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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Richard McNeillie
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Pham
Deacons: Mr. Tony Cardella, Mr. Bob MacFarlane, Mr. Al O’Brien, Mr. Guy T. Puglia, Mr. John Schuster, and Mr. Gary Yepsen

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

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): ....
Saturday Vigil: .......................... 8:30 AM
Sunday: .......................... 7 AM, 9 AM, & 11 AM
En Español .......................... 1 PM
Life Teen: .......................... 5:30 PM
Nursery at 9 AM, 11 AM & 1 PM Spanish Mass

Weekday Masses
Monday: .......................... 8:30 AM
Tuesday: .......................... 8:30 AM & 7 PM
Wednesday: ........................ 8:30 AM & 10 AM
Thursday: .......................... 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Friday: .......................... 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Penance
Tuesday:
Church: 6:15 - 7 PM
Saturday:
Church: 10 AM - 12 PM
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.

Funerals
Call the Parish Office for more information, 281-358-6637.

4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365
281-358-6637 • fax 281-358-7973 • www.stmartha.com

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord...
I will bring to my holy mountain...

for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

ISAIAH 56:6, 7

August 20, 2017

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

**Psalm** — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

**Gospel** — Jesus told the Canaanite woman of great faith, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).

—— O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

—— Jesus told the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28).

—— Thus says (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

**TODAY’S READING FOR THE WEEK**

**First Reading** — Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

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**Second Reading** — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

**Gospel** — Jesus told the Canaanite woman of great faith, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).


**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday:** Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday:** Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

**Friday:** Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday:** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Ps 128:1b-5; Mt 23:1-12

**Sunday:** Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** St. Pius X

**Tuesday:** The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Wednesday:** St. Rose of Lima

**Thursday:** St. Bartholomew

**Friday:** St. Louis; St. Joseph Cappone

**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, “God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.” To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mine to share?

**STEWARDSHIP—Time, Talent and Treasure**

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

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**STEWARDSHIP—Time, Talent and Treasure**

**2017 Stewardship Renewal**

Stewardship is not something new, but it does require constant renewal. Each year we pause as a parish to consider how we are doing on our stewardship journeys -- both as individuals, and collectively as a parish. This month, every registered family of St. Martha will receive a Stewardship Renewal Package in the mail. Enclosed in the 2017 Stewardship Guidebook and this weekend’s bulletin is a Stewardship Covenant. Our covenant goes beyond the doors of the church. It is a way of life that can be lived out each day in many ways. Please take some time to prayerfully reflect about the ways you have been blessed and complete your Stewardship Covenant with God. Please keep this covenant close by over the next year to help you remember the commitment made between you and God. Additional copies will be available in the parish office, on the parish website and in the Narthex.

This year’s Renewal also consists of two different weekends designed to learn more about parish ministries. You will have an opportunity to meet with ministry representatives to ask questions and sign up. Please join us in the Narthex after each Mass on Aug. 19-20 and Aug. 26-27:

**Aug. 19-20:** School, Parish Festival, Faith Formation, & Liturgy Ministries

**Aug. 26-27:** Community Life & Outreach Ministries

(For a complete listing of St. Martha ministries please see last page of the bulletin under Stewardship—Time, Talent and Treasure)
To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Gospel reading for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time records an interesting conversation between Jesus and a woman whose daughter is “tormented by a demon.” Jesus responds to her request by saying that his mission is solely to the people of Israel. The woman does not give up, even when Jesus quotes a proverb of the day about not “throwing food to the dogs.” This response on the part of Jesus seems to be outright offensive and demeaning to this mother who is simply seeking healing for her child. However, the Gospel writer uses the occasion to teach a very important lesson to the Church. The woman is a Canaanite, a member of the people that Israel had conquered when they took over the Promised Land. At the time of Christ there still existed blatant prejudice on the part of Jesus’ contemporaries towards the Canaanites. The early Church struggled mightily in dealing with such prejudice when the disciples had to decide how to preach the Gospel “to all nations.” It must be noted that these early disciples were converts from the Jewish faith and there were laws that indicated how they were to deal with Gentiles. Thus, it seems that Matthew includes this strange encounter to show that even Jesus himself came to see that this Canaanite woman also deserved loving acceptance as a child of God. Jesus declares at the end of this account, “O woman, great is your faith!”

At the heart of this Gospel teaching is the need for the Church, the Body of Christ, to be truly catholic or inclusive in her proclamation of the Good News and in her missionary outreach. Unfortunately such prejudice and misunderstanding experienced by this woman continue to exist in our world and also in our faith communities. Pope Francis has called upon us to go out to the peripheries of our society and begin to meet people who struggle to be accepted as human beings deserving of respect and compassion. Historically there are many such examples of prejudice and hate which became the law of the land or at least the accepted behavior which even Christians embraced. When some of the early settlers came to this country, they considered the native Americans as “savages” and relegated them to “reservations” when they were dispossessed of their lands. Black individuals were brought to this country and sold as “slaves” to work the plantations of the landowners. Our nation fought a civil war over this practice and the after-effects of slavery continue to plague our nation. Every generation seems to be challenged to deal with a variety of misunderstandings and views which are detrimental towards certain groups of individuals. In recent years the struggle of the LGBT community presents the Church with an opportunity and a mission to again build bridges of understanding and respect. Pope Francis asks that we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and have the courage to accept the difficult challenges of such missions. He advises us that such missionary work is not accomplished primarily by preaching to people about Christianity but by being a true follower of Jesus and simply reaching out in love to others who are our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Fr. Chester Borski
If my people, those whom I have called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, if they will seek my face and turn from their sin, I will hear their prayers from heaven, I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land," says the Lord.

"For my eyes are open, and my ears are listening, to the prayers of my people."

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

St. Martha Church
Couple Prayer Series

Couple Prayer is a weekly series on prayer for married or engaged couples. Experience first-hand how you can share Couple Prayer with your spouse in ways that will dramatically enhance your faith, your marriage, and the faith and well-being of your entire family.

Where: St. Martha, Faith Formation Campus, (Woodland Hills Drive) in the FLC

When: 7 PM – 9 PM, six Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 19, 2017

For: Married or engaged couples

To register: Send an e-mail to franp@stmartha.com

Please include both husband/wife names, both of your cell phone numbers and/or home phone number. Babysitting is available upon request. If babysitting is requested, please list the names and ages of your children requiring child care.

For more information, contact Francine at franp@stmartha.com or 281-358-6637

St. Martha Women’s ACTS Retreat
Sept. 14-17, 2017

Registration for the September Women’s English ACTS Retreat has begun. The ACTS retreat is a three day/three nights retreat that focuses on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service and is presented by parishioners of St. Martha. Registration is limited and is on a first-come first-served basis and must include a non-refundable deposit of $50. The cost of the retreat is $190 but do not let the financial considerations prevent you from attending the retreat. Please prayerfully consider attending this exciting retreat!! If you have any questions, you can contact the retreat Director, Melanie McTaggart at 832-675-0694 or mmctaggart@hartenergy.com.

Registration forms available on-line at www.smcsactsw22.com

Painted Churches Tour—Schulenburg, TX
Tuesday, Oct. 31, 8 AM - 6 PM
Cost: $35 per person*
Must be 50+ years old to attend.
Limited number of seats!

Come join fellow parishioners ages 50+ for a relaxing bus ride to Schulenburg, TX for a Painted Churches Tour. 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. You can choose the buffet or order from the menu. Please register and pay for the tour at the Parish office between 9 AM-4PM, Monday-Friday. Reservation deadline—Tuesday, Oct. 24. For more information, please contact Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 or 713-665-9583.

St. Martha’s Grief Program welcomes you to a nine week grief support group, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12, in Room 2, Woodland Hills Campus, from 7-9 PM. Please contact Laurie at 281-360-2714, or lauriecardella@outlook.com to sign up or ask questions.
**Adult Organizations and Opportunities**

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40 and older, gathers on Wednesday, Aug. 23, to eat/drink/talk at 7 PM at Panera Bread at 25665 Hwy. 59 North (near Northpark Drive) in Kingwood. For more info, contact Elizabeth Shields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote on either St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.**

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**ARE YOU AN ADULT CATHOLIC WANTING TO BE CONFIRMED?** If you have questions or would like to register for classes, please call Mandy Carr 281-358-1959 ext. 264 or email mandyc@stmartha.com. Classes will be held in the Borski room at SMCS every Thursday evening, 7 – 9 PM, beginning Sept. 28, through Nov. 16, 2017.

**Breakfast and Bible Study:** Join us after the 8:30 AM Mass in the Adult Education Building, Room 2, for a delicious breakfast of coffee, pastries, and fruit. Along with food and fellowship we will be reading, studying, and sharing on the Sunday Scriptures. No registration or fee required. Come and enjoy! All are welcome! August dates are 8/22 and 8/29.

**St. Martha Adult Faith Formation**

**Website:** www.stmarthaaff.com

**Divorced. Catholic. Now What? Navigating Your Life After Divorce.**

This is a simple program of support, encouragement and recovery for those who find themselves separated or divorced and are looking for a way to navigate through the myriad of feelings and emotions in the aftermath. Led by a team of divorced Catholics, some of the topics discussed include:

- Healing
- Anger
- Helping Children Cope
- Forgiveness
- Gratitude
- Hope

Please join us knowing that the Church supports and wants you – you belong! Yes, we can be divorced and a practicing Catholic.

**Sept. 13 – Nov. 15, Wednesday Evenings – 7 to 8:30 PM**

**St. Martha Parish Office Conference Room** (Next to the Church)

For information and registration, please contact:

Vicki Rück, 713-927-8815, vickiruck@suddenlink.net
Paula Amsler, 713-806-2641, paula_amsler@msn.com

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

**YCP Events:**

- Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 7 PM: Executive Speaker Series featuring Dr. Kelly Zúñiga, Chief Executive Officer of the Holocaust Museum Houston (location TBD).
- YCP Houston and San Jose Clinic have partnered up to host a Dental Supply Drive during the month of August! They ask that you please bring any of the following dental supplies to an upcoming YCP event:
  - Adult soft bristle toothbrush
  - Toothpaste
  - Floss
  - Super floss

Please email us at youngadults@stmartha.com or contact Matt Cooke at 718-887-6837 for more info or to subscribe to our mailing list. We have many pop up events so we recommend joining the mailing list.

**Project Rachel**

**New Group starting Sept. 14.**

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

**Bible Study- Monday evenings at 7 PM.** New members are always welcome. We are a vibrant and welcoming group! Plans are in the work for a Fall camping trip.

Please let us know if you are interested so we know how big of a group to plan for.

**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.

**JOIN US!!!**

Marriott Marquis
Downtown Houston
Sept. 29—Oct. 1

For more information or to register visit: www.encounterhouston.com
Parenting and Youth

Parents of High-Schoolers—support our high school students with the power of your prayers. Sign up to be given one prayer day a month to pray for the parish’s high schoolers and help us cover them in prayer. There are no meetings to attend and your prayers are offered privately in whatever method of prayer you prefer. For more information or to be given a day on our high school Prayer Quilt, email Lori DiSorbo at lrdisorbo@gmail.com.

Calling moms of all ages!
St Martha’s Moms Group
Motherhood Fellowship Night:
Please join us Aug. 22 for a potluck meal.
Please bring a dish to share. We will meet in the FLC from 7-8:30 PM.
Be sure to join our Facebook group: St. Martha’s Moms (Kingwood, Tx)
For more information email Renee at stmarthasmoms@gmail.com.
We look forward to meeting you.

Vocations Corner

VOCaTioN DiRECTORs, whether of a diocese or religious order, are the interface between the congregations and the world. They also need your prayers and perhaps your help. Feel free to suggest a name to your pastor of someone you believe may be interested in pursuing a religious vocation.

Serra Club Northeast of Houston Invites You To Their Monthly Dinner and Meeting
Monday, Aug. 28, 2017
6:30 PM Social, 7-8:30 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.
Msgr. Borski, Club Chaplain, will open the meeting in prayer.

Our guest speaker for August will be: Allison Seibert who will speak about the Catholic growth in College Station and what promotes vocations in Aggieland.
RSVP: Eileen Benvegnu, eileenbenvegnu@yahoo.com
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.

CHALiCE FOR VoCATIONS:
Please join the SWIFT 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’s Catholic Church
2017-2018 Family Stewardship Covenant
Covenant between God and

(Write your name(s) here)

Whereas I acknowledge that God is the origin of life, the giver of freedom and the source of all that I have and I am and ever will be.

Whereas I acknowledge that God has uniquely given me: myself, my body, my intellect, my talents, my material goods, and the time to use these gifts to extend His kingdom.

In response to and acceptance of God’s many and varied gifts I recognize and am grateful to God. Prayerfully remembering that God calls me to keep my life in balance, I respond by committing to nurture and share these gifts in the following manner:

To God:
- Create a time for individual prayer.
- Regularly read the Bible.
- Create an environment and commit to meditating daily for ___ (fill in a number) minutes.
- Other: _______________________

To Family:
- Spend undistracted time with one member of the family regularly.
- Reserve time for weekly family conversation.
- Create time for prayer as a family.
- Give time to those taking care of a family member.
- Help those who help others (for example, those caring for persons with long term illnesses or disabilities)
- Use time in the making of an extended family.
- Enliven time by creating good, nourishing memories for the younger family members (create family traditions.)
- Have at least ___ (fill in number) family meals each week.
- Other: _______________________

To Community:
- Visit the sick and the elderly in person and by phone.
- Work to improve the safety of the community.
- Respond to cries for human need and misery.
- Work to protect the environment of the community.
- Work to improve the quality of life for disabled persons.
- Respond to the plight of the homeless.
- Work to remove discrimination, prejudice, racism, and sexism (starting with yourself).
- Respond to the presence of the hungry in the community.
- Visit and assist the grief-stricken.
- Visit a homebound individual once a month.
- Visit and stay with an individual needing constant care in order to give the primary caregiver a respite.

Continued on back
Commit to support the charities of your choice by donating ___% of your income.
Other: _______________________

To St. Martha’s:
- Pray for the parishioners in the bulletin “Pray For” list.
- Pray for the pastor.
- Pray for the staff.
- Pray for the ministries.
- Pray for the finances.
- Commit to at least one activity at the parish.
- Join at least one new ministry over the next year.
- Commit to financially support your parish by donating ___% of your income.
- Commit to financially support the Counting Our Blessings Campaign by donating ___% of your income.
Other: _______________________

To Catholic Church:
- Resolve to become one in mind and heart with Pope Francis.
- Fast for the success of Pope Francis’ work.
- Sacrifice for the growth of the Church in the Third World.
- Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- Reserve time for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Resolve to become one in mind and heart with Cardinal DiNardo.
- Fast for the success of Cardinal DiNardo’s work.
- Sacrifice for the growth of the Church in our archdiocese.
- Pray for peace throughout the world.
- Pray for the men and women who are working to protect us here, at home and abroad.
- Devote time to causes and activities that increase respect for life.
- Commit to financially support DSF and other Archdiocesan special collections by donating ______ % of your income.
Other: _______________________

Please keep this list close at hand to help you remember the commitment made between you and God. Additional copies of this covenant are available in the parish office, parish website and in the Narthex on the welcome kiosk.

Touched by the love of Jesus we embrace and encourage community through the sharing of gifts and talents.
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

“Jesus Christ: The Glory of the Father”

♦ The Gospel of John draws us into the life and Real Presence of Christ; true God and only Son of God.
♦ This Gospel gives unique approaches on Baptism, Eucharist and the Mystery of Christ.
♦ Join us as the Beloved Disciple teaches about the life, teachings, miracles and community of Christ. This Gospel continues to give meaningful witness to us today!

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

Classes begin & Visitor’s Day—for inquiries:
Day class: Sept. 13
Evening class: Sept. 19
Where: Day Class - Activity Center - Faith Formation campus
Evening class – Borski Room – 2nd floor in the school
To Register or questions Contact:
English: Ray Baudier, (281) 467-8321 or raybau@suddenlink.net
Spanish speakers: Zuri Jackson, (281)733-7571 or zurijackson@msn.com

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
OPEN HOURS
MONDAY: 2-3 AM / FRIDAY 11-NOON / FRIDAY 7-8 PM / SATURDAY 1-2 AM
SECOND ADOREDERS ARE NEEDED FOR
THE FOLLOWING HOURS:
Monday: 1-2 AM / 3-4 AM
Tuesday: 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM / 6-7 AM / MIDNIGHT-1 AM
Wednesday: 9-10 AM / 5-6 PM / 11 PM - MIDNIGHT
Thursday: 1-2 AM / 8-9 AM / 9-10 AM
Friday: 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM
Saturday: 1-2 PM / 2-3 PM / 3-4 PM / 7-8 PM
Sunday: 2-3 AM / 8-9 AM.
If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact:
Carmen Ogando at 832-767-8826 or at carmenogando@yahoo.com.
If you need a substitute, please call your division leaders:
Robyn Laumbach for Midnight to 6AM (281-360-7897)
Karen Ehlig for 6AM to Noon (281-361-7127)
Annunciata Hopkins for Noon to 6PM (281-360-1258)
Beth Beckham for 6PM to Midnight (281-435-1439)

Martha’s Kitchen has been very busy feeding our guests this summer and would like to thank all of the parents that brought their teenage and young adult sons and daughters to volunteer at Martha’s Kitchen. We hope that you enjoyed the experience of seeing how our ministry operates and how appreciative our guests are to receive a hot nutritious lunch each week. Martha’s Kitchen is praying for all students, teachers and administrators as you return to school after the summer break. We also appeal to parishioners to continue your donations to our ministry by indicating “Martha’s Kitchen” on your check or by using your special Martha’s Kitchen envelope.

May God Bless You! (Note: Martha’s Kitchen will be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 4.)

A Note from the Criminal Justice Ministry
Celebrating Mr. Joseph Ortego’s Life.

Most of St. Martha’s parishioners didn’t know Joe’s ministry. Why? Because he participated in a hidden one; “Prison Ministry”.

He started in 1996 in a juvenile detention center in the Clemens unit located in Brazoria County. After going there for 5 years, he added to his schedule classes at the Wynne and Lychner unit.

In 2011 Joseph became the Catholic Chaplain at the women TDCJ Plane State jail until his death on July 29, 2017. He especially loved preparing the women in Plane State for First Confession and Eucharist. He was much loved at Plane for his compassion, gentleness and devotion to the Blessed Mother.

He and his wife of 45 years, Betty, kept an amazing, well organized, Catholic ministry for those women learning about their Catholic faith through Catholic programs on Thursdays and Saturdays. He had the ability of recruiting priests to celebrate weekly Holy Mass (something not very common in TDCJ prisons due to lack of priests). Joe was a faithful Catholic warrior and will be greatly missed!!!
Ministerio Hispano

A la familia parroquial de Santa Marta,
La lectura del Evangelio para el Vigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario registra una interesante conversación entre Jesús y una mujer cuya hija es “atormentada por un demonio”. Jesús responde a su petición diciendo que su misión es únicamente para el pueblo de Israel. La mujer no se da por vencida, incluso cuando Jesús cita un proverbio del día sobre no “arrojar comida a los perros”. Esta respuesta de Jesús parece ser claramente ofensiva y degradante para esta madre que simplemente busca la curación para su hijo. Sin embargo, el evangelista aprovecha la ocasión para enseñar una lección muy importante a la Iglesia. La mujer es una cananea, miembro del pueblo que Israel había conquistado cuando se apoderaron de la Tierra Prometida. En la época de Cristo hubo todavía un evidente prejuicio por parte de los contemporáneos de Jesús hacia los cananeos. La Iglesia primitiva luchó poderosamente al tratar con tales prejuicios cuando los discípulos tuvieron que decidir cómo predicar el Evangelio “a todas las naciones”. Cabe señalar que estos primeros discípulos eran convertidos de la fe judía y había leyes que indicaban cómo debían tratar con los gentiles. Por lo tanto, parece que Mateo incluye este encuentro extraño para demostrar que incluso el mismo Jesús vino a ver que esta mujer cananea también merecía aceptación amorosa como hijo de Dios. Jesús declara al final de esta historia: “¡Oh mujer, grande es tu fe!”. En el centro de esta enseñanza evangélica está la necesidad de que la Iglesia, el Cuerpo de Cristo, sea verdaderamente católica o inclusiva en su proclamación de la Buena Nueva y en su evangelización misionera. Tristemente, tales prejuicios y malentendidos experimentados por esta mujer continúan existiendo en nuestro mundo y también en nuestras comunidades de fe. El Papa Francisco nos ha invitado a salir a las periferias de nuestra sociedad y a comenzar a encontrarse con personas que luchan por ser aceptadas como seres humanos merecedores de respeto y compasión. Históricamente hay muchos tales ejemplos de prejuicio y odio que se convirtió en la ley de la tierra o por lo menos el comportamiento aceptado que incluso los cristianos abrazaron. Cuando algunos de los primeros colonos llegaron a este país, consideraron a los nativos americanos como “salvajes” y los relegaron a "reservas" cuando fueron desposeídos de sus tierras. Individuos negros fueron traídos a este país y vendidos como “esclavos” para trabajar en las plantaciones de los terratenientes. Nuestra nación luchó una guerra civil por esta práctica y las secuelas de la esclavitud continúan plagando nuestra nación. Cada generación parece ser desafiada a lidiar con una variedad de malentendidos y puntos de vista que son perjudiciales para ciertos grupos de individuos. En los últimos años, la lucha de la comunidad LGBT presenta a la Iglesia una oportunidad y una misión para construir puentes de comprensión y respeto. El Papa Francisco pide que busquemos la guía del Espíritu Santo y tengamos el coraje de aceptar los desafíos difíciles de tales misiones. Él nos aconseja que tal trabajo misionero no se hace principalmente predicando a la gente sobre el cristianismo sino siendo un verdadero seguidor de Jesús y simplemente alcanzando amor a otros que son nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el Señor.

Fr. Chester Borski

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El Evangelio de Juan nos lleva a la vida y la Presencia Real de Cristo; verdadero Dios e Hijo de Dios.

Este Evangelio nos ofrece un aspecto único sobre el Bautismo, la Eucaristía y el Misterio de Cristo.

Unete a nosotros para descubrir lo que el Discípulo Amado nos enseña sobre la vida, enseñanzas, milagros y la comunidad de Cristo. ¡Este Evangelio continúa siendo, hoy en día, un testimonio tremendamente significativo!

**Cuándo:** Grupos de damas en inglés - Miércoles 9:45 AM - Noon
Grupos de damas en español – Miércoles 9:45 AM - Noon
Grupos de caballeros – Miércoles 9:45 AM –Noon
(Cuidado de niños solo para las clases de los Miércoles)
Grupos de damas en inglés - Martes 7PM – 9PM
Grupos de caballeros en inglés - Martes 7PM – 9PM
Grupos de damas y caballeros en español –Martes 7– 9PM

**Comienzo de clases y Día de Visitantes** (para consultas):
Clases de la mañana: Septiembre 13
Clases de la noche: Septiembre 19

**Dónde:** Clases de la mañana – Centro de Actividades -Woodland Hills
Clases de la noche– Salón Borski – 2 piso en la escuela

**Para inscripciones o preguntas contacte a:**
Inglés: Ray Baudier, (281) 467-8321 o raybau@suddenlink.net
Español: Zuri Jackson, (281)733-7571 o zurijackson@msn.com
Legión de María—
Somos una organización apostólica de laicos en la Iglesia Católica, aprobada por los seis últimos Papas y endorsada por el Concilio Vaticano II. Realizamos reuniones semanales donde se reza el Santo Rosario, se revisan los trabajos legionarios y se estudian temas formativos para hacer más eficaz el apostolado. Nuestro trabajo consiste en evangelizar y santificar hombres mediante visitas a: familias, cárceles, toques de puertas, llevando la Virgen peregrina a los hogares, entre otras actividades recomendadas por la parroquia.

Les invitamos a que conozcan más y formen parte de este hermoso ministerio que se reúne todos los Viernes a las 7 PM, en el salón #2 de la antigua iglesia 
Sta. Martha 3702 Woodland Hills Dr.
Para más información pueden contactarse a estos números
281-728-9843 Verónica Reyes ó
859-250-3687 Mildred García
**COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE**—Francine Puglia, 281-713-8954

**ACTS RETREAT**—Willie Chesnut, ACTSCore@STMartha-CTS.org

**ANNUNLTMENTS**—Francine Puglia, 281-713-8954

**CARING COOKS**—Karen Rexer, 281-354-8857, or Marion Brown, 281-630-4820

**CATHOLIC Daughters of the AMERICAS**—Sherry Hundl, yellowrose716@live.com

**CENTERING PRAYER**—Greg LaCOUR, gplacour@gmail.com

**COLUMBIAN SQUIRES**—Mark Roseland, 713-419-2532

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST**—MaryLou & Ramon De La Cruz, 832-527-1072

**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP**—Vicki Ruck, victoriar.hall@att.net

**FAMILY**—Abby Youngblood, 281-799-0849

**GRIEF SHARE**—Lauren Cardella, 281-360-2714

**HOMEBOUND ERRAND COMMITTEE**—Greta Verhalen, verhanleng@stmarthacs.org

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**—Tom Gallagher, 713-364-9780

**LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS**—Jodi Schod, 281-713-8955

**MARRIAGE PREP. INFORMATION**—To Register call 281-358-6637

**MARThA’S QUILTERS**—Helaine Parks, 713-824-7730 or Sally Wassermann, salwass@aol.com

**MOM’S COLLEGIAN PRAYER GROUP**—Gloria Garcia, ggirlor@yahoo.com

**MONICA’S HOPE**—Paul & Marcia Aegerter, 281-358-2590

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**—Marion and Chris Dickson, 713-516-7097

**NEWCOMERS/WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY**—Kristene Hergenrother, 281-713-8961

**NORTHWEST CATHOLIC SINGLES**—Peggy Broyles, 281-359-4560

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS**—Barb Setzer, 281-358-4129

**ROSARY GUILD**—Gilda Womac, 281-989-4241

**SOUTHERN SISTERS**—Ann Clossen, 832-455-3764

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**—Wwww.stmartha.com, Click on Ministries, Community Life, Spiritual Direction

**SUNDAY NURSERY**—Patty Jackson, 281-358-1959x250

**TEAMS OF OUR LADY**—Jeff & Denise Standley, jds_standley@hotmail.com Bill & Tammy Spikerman, tammysspikerman@gmail.com

**VOCATIONS COMMITTEE**—Phil & Diane Applegate, 281-361-2913

**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON**—Carol Bateman, 281-359-1976 or Nonn Karpinski, 281-504-4430

**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON TRANSPORT.**—Domenica Seitz, 713-899-1016

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES</th>
<th>Olga Najar, 281-713-8966</th>
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<tr>
<td>CANCARE</td>
<td>Debbie Mikan, 832-723-3459, <a href="mailto:dmikan@embarqmail.com">dmikan@embarqmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY</td>
<td>Jaime S. Gomez, 281-973-1857</td>
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<td>E-MAIL PRAYER WARRIORS</td>
<td>Donna Rube, <a href="mailto:dmrueday@earthlink.net">dmrueday@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>H.A.A.M.</td>
<td>Alejandra Gutierrez, 832-860-4860</td>
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<td>HOSPITAL MINISTRY</td>
<td>Sheila Yepsen, 281-358-5585</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARIA GORETTI NETWORK</td>
<td>Shannon Deitz, 713-775-9213</td>
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<td>MARTHA’S KITCHEN</td>
<td>Sr. Maria Elena, 713-224-2522</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Paola Lam, 832-284-1891</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROLIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)</td>
<td>713-225-5826</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT RACHEL</td>
<td>Bonnie Develle, 713-435-9215</td>
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**STEWARDSHIP of Time, Talent and Treasure**

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<tr>
<th>BUSINESS MANAGER</th>
<th>Theresa Miller, 281-713-8957</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Steve Teets, 281-358-6637x254</td>
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