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 Kleingueit!, 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): .... .........................................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 & 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 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
**RECORDINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 2:1-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; -6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-22; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

**Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

**Saints and Special Observances**

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** St. Peter Canisius

**Tuesday:** St. John of Kanty

**Wednesday:** The Vigil of Christmas

**Thursday:** The Nativity of the Lord

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

**Saturday:** St. John the Baptist

**Mass Intentions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon./Dec. 21</th>
<th>Sat./Dec. 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>†Patrick Lobo</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>†Eugene &amp; Catherine Goll</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tues./Dec. 22</th>
<th>Sun./Dec. 27</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>†Jose Eliazo</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>†Charles Brian Creuder</td>
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<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>†Mima &amp; Theodore Bella</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>†Pat &amp; Kim Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>†Teresa Parisi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>†Marty Pinski</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>†Remedios Majul</td>
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**Jubilee Year of Mercy—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

In proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis proclaimed his desire that this Holy Year be “steeped in mercy,” as we disciples “go out to every man and woman,” bringing the “balm of mercy” to “believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!” (Misericordiae Vultus, 5). In her visitation of Elizabeth, Mary beautifully presents just such an image. Despite the perils of her pregnancy, not to mention her preoccupations as a young unwed mother, Mary instantly, unselfishly, “goes out” of herself, hastening far and over dangerous terrain, to “bring the balm of God’s tender mercy” in assistance rendered to her older relative. Since baptism and the Eucharist have made us, in a way, bearers of the living Christ within as Mary was, such selfless “going out” of ourselves to be of loving service to others in mercy should especially mark our Christmas season this Jubilee Year.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Papal quotes Copyright © 2015, Libraria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.
From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,

The season of Advent draws to a close with a very human image from the Gospel account for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: the journey of Mary to the hill country to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

What was going through Mary’s mind as she made her way along the dusty footpaths to the village where Elizabeth lived? Perhaps she was thinking of her elderly cousin. To have a baby at Elizabeth’s age was no small risk, both to the mother and to the child. Perhaps Mary was looking forward to spending quality time with a relative whom she dearly loved. After all, Mary too was pregnant and needed someone to listen to her. She was quite aware that Nazareth would soon become a difficult place to live. Once her pregnancy became obvious, there was the probability of talk among the other villagers and perhaps even some public ridicule. At any rate Mary was most likely looking forward to these days when she could be with another woman who was willing to listen and share mutual joys and anxieties in a simple family setting. Actually there is a profound message emanating from this simple scene about Mary. Throughout the Gospels she is never pictured as doing anything in a spectacular way. She simply involves herself completely in the everyday, commonplace events of normal human life. Her holiness is deeply rooted in her simplicity and humility. In this stance of life, Mary could see how God was calling her to do her part in fulfilling God’s plan. It is no surprise that the prayer that she would teach the Church is the Magnificat: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior!”

There is another quality in this Scriptural picture of Mary that is important to notice. It is her directness. She recognized that God was calling her in a certain direction and she chose to follow that call. She saw no need to hesitate or postpone her decision. She did not complain that she was not worthy nor did she worry about the demands this call would make in her life. She did not attempt to compare her accomplishments and virtue to those of anyone else. Mary not only had a deep faith in God, but apparently she had a realistic confidence in herself. She simply accepted life as it presented itself to her and she made a personal decision to respond to a call that she knew in her heart was from God. Thus, Advent comes to a close with the same image by which it began: a woman of trusting faith, pregnant with life, both human and divine. For us, just like for Mary, the point is reached in life when all the external evidence and support are insufficient to assure certainty in the direction that we should go. We must simply decide, “Am I going to believe or not?” If we choose to say “No,” then we are left to face life with only our own resources. If we choose to say “Yes” like Mary, then we open ourselves to the possibility of infinite goodness and power flowing through us, even in the smallest and most ordinary details and events of our lives. For those who make this choice, hope springs eternal. For people of faith, it is always the season of Advent.

Fr. Chester Borski

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

December 24 (Vigil):
4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass (Children’s Choir Choral Presentation at 3:30 p.m.), 7:00 p.m., Midnight.

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

Please note...There will not be a 7:00 a.m. Mass on Dec. 25th.
The parish office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24th and Friday, Dec. 25th.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING**

While making your Christmas list this year, please consider a special gift to St. Martha’s debt reduction. At all Masses this Christmas, there will be a second collection to aid in the reduction of the principal owed on our beautiful new church. All gifts will be greatly appreciated.

**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

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 frnp@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).

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES
NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, has its next event on Wednesday, January 6, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 p.m. at Schlotszky’s Deli, 9781 FM 1960 Bypass West in Humble. On Saturday, January 9, join us for 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Martha’s, 4301 Woodridge Pkwy.; meal afterwards at Taqueria Alma Latina at 24660 Hwy. 59 in Kingwood (on southbound side of freeway about 1 ½ miles north of Northpark). Meet in the narthex at 5:15 p.m. For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmnmu4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - AFF Information
Click the Facebook icon on the website home page and join.

MERRY CHRISTMAS—Young at Heart-ers!
We would like to wish all of our Young at Heart-ers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We loved having you with us for 2015 and look forward to seeing you again in 2016.
There will NOT be a luncheon on Wednesday, December 23rd. Check the bulletin for our 1st luncheon in January, 2016.

The Rosary Guild is looking for Crafty people to come share fellowship and help create Rosaries to be shared around our parish. We meet on the second Sunday of the month from 1-3 p.m. in Room 2.

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/holynname

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.
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.

St. Martha School Scoops
The students, families and staff of St. Martha Catholic School wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and peace-filled New Year!
The Mission of St. Martha Catholic School is to provide a quality education sharing in the total Catholic formation of each person by developing mind, heart and spirit.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FOR CCE
There will be NO CCE classes (K-8th) on the following dates:
Sundays: December 20-January 3
Wednesdays: December 16-January 6
Faith Formation Office will be closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vocations Corner
The St. Martha Vocations Committee wishes you a happy and blessed Christmas. May our Lord Jesus come into your life anew every day. We thank God for the gifts of our priests, religious brothers and sisters, and all who give of themselves in service to the church. Merry Christmas!

CHALICE FOR Vocations:
Please join the JOHNSON 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.
What is Catholics Returning Home?
Catholics Returning Home is a program that invites non-practicing Catholics, of any age, to return home to the Catholic Church and resume active practice of their faith. If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church for a while, this invitation is for you.
No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.
Please join us for informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith facilitated by former non-practicing Catholics.

January 12 – February 16, 2016
Tuesday Evenings - 7 pm – 8:30 pm
Room #5 (Woodland Hills Campus)

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 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 who 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.

St. Martha’s Catholic Church

Valentine’s Gala 2016

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

Date: February 20, 2016
Time: 7:30pm - 11:30pm
Location: Kingwood Country Club
1700 Lake Kingwood Trail, Kingwood TX 77339
Info: Emma Rocha (281)3586637

Cost $120 per couple
Featuring Mango Punch

Save The Day
Feb. 20, 2016

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed in the chapel at the Faith Formation Campus every Sunday at 3 pm for the conversion of sinners, the sick and the dying. Everyone welcome!

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.

St. Martha’s Grief Support Group
St. Martha’s grief support group will resume on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 through March 15, 2016. We will meet from 7 pm to 9 pm on Tuesday evenings at the Woodland Hills Campus in Room 3 of the Family Life Center. All those who are experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one are welcome to join us. The new program, Walking Through Grief, consists of a DVD each week, followed by sharing. Attendees may come for any or all sessions. For registration or questions, please call or e-mail Laura at 281-360-2714 or laurie@kingwoodcable.com.

Martha’s Kitchen
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.
Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.
**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**

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

Our parish is incredibly blessed to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration available in our chapel twenty-four hours every 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 the hours that are most in need of adorers at this time. However, please note that no hour is ever really “filled” because people have schedules that change. Parishioners are always invited to choose an hour that works best for them, regardless of whether or not there are other adorers already scheduled for that time. Both regular adorers and substitutes are always needed. Even if you are unable to commit to a regular hour each week, please feel free to visit our Blessed Lord at any time knowing that He is always waiting for us with joyful anticipation.

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

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact Robyn Laumbach at 281-360-7897 or robynbfly@embarqmail.com.

If you need a substitute for your holy hour, please call your appropriate division leader listed below:
- Robyn Laumbach at 281-360-7897 for Midnight-6AM
- Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 for 6AM-Noon
- Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 for Noon-6PM
- Beth Beckham at 281-435-1439 for 6PM-Midnight

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**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.

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**ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS AT ST. MARTHA**

Did you know that you have a “Second Family” just waiting for the opportunity to share an hour or two visiting in your home, to help with simple errands, deliver a meal or to offer a ride to an appointment? If you didn’t, that’s no surprise to us! For eleven years the Second Family Ministry has been one of the best kept secrets in our parish. And now we are spreading the word about what a great ministry this is! You might consider discovering the joy of letting someone into your life by offering to help out just a little bit. Or, you might like to join the Second Family Care Team and reach out to another member of the congregation who would benefit from your “bite sized commitment”. As always, the blessings flow both ways, and we learn that through simple tasks relationships are built and lives are changed.

Please help spread the word. We are asking that you be the eyes and ears and perhaps even the hands and feet of this wonderful ministry. Tell your friends, be alert to special needs and phone if you know someone that would benefit from having a Second Family, or if you would like to have a Care Team. And, finally, prayerfully consider joining this ministry and see what a difference a few hours a month can mean to someone who is home alone, can no longer drive, is caring for a loved one or is isolated and a bit lonely.

To learn more about the vision and the work of your Second Family Care Team at St. Martha please call Peggy Wehe at 281-546-9884 or e-mail stmartha2ndfamily@gmail.com
Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,

El tiempo de Adviento llega a su fin con una imagen muy humana de la narración evangélica para el Cuarto Domingo de Adviento: el viaje de María a la región montañosa, a visitar a su prima Isabel. ¿Qué pasaba por la mente de María cuando se dirigía en camino a lo largo de los senderos polvorientos hacia la aldea donde vivía Elizabeth? Tal vez estaba pensando en su anciana prima. Para tener un hijo a la edad de Isabel no era un pequeño riesgo, tanto para la madre como para el niño. Tal vez María estaba a la espera de pasar tiempo de calidad con su pariente a quien amaba mucho. Después de todo, también María estaba embarazada y necesitaba a alguien que la escuchara. Ella estaba muy consciente de que Nazaret pronto se convertirá en un lugar difícil para vivir. Una vez que su embarazo se evidenciará, había la probabilidad de que empezaran las conversaciones entre los otros habitantes del pueblo y tal vez incluso algunos la ridiculizaran en público. En cualquier caso, María estaba probablemente a la espera de esos días en que ella podría estar con otra mujer que estaba dispuesta a escuchar y compartir alegrías mutuas y ansiedades en un ambiente sencillo y familiar. En realidad, hay un profundo mensaje que emana de esta simple escena de María. A lo largo de los Evangelios nunca se narra que iba hacer algo de una manera espectacular. Ella simplemente se involucraba en el día a día, en los eventos comunes normales en la vida humana. Su santidad está profundamente arraigada en su sencillez y humildad. En esta postura de la vida, Mary pudo ver cómo Dios la llamaba a hacer su parte en el cumplimiento del plan de Dios. No es ninguna sorpresa que la oración que iba a enseñar a la Iglesia seria el Magníficat: "Proclama mi alma la grandeza del Señor; ¡se alegra mi espíritu en Dios, mi salvador! "

Hay otra cualidad en esta imagen bíblica de María que es importante tener en cuenta. Es su franqueza. Reconoció que Dios la estaba llamando en una determinada dirección y ella optó por seguir esa llamada. Ella no veía la necesidad de dudar o posponer su decisión. Ella no se quejó porque no era digna ni se preocupó por las demandas de que esta convocatoria haría en su vida. No trató de comparar sus logros y virtudes a los de cualquier otra persona. María no sólo tenía una profunda fe en Dios, pero al parecer tenía una confianza realista en sí misma. Simplemente aceptó la vida tal como se le presentó y a tomó una decisión personal y responder a una llamada que ella sabía en su corazón era de Dios. Por lo tanto, el Adviento llega a su fin con la misma imagen con la que comenzó: una mujer de fe confiando, embarazada de vida, tan to humana como divina. Para nosotros, al igual que María, el punto que se alcanza en la vida cuando todas las pruebas y el apoyo externo son insuficientes para garantizar la seguridad en la dirección que debemos seguir. Simplemente tenemos que decidir, "¿Voy a creer o no?" Si optamos por decir "no", entonces no nos queda más que enfrentar la vida con sólo nuestros propios recursos. Si optamos por decir "Sí" como María, a continuación, nos abrimos a la posibilidad de infinita bondad y el poder que fluye a través de nosotros, incluso en los detalles y acontecimientos de nuestras vidas más pequeños y ordinarios. Para aquellos que hacen de esta opción, la esperanza es eterna. Para las personas de fe, siempre es el tiempo de Adviento.

Padre Chester Borski

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**RETIRO DE HOMBRES**

**ACTS**

**28 al 31 de Enero, 2016**

Ya estan abiertas las inscripciones para el Retiro de ACTS en Español. Estaremos a sus órdenes en el Nartex después de la misa del la 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. Martha, 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
4° Domingo Ordinario
Reflexión sobre el Jubileo de la Misericordia:
El Jubileo de la Misericordia comenzó el pasado 8 de Diciembre y terminará el 20 de Noviembre del próximo año en la fiesta de Cristo Rey. El Papa Francisco promulgó este año extraordinario con tres objetivos principales. El primero es que experimentemos la Misericordia de Dios, principalmente a través del Sacramento de la Reconciliación; el segundo es que hagamos peregrinaciones a Puertas Santas que han sido abiertas en algunas Iglesias de cada Arquidiócesis con el objetivo de que experimentemos el sacrificio de llegar a ellas y eso nos ayude a entender que la Misericordia cuesta trabajo e implica un sacrificio también; también para que al pasar por esas Puertas Santas podamos experimentar la Misericordia de Dios y que esto nos motive a ser misericordiosos con nuestro prójimo; y el tercer objetivo es que meditemos y practiquemos las Obras Corporales de Misericordia: Dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, dar posada al necesitado, vestir al desnudo, visitar al enfermo, socorrer a los presos y enterrar a los muertos; y las Obras Espirituales de Misericordia: Enseñar al que no sabe, dar buen consejo al que lo necesita, corregir al que está en el error, perdonar las injusticias, con- solar al triste, sufrir con paciencia los defectos de los demás y rogar a Dios por vivos y difuntos.
Compromiso de la semana: Meditaré en la infinita Misericordia de Dios que decidió mandar a Su único Hijo para salvarnos.

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

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 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 están 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 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 Catolica? 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@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

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

Ministerio Hispano

MARIA GORETTI NETWORK ESPANOL PARA TODA VICTIMA DE ABUSO
MGN es Un grupo de apoyo formado por personas que han vivido cualquier tipo de abuso en algún momento de su vida y que están buscando sanación y perdón. Para mayor información llamar al teléfono 281-389-1210 o enviar un email a mariagorettiespanol@gmail.com.
Allí le darán más información sobre el lugar y hora de las reuniones y contestaremos sus preguntas.
**STEWARDSHIP of Time, Talent and Treasure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Min.</th>
<th>Business Manager</th>
<th>Theresa Miller</th>
<th>281.713.8957</th>
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<td>Facility Manager</td>
<td>Steve Teets</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bill Grun</td>
<td>281.960.3829</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha’s Gardeners</td>
<td>Wayne Theis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne.theis@suddenlink.net">wayne.theis@suddenlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Martha’s Office Angels</td>
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<td>Acts Retreat</td>
<td>Willie Chesnut</td>
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<td>Karen Rexer</td>
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<td>Catholic Daughters of the Americas</td>
<td>Sherry Hund</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yellowerose716@live.com">yellowerose716@live.com</a></td>
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<td>Couples for Christ</td>
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<td>Divorce Support Group</td>
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<td>Fami1y</td>
<td>Christiana Chavez</td>
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<td>Funerals</td>
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<td>Griefshare</td>
<td>Laura Cardella</td>
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<td>Homebound Errand Committee</td>
<td>Greta Verhalen</td>
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<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
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<td>Kristene Hergenrother</td>
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<td>Northeast Catholic Singles</td>
<td>Peggi Broyles</td>
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<td>Barb Setser</td>
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<td>Janice Cravens</td>
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<td>Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>Acenith Claassen</td>
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<td>Martin’s Altar Guild &amp; Designers</td>
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<td>Art Vollmert</td>
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| Weekend Budget            | $72,051 |
| Sunday Collection         | $68,986 |
| Faith Diet                | $1,457  |
| Immaculate Conception     | $1,643  |
| Christmas                 | $5,305  |
| Special Collections       | $27,401 |
| Capital Campaign          | $21,683 |
| Martha’s Kitchen          | $10,840 |
| Priest Retirement         | $1,991  |
| Christmas Flowers         | $295,000|
| DST Payments to Date      | $330,397|