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

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): .... .....
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 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 en-
ter 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.
TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD’S house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:36-44).

Friday (First Friday): First Friday

Saturday: St. Francis Xavier


READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21; 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday: St. Andrew

Thursday: World AIDS Awareness Day

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: St. Francis Xavier; First Saturday

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BE PREPARED

Be prepared. It’s that simple. As this Advent season opens before us, the Lord Jesus summons us to stand ready for his coming. At this time of year much of our attention is focused on being prepared for the details that accompany the holiday season. We purchase gifts; we decorate our homes, inside and out; we prepare foods that we eat only during the holidays; we write and send Christmas cards; we attend holiday concerts; we prepare either to welcome family and friends into our homes or arrange for visits to their homes. We really can’t escape the details that make up the season. Perhaps this Advent is a time to attend to all those details with a different spin. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas, why not be deliberate about acknowledging the presence of the Lord as we go about these tasks? The Lord often comes to us in wonderfully surprising ways. Let us be prepared.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Church’s season of Advent is a special time set aside for us to reflect on human experience in light of the Word of God proclaimed in the liturgy. Certainly an insight common to all of us is the fact that our world is quite imperfect and, during some historical times, rather violent and brutal. Daily living teaches us that one of the great challenges for everyone is to develop a sense of hope rooted in the promises of God and to challenge ourselves to come to peace with human imperfection, our own and that of others. For centuries human beings have attempted to make sense of the experience of the effect of sin on the world and how to cope with its impact on humanity. Some have concluded that human imperfection is simply the way it is and will always be. Satisfaction in life depends on disciplining ourselves to know about imperfection and the suffering it causes. For others this philosophical approach does not satisfy. These people, especially those reflecting on the Word of God, have the strong conviction that our saving God has truly entered into humanity and that the human condition can be better than it is. Traditionally such people are known as poets, prophets, and visionaries. The first reading for today is taken from the writings of one such visionary: the prophet Isaiah from whom we will hear each Sunday during Advent. His message was originally intended for an oppressed people and yet his vision is one of perfect peace. He describes a world where the nations “shall beat their swords into plowshares” and they shall not “train for war again.”

However, it is important to note that in Isaiah’s vision it is not humanity that will bring peace to the world but God! This vision is one of faith deeply rooted in the covenant that God chose to make with the people of Israel. For the prophet Isaiah “faith” is more about the fidelity of God to his people rather than the feeble attempts of humanity to be faithful. It is a matter of trusting in the promises of God. This promise finds its fullest expression in the coming of the Messiah, the “Son of Man” whom we Christians know to be Jesus, the Son of God. And as followers of Jesus, we Christians are challenged to embrace the truth that God, who made the world in which we live, has truly claimed it as his own and has redeemed it through Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus will one day return to our world and make it fully his own, by bringing it to perfection through grace. The season of Advent reminds us that it is a very Christian virtue to wait in patience for the fulfillment of God’s promises. In the second reading for today St. Paul (from Romans 13: 11-14) speaks of our Christian waiting as a sacred time because the longed for coming of the Lord has already begun. God has visited us in the person of Jesus Christ and has given us the gift of his Spirit. As we wait for the Lord’s final coming, we must become keenly aware of the opportunities the Holy Spirit gives us each day to hasten the coming of God’s kingdom. Isaiah challenges us: “Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light ….. (let us) put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Fr. Chester Borski

Pro-Life Mass and Rosary: Every first Saturday at 8:30 AM. Please join us Saturday, Dec. 3.

From the Pastor

Advent Church Decorations

THE CRYSTAL BOWL
The crystal bowl in the decorations is representing the crystal castle that Saint Theresa described as our soul. Without sin it is so beautiful and clear that you can see the altar (Heaven, God’s presence) through it. The bowl has a big round space waiting to be filled with grace, the dwelling place for God, the seventh Mansion.
The bowl in this case is not empty it has some twisted branches representing our imperfections, the root of our sin. But we can see how they are not taking the whole space. Sin and grace together, the constant dance in our lives. We have to go deep in ourselves to recognize the source of our sin in order to work on it. How can I change if I don’t know what to change? Knowing ourselves we get closer to God. To know ourselves we have to go deep in our soul.

“Take your head in hand, so to speak and examine yourself as you are.” Alfred Delp

THE TWISTED BRANCHES INSIDE THE CRYSTAL BOWL
“Let us not therefore be troubled because of our imperfections, for our perfection consist in fighting against them, and we cannot fight against them if we do not see them, nor conquer them if we do not encounter them.” Saint Francis de Sales

“It doesn’t matter if you are a thimble or a barrel, what matters is that you are full of grace.” Fr. Lockey
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Tuesday Morning:** Breakfast & Bible Study, 9:30 – 10:45 AM Faith Formation Center, Room 2.

Reading, studying & sharing on the Sunday Scriptures led by Carla Lewton. All are welcome. Remaining November dates: 29. December dates: 6 & 13

**St. Martha Adult Faith Formation Website:** www.stmarthaaff.com

Recordings of previous adult classes, handouts, Powerpoints, schedules, important links, music, and more…check it out!

**THE FAITH FORMATION LIBRARY IS NO LONGER TAKING BOOK DONATIONS AT THIS TIME. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS, THE SHELVES ARE OVERFLOWING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.**

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**CATHOLIC SINGLES**

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40 and older,** next gathers on Wednesday, Nov. 30, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 PM at Pete’s Burger Place, 24626 Loop 494 in Kingwood (1½ mile north of Northpark Drive).

On Saturday, Dec. 3, join us for 5:30 PM Mass at St. Martha; meal afterwards at Los Cucos Mexican Café at 23730 Hwy. 59 in Kingwood. Meet in the narthex of the church at 5:15 PM. For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Bryoles (281-359-4560 or peggybmm4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s website.

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**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. Join us for the festivities at St. Martha’s Family Life Center on **Wednesday, Dec. 14 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 Karpinski, 713-594-4430.

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**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS**

**IT is NOT REQUIRED ANYMORE TO SIGN IN FOR LOW GLUTEN HOST. THERE WILL BE LOW GLUTEN COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT ALL MASSES**

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**The Bishop’s Palace Tour—Galveston, Texas**

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016

8 AM to 6 PM

Cost: $35 per person*

Must be 50+ years old to attend

Limited number of seats remaining!

Come join fellow parishioners ages 50+ for a relaxing bus ride to Galveston for a tour of the Bishop’s Palace. The tour bus will depart from Building 3 on the St. Martha Faith Formation Campus at 8 AM and return at 6 PM.

*Please note that meals are not included in the tour price.

Please register and pay for the tour at the parish office between 9 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 or 713-665-9583.

Watch the bulletin and parish Flocknotes for information on an additional upcoming tour to the George Bush Presidential Library in March!
A fun time was had by all at the first annual SMCS National Jr. Beta Club Color Fun Run/Walk benefiting M. D. Anderson cancer research. Our walkers and runners were showered with color as they ran the 2.5 mile course on the SMCC Faith Formation campus. Through registrations and donations, over $5,000 was raised and will be donated to M D Anderson to support cancer research. THANK YOU to the Beta students, parent volunteers, event sponsors, and participants whose support and generosity made this event a great success!

The faculty and staff of St. Martha Catholic School wish you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

St. Martha Catholic School is a fully accredited school for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. LIMITED OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR Visit our school website at www.stmarthacs.org for more information or contact Registrar Jodie Richter at 281-358-5523.

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.
Mark Your Calendars

Sacred Relics Of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church
St. Martha Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Dec. 6, at 7:35 PM (following 7:00 PM Mass). Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the “Little Flower”), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church’s history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members that you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. For additional information about these relics visit http://www.treasuresofthechurch.com

Vocations Corner

"THE SECRET OF A VOCATION," Pope Benedict XVI told youth, "lies in the capacity and in the joy of distinguishing [God's] voice, of listening to and following His voice. But to do this, it is necessary to accustom our heart to recognize the Lord, to hear Him like a person who is near me and who loves me." Moments of "interior silence in the day-to-day routine" are essential, he said. "But once one has learned to hear this voice and to generously follow it, one fears nothing, he or she knows and feels that God is with him or her, and that He is a Friend, Father, and Brother."

Serra Club Northeast of Houston Invites You to Their Monthly Dinner and Meeting
Monday, Nov. 28, 2016
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, TX
The cost for dinner is $15 per person.

Membership is open to all Catholics. Monsignor Borski, Club Chaplain, will open the meeting in prayer.

Our guest speaker for November will be Seminarian David Michael Moses, serving his Pastoral Year at St. Martha Catholic Church
David Michael will talk about his vocation

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

Serra Clubs fosters and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life; encourages and affirms vocations to the consecrated life and nurtures the spiritual growth and formation of its lay members.

HOLIDAY AND HOLY DAY SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
December 7 (Vigil): 7:30 PM
December 8: 6:30 AM, Noon and 7:30 PM,
School Mass - 8:30 AM (Woodland Hills Campus)

DECEMBER 12 – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
6:30 PM Rosary and 7 PM Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
December 24 (Vigil): 4:00 PM (Children’s Choir),
7:00 PM (Lifeteen Band), Midnight (Church Choir),
December 25: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)

Please note: NO 7:00 AM or 5:30 PM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 25

JANUARY 1 – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
December 31 (Vigil): 5:30 PM (Lifeteen)
January 1: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)

Please note: NO 5:30 PM Mass on Sunday, Jan. 1.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Regular times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation-
Tuesdays: 6:30 to 7 PM
Saturdays: 10:30 - 11:45 AM and 4:30 - 5:20 PM

Additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent-
December 2: 7:00 - 8:30 AM and 6:00 - 9:00 PM
December 20: Parish Penance Service 6:30 PM
Please note: NO 7:00 PM Mass on Dec. 20

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. The deadline to turn envelopes in is December 16. (Donations must be received by deadline to be included in the Christmas bulletin).
ST. MARTHA’S GRIEF PROGRAM

The next grief program starts on Jan. 3, 2017. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 PM in Rm. 3 at the Woodland Hills Campus (Jan. 3 - Mar. 7). To sign up or for more information, call Laurie at 281-360-2714, or e-mail lauriecardella@outlook.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Martha Conference of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank the Parish for its generous support of our recent Black Bag Collection.

Donations from this collection totaled $26,374. Because of your compassion and extraordinary generosity, our Conference will be able to continue its mission to assist those in need in our community.

In the month of October, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help build the kingdom of God by assisting 109 families, providing $8,744 for utility assistance, $5,147 for rent and other bills, and $521 in food. Thank You!

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. 

Your gifts to St. Vincent de Paul will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers for this ministry and may God bless you and your family.

“At the same time I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They too need to be given hope.” -Pope Francis, Address to Congress, September 14, 2015

Call for leaders! We are looking for fellow young adults to help us plan and run activities and events. Please email us at youngadulsts@stmartha.com for more information.

YCP: Nov. 29, 7 PM - The Houston Chapter of Young Catholic Professional will gather for their Executive Speaker series. The event will be at Cristo Rey Jesuit College with speaker Christina Moore.

Tentative Volunteering event with Catholic Charities Guadalupe Center - Food Fair on Saturday, Dec. 3 - 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM (326 S. Jensen Drive, Houston, TX 77003). This is an opportunity to offer a hand up to our neighbors lacking access to basic needs. We will help organize and distribute food to those in need.

Visit www.facebook.com/groups/YASStM/ or www.stmartha.com/yastm to stay informed of upcoming events. For questions about any events, please email youngadulsts@stmartha.com. You may also call or text Matt Cooke, 718-887-6837.

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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.

Divine Mercy Chaplet
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!

Young at Heart Luncheon - Donation Requests
The Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14. 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 100-125 people and our Christmas luncheon is always our biggest! We are asking this year for donations of gift cards (not to exceed $10) to Walgreen’s, CVS, Kroger, Wal-Mart, HEB, Target, a restaurant, or movie theater. Donations can be dropped off at the main office near the church Monday-Friday 9 AM—4 PM or put in an envelope in the collection basket, clearly marked - YAH Luncheon Donation. All donations are greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, feel free to email Carol Bateman at carolb625@gmail.com. Thank you for generosity!

St. Martha T-shirts
Now available for $6.00. All sizes including Men, Ladies and Youth.
For more info or to purchase e-mail: pattyschulze63@gmail.com or stop by the parish office during normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

Hurting? Healing after abortion

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, 713-435-9215, or bdevelle@comcast.net.

Silent Retreat on St. Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment
Saturday, Dec. 3
[8:30 AM - 5:00 PM]
at Lake Houston Wilderness Park
25840 FM 1485, New Caney, TX 77357

Learn more about St. Ignatius’ Discernment of Spirits following Fr. Gallagher’s book "The Discernment of Spirits" while spending time with God in silence. Conferences led by Fr. Richard.

$40.00 registration fee
Lunch and Fr. Gallagher’s book included.
To register, please call or stop by the Faith Formation office on the Woodland Hills campus (281.358.1959).
Space is limited; daily prayer life required.

Sharing Sunday Dec. 10 & 11

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, 713-435-9215, or bdevelle@comcast.net.

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Join us to learn more about these exciting opportunities. We will have two trip options: **Summer 2017 Cartagena**
- June 10-17, 2017
**Fall 2017 Bogota**
- Sept. 9-16, 2017

We will share details about each trip, including team size, cost, typical itinerary, what to expect, background and pictures of beautiful Colombia, more about Conviventia-CDA, our partner in Colombia, how to sign up and answer any other questions you may have.

**Information Sessions**
- When: **Nov. 29** (Tue.) 7 - 8 PM
  - Family Life Center
- **Dec. 11** (Sun.) 3 - 4 PM
  - Reception Parlor, left of Narthex in the church

**Sign Up Day**
- When: **Dec. 11** (Sun.) 4 - 5:30 PM
- Where: 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

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**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTICADORATION**

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

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 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:**
- **Monday:** 1-2 AM / 1-2 PM / 5-6 PM
- **Tuesday:** 2-3 AM
- **Wednesday:** 1-2 AM
- **Friday:** 6-7 PM
- **Saturday AM:** 1-2 AM / 3-4 AM / 9-10 AM
- **Saturday PM:** 1-2 PM / 2-3 PM / 7-8 PM / 8-9 PM
- **Sunday:** 1-2 PM / 3-4 PM / 11 PM - Midnight

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact: Carmen Ongando at 832-767-8826 or at carmenongando@yahoo.com. If you need a substitute, please call one of our division leaders:
- Robyn Laumbach: Midnight to 6 AM - (281-360-7897)
- Karen Ehlig: 6 AM to Noon - (281-361-7127)
- Annunciata Hopkins: Noon to 6 PM - (281-360-1258)
- Beth Beckham: 6 PM to Midnight - (281-435-1439)

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**The Parish of Corpus Christi, Prelatura Cancun-Chetumal has requested that we announce the Banns of Marriage for Michael David Underwood and Nicole Arlina Baker who will be married Feb. 11, 2017. If any persons know of a serious reason why this couple should not be married please call the parish office at 281-358-6637.**
Reliquias sagradas de los Santos: Tesoros de la Iglesia

La parroquia de Santa Marta presentará una enseñanza y una exposición de reliquias sagradas el 6 de diciembre del 2016 a las 7:35 PM (al terminar la misa de 7:00 PM).
El Padre Carlos Martins de los Compañeros de Cristo estará aquí con su ministerio especial para enseñarnos acerca de estos santos objetos. Él nos traerá más de 150 reliquias, algunas de 2000 años de edad.
Entre los tesoros estarán las reliquias de Santa María Goretti, Santa Teresa de Lisioux (“la florecita”), San Francisco de Asís, San Antonio de Padua, Santo Tomas de Aquino y Santa Faustina Kowalska. Además, estará presente un pedazo del velo de Nuestra Señora y una de las piezas más grandes que quedan de la Verdadera Cruz en el mundo. Aquellos que asistan podrán examinar y venerar cada reliquia. En la historia de la Iglesia muchos milagros y curaciones han ocurrido en presencia de reliquias y muchos han sido sanados a través de este ministerio. Por favor no pierda esta oportunidad. Lo exhortamos a traer sus artículos de devoción (rosarios, estampas, etc.) y fotos de sus amigos y familiares enfermos que usted podrá ponerlos en contacto con los relicarios como un medio de intercesión. Para información adicional acerca de estas reliquias visite: http://www.treasuresofthechurch.com

Santa Marta Viajes Misioneros Internacionales Colombia 2017

Únase a nosotros para aprender más acerca de estas interesantes oportunidades para hacer misión. Existen dos oportunidades de viaje:

- **En el Verano del 2017 a la ciudad de Cartagena**
- **En el Otoño del 2017 a la ciudad de Bogotá**

Tendremos sesiones para dejarle saber los detalles acerca de cada viaje, cuantas personas por viaje, costo básico del itinerario, expectativas de la misión, fotografías de la bella Colombia y sus paisajes, información sobre nuestro socio en Colombia (Conviventia-CDA); así también información sobre cómo registrarse y responder cualquier pregunta que usted pueda tener.

**Sesiones Generales de información:**
**Martes 29 de noviembre, 2016** de 7 PM - 8 PM. En el salón del Family Life Center (FLC)
**Domingo 11 de diciembre, 2016** de 3:00 PM -4 PM. En el salón de las novias localizado a la izquierda de nártex de la iglesia nueva.

 Favor de Registrarse el domingo 11 de diciembre, 2016 en el Nártex de la Iglesia de Santa Martha de 4:00 PM a 5:30 PM.

*Espacios limitados, puede reservar su espacio con un depósito de $ 200, el cual NO es rembolsable.
Si usted tiene preguntas o dudas envíe un correo electrónico a Terry Stierman: Terry.stierman@conviventia.org

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**Mensaje del Pastor**

**Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,**
La época de Adviento de la Iglesia es un tiempo especial reservado para que reflexionemos sobre la experiencia humana a la luz de la Palabra de Dios proclamada en la liturgia. Ciertamente una visión común de todos nosotros es el hecho de que nuestro mundo es absolutamente imperfecto y, en algunos tiempos históricos, bastante violento y brutal. La vida cotidiana nos enseña que uno de los grandes desafíos para todos, es desarrollar un sentido de esperanza arraigado en las promesas de Dios y desafíarnos a llegar a la paz con la imperfección humana, la nuestra y la de los demás. Durante siglos, los seres humanos han intentado dar sentido a la experiencia del efecto del pecado en el mundo y cómo hacer frente a su impacto en la humanidad. Algunos han concluido que la imperfección humana es simplemente la forma en que es y siempre lo será. La satisfacción en la vida depende de discipliarnos nosotros mismos para saber sobre la imperfección y el sufrimiento que provoca. Para otros, este enfoque filosófico no satisface. Estas personas, especialmente las que reflejan sobre la Palabra de Dios, tienen la fuerte convicción de que nuestro Dios salvador ha entrado verdaderamente en la humanidad y que la condición humana puede ser mejor de lo que es. Tradicionalmente, tales personas son conocidas como poetas, profetas y visionarios. La primera lectura de hoy se toma de los escritos de uno de tales visionarios: el profeta Isaías de quien escucharemos cada domingo durante el Adviento. Su mensaje fue originalmente destinado a un pueblo oprimido y, sin embargo, su visión es de paz perfecta. Él describe un mundo donde las naciones "golpearán sus espadas en arados" y no deberán "entrenar de nuevo para la guerra".

Sin embargo, ¡es importante señalar que en la visión de Isaías no es la humanidad la que traerá paz al mundo sino a Dios! Esta visión es de fe profundamente arraigada en el pacto que Dios escogió hacer con el pueblo de Israel. Para el profeta Isaías, la "fe" se refiere más a la fidelidad de Dios a su pueblo que a los débiles inten- tos de la humanidad de ser fieles. Es una cuestión de confiar en las promesas de Dios. Esta promesa encuentra su expresión más plena en la venida del Mesías, el "Hijo del Hombre" que nosotros, cristianos, conocemos como Jesús, el Hijo de Dios. Y como seguidores de Jesús, los cristianos somos desafiados a abrazar la verdad de que Dios, que hizo el mundo en el que vivimos, realmente lo ha reclamado como suyo y lo ha redimido por medio de Jesucristo. El Señor Jesús un día volverá a nuestro mundo y lo hará plenamente suyo, llevándolo a la perfección a través de la gracia. La temporada del Adviento nos recuerda que es una virtud muy cristiana esperar con paciencia para el cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios. En la segunda lectura de hoy, San Pablo (de Romanos 13: 11-14) habla de nuestra esperanza cristiana como un tiempo sagrado porque la ya deseada venida del Señor ya ha comenzado. Dios nos ha visitado en la persona de Jesucristo y nos ha dado el don de su Espíritu. Mientras esperamos la venida final del Señor, debemos ser conscientes de las oportunidades que el Espíritu Santo nos da cada día para acelerar la venida del reino de Dios. Isaías nos desafía: "Despojémonos de las obras de las tinieblas y pongamos la armadura de la luz ... pongamos la armadura de la luz ... pongamos la armadura de la luz ... pongamos al Señor Jesucristo".

Fr. Chester Borski
Ministerio Hispano

Proyecto Raquel

LEGION DE MARIA:
Les invitamos a que formen parte de este ministerio que se lleva acabo todos los viernes a las 7:00 pm. En el salón #2 de la iglesia antigua que está ubicada en el 3702 Woodland Hills Drive en Kingwood

Cada año durante el tiempo de Adviento nuestra parroquia hace un esfuerzo especial para compartir nuestras bendiciones con otras parroquias de la arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston. A través de nuestro intercambio anual de (Sharing Sunday) Compartiendo Nuestras Bendiciones podemos ayudar a las parroquias a distribuir comida y regalos a familias necesitadas. Estaremos colectando las donaciones durante las misas del fin de semana del Sábado Diciembre 10 y Domingo Diciembre 11.

Todas las donaciones son necesarias para los niños, adultos y ancianos. Por favor envuélva y etiquete estas donaciones con la edad y el sexo para quien va dirigido (por ejemplo, el niño entre 10 y 12 años). También puede donar Alimentos no Precederos, (latas de comida, cajas), pero estos no necesitan estar envueltos. Por favor considere hacer esta donación y hagan un plan familiar para ayudar a otras familias menos afortunadas. Permitamos que todas estas personas recibirán un regalo esta navidad y vean el rostro de Cristo en todas sus donaciones, haciendo comunidad para su gloria.

Si usted necesita más información o tiene preguntas por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Gelly Estess gellymar@suddenlink.net.

Almuerzo de Jóvenes de Corazón – Se Solicitan Donaciones
El almuerzo Navideño de Jóvenes de Corazón se llevará a cabo el miércoles 14 de diciembre. Como en años anteriores, estamos solicitando su generosidad en donar regalos que serán repartidos al azar a nuestros invitados de la tercera edad (hombres y mujeres). ¡Hemos tenido un promedio de 100 a 125 personas cada año y el almuerzo Navideño es siempre el más concurrido! Este año estamos solicitando donaciones de tarjetas de regalo (con un valor que no exceda de $10) de Walgreen, CVS, Kroger, Wal-Mart, HEB, Target, de restaurante o de cine. Las donaciones pueden ser entregadas en la oficina principal cerca de la iglesia de lunes a viernes de 9 am a 4 pm o se pueden poner en un sobre en la canasta de recolección, marcando claramente “YAH Luncheon Donation” en dicho sobre. ¡Todas las donaciones son muy apreciadas! Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en enviar un correo electrónico a Carol Bateman a carolb625@gmail.com. ¡Gracias por la generosidad!
STEWARDSHIP of Time, Talent and Treasure

COMmUNIty LIFE MinISTries cont.
YOUng at heart luncheon transport.
Domenica Seitz 713.899.1016

Faith formation
Breakfast & Bible study
Carla Lewton 281.358.1959x213
YOUNGERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230
RCIA
RCIA@stmartha.com
YASm Young Adults of St. Martha
Youngadults@stmartha.com
Elementary school & vbs
Patty Jost 713.8969
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Martha Burns 281.555.5253
Confirmation
Ana Leija 281.713.8915
Middle school coordinator (edge)
Lisa Hartsfield 281.358.1959x241
High school coordinator (life teen)
Laura Gallardo 281.358.1959x252

LiturGICAL MinISTries
Director of liturgy
Mariel Parra 281.358.6637x280
Director of music
Daniel Knaggs danielk@stmartha.com
Liturgy coordinator for lifeteen
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251
Altar servers
Jennifer Farace 281.361.5414
Baptism
281.358.6637
Cantors
281.358.6637
Children’s adoration
Annette Salazar 281.358.1492
Children’s choir
281.358.6637
Children’s liturgy
Jaclyn Dement stmart hacm@hotmail.com
Communion to the sick
Hospital visit
Angela Wemys 281.361.9720
Nursing home & homebound
Kathy Gearhart 281.713.2154
Hispanic communion to the sick
Amelia Murphy 713.865.6946
Extraordinary ministers of the eucharist
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230
Lectors
Richard Lowell 281.989.1097
Martha’s altar guild & designers
Mariel Parra 281.358.6637x250
Perpetual eucharistic adoration
Robyn Laumbach 281.360.7897
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 cont.
MARTHA’S KITCHEN
Sr. Maria Elena 713.225.5826
MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY
Paola Lam 832-284-1891
PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)
Project Rachel
Bonnie Develle 713.435.9215
St. John of the cross food drive
Mary Burk 281.361.3650
St. Joseph Helpers
Bill Beck 281.360.7023
St. Martha between jobs and beyond
Bob Simpson 713.225.2044
St. Vincent de paul
281.358.6636
Second family ministry
Martha Busch 281.728.7159
Social Justice
Gary Yepsen 832.803.4377

St. Martha Catholic school
Principal PK-8th
Tina Lewis 281.358.5523
Coordinator of Development
Courtney Waguespack 281.358.5523x326
Registrar
Jodie Richter 281.358.5523x314

Ministerios en español
Coordinadora de catecismo para jóvenes y sacramentos
Ana Maria Gibson 281.358.1959x269
Coro de adultos
Luís Valles 832.980.1888
Grupo de oración
Carmen Ogando 832.767.8826
Hospitalidad
Gustavo Zapata 832.247.9955
Lectores
Cristina Gábas 281.796.9084
Legión de María
Veronica Reyes 281.728.9843
Mario Gómez Network en español
Patricia Lopez 281.389.1210
Matrimonios y Sagrada Familia
Janett o Rubén Manosalva 281.706.5068
Ministros extraordinarios de la eucaristía
Juan Rosso 954.439.1127
Monaguillos
Pastor Pastor 832.674.832.633.0145
Rica
Jaime Gomez 281.973.1857
Vocaciones y Calz de vocaciones
Tony Lasalle 646.489.1554

Current Loan Debt: $11,072,176