410-6844, or by e-mail at jjones@kingwoodcable.com.
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading** — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

**Gospel** — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26</td>
<td>Gn 3:9-15; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38</td>
<td>Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30</td>
<td>Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15</td>
<td>Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19</td>
<td>Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712</td>
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<td>Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18</td>
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<th>Day</th>
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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Second Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>St. Ambrose; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</td>
<td>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
<td>St. Juan Diego</td>
<td>St. Damasus I</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
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**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

That we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (Philippians 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mon./Dec. 7</th>
<th>Tues./Dec. 8</th>
<th>Wed./Dec. 9</th>
<th>Thurs./Dec. 10</th>
<th>Fri./Dec. 11</th>
<th>Sun./Dec. 13</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am †Eunice Walker</td>
<td>7:00 am †George Kovacik</td>
<td>8:30 am †Sophie Kovacik</td>
<td>6:30 am †Fernando Cuadra</td>
<td>8:30 am †George Brown</td>
<td>8:30 am †Irving &amp; Cecile LeJeune</td>
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<td>10:00 am †Patricia Cullen</td>
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<td>11:00 am †Earl Keeling</td>
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<td>1:00 pm †Mercedes Gallinar</td>
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<td>11:00 am †Edwin &amp; Cecile LeJeune</td>
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<td>5:30 pm †Eugene Ziomek</td>
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<td>5:30 pm †George Brown</td>
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**PLEASE REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Paul Latz (husband of Christine Latz and father of Julia Gilligan)
Clara Johnson
Gale Ingram (husband of Mary Ingram)
Jane Daly
William Mosser
Creighton Heslop
Priscilla Patricio (mother of Julieta Patricio and Robert and Josefina Cumento)
Theresa Cernosek

(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)

**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**
Adult Organizations and Opportunities

**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.

**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, 281-812-8641, 713-435-9215, or bdevelle@comcast.net.

**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON - Christmas Luncheon & Celebration**
Young at Heart-ers - Christmas is coming and so is our Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon and Celebration. Come join your YAH (Young at Heart) family and enjoy a delicious Christmas luncheon just for you. There will be entertainment, gifts, and fellowship (sorry, no bingo this month). Join us for the festivities at St. Martha’s Family Life Center on **Wednesday, December 9 at 11 am.** Bring a friend with you and join the fun! If transportation is needed, contact Domenica Seitz at 713-899-1016. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Landvogt at 281-358-6637, ext. 202, e-mail nancy1@stmartha.com or Nancy Karpinski, 713-594-4430.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**
**Tuesday Morning:** Breakfast & Bible Study, 9:15 – 10:30 am Faith Formation Campus, Room 2. Reading, studying & sharing on the Sunday Scriptures led by Carla Lewton. All are welcome. December Dates: 15 & 22

**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** - AFF Information
Click the **Facebook** icon on the website home page and join.

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES**
**Have some fun! Join NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, on Wednesday, December 9, to talk/drink/eat at 7:00 P.M. at Brooklyn’s Pizza, 9467 FM 1960 Bypass in Humble (near Walmart). For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmmom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote on either St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

**St. Martha’s Men’s Retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center**
January 8-10, 2016
Start the New Year with a relaxing Retreat Weekend
Retreat Theme "Mercy: A Glimpse into the Heart of God"
In keeping with this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we are invited to gaze upon Jesus Christ, the face of the Father's Mercy.

"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" Luke 6:36
For more information contact Bruce Farmer:
At 281-360-4047
Or to register, please visit the website www.passionist.org/holyname

**Pastoral Care Hospital Ministry**
An Opportunity for Deacons & Lay People to Provide Pastoral Care
16-Week Training Course to be held at the St. Mary Seminary on Thursdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, January 14th through May 12th
Four-fold Purpose
1. To bring the Presence of the Church to the Sick and the Dying
2. To provide basic skills of pastoral and sacramental care
3. To understand the Patient in a context of Health Care Facilities
4. To understand how to care for one’s self as a Pastoral Care Minister

Three to Four (3-4) Hours per week of Patient Visitation in Hospital
If interested, please contact Office of Diaconate at e-mail: deaconoffice@archgh.org (713-686-4345 ext 229) or Dcn. Gerald DuPont: gerald@gwdupont.com (281-703-0227) or contact Sarah Clark (281-361-8832).

Enrollment for this course is limited to 25 persons.
**Young Adult Christmas Party:** Saturday, December 12th from 6pm – 10pm, we will be having our first Young Adult Christmas party and gift exchange! Get ready for a night of fun, fellowship, and friends new and old. Dinner will be provided; however, we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert and your beverage of choice. We will be doing a white elephant gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift of $10. Please e-mail youngadults@stmartha.com or call Matt Cooke (718-887-6837) or Brian Summers (713-340-4211) for address details and more information. We hope to see you there!

**Bible Study:** Thursdays in December 7-9 PM - Young adults will gather for an evening of fellowship, prayer, scripture study and snacks. The evening will begin with a social meet and greet and transition to a scripture study. We will be covering advent readings. We will meet on the St. Martha’s Woodland Hill campus in the Borski Activity Room. It is on the second floor of the school building. Please park in the school lot. 2411 Oak Shores Dr. Please follow signs posted or contact Matt 718-887-6837 or Brian 713-340-4211.

**Vocations Corner**

**For Young Adult Men and Women Age 18 and Older Discernment Happens In Steps…**

Are you wondering if a Priestly or Religious Life is for you? Perhaps the thought has crossed your mind, but you’re not sure if you should take that thought seriously. The Houston Vocations office is ready to assist you in discerning whatever future God has planned for you. Visit www.houstonvocations.com or call 713-652-8239 or email vocations@archgh.org for more information and to register for these upcoming events.

- **Men’s Discernment Retreat, December 18-20, 2015 -** For men ages 18-35 who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood.
- **Discover, Dec. 10, 2015, 6:30pm – 9:00pm -** “Discover the Road Less Traveled” is a monthly discernment gathering at St. Mary’s Seminary for single young adult men ages 18 and older.
- **Women Seeking, Dec. 10, 2015, 6:30pm – 9:00pm -** Gathering at various locations for women ages 18 and older who are interested in learning more about religious life. Sisters from different religious communities will be present.

**CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS:** Please join the HARLAN 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.

**St. Martha School Scoops**

**SMCS Chess team needs your help!** If you would like share your love of chess with our students, we have an opportunity for you! We are seeking a coach for our 3rd-8th grades chess team and chess club. Practices are held two days a week after school, and the team will participate in tournaments throughout the school year. For more information please contact Mr. David Norman at normand@stmarthacs.org.

**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 cross country, soccer, basketball, baseball, track, volleyball and girls’ softball. We also offer the following extracurricular activities: School Mass Choir, Drama Club, Chess Team and Club, Bravo Band, athletics program, Spanish Club, Rosary Guild, Student Council, National Jr. BETA Club, Student Ambassadors Club and other family and student activities.

The school has limited openings for students for the 2015-2016 school year.

Visit our school website at www.stmarthacs.org for more information or contact Registrar Jodie Richter at 281-358-5523.

**Parenting/Youth**

**Collegian Moms Prayer Group:** The Collegian Moms Prayer Group will meet on Monday, December 14th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Room 7 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 morgglor@yahoo.com
The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence will be honoring Monsignor Borski at the Humanitarian Award Dinner on **Friday, February 12th, 2016** at the Omni Hotel, 9821 Colonnade Blvd., San Antonio.

Monsignor Borski is being honored for his spirit of generosity through his years of service by encouraging and preparing lay ecclesial ministers to enable grass-roots people to value and share their gifts with the Church. Monsignor Borski held the position of Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education for four years and Rector of St. Mary’s Seminary for nineteen years. Monsignor has inspired the St. Martha community to reach out to parishioners and our communities through the 100 + dynamic ministries available at St. Martha.

Come join us at the dinner – tickets are available for $100 apiece or $1,000 for a table of 10. Watch future bulletins for more information on how you can reserve your spot. If you are unable to attend, your generous donations will show support for our Pastor.

The funds will benefit the Order of Sisters of The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence (two of their members manage Martha’s Kitchen) and the other sisters have been working at the diocesan and parish levels in religious and academic education, hospital and prison chaplaincy and social services for over 83 years.

**PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:** There will be an Advent Penance Service on **Thursday, December 17**, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

**Out of Work, or Just Wishing for a Change?**
**We can help!**

**Saturday Workshop**  
St. Martha Between Jobs and Beyond  
Second Saturday of the Month  
Starting at 9 am and ending by Noon  
Room 2 on the  
Woodland Hills Campus  
3702 Woodland Hills Drive

**Next Session:** December 12

*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 to update your skills at resume writing, networking and interviewing!!
St. Martha has been selected to participate in a National Study!
St. Martha has been selected to participate in a national study of vibrant parishes conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute! Please help us participate by completing a 10-15 minute survey online. The survey will be e-mailed to you by DiscipleMakerIndex@measuring-success.com. The survey will only be available from the week of January 18 through Ash Wednesday, February 10 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on what efforts the parish is doing to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole. We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Msgr. Borski and our various ministries as we plan ahead and try to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results in the summer of 2016 at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

If we don’t have an e-mail address for you, please send an e-mail to jodis@stmartha.com with your name so we can add you to the list. Or cut out the box below and drop your information in the collection basket during one of the weekend Masses.

We are updating our database!
(Please print legibly)

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

(Deadline to submit e-mail address is Wednesday, December 9th)
Thank you for helping with this important project!

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. You will also learn simple yet powerful tools to communicate more effectively. It will start Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 pm 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 the participant manuals, $40.00 will be collected at the first session for each couple ($20.00 per person).

Martha’s Kitchen sends wishes for a blessed Advent Season and Merry Christmas to parishioners and clergy. We are praying for all of you and your families during this beautiful season and wish you a healthy and happy 2016! We are so grateful for your continued support and prayers. Merry Christmas, Sr. Maria Elena & Sr. Julie
Note: Martha’s Kitchen will close on Monday, December 21 after our Christmas party for the guests and children and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2016.
MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE
FROM OUR CARMELITE SISTERS

Peace of Christ!
Dear Msgr. Borski,
May God reward you and the parishioners of St. Martha’s for a very generous food drive! We have some poor families we can help and we’ll see if we can share a surplus with Martha’s Kitchen and St. John of the Cross Church. It was an abundant sharing with us!
You, Fr. Nick, Fr. Richard and all the parishioners are in our prayers throughout the year. With our love, gratitude and prayers,
Sr. Angel and Sisters

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
7:00 – 8:30 PM
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
All families, youth, young adults, and adults are welcome to this free music experience that will be a time of intimate prayer and worship with messages to reflect on the Advent season.

WOMEN’S ACTS RETREAT -- FEBRUARY 11-14, 2016

Searching for the perfect gift for your wife, sister or daughter? It’s right here – the next Women’s ACTS Retreat!! It’ll be a weekend she will always cherish!

An ACTS retreat is a 3 day/ 3 night retreat that focuses on Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service (ACTS) presented by parishioners of St. Martha. It will be a wonderful weekend to spend with God while focusing on your faith journey.

Registration will be held in the Narthex after all masses beginning on December 19 & 20. Registration is limited and is on a first-come basis, and must include a non-refundable deposit of $50. Total cost is $190, but don’t let that stand in the way of your attending the best weekend retreat of the year! If you have any questions, contact the retreat director, Fran McConnell, at 832-248-0103 or mcconnell6@comcast.net.
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.

St. Martha car decals for sale in the parish office.
$5.00 each. For more information call: 281-358-6637

Young at Heart Luncheon - Donation Requests
The Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 9. As in years past, we are asking for your kind generosity in donating door prize gifts for our senior guests (men and women). We have been averaging 85-90 people and our Christmas luncheon is always our biggest! Here are a few donation ideas (not to exceed $10) - gift card to a restaurant or movie theater, home or Christmas decor, jewelry, lotion, games, puzzles, candy, food basket (non-perishable), sports merchandise, picture frames, household items or lightweight tool set. Donations should not be wrapped and can be dropped off at Nancy Landvogt's office on the Faith Formation campus, Mon. - Wed., 9 am - 4 pm and Fri., 9 am - 4 pm. All donations are greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail Carol Bateman at carolb625@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity!

Think there isn’t anyone pulling for your marriage?
Think again.

Teams of Our Lady USA
A movement of conjugal spirituality

Marriage is a challenge. Whether a couple is newlywed, raising a family, or “empty nesting”; the call to grow together in love is ever present. Often couples find they are living in a social climate where forces and stresses are at work that can undermine both their marriage and their faith. All over the world, couples have found a way to meet their desire for growth in love and faith through the Teams of Our Lady (TOOL) movement. A team is a group of five to seven couples that have decided to join together to find support in their efforts to lead Gospel lives. The team meets once a month, in each other’s homes, for a simple meal and in a spirit of friendship share their experiences of the previous month. After dinner, the mood shifts to the more obviously spiritual as the team reflects on scripture and prays. Finally, they discuss study material on married life and faith. The team meeting is truly a unique gathering – lively and enjoyable, yet structured and meaningful.

If you would like to join such a group, plan on attending a 45 minute Information Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 3:00 PM at the home of Mary Anne and Brian Sokol (in Hunters Ridge) contact Mary Anne Sokol @ 281-642-3821 or e-mail mas1976@live.com for more information and to reserve a spot.

THE 2016 SUNDAY MISSALS AND CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!
Sunday Missal - $2.00/Calendar - $1.00
Available in the Narthex or the Parish Office.

Please note: The parish office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17th.

St. Martha International Mission Trips
Colombia 2016

Sign Up Day:
December 13, 3-5 pm
Main Church (Narthex)

* First-come basis, spots limited,
$ 200 non-refundable deposit at sign-up

For questions, please contact Terry Stierman: terry.stierman@conviventia.org
Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,
El texto del Evangelio de Lucas 3:1-6 se utiliza para el Segundo Domingo de Adviento e introduce otra figura principal para esta temporada especial: Juan el Bautista, el último de los grandes profetas. Como profeta bíblico que habla la Palabra de Dios, Juan nos desafía a "preparar el camino del Señor" y "enderecen sus senderos". El propósito de nuestra preparación Adviento es tomar un inventario personal de nuestras vidas y aprender a escuchar, ver y experimentar la vida misma. Con esta apertura y la actitud podemos llegar a reconocer los signos de la presencia salvadora de Dios a nuestro alrededor. Juan el Bautista nos recuerda las palabras del profeta Isaías que dice "toda carne verá la salvación de Dios". La primera lectura de hoy, tomada del profeta Baruc nos da un mensaje similar de esperanza que asegura un pueblo en el exilio: "arriba, Jerusalén! Párese sobre las alturas; miren al este y vean a sus hijos que se reuni-eron desde el este y el oeste en la palabra del Santo, gozosos de que son recordados por Dios". La mayoría de nosotros necesita ser despertado de nuestra somnolencia espiritual de vez en cuando para que podamos aprender a ver de nuevo con los ojos de la fe. Adviento es la temporada que nos ayuda a despertar de nuestro sueño y empezar a reconocer las muchas maneras en que Dios nos revela su amor en la vida diaria.

El tiempo de Adviento de 2015 es muy especial para todos nosotros, porque el Papa Francisco ha anunciado un jubileo extraordinario, un Año Santo de la Misericordia que se desarrollará del 8 de diciembre de 2015, la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción, hasta el 20 de noviembre 2016, que es la Fiesta de Cristo Rey. El Santo Padre nos invita a pensar en la misericordia como el "acto por el cual Dios viene a nuestro encuentro" a través de su compasión en la encarnación en su único Hijo, Jesucristo. ¡Esto es lo que el Adviento proclama con gran alegría! El Papa Francisco también nos desafía a ver que la misericordia es la "ley fundamental que habita en el corazón de cada persona que mira atentamente a los ojos de sus hermanos y hermanas en el camino de la vida". La justificación de este año de la misericordia es para conmemorar el 50vo aniversario de la clausura del Concilio Vaticano II. El Papa Juan XXIII abrió ese gran consejo con este tema: "Hoy en día la Esposa de Cristo prefiere hacer uso de la medicina de la misericordia en lugar de la de la gravedad". A lo largo de este año que viene Santa Marta y la mayoría de las parroquias proporcionarán muchas oportunidades para celebrar la misericordia de Dios. Habrá momentos especiales para el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, una misión de la parroquia centrado en el perdón, oportunidades para las personas con matrimonios inválidos para que busquen una anulación y un retorno a los sacramentos, etc. El objetivo del año jubilar es para que lleguemos a ser "misericordioso como el Padre".

Ven a celebrar a la Madre de Dios
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
"Ella es la Estrella de la Nueva Evangelización"
Emperatriz de las Américas

PADRE CHESTER BORSKI MINISTERIO HISPANO

Apareció en el cielo una señal grandiosa: Una mujer vestida de sol. Apocalipsis 12:1

RETiro DE HOMBrES ACTS
28 al 31 de Enero, 2016
Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para el Retiro de ACTS en Español. Estaremos a sus órdenes en el Nartex después de la misa del 1pm los Domingos a partir del 15 de Noviembre.
El retiro de ACTS es una experiencia de 3 días y 3 noches que se enfoca en la Adoración, Comunidad, Teología y Servicio. Desde que iniciamos ACTS en Sta. María, Dios ha hecho cosas muy buenas en nuestra Parroquia.
Para registrarse, hay que presentarse en el Nartex después de la misa en Español y dejar un depósito de $50 al momento de llenar la solicitud. El costo completo del Retiro es de $190. Por favor no deje pasar esta oportunidad, si necesita alguna ayuda con el costo del retiro, podemos platicarlo. Para preguntas, contactar al director del Retiro, Javier Galvez al 832-515-1850 o a ACTSMS6@gmail.com
Ministerio Hispano

2º Domingo de Adviento
Reflexión sobre las lecturas:
El tiempo de Adviento es un tiempo de preparación en nuestros corazones para recibir a Jesús en la Navidad. La lectura del Evangelio nos narra de cómo Juan el Bautista predicaba un bautismo de penitencia para el perdón de los pecados. Para poder recibir a Jesús en nuestros corazones, tenemos que estar limpios para ofrecerle un lugar digno dentro de nosotros. San Pablo nos da la receta para poder estar limpios. En su Carta a los Filipenses nos dice: “Que su amor siga creciendo más y más y se traduzca en mayor conocimiento y sensibilidad espiritual. Así podrán escoger siempre lo mejor y llegarán limpios e irreprochables al día de la venida de Cristo…” Necesitamos seguir creciendo en nuestro amor por Dios y por nuestros señores para poder así, conociendo más a Dios y aumentando nuestra sensibilidad espiritual. Solo acercándonos más a Dios podremos incrementar esa sensibilidad espiritual de la que nos habla San Pablo y podremos escoger el camino correcto y evitar el pecado.
Compromiso de la semana: Meditaré sobre lo que me ha mantenido alejado de Dios y me confesaré para estar limpio para la llegada de Jesús.

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

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 e-mail a mariagorettespanol@gmail.com. Allí le informaremos el lugar y hora de las reuniones y contestaremos sus preguntas.

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. Tony Lasalle al 646-489-1554 o por e-mail al: comitecalizdevocaciones@stmartha.co

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

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS
Los Sacramentos son ayudas, medios, herramientas, gracias que Jesús nos dejó 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 están aquí en la Iglesia y son para todos a nadie se le pueden negar si está dispuesto a seguir a Jesús. Pero muchos de nosotros solo vistieron 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 Jesús le dejo 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. comienzan con una cena antes de nuestra plática.

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

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

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