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: .......................... 5:30 PM
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 5:15 - 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 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.

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

Dec. 17, 2017

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord God make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11

DECEMBER 17, 2017
TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).
Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).
Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Thursday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Saturday: St. John of Kanty

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 Dec. 17. (Donations must be received by deadline to be included in the Christmas bulletin.)

MASS INTENTIONS
Mon./Dec. 18
8:30 AM †Ana Maria MacDonald
Tues./Dec. 19
8:30 AM †Tony Priesol
7 PM †Jack DiMaio
Wed./Dec. 20
8:30 AM †Javier Auguilar
10 AM †Jeff Timpanaro

Thurs./Dec. 21
6:30 AM †Patrick Lobo
8:30 AM Msgr. Chester Borski
Fri./Dec. 22
8:30 AM †Kevin Briones
Sat./Dec. 23
5:30 PM †Warren, Florence & Sharon Kerrigan

Please note: During the school year, the 8:30 AM School Mass takes place in the Activity Center (Faith Formation campus). NEXT SCHOOL MASS: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3.

All are Welcome to Monsignor Chester Borski’s 50th Ordination Anniversary Celebrations

Receptions following December 16-17
Weekend Masses

Ordination Anniversary Mass & Luncheon
Thursday December 21st
12:00 noon

Fr. Borski requests only your presence – no gifts please. If you want to make a donation in his honor, you may do so to “St. Martha Church-Debt Reduction” or “St. Martha Harvey Relief Fund.”

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office will close at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
Dec. 24 (Vigil): 4 PM, 7 PM, Midnight
Dec. 25: 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM (Spanish Mass)

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE
Dec. 31 (Vigil): 5:30 PM
Jan. 1: 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM (Spanish Mass)
To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent give us an indication about what waiting and prayerful preparation for the coming of the Lord should begin to feel like in our lives. The concepts used most frequently at this half-way point of the Advent season are words like peace, gratitude, and joy. The waiting should not be one of frustration, emptiness or feeling overwhelmed with things that need to be done. The consistent Advent message from the Word of God is that, despite whatever setbacks we may experience in life, whether at home or in our work, we must never let those experiences begin to destroy that fundamental joy and gratitude for life that is so clearly the gift of the Messiah. Someone once remarked that many of us “sin needlessly disobeying the Church’s call to rejoice.” In a world that frequently seems poised to self-destruct through greed for wealth and power, it can seem that to rejoice and to be grateful for the gift of life is a flight from reality. Most of what our culture calls happiness, from the complacent self-congratulation for apparent success to the boisterous escapism in our holiday diversions, is really a weak imitation of the authentic joy and gratitude described by Isaiah in our first reading: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the world.

As we reflect on St. Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians where he urges us to “rejoice always” and the Gospel’s invitation that we be “witnesses” to the Light as was John the Baptist, we realize that the reason for our joy is the fact that God has already called us to share in the very gift of eternal life for which we long. Thus, we can begin to understand the world and our place in it, not simply in terms of our own experiences, but rather in terms of the plan God has for us in Christ Jesus. These beautiful readings from Scripture provide the perfect setting and theme as I celebrate 50 years of being a priest in the Church. On December 21, 1967, I was ordained at the “Altar of the Chair” in the Basilica of St. Peter’s in Rome, Italy. Together with fifty-one other men from dioceses across the United States, I was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood through the imposition of hands by Bishop Francis Reh and was anointed “to bring glad tidings” to the people of God. My mother and father, a brother and a sister, two aunts, and two family friends made the journey from Texas to Italy to share that special moment. Fifty years later I am blessed to have hundreds of “brothers and sisters” in my parish family who allow me to serve them as a parish priest. I hope you can join me in giving thanks to God for such a wonderful life of priestly service! I want to thank all those who have provided prayerful support along the way during this incredible journey. May God bless you abundantly.

Fr. Chester Borski

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 as well as the Fourth weekend of Advent (Dec. 23 & 24) 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.

In Our Prayers

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

Norman Deitz (father of Neal Deitz)
Vincent Grande (father of Phyllis Grande Holly)
Bernardina Pagan Rivera
Blossom Byngton
Benedict Byron Bertrand (husband of Ginger Bertrand)
Mary Callahan

Please remember the sick and their families in your prayers: Don and Angie Chesnut, Muriel Williams, Walden Landry, Rodney Powell, Joan Brandt, Eleonora DeLeon, Catherine Sedlak, Michael Kohler, Carmen Aloisio, Carlene Stroupe, Sue Hammer, Rowan Mac Sullivan, Terry McDaid, Bettie Hale, Dennis Alvary, Brandon Evans, Michael Adkins, Dona Beaston, Bill Barineau, Sally Howard, Dickie Howard, Randall Herr, Claudia Peak, Beverly Rose, Ann Colangelo, Daniel Norton, Miriam Meier, Angelika Mejia, Chris Thibodeaux, Helen Kataeski, Catherine Casey, Karen Eastman, Elizabeth Modenbach, Oscar Velasco, Judy Miles, Gerald Bucht, Noreen Stack, Josie Perez, Mary Silvers, Jo White, Maria Coronado, Millie Smaardyk, Larry Auman, Lynette Smith, Peggy O’Brien, Shannon Bosco, Mary Lou Sepulveda, Alfredo Soto, Lisa Ferguson, Carlos Rodriguez, Efren Martinez, Brodie Nikolai, Paula Seams, Victor Hugo Carbajal, Penny Gaido, Cornelio S. J. Obordo, Polita Luna, Dennis R. Barker Jr., Denise McLeod, Dorothy Parker, Deacon John Schuster, Grant McTaggart, Richard Kuehler, Martha Busch, Joan Evans, Marie Hubbard, Rick Frantz, Lupe Renteria, Bruce Ward, Mark Phillips, Rod Schoelner, Aida Palmeri, Jason Whitcomb, Natalie Kapnick, Natasha Cooke Ramos, David LeCompte

Communion to the Sick: If you or a loved one are in Kingwood Hospital, and would like a Communion Minister to visit, call the church office at 281-358-6637 to let us know. Hospital regulations require us to have the patient’s name and room number before we send someone.

Military Wreath: Please pray for our active military as seen on the wreath in the Narthex. To add a loved contact Jodi at 281-358-6637 or jodis@stmartha.com.
Merry Christmas - Young at Heart-ers!

We would like to wish all of our Young at Heart friends a very Merry Christmas and all God’s Blessings in the New Year. We loved having you with us this past year and look forward to seeing you again in 2018. There will NOT be a luncheon on Dec. 20 or 27. Check the bulletin for our first luncheon in January, 2018.

St. Martha Men’s ACTS Retreat
Feb. 8-11, 2018 (English)

Registration of the Men’s English ACTS Retreat will be held on Jan. 6-7, 2018 at all masses. The ACTS retreat is a three day/night 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 questions, you can contact the retreat director, Gustavo Zapata (832-247-9955), co-directors Tom Watkins (713-894-4488), Manuel Walters (832-312-3043) or acts-m21@stmartha.co. Online pre-registration OPEN at: http://goo.gl/zuiXBX

St. Martha’s Men’s Retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center
Jan. 5-7, 2018

Start the New Year with a relaxing and prayerful Retreat Weekend.

Retreat Theme:
Ave Crux, Spes Unica, meaning, "Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope." Harmonious with the mission of the Passionists, the theme of the Cross is central to an authentic spiritual journey of any Catholic. Is the Cross our only hope? Join us to probe this question, as we look deeper into the relationship of Jesus, His Cross, and our redemption. For more information contact Bruce Farmer at 832-656-1393 or to register, please visit the website www.holynameretreatcenter.com

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. Learn simple yet powerful tools to communicate more effectively and feel more connected to your spouse. Whether married six months or 60 years, this series provides an opportunity to deepen your relationship and grow in holiness. It will start Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7 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, email Francine at franp@stmartha.com. Childcare may be requested with your registration. To cover the cost of each participant manual, $30 per couple will be collected at the first session.

2nd Family Ministry seeking a New Ministry Leader

The St. Martha 2nd Family Ministry is looking for a new leader due to illness of the existing leader. The Mission of the 2nd Family Ministry is to provide non-medical respite help to those who are caring for a loved one in their home. The Ministry Leader along with a social worker from Interfaith Care Partners of Houston makes an initial visit and evaluation when requests for help are received by the parish. The Ministry Leader communicates those needs to the 2nd Family Ministry Team members, introduces volunteer team members to the Care Partner and coordinates the assistance. The Team leader conducts four meetings a year, coordinates training of team members with Interfaith Care Partners, keeps records of requests and volunteers. Requirements are a desire to help those caring for a loved one and the ability to communicate via email. If you would like more information about this rewarding ministry leadership position, please contact Peggy Wehe 281-546-9884 or email stmartha2ndfamily@gmail.com.

St. Martha’s
Faith Formation Office
will be closed from
Dec. 21, 2017 thru
Jan. 1, 2018 for the
holidays. We will re-open on Jan. 2, 2018.
Are you called to the Ministry to the Sick?

You have a unique educational opportunity to increase your skills and expand your knowledge in the caring ministry to others. The Archdiocese is offering two classes:

- Level 1 – Pastoral Visitor Training
- Level 2 – Pastoral Care Ministry Training

If enough people from St. Martha are interested, then the classes would be taught at our parish! What a blessing!

For more information please call: Sheila Yepsen, 281-782-4078

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE—NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, Dec. 23-24, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food and personal care items. Donations will benefit St. John of the Cross Food Pantry in New Caney. Thank you for your continued generosity by contributing non-perishable grocery items to help those in need. (Please place your Food Donation in the Rotunda before Mass. There will be a sign in the Narthex directing everyone to the Rotunda and a sign in the Rotunda showing where to place the food.)

“WAS sick and you visited me...”

Mathew 25:36

UPCOMING TOURS:

- Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral & Houston City Tour—Tuesday, Jan. 9, 8 AM - 5 PM
- MFAH Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens Tour—Thursday, Feb. 8, 8 AM - 4 PM
- Galveston Harbor Tour & the Strand Historic District Tour—Tuesday, April 17, 8 AM - 5:30 PM

Cost of each Tour: $35 per person*
Must be 50+ years old to attend.
Limited number of seats!

The tour bus will depart from Building 3 on the St. Martha Faith Formation Campus at 8 AM. *Please note that meals are not included in the tour price.

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

Explore a bit! Join NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40 and older, on Wednesday, Dec. 20, to talk/drink/eat at 7 PM at RC’s Pizza, 1202 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood. For more info, contact 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.

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.

Jan. 10—March 8, 7-8:30 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: $20 for the book but don’t let cost be a deterrent please!
Adult Organizations/Opportunities

Faith Direct

Can’t find your checkbook or envelope Sunday morning? Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Martha Catholic Church. It is secure, convenient and there is no cost to you. Faith Direct will provide you an offering card to place in the basket during the collections. Sign up today by going to our website at www.stmartha.com and scrolling down to the Electronic Giving Faith Direct icon or visiting www.faithdirect.net, our parish code is TX497

Please Note: Contributions to St. Martha for 2017 must be received by Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31 to be included in your 2017 contributions.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

Our parish is incredibly blessed to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration available in our adoration Chapel 24 hours a day. Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of His infinite love for each of us, He is always present there in the Blessed Sacrament patiently waiting for us to come and spend time with him.

Listed below are hours that are most in need of adorers at this time. However, please note that no hour is really ever “filled” because parishioners are always invited to choose an hour that works best for them, regardless of whether or not there are other adorers already there in prayer.

Both regular adorers and substitutes are needed at this time. Even if you do not have a regular hour, please feel free to visit our Blessed Lord at any time knowing that He is always waiting for us with joyful anticipation.

Open Hours

Monday: 5-6 AM / Friday 11-Noon / Saturday 1-2 AM, 7-8 PM

Second Adorers are needed for the following hours:

- Monday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 AM, 6-7 AM, 10-11 AM, 5-6 PM
- Tuesday: 2-3 AM, 3-4 AM, MIDNIGHT-1 AM
- Wednesday: 12-1 AM, 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, 5-6 PM, 11 PM - MIDNIGHT
- Thursday: 12-1 AM, 1-2 AM, 8-9 AM
- Friday: 12-1 AM, 2-3 AM, 6-7 AM, 7-8 PM, 11 AM-NOON
- Saturday: 10-11 AM, 11-NOON, 1-2 PM, 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM, 10-11 PM
- Sunday: 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, 8-9 AM, 10-11 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: Midnight to 6AM (713-851-8768)
- Karen Ehlig: 6AM to Noon (281-361-7127)
- Annunciata Hopkins: Noon to 6PM (281-360-1258)
- Beth Beckham: 6PM to Midnight 281-435-1439

Parenting and Youth

Children’s Adoration Hour Every Tuesday—10 AM 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 Kristen Johnson at Kristen_alley@yahoo.com or 281-713-2518 if you have any questions.

Callings of all ages!

St. Martha’s Moms Group

Motherhood Fellowship Night:

Please join us Jan. 16. We will meet in the FLC from 7-8:30 PM.

The playdate schedule will be on the Facebook page. 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

Congratulations, Msgr. Borski!

The Vocations Committee extends its deepest appreciation to Msgr. Chester Borski as he celebrates 50 years as a priest of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the gifts of our priests!

Chalice for Vocations:

Please join the Loken 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 Annual Baby Bottle Boomerang
Jan. 20 and 21
Please take one bottle per family, place donation inside and return to the church in one week.
Thank you for your support!
All proceeds benefit the Gabriel Project and Birthright of Humble
Both ministries help women faced with a crisis pregnancy and provide emotional and financial support to ensure that a mother has all she needs to bring her baby home.
We provide unconditional love and understanding to all who seek our help.

Every little bit helps, and we appreciate all you give

Please make all checks out to “St. Martha Catholic Church”

45th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade
Jan. 22, 2018

A Catholic spiritual retreat for those suffering after abortion.
Jan. 5-7
Call today for more information or to register
Julie Fritsch: Office of Pro-Life Activities
713-741-8728 or jkfritsch@archgh.org
(All inquiries and registrations are strictly confidential)

Houston Mass and Rosary Procession for Life
Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018
Mass 8 AM Holy Rosary Church, 3617 Milam St.
After Mass, Rosary procession to Houston Women’s’ Clinic, 4820 San Jacinto
Sponsored by the Galveston-Houston office of Pro-Life Activities
Vicky Whynott 832-875-5126

Texas Rally for Life—Jan. 27, 2018
Mass at 8:15 AM
St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway
Cardinal DiNardo presiding
Buses depart for Austin following Mass. March and Rally begin at 1 PM.
Cost: $25/person. Register at https://archgh.event.com/TexasRallyforLife2018
if you would like to take the bus.

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!
The Gabriel Project is in need of volunteers to help serve this special ministry. Become a Gabriel Angel.

What is a Gabriel Angel? A Gabriel Angel provides friendship, spiritual, and emotional support to expectant mothers and babies in need. If you are interested in becoming a Gabriel Angel, we are offering a training class on Jan. 13, 2018 from 11 AM to 1 PM, in Room #2 at the Faith Formation Campus (3702 Woodland Hills Dr.).

For more information please contact Lynn Davis at 832-527-1658 (English), or Josefina Carvajal at 832-677-7677 (Spanish).

Parish Office closes at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 19 and will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 9:00 AM.

Parish Office closes at noon on Friday, Dec. 22 and will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 9:00 AM.

Parish Office is closed on Monday, Jan. 1 and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 9:00 AM.

Sister Maria Elena and Sister Julie send their congratulations to Msgr. Borski on his upcoming anniversary celebration on December 21. We have all been blessed by his good works, commitment and spiritual leadership. Martha's Kitchen wishes all clergy, parishioners and volunteers a Merry Christmas. May God bless you in the upcoming year with peace, joy and renewed hope. (Note: Martha’s Kitchen will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 2. We will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 3).

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? Call 713-741-8728.

Lynsey Lucas is currently serving a nine month mission with NET Ministries - a Catholic organization that challenges young people to have a relationship with God and embrace the life of the Catholic Church. Her team of 8 young people from all over the US are currently serving at Providence Academy in Plymouth, Minnesota. Their ministry is to immerse in the students' lives by attending some of their theology classes, sitting with them at lunch, leading weekly small groups, showing support at their sports games, dances, concerts, and plays, and leading their class retreats. Through becoming part of the students' lives they hope to form deeper bonds with them so that they can then disciple them one-on-one over the weekends or be a listening ear at school to help them figure out how to live out their faith in their daily lives. The students receive a lot of head knowledge about their faith at school, but Lynsey’s team hopes to bring it to their heart as well that they desire to put Christ at the center of their lives and receive the abundant life He offers. The team would appreciate your prayers - that the students may open their hearts to Christ and to them, and that the entire team would be filled with zeal and joy of the Holy Spirit to be a light to all they encounter this year.
UNBOUND FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE

with Neal and Janet Lozano & Matthew Lozano

FEBRUARY 9-10, 2018

St. Martha's Family Life Center
3702 Woodland Hills Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77339

This conference is for anyone:
bound by past hurts, needing hope in finding
freedom, struggling with the same sin,
needing deliverance

Friday, February 9, 2018 [7:00 - 9:30 PM]
Saturday, February 10, 2018 [8:30 AM - 9:00 PM]

REGISTER
HoustonUnbound.org
Questions: 832.639.3371
www.heartofthefather.com

DESATADO “UNBOUND”
CONFERENCIA LIBERTAD EN CRISTO

UNBOUND es una oración segura, amorosa y
efectiva que ayuda a las personas a responder a las
buenas nuevas y descubrir
su libertad en Cristo

CON LA PARTICIPACIÓN:

NEAL LOZANO
JANET LOZANO
MATTHEW LOZANO

FEBRERO 9-10, 2018
STA. MARTHA - FAMILY LIFE CENTER
3702 woodland Hills Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77339

Esta conferencia es para cualquiera:
ataado/a por heridas pasadas, que necesitan esperanza para
encontrar la libertad, que luchan con el mismo pecado, que necesitan liberación

Viernes, 9 de febrero de 2018 [7:00 - 9:30 PM]
Sábado, 10 de febrero de 2018 [8:30 AM - 9:00 PM]

REGISTRO
HoustonUnbound.org
Preguntas: 832.639.3371

HEART OF THE FATHER ministries
A la familia parroquia de Santa Marta,
Las lecturas de las Escrituras para el tercer domingo de Adviento nos dan una indicación acerca de lo que la preparación en espera y en oración para la venida del Señor debería comenzar a sentirse en nuestras vidas. Los conceptos utilizados con mayor frecuencia en este punto intermedio de la temporada de Adviento son palabras como paz, gratitud y alegría. La espera no debe ser de frustración, vacío o sentirse abrumado con cosas que deben hacerse. El mensaje constante de Adviento de la Palabra de Dios es que, a pesar de los contratiempos que podamos experimentar en la vida, ya sea en casa o en nuestro trabajo, nunca debemos permitir que esas experiencias comiencen a destruir esa alegría y gratitud fundamentales por la vida que es claramente un regalo del Mesías. Alguien comentó una vez que muchos de nosotros "pescamos desobedeci-do innecesariamente el llamado de la iglesia a regoci-jarnos". En un mundo que con frecuencia parece auto-destruirse a través de la codicia de riqueza y poder, puede parecer que alegarse y agradecer el don de la vida es un vuelo de la realidad. La mayor parte de lo que nuestra cultura llama felicidad, desde la autocom-placencia complaciente por el éxito aparente hasta el punto intermedio de la temporada de Adviento son pa-
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Fr. Chester Borski
Ministerio Hispano

ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA PERPETUA

Nuestra parroquia es grandemente bendecida de contar con Adoración Eucarística Perpetua en nuestra capilla de adoración veinticuatro horas al día. Jesús mora en el Santísimo Sacramento debido a su amor infinito por cada uno de nosotros. Él siempre espera pacientemente a que estemos ante su presencia y le acompañemos.

En la lista a continuación están las horas más necesitados de adoradores en este momento.

Te invitamos a que participes en este hermoso ministerio. Siéntete libre de venir y adorar a nuestro Señor Jesucristo de acuerdo a tu tiempo y disponibilidad, independientemente de si hay o no otros adoradores presentes en oración. Jesús siempre nos espera con gozo anticipado.

**HORAS DISPONIBLES PARA ADORADORES**
LUNES: 5-6 AM / VIERNES 11-MEDIODÍA /
SÁBADOS: 1-2 AM, 7-8 PM

**HORAS DISPONIBLES PARA CO-ADORADORES Y SUBSTITUTOS**
Lunes: 1-2 AM , 3-4 AM, 6-7 AM,  10-11 AM, 6-5 PM.
Martes:  2-3 AM, 3-4 AM, MEDIANOCH-1 AM.
Miércoles:  12-1 AM, 1-2 AM,  2-3 AM, 8-9 AM, 10-11 AM,
           5-6 PM, 11 PM –MEDIANOCH.
Jueves:  12-1 AM, 1-2 AM, 8-9 AM.
Viernes: 12-1 AM, 2-3 AM, 6-7 AM, 7-8 PM, 11 AM-MEDIODÍA.
Sábado:  10-11 AM, 11 AM-MEDIODÍA, 1-2 PM, 2-3 PM,
           3-4 PM, 10-11 PM.
Domingo: 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, 8-9 AM, 10-11 AM.

Si usted está interesado en participar en este ministerio o desea obtener más información, por favor contactar a: Carmen Ogando, 832-767-8826, carmenogando@yahoo.com

La vocación al sacerdocio ES:

**Un misterio de amor** entre un Dios que llama por amor y un hombre que le responde libremente y por amor.

**Un llamado** a ser puente entre Dios y los hombres.

**Un llamado** a seguir en el mundo, para salvarlo, pero sin ser del mundo.

**La decisión** de un joven que quiere dedicar su vida a ayudar a sus hermanos a salvar sus almas y hacer este mundo más como Dios lo pensó.

La vocación al sacerdocio NO es

**Un sentimiento:** se suele decir que "siento la vocación". En realidad la vocación no se siente. Es, más bien, una certeza interior que nace de la gracia de Dios que toca mi alma y pide una respuesta libre. Si Dios te llama, la certeza irá creciendo en la medida de que tu respuesta vaya siendo más generosa.

**Un destino irrevocable** (ineludible): Muchos creen que el que tiene la vocación "se va porque se va". No. La vocación es un misterio de amor y el amor es siempre libre. Si yo no respondo con generosidad, el llamado de Dios queda frustrado.

**Un refugio** para el que tiene miedo a la vida.

**Una carrera** como cualquier otra: es una historia de amor.

**Una seguridad matemática:** en la vocación sacerdotal tienes que aceptar el riesgo del amor, pero recuerda que es un riesgo en manos de Dios. [http://www.lc-spain.org/](http://www.lc-spain.org/)

**Dec. 21- 7:00-9:30 p.m.:** Reunión de discernimiento vocacional a la vida sacerdotal y religiosa en español para jóvenes adultos solteros (hombres y mujeres) de 18 a 35 años de edad que hayan completado preparatoria y/o equivalente. Las reuniones se llevarán a cabo en la Casa de Oración y Convento de las Hermanas Carmelitas Misioneras de Santa Teresa (9600 Deer Trail Dr., Houston, TX 77038). Habrá convivencia, comida, música, oración y temas vocacionales presentados por sacerdotes, religiosas y seminaristas. Evento gratuito. Registración, videos, y detalles en www.houstonvocations.com/descubre

**Cáliz de Vocaciones**

El ministerio de Vocaciones promueve la oración por las vocaciones a través del cáliz de vocaciones, donde la familia recibe durante una semana en su casa un cáliz sacramental que ha sido usado en Misa y reza en familia por las vocaciones. Si desea recibir el Cáliz de Vocaciones en su casa por favor contacte a William Lasalle (Tony) al (201)913-6728 o a onairtony@gmail.com
## Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

### Administrative Ministries

**BUSINESS MANAGER**—Theresa Miller, 281-713-8957  
**FACILITY MANAGER**—Steve Teets, 281-358-6637x254  
**FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**—Charlie Simpson, 713-410-2844  
**MARTHA’S GARDENERS**—Wayne Theis, wayne.theis@suddenlink.net  
**ST. MARTHA’S OFFICE ANGELS**—Lourdes Fernandez, 281-358-6637x262

### Community Life Ministries

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE**—Francoine Puglia, 281-713-8954  
**ACTS RETREAT**—Willie Chesnut, ACTSCore@StMartha-ACTS.org  
**ANNULMENTS**—Francoine Puglia, 281-713-8954  
**CAREGIVERS**—Karen Rexer, 281-358-8857, or Marian Brown, 281-630-4820  
**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**—Sherry Hundl, yellowrose716@live.com  
**CENTERING PRAYER**—Greg LaCour, yellowrose716@live.com  
**COLUMBIA SQUIRES**—Charlie Garland, 713-203-2101  
**COUPLES FOR CHRIST**—MaryLou & Ramon De La Cruz, 832-527-1072  
**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP**—Vicki Ruck, vickiruck@suddenlink.net  
**FAMILY**—Abby Youngblood, 281-799-0949  
**GRIEFSHARE**—Laura Cardella, 281-360-2714  
**HOMECOMING CEREMONY COMMITTEE**—Gretta Verhalen, verhaleng@stmarthacs.org  
**KINESTS OF COLUMBUS**—Tom Gallagher, 713-364-9780  
**MARRIAGE PREP. INFORMATION**—To Register call 281-358-6637  
**MARTHA’S QUILTERS**—Helaine Parks, 713-824-7730 or dan2@turbineengine.com  
**MOM’S COLLEGIATE PRAYER GROUP**—Glória Gamez, mornglor@yahoo.com  
**MONICA’S HOPE**—Carol Bateman, 281-359-1976  
**NEWCOMERS/WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY**—Gretta Verhalen, verhaleng@stmarthacs.org  
**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES**—Peggy Broyles, 281-359-4560  
**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS**—Barb Setser, 281-358-4129  
**ROSCARY BAPTISM**—Sidney Loughridge, 281-358-5523  
**STAFF VOLUNTEERS**—Tony Lasalle, 646-489-1554  
**VOCACIONES Y CÁLIZ DE VOCACIONES**—Jaime Gomez, 281-973-1857  

### Faith Formation

**DIRECTORY OF FAITH FORMATION**—Carta Lewton, 281-358-1959x213  
**CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY**—Pam Rockwell, 281-358-1959x230  
**RCIA**—RCIA@stmartha.com  
**YASHA**—Yasha@stmartha.com  
**ELEMENARY SCHOOL & VBS**—Patty Jost, 281-713-8963  
**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**—Martha Burns, 281-358-5523  
**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 LITURGICAL**—Marilyn Parra, marilyn@stmartha.com  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**—Dr. Daniel Knaggs, daniel@stmartha.com  
**LITURGY COORDINATOR FOR LIFETEEN**—Joy Ehrman, 281-358-1959x251  
**ALTERN SERVERS**—Jennifer Farace, jfarace4@gmail.com  
**BAPTISM**—281-358-6637  
**CANTORS**—281-358-6637  
**CHILDRENS’ ADORATION**—Kristen Johnson, 281-713-2158  
**CHILDREN’S CHOIR**—281-358-6637  
**CHILDREN’S LITURGY**—Jaclyn Dement, stmarthacm@hotmail.com  
**COMMUNION TO THE SICK**—Hospital Visit: Gene Goll, 281-728-0956  
**NURSING HOME & HOUSEBOUND**—Kathy Gearhart, 281-713-2154  
**Hispanic Communion to the Sick**—Amelia Murphy, 713-865-8946  
**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCARISTIA**—Pam Rockwell, 281-358-1959, x230  
**LECTORS**—Richard Lowell, 281-989-1097  
**MARTHA’S ALTAR GUILD & DESIGNERS**—Marilyn Parra, marilyn@stmartha.com  
**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**—Carmen Ynigo, 832-767-8826  
**POWERSPOCKET MINISTRY TEAM**—Rowan Ljungdahl, rowanlj@gmail.com  
**QUINCENAERAS**—Yazmin Lago, 281-713-2032  
**SAINTS**—Art Volltmann, 281-361-6117  
**SOUND BOARD MINISTRY**—David Boyd, david.L.boyd@gmail.com  
**USHERS**—Barry Robichaux, Barry.Robichaux@us.ibm.com

### Outreach Ministries

**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**—Olga Najari, 281-713-9866  
**AMCARE**—Debbie Mikan, 832-723-3459, dmikan@outlook.com  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**—Jaime Gomez, 281-973-1857  
**E-MAIL PRAYER WARRIORS**—Donna Rueby, dmruney@earthlink.net  
**H.A.A.M.**—Alejandra Gutierrez, 832-860-4860  
**HOSPITAL MINISTRY**—Ruth Yenuesal, 281-782-4078  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS**—Terry Stelman, terry.stelman@convendia.org  
**MARTHA’S KITCHEN**—Fr. Sr. Maria Elena, 713-224-2522  
**MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY**—Paola Lam, 832-775-9213  
**PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)**—713-225-5826  
**PROJECT RACHEL**—713-741-8728

### Outreach Ministries Cont.

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE**—281-358-6637  
**ST. JOSEPH HELPERS**—Bill Beck, 281-360-7023  
**ST. MARTHA BETWEEN JOBS AND BEYOND**—Jeff & Denise Standley, 713-361-2913  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**—281-358-6636  
**SECOND FAMILY MINISTRY**—Patricia Lopez, 281-389-1210  
**MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS DE LA EUCARISTIA**—Lourdes Galvez, 713-775-6824  
**MARIAGUILLOTES**—Pastor Pastora, 832-514-5741 or 832-633-0145  
**MARIA GORETTI NETWORK**—Patricia Lopez, 281-389-1210  
**MINISTROS EN ESPAÑOL**—Duartes de la Laiva, 713-775-6824  
**HOSPITALIDAD**—Gustavo Zapata, 832-247-9955  
**LECTORES**—Kristen Johnson, 281-713-2158  
**LEGIÓN DE MARÍA**—Veronica Reyes, 281-728-8943  
**VOCACIONES Y CÁLIZ DE VOCACIONES**—Tony Lasalle, 646-489-1554

### For the Weekend of Dec. 9 & 10 Your Gifts of Treasure Resulted In:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Budget</td>
<td>$76,735</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$45,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Day-Immaculate Conc.</td>
<td>$6,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Day-Christmas</td>
<td>$6,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over/(Under)</td>
<td>$49,898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year To Date</td>
<td>$1,841,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Budget</td>
<td>$1,711,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$130,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special collections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>$11,121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha’s Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired Priest Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign for Hungary Dev.</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingwood Harvey Relief</td>
<td>$1,639</td>
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### Current Loan Debt: $9,737,863