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): ...............................8:30 AM
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 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

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

MARK 1:14-15

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 21, 2018

Baptized into Christ Jesus, we worship as one and reach out to all.
TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — The people of Nineveh believed God and turned from their evil ways (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).
Psalm — Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).
Second Reading — The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).
Gospel — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:14-20).


READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30, or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Tuesday: St. Vincent; Saint Marianne Cope
Wednesday: St. Francis de Sales
Thursday: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Friday: Ss. Timothy and Titus
Saturday: St. Angela Merici; Blessed Virgin Mary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!
Ash Wednesday – February 14
A day of fast and abstinence.

MASS INTENTIONS
Mon./Jan. 22
8:30 AM For the unborn

Tues./Jan. 23
8:30 AM †Theodore Bella
†Stephen Kovacik
Mark Barile
7 PM †Jeff Jeffers
†Chris Coschigana

Wed./Jan. 24
8:30 AM †Joseph White
Angie Shepherd
10 AM †Lester Guillotte, Sr.
†Alberta & Jim Bosson
†Jack Conlon

Thurs./Jan. 25
6:30 AM For the Parish
8:30 AM †Jeanne Fontenot
†Jerry King
Msgr Chester Borski

Fri./Jan. 26
8:30 AM †Jeffrey Evrard
†Bob Landvogt
†Byron Bertrand

Sat./Jan. 27
5:30 PM †Adolph & Estelle Jodal
†Wade Preston
†Elizabeth Ann Mohr

Sun./Jan. 28
7 AM †Julie Carroll
9 AM †Bev Schroeder
†George “Cy” Crotti
†Blanch Dobbins
11 AM †Margarita Eliazo
†Rena Stevens
†Juan W. Lopez
1 PM For the Parish
5:30 PM †Halic Noel Jones
†Elizabeth Anne Mohr
†Betty Mohr

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES—FEB. 2
Feb. 2, the final day of the 40-day-long Christmastide season, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or, more popularly, Candlemas. This feast is based on the Scripture passage in Luke 2:22-40 where the Holy Family journeys to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of Jesus to present him to God and offer sacrifice in the temple. At this time Mary completes the ritual purification required of women after childbirth, and Joseph offers the sacrifice for the redemption of the firstborn male, as written in the Mosaic Law. During their time in the temple Simeon gave his famous prophecy about the Christ Child being a light to the Gentile nations and a sign for the Jews, and that a sword would pierce Mary’s soul.

Connected to Simeon’s prophecy, on this day the Church has a special ritual involving the blessing of candles, the candles being a symbol of Christ whose birth illuminated the world’s darkness. St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking on this symbol, considers three things in the blessed Candle: the wax, the wick, and the flame. The wax, he says, is the production of the virginal bee, is the Flesh of our Lord; the wick, which is within, is His Soul; the flame, which burns on top, is His divinity.”

At this Feast the churches bless the candles that are going to be used through that year and the faithful will often bring candles to have them blessed for use at home throughout the year. Join us for a special blessing of the candles on Friday, Feb. 2 during the 8:30 AM Mass.

Candlemas
To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time have a real sense of urgency about them. In the first reading from the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament the prophet announces, “Forty days more and Nineveh will be destroyed.” In the Gospel of Mark Jesus proclaims, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” In both situations the focus is not so much that God is using a threat in order to get us human beings to obey. Rather the Word of God is revealing to us that we possess the power to change (“repent”) and thus help bring good into our lives and into the lives of others. We do not need a prophet to remind us that pride, greed, and hatred constantly bring the world to the brink of destruction. The disaster that threatens humanity is not something that God sends our way. It is something that we humans do to one another. The message from these Scripture readings remind us that, just as the danger of destruction does not arise from some huge outside force, so too does the hope for salvation.

The proclamation of the coming of the kingdom by Jesus is very clear. This kingdom was begun when Jesus was born and entered our human history. This same kingdom is planted in our hearts when we were baptized. All of us are bearers of God’s kingdom and agents for change in our world. The kingdom will grow as we grow in our baptismal commitment and as we begin to accept responsibility for our own personal growth as disciples of Jesus and thus change agents in our society.

The Gospel also teaches us that our response will involve personal sacrifice if it is to be authentic and open to God’s kingdom. When Jesus called Simon and Andrew to become his disciples, the text tells us that they “abandoned their nets and followed him.” In other words these fishermen sacrificed their work and livelihood and followed the call of the Lord. There does not seem to have been any hesitation on their part. The same is true when Jesus called James and John, the sons of Zebedee. “They left their father in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.” I believe that most human beings truly want to do good and help others. However, we tend to hesitate and postpone our decision to answer God’s call. Sometimes we are not confident that we can make a difference or that we possess the abilities and the talents to bring about the change our world needs. We might be afraid of the personal sacrifice that the Lord will ask of us. Whatever the reason may be, the Word of God summons each of us to help build the kingdom. And there is an urgency that we take up the challenge today!

Fr. Chester Borski

In Our Prayers

Please remember the recently deceased and their families in your prayers:

- Penny (Mary) Stark
- Bill McMullen (brother-in-law of Carol Bateman)
- Florence Eckerman
- Lucille G. Melancon (mother of Gary Rabalais)
- Maria Luisa Avina (mother of Anthony Avina)

Please remember the sick and their families in your prayers:

- Catherine Seldlak, Carmen Aloisio, Carlene Stroupe, Sue Hammer, Rowan Mae Sullivan, Terry Daid, Bette Hale, Dennis Alvary, Brandon Evans, Michael Adkins, Dona Beaston, Bill Barineau, Sally Howard, Dickie Howard, Randall Herr, Claudia Peak, Beverly Rose, Ann Colangelo, Daniel Nortom, Miriam Meier, Angelika Mejia, Chris Thibodeaux, Helen Katacski, Catherine Casey, Karen Eastman, Elizabeth Modenbach, Oscar Velasco, Judy Miles, Gerald Buchta, Noreen Stack, Josie Perez, Mary Silvers, Jo White, Maria Coronado, Millie Smaardy, Larry Auman, Lynette Smith, Peggy O’Brien, Shannon Bosco, Mary Lou Sepulveda, Lisa Ferguson, Carlos Rodriguez, Efren Martinez, Brodie Nikolai, Paula Sewa, Victor Hugo Carabajal, Penny Guido, Cornelio S. J. Obordo, Dennis R. Barker Jr., Denise McLeod, Dorothy Parker, Deacon John Schustler, 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, Ed Vergara, Jayne Haydel, Presley Roberts, Jack Mills, Clyde Francis, Sr. Maria Elena Lopez, Mindy Burns, Jean Craig, Corbin Owens, Jennifer and James Owens

Bishops’ Fund for Latin America

Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Please be generous in the collection for the Church in Latin America next weekend.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE

Next weekend, Jan. 27 & 28, 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.)

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 jods@stmartha.com.
**St. Martha Men’s ACTS Retreat**  
**Feb. 8-11, 2018 (English)**

Registration of the Men’s English ACTS Retreat has begun. 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), or acts-m21@stmartha.co. Online pre-registration OPEN at: http://goo.gl/zuiXBX

**St. Martha Women’s ACTS Retreat**  
**March 22-25, 2018**

Registration for the March Women’s English ACTS Retreat will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4th after each mass in the Narthex. The ACTS retreat is a three day/three night retreat that focuses on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service and is presented by parishioners of St. Martha’s. 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

**Pro-Life Prayer Opportunities**

Would you like to meet with other St. Martha parishioners to pray for an end to abortion and to offer real support to the young women in the Houston area struggling with an unplanned pregnancy? Please join us!

**Daily:** After each 8:30 Mass, meet at the back of the sanctuary for a Pro-Life rosary in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue.

**Weekly:** After the Thursday rosary, carpool for a light breakfast locally, then for an hour of prayer outside the Planned Parenthood in downtown Houston. Please call Joseph Winslow: (832) 412-8765 with any questions.

**A NEW WAY TO LOVE**  
*Living God’s Purpose for Your Marriage*

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 frnp@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.

**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON - Pizza Day!**

Young at Heart-ers - Let's relax a bit this week and enjoy some fellowship, fun, and pizza. Join us for fellowship, bingo and lunch at St. Martha's Family Life Center on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Bingo begins at 11 AM, followed by lunch and fellowship that ends at 2 PM. Bring a friend with you and join the fun! We meet on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday of each month. If transportation is needed, contact Domenica Seitz at 713-899-1016. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Karpinski, 713-594-4430.

**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 frnp@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.
Adult Organizations and Opportunities

**SADDLE UP AND PUT YOUR BOOTS ON! WE’RE TEXAS STRONG**

**SECTOR NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 3RD**

**6-10PM**

**FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

**HOSTED BY: TEAMS OF OUR LADY**

**RSVP TO BRITTANY APPLK**

brittanyapple15@gmail.com

*Live Music, Food and Beverages Provided*

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**ST. MARTHA’S GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM**

St. Martha’s grief support program welcomes all who are experiencing grief of a loved one to join us for a ten week program. We will meet from 7-9 PM at the Woodland Hills campus in Room 2. Registration is requested by calling Laurie at 281-360-2714, or e-mailing lauriecardella@outlook.com. **Registration will be closed to new members after Jan. 23.**

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**Monica’s Hope:**

**Prayerful Support for Parents of Troubled Children**

Don't suffer in solitude. Within our Catholic community there are many with troubled children of **all ages.** Problems like addiction, criminality, mental illness, etc. Find support, strength and encouragement in a confidential environment. And, in the example of St. Monica, you can pray for your child and find peace. The next meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 5, 7:30 PM**, in Room 1 on the Woodland Hills Campus. If you have questions, call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288, e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com or Kathy Czubik at 713-213-7173, e-mail kczubik@mac.com.

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**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES**

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR**

**SINGLES AGES 40 and older,** gathers on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 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 Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybmom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote on St. Martha’s website.

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**UPCOMING TOURS:**

- **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.

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**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.

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!*

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Parenting and Youth

SHINE Catholic Work Camp for High School Students – Save the Date!
McAllen, TX: June 4-9, 2018
Registration will take place ONLINE starting Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.
Cost: $375
Each year, youth from St. Martha attend SHINE Catholic Work Camp, a week-long mission trip. SHINE stands for Serving Him In the Needy and Elderly. The vision of the SHINE staff is to empower teens to live out their baptismal call to serve those in need. They have a passion for leading teens and for serving God's people. SHINE 2018 is accepting students entering 9th grade in 2018 through graduating seniors. Please note that this will be the last year we will be taking graduating seniors to SHINE due to VIRTUS requirements.
Registration will be online this year and will begin on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 10 AM. A link to the registration form will be provided on the Youth Ministry page of the parish website: (www.stmartha.com/youth-ministry).
A $225 deposit will be required at the time of registration, with the final balance due by April 2. THE FULL COST OF THE TRIP ($375) IS NON-REFUNDABLE UNLESS YOUR SPOT IS FILLED BY SOMEONE ON THE WAITING LIST. Registration is on a first-come-first-serve basis. We will also need adult volunteers to chaperone, so please prayerfully consider attending this spirit filled week, empowering others to serve.
If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Laura Gallardo at laurag@stmartha.com or Lisa Phillips at wrphillipsiii@yahoo.com.

Run/Walk a 5K with Father Richard.
We look forward to your participation in the 13th Annual Steps for Students 5K Run/Walk benefiting the 59 schools in the Houston-Galveston Archdiocese, including our parish school. Enjoy a fun morning with our school and parish community, as well as a FREE pancake breakfast cooked onsite post-race by the St. Martha Knights of Columbus.
Please register by Jan. 31 for $20 per person ($17 goes back to SMCS) or $70 for 4 people ($58 goes back to SMCS). After Jan. 31, registration fees go up and there's no more option to register as a virtual participant & 'Hit the Snooze'.
Please donate or join team * St. Martha * at steps4students.org/register.

Save the Date!
St. Martha Catholic School's largest fundraiser, Casino Night, will be held on Saturday, April 21, on the school campus. If you would like to donate a product and/or service for the event auction, please contact Jennifer Licona at liconaj@stmarthacs.org.
Donations are much-needed and generally tax-deductible. More details to come!

ST. MARTHA SUNDAY NURSERY
Sundays- 9 AM, 11 AM and 1 PM
Open every Sunday, with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend, Christmas, New Year’s Day and Easter.

SHINE Catholic Missions

St. Martha Catholic School News

Back-to-School SOCIAL
Friends, Games, Music, and Fun!
All Middle School Students and Friends!!!
Saturday, Jan. 27
[6:00 – 9:00PM] in the FLC
Cost: $6 if you pay by Thursday, Jan. 25
$8 if you pay at the door
Lisa Hartsfield: lisah@stmartha.com

St. Martha Catholic School News
Outreach

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

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

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.

Vocations Corner

Semester Vocation Discernment Opportunities:
Are you wondering if a Priestly or Religious Life is for you? Perhaps the thought has crossed your mind, but you’re not sure if you should take that thought seriously. The Houston Vocations office is ready to assist you in discerning whatever future God has planned for you.

♦ Discover the Road Less Traveled
Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, and May 10 at 6:30 PM:
For men 18-35

♦ Women Seeking the Road Less Traveled
Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, and May 10 at 6:30 PM:
For women 18-35

♦ Descubre el Camino Menos Recorrido
Feb. 15, March 15, April 15, and May 17 at 7 PM:
hombres y mujeres 18-35

♦ Come and See Weekend at St. Joseph Seminary College
March 23-25: For men 18 and older

♦ Explore Retreat
June 5-7: For high school boys 15-18
Visit www.houstonvocations.com or call Fr. TJ Dolce at 713-652-8239 or email vocations@archgh.org for more information and to register for upcoming events this semester.

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.

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.

Serra Club Northeast of Houston Invites You to Their Monthly Dinner and Meeting
Monday, Jan. 22, 2018
6:30 PM Social, 7-8:30 PM Dinner and Program
Italiano’s Restaurant
217 FM 1960 at Bypass Road East in Humble
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 January will be:
Sister Francesca Kearns CCVI, Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Associate Vocation Director. Previously, she served her congregation as International Vocation Coordinator. Prior to that, she ministered in congregational leadership and overseas missions. Her experience in ministry includes vocation animation in El Salvador, Guatemala and Kenya. She is fascinated by the mystery of how God calls and guides us in our vocation. She is particularly interested in the role of the family as the first school of vocations.

RSVP: Eileen Benvegnu
eileenbenvegnu@yahoo.com, (713) 826-4943
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 WARD 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 Rosary Guild**

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship and making rosaries. We can teach you how to make a rosary and you can make rosaries at our regular meetings or/and you make them at home.

Please contact Gilda Womack, Coordinator at 281-989-4241 or gawomack@hotmail.com for more information, membership, rosary supplies, and rosary orders.

*The Rosary Guild will start meeting again this month. Days and times will be announced soon.*

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**OPEN HOURS FOR PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**MONDAY:** 5-6 AM/SATURDAY 1-2 AM, 7-8 PM

**SECOND ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOURS:**
- Monday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 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, 832-767-8826 or 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).

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**Grammy Award Winning Christian Music Legend Coming to Houston Co-Cathedral**

Christian music legend John Michael Talbot will bring his “Lifetime of Music & Ministry” Concert Tour on Thursday, Feb. 8, to the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, Houston, TX. Tickets are $30 for General Admission and $50 for a special VIP Package that includes preferred seating, early admission to artist's sound check and an autographed CD. The concert is sponsored by God’s Embrace Ministries and tickets can be purchased online at www.godsembrace.org. For questions and group rates please call Ministry Office at 979-561-8883.

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**Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship**

**Boys and Girls Ages 9 - 14**

**Just show up and have fun**
Drinks, Snacks, and Awards

Contact: Mark Roseland  Phone: 713-419-2532  E-mail: markaroseland@gmail.com

**Date of Competition: Sunday, February 4, 2018**

**Location:** St. Martha Activity Center  **Registration Time:** 1:00 to 1:30 PM

**Council Contest Time:** 1:30 to 2:30 PM. District Championship to follow immediately

**Sponsored by:** St. Martha Knights of Columbus Council # 12320

Please note: Bring a copy of your birth certificate.
9 - 14 years old are eligible. Age as of January 1, 2018.
“Protecting God’s Children (PGC)”
On Thursday, Feb. 8, in the YOUTH CENTER from 6:30—9:30 PM.
Must pre-register online at www.virtusonline.org.
No minors accepted.
For more information, please contact SMCC Virtus Coordinators,
Ana Luisa Rodriguez or Michelle Campisi at 281-358-1959 ext. 212.

“Keeping the Promise Alive (KPA) Refresher Workshop”
On Thursday, Feb. 15, in the YOUTH CENTER from 6:30—8 PM.
In order to register for a KPA workshop, you must have attended and met the 5-year PGC anniversary date.
You will need to log into your original VIRTUS account at www.virtusonline.org, if you need this information you may contact SMCC Coordinators.
NO minors accepted, NO babysitting and NO late admittance. Please arrive 30 minutes early. For more information, please contact SMCC Virtus Coordinators, Ana Luisa Rodriguez (anarodz@stmartha.com) or Michelle Campisi (michellec@stmartha.com) at 281-358-1959 ext. 212.

Saint Blaise Feast Day
Blessing of Throats
The blessing of throats will take place on Saturday, Feb. 3, after the 8:30 AM Mass in the church.
A la familia parroquial de Santa Marta,

Las lecturas de las Escrituras para el tercer domingo del Tiempo Ordinario tienen un sentido real de urgencia acerca de ellas. En la primera lectura del Libro de Jonás en el Antiguo Testamento, el profeta anunciaba: "Cuarenta días más y Nínive será destruida". En el Evangelio de Marcos, Jesús proclama: "Este es el tiempo del cumplimiento. El reino de Dios está cerca. Arrepíéntanse y crean en el Evangelio". En ambas situaciones, el enfoque no es tanto que Dios esté usando una amenaza para hacer que nosotros, los seres humanos, obedezcamos. Más bien, la Palabra de Dios nos revela que poseemos el poder de cambiar ("arrepentirnos") y así ayudar a traer el bien a nuestras vidas y a las vidas de los demás. No necesitamos un profeta que nos recuerde que el orgullo, la codicia y el odio constantemente llevan al mundo al borde de la destrucción. El desastre que amenaza a la humanidad no es algo que Dios nos envíe de ninguna manera. Es algo que los humanos hacemos el uno al otro. El mensaje de estas lecturas de las Escrituras nos recuerda que, así como el peligro de destrucción no proviene de una gran fuerza externa, también lo hace la esperanza de salvación. La proclamación de la venida del reino por Jesús es muy clara. Este reino comenzó cuando Jesús nació y entró en nuestra historia humana. Este mismo reino está plantado en nuestros corazones cuando fuimos bautizados. Todos nosotros somos portadores del reino de Dios y agentes de cambio en nuestro mundo. El reino crecerá a medida que crecemos en nuestro compromiso bautismal y cuando comenzamos a aceptar la responsabilidad de nuestro propio crecimiento personal como discípulos de Jesús y, por lo tanto, agentes de cambio en nuestra sociedad.

El Evangelio también nos enseña que nuestra respuesta implicará sacrificio personal si es para ser auténtico y abierto al Reino de Dios. Cuando Jesús llamó a Simón y Andrés a convertirse en sus discípulos, el texto nos dice que "abandonaron sus redes y lo siguieron". En otras palabras, estos pescadores sacrificaron su trabajo y su sustento y siguieron el llamado del Señor. No parece haber habido ninguna duda de su parte. Lo mismo es cierto cuando Jesús llamó a Santiago y Juan, los hijos de Zebedeo. "Dejaron a su padre en el bote junto con los empleados y lo siguieron". Creo que la mayoría de los seres humanos realmente quieren hacer el bien y ayudar a los demás. Sin embargo, tendemos a dudar y posponer nuestra decisión de responder al llamado de Dios. A veces no confiamos en que podamos hacer una diferencia o que poseemos las habilidades y los talentos necesarios para lograr el cambio que nuestro mundo necesita. Podemos temer por el sacrificio personal que el Señor nos pedirá. Cualquiera que sea la razón, la Palabra de Dios nos convoca a cada uno de nosotros para ayudar a construir el reino. ¡Y es urgente que aceptemos el reto hoy!

Fr. Chester Borski

Semestre de Vocaciones Oportunidades de discernimiento:

- **Descubrir el camino menos transitado**
  - 8 de febrero, 8 de marzo de 12 de abril y 10 de mayo: 6:30 pm. Para los hombres 18-35
- **Las mujeres que buscan el camino menos transitado**
  - 8 de febrero, 8 de marzo de 12 de abril y 10 de mayo: 6:30 pm. Para las mujeres 18-35
- **Descubrir el camino menos recorrido**
  - 15 de febrero, 15 de marzo, 19 de abril y 17 de mayo: 7:00 pm. Hombres y mujeres 18-35
- **Ven y verás fin de semana en el Colegio Seminario de San José**
  - De marzo de 23-25 de: Para los hombres mayores de 18 años
- **Retiro Explore**
  - junio de 5-7: Para los niños de la escuela secundaria 15-18

Visita www.houstonvocations.com o llame al Padre TJ Dolce al 713-652-8239 y dígale que desea llamar sobre vocaciones. También pueden contactar a estos números:
- onairtony@gmail.com
- William Lasalle al (201)913-6728 o a su correo electrónico onairtony@gmail.com

Legión de María—Somos una organización apostólica de laicos en la iglesia Católica, aprobada por los últimos tres Papas y endosada por el Concilio Vaticano II. Realizamos reuniones semanales en donde se reza el Santo Rosario, se asignan trabajos legionarios y se estudian temas informativos para hacer más eficaz el apostolado. Nuestros trabajos consisten en evangelizar y santificar hombres mediante visitas a: familias, cárceles, toques de puertas, llevando a 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 en el 3702 Woodland Hills Dr. Para más información pueden contactar a estos números 281-728-9843 Verónica Reyes ó 859-250-3687 Mildred García
Rally de Texas por la Vida  
Enero 27, 2018  
Misa a las 8:15 a.m. en la iglesia católica de St Vincent de Paul, localizada en 6800 Buffalo Speedway ofrecida por el Cardenal DiNardo. 
Después de la misa los autobuses estarán partiendo para la ciudad de Austin, TX donde tendremos nuestro Caminata por la Vida dando inicio a la 1:00 pm  
El Costo por persona será de $25.00, si usted desea registrarse para ser tomar los autobuses después de misa, por favor ingresar en sitio web: at https://archgh.event.com/TexasRallyforLife2018.

Para más información por favor visite el website www.arch.org/prolife o bien puede llamar para pedir información en español al teléfono 713-440-3443.

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