



December 11, 2011

Welcome to Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Friends of Jesus Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Chester L. Borski, S.T.L.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. T.J. Dolce
Deacons: Mr. Bob MacFarlane, Mr. Al O'Brien,
Mr. Ed Kleinguetl, Mr. Guy T. Puglia,
Mr. John Schuster, and Mr. Alfredo Soto

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

Parish Office hours:

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday-Friday

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses

First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass):
..... 10:00 AM
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
En Español 1:00 PM
Life Teen: 5:30 PM
*Nursery at 9:00, 11:00 &
5:30 Life Teen*

Weekday Masses

Monday: 8:30 AM
Tuesday: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM
Wednesday: 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Thursday: 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Friday: 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday:
Church 10:30-11:45 AM
Church 4:30-5:20 PM

Perpetual Adoration

Adoration Chapel..... 24 hrs.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call for a priest if you are seriously ill at home, about to enter the hospital, or if someone is close to death.

Baptism

Classes: Last Sunday of the month, call the Parish Office to register

Ceremony: First Sunday of the month

Marriage

Preparation at least six months before marriage . Register to attend an information meeting on the second Sunday of the month by calling 281-358-6637.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the community of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, Friends of Jesus Catholic Parish, are committed to our baptismal covenant with Jesus Christ. This covenant is manifested in our worship, evangelization, education, stewardship, service and our commitment to live as a community of faith. We center our parish life on Christ, Scripture and the celebration of the Sacraments in joyous worship and prayerful reflection of His love and mercy. We come together as a community of faith, in a spirit of hospitality and loving care, to serve one another in times of need and to share in the joys and struggles of everyday life in Christ. We provide all members of our diverse community the opportunity for spiritual growth through faith formation and the sharing of the richness of our Catholic tradition. We, as stewards of God's gifts, share generously of our time, talent and treasure within our community and extend that care to others in fulfilling the mission of the Church in the world.



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



STEWARDSHIP of Time, Talent and Treasure

ADMINISTRATIVE MIN. BUSINESS MANAGER
Theresa Miller 281.713.8957

FACILITY MANAGER
Steve Teets 281.358.6637x254

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE
Frank Amsler 281.361.4972
Bill Grun 281.360.3829

ST. MARTHA'S OFFICE ANGELS
Syvon Wetherold 281.713.8962

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE
Francine Puglia 281.713.8954

ACTS RETREAT
Don Jacques ACTSCore@StMartha-ACTS.org

ANNULMENTS
Francine Puglia 281.713.8954

BOY SCOUTS
Acenith Claassen 832.455.3764

CARING COOKS
Karen Rexer 281.354.8857
Marion Brown 281.360.6914

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS
Diana Vanhorn 281.913.8329

CENTERING PRAYER
Greg LaCour 281.360.8335

COLUMBIAN SQUIRES
Tom Wilson 713.407.3918

COUPLES FOR CHRIST
MaryLou & Ramon De La Cruz 832.527.1072

CURSILLO
Carol Bateman 281.359.6942

FAMILIA
Kristen Johnson 281.713.2518

FUNERALS
Indiana Francis 281-358-6637 x255

HISPANIC MINISTRIES
Indiana Francis 281.713.8960

HOMEBOUND ERRAND COMMITTEE
Gerri Pisklak 281.358.1832
Maria E. Cisneros 281.312.2654

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Bruce Farmer 281.360.4047

LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS
Jodi Schod 281.713.8955

MARRIAGE PREP. INFORMATION
To Register 281.358-6637

MARTHA'S QUILTERS
Angela Wemyss 281.361.9720
Noreen Borys 832.259.1848

MOM'S COLLEGIAN PRAYER GROUP
Pat Azzollini patlini2000@yahoo.com

MOTHER'S DAY OUT
Patty Jackson 281.358.1959x250

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Marion and Chris Dickson 713.516.7097

NEWCOMERS/WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY
Kristene Hergenrother 281.713.8961

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES
Peggy Broyles 281.359.4560

RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS
Barb Setser 281.358.4129
Nancy Karpinski (Funerals) 713.594.4430

ROSARY GUILD
JoAnna Loup 281.361.0391

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
Francine Puglia 281.713.8954
franp@stmartha.com

SR. CITIZENS LUNCHEON
Danielle Schaaf 281.358.0953

SR. CITIZENS LUNCHEON TRANSPORT.
Minnie Romo Minerva.romo@gmail.com
Domenica Seitz 281.361.4718

SUNDAY NURSERY
Patty Jackson 281.358.1959x250

TEAMS OF OUR LADY
Rodney & Ruth Williamson 281.361.3222
Bob & Patty Murphy 281.360.4216
Gil & MaryLou Alvarez 281.360.3422
Gary & Lee Everett 281.961.4725

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES CONT. VOCATIONS COMMITTEE
Phil & Diane Applegate 281.361.2913

FAITH FORMATION
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Linda Cussen 281.713.8966

BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY
Linda Cussen 281.713.8966

CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY
Linda Cussen 281.713.8966

RCIA
Linda Sarman 281.713.8972

SMYA AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Carla Lewton 281.713.8968

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & VBS
Helen Seidel 281.713.8969

MIDDLE SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION
Carla Lewton 281.713.8968

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Martha Burns 281.358.5523

EDGE (MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH)
Derek Gallardo 281.358.1959x249

LIFE TEEN
Elizabeth Moore 281.358.6901

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES
LITURGY COORDINATOR
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959

LITURGY COORDINATOR FOR LIFETEEN
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251

ADULT CHOIR
Lita Consolacion 281.360.9888

ALTAR SERVERS
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959

BAPTISM
281.358.6637

CANTORS
Lita Consolacion 281.360.9888

CHILDREN'S ADORATION
Annette Salazar 281.358.1492

COMMUNION TO THE SICK
Hospital Visit
Angela Wemyss 281.361.9720
Nursing Home & Homebound
Pat Timpanaro 281.361.9338
Hispanic Communion to the Sick
Amelia Murphy 713.865.6946

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230

GREETERS-FAMILY MASS
Stephen King 281.546.3748

LECTORS
Erv Baumeyer 281.358.4975

MARTHA'S ALTAR GUILD & DESIGNERS
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Brenda Benigno 281.361.7275

SACRISTANS
Art Voltmann 281.361.6117

USHERS
Barry Robichaux 281.361.3856

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAM
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251

YOUTH (K-8) CHOIR
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959

OUTREACH MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Dcn. Alfredo Soto 281.713.8917

CANCARE
Roger Schuelke 281.358.8060

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY
Bill Sala 281.358.9071

E-MAIL PRAYER WARRIORS
Donna Rueby dmrueby@earthlink.net

H.A.A.M.
Janet Joe 281.359.1940

HOSPITAL MINISTRY
Sarah Clark 281.361.8832
Sheila Yepsen 281.358.5585

OUTREACH MINISTRIES CONTINUED
MARIA GORETTI NETWORK
Shannon Deitz 281.360.40454

MARTHA'S KITCHEN
Sr. Maria Elena 713.224.2522

MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY
Silvina Gheorghica 281.610.7374

PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)
Paula or Janice 281.358.6637x503

PROJECT RACHEL
Bonnie Develle 281.812.8641

RADIO MARIA
Terice Richards 281.360.4043

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE
Marie Burk 281.361.3650

ST. JOSEPH HELPERS
Bill Beck 281.360.7023

ST. MARTHA BETWEEN JOBS AND BEYOND
Tony Cardella 281.360.6347

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
281.358.6636

SECOND FAMILY MINISTRY
Peggy Wehe 281.360.3244

SOCIAL JUSTICE
John Ehrman 713.907.2309

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL PK3-8TH
Tina Lewis 281.358.5523

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Lynn Lucas 281.358.5523x326

REGISTRAR
Jan Rodine 281.358.5523x314

MINISTERIOS EN ESPAÑOL
FORMACIÓN RELIGIOSA PARA ADULTOS
Dcn. Alfredo Soto 281.713.8917

COORDINADORA DE CATECISMO PARA JÓVENES Y SACRAMENTOS
Irene Soto 281.358.1959x269

CORO DE ADULTOS
Luis Valle 832.620.1888

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
Dcn. Alfredo Soto 281.713.8917

HOSPITALIDAD
Milton Giraldo 832.573.5133

LECTORES
Cristina Gabas 281.796.9084

MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS DE LA EUCHARISTIA
Amelia Murphy 713.865.6946

MONAGUILLOS
Silvina Gheorghica 281.610.7374

GIFTS OF STEWARDSHIP
For the weekend of Dec. 3 & 4
your gifts of treasure resulted in:

Weekly Budget	\$ 62,714
Sunday Collection	\$ 75,185
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,471
Year To Date:	
Weekly Budget	\$ 1,442,422
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,459,424
Over/(Under)	\$ 17,002
Special collections:	
Capital Campaign	\$ 87,825
Martha's Kitchen	\$ 8,703
Current Loan Debt: \$ 17,637,615	
2011 DSF Goal: \$ 270,000	
Payments To Date: \$ 272,803	

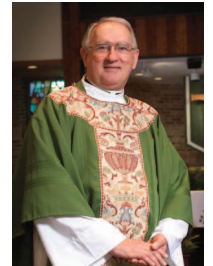


From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,

We are now at the midway point into the season of Advent. Traditionally the 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as **Laetare Sunday**, the “Sunday of Joy.” The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the Scripture readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is near. The biblical concepts used most frequently at this half-way point of Advent are words like peace, gratitude, and joy. The waiting and preparation for Christmas should not be one of frustration 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 at our job, at school, or at home, 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 by 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 be grateful for the gift of life are 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 the prophet 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.

The reason for our joy and gratitude as an “Advent people” is the fact that God has already called us to share in the very gift of eternal life for which we long. We can understand the world and our place in it, not simply in terms of our own experience, but rather in terms of the plan God has for us in the coming of His Son into the world. When Isaiah wrote the passage we hear in the first reading, he was enslaved and forced into service under the king of Babylon. There was certainly little in Isaiah’s experience about which he could rejoice. But he did so because he could see the hand of God guiding the people even in the experience of their tragic exile. In a similar way John the Baptist who “came to testify to the light” did so in the midst of the darkness of rejection and imprisonment. He would die and not see the fullness of the arrival of God’s Kingdom in Jesus Christ. Like Isaiah and John, we are called to be witnesses to the Light of the world and help banish the darkness that tries to overshadow our lives at times. For this reason St. Paul urges us in his first letter to the Thessalonians to “rejoice always” through constant prayer and grateful hearts. On this **Sharing Sunday** let us ask God to help us be signs of hope who bring joy to the lives of those who struggle to experience the nearness of the Savior.



Fr. Chester Borski

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:

There will be an Advent Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, **December 13**, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, December 18th and 19th, 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.)*



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24 (Vigil): 4:00 p.m.

Children’s Mass (Nativity Pageant begins at 3:30 p.m.), 6:30 p.m., Midnight.

December 25: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass)



**SHARING
SUNDAY
IS THIS WEEKEND!!!!**



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).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

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: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday: St. Lucy
Wednesday: St. John of the Cross

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This sounds easy but it's not. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all". This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon./Dec. 12

8:30 am †Gretel Trampel

Tues./Dec. 13

8:30 am †George Kovacic

7:00 pm †Madeline Lovelace

Wed./Dec. 14

8:30 am †Lance Corporal Luke Yepsen

10:00 am †Jack Schuler

Thurs./Dec. 15

6:30 am †George Henderson, Sr.

8:30 am †Maruja Soto

Fri./Dec. 16

8:30 am †Margaret Harris

Sat./Dec. 17

5:30 pm †Emilie Sarman

Sun./Dec. 18

7:00 am †Millie & Tom Bennigin

9:00 am †Anna Maria MacDonald

11:00 am †Pauline & Benny Pennucci

†Teresa Parisi

1:00 pm †Jesus Gomez

5:30 pm †Maximilian Keevill

If you scheduled a Mass intention for the 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass between Aug. 13 & Dec. of 2011 your intention will be moved to the 1 p.m. Spanish Mass on Sunday. If you scheduled a Mass intention for the 12:45 p.m. Mass, please call the parish office.

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

Luis Pereira
Geraldine Snoddy
Wanda Bartels
Bonita Mousel
Tom O'Toole (husband of Linda O'Toole)
Dorothy Reynolds



Please remember the sick and their families in your prayers: Ruth Grim, Ann Bashant, Randy Zaccardo, Tiger Gorman, Samir & Latifee Wakim, Sherry Messner, Abdalla Matta, Linda Tumlinson, Lynn Sibley, Mabel Savoie, The Green family, Barbara Green, Samantha Findley, Tanya McAndrews, Emily Jackson, Nancy Lubbock, Diana Barker, Ray Lightell, Kathleen Chipman, Gary Love, Dr. Louis Renault, Janna McElfresh, George Nunez, Charles Gorski, Barbara Gorski, Marcelle & Lynn Sherrill, Mari Carmen Castillo, Elaine McEwan, Penny & Rick Gaido, Zachary Cantu, Hernan Vergara, Anthony Capra, Mary Blythe, Steve Garber, Trish Forsom, Minerva Salazar, Juana Falcon, Lynette Smith, Larry Hatterley, Kate Leber, Minnie Romo, Dennis Ganstine, Hudson Kadlecek, Marie Burk, London McNier, Fernando Cuadra, Garrett Taylor, Lucien Mossbarger, Susan Thom, Grant McTaggart, Joe Grim, Michael Trujillo, Mary Chovan, Walter Hopkins Sr., Karen VandeVoorde, Robin Tibbetts, Ardeth Weed, John and Cathy Parry, Carmen Salsa, Arlane Marucci, Jimmy & Jeanne Dunn, Joseph Stanton, Lourdes Azares, Gene Zanchelli, Mary Hendry, Dino Florez, Tom Aloisio, Carmen Aloisio, Elizabeth Dean, Tammy McGrew, Tim McCormick, Eileen Benvegna, Sr. Maria Elena, Robert Seline, Chadwick Bates, Montye Barker, Kristen Jordan, Mary Alice Riter, Bob Haas, Carl Gorski, Ann Prokop, Lionel & Norma VanHorn, Gabriel Felts, Tom Marucci, Gladys Halachian, Ed Mazurek, Lillian Hainline, George Brown, Joan Evans, Timothy Lupton-Stegall, Patrick Giordano, Drew Ilger, Lawanna Collins, Carolyn Denman, Neely Grimm, Karl Kirsch, Ryan Enloe, Merilyn Deane, Gray Harlock, Josie Perez, Kevin Ilges, Arline Hanney, Christian Holly, Joseph and Frances Lonzo, the Cooke family, Albaluz & Marcela Barreiro, Charlie Cooke, Paul Palmeri Sr., Lourdes Rodriguez, Joan Henderson, Tom Hall, Walter Egan, Ariana Chavez, Nicholas Chavez, Hilary Shurtleff, Jose Eliazio, Jesus Flores, Elizabeth Nazzuca, Lukas Alexander Medler

TALK FOR THE RIDE HOME

Theme: God is doing great things for us

Question for Adults: If you were to write three suggestions for those who follow Jesus, to keep them strong in their faith, what would you write?

Question for Children: What will you tell others about Jesus this week?



Adult Organizations and Opportunities

MEN'S RETREAT

Come and join the men of St. Martha and make a retreat at Holy Name Retreat Center on January 6-8, 2012. The theme for the Retreat is "Awakened Hearts—Encountering Christ on the Way". In our journey of life's ups and downs and its stress, we are invited to pause and be in contact with our God in Prayer. Contact Bruce Farmer 281-360-4047 for more information or the Retreat Center at 713-464-0211.

End of the Year Gifts

Our parish relies not only on gifts given each week, but also on the special financial gifts that come at the end of the year. As you review your yearly finances, please remember our parish. Your end of the year gift allows us to continue the important ministries of the parish. Gifts of cash, IRA Rollover gifts and appreciated stock as well as honorariums, remembrances in wills and trusts all help continue the work of our parish.

Contact the Diocesan Development Department at 713-659-5461 or the Parish Office and ask for Theresa Miller for assistance with planned gifts.

Sunshine Senior Citizens Luncheon Schedule

The Christmas dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. We'll take a break and resume our regular schedule in January: January 4 at Kingwood United Methodist Church and then back here at St. Martha on January 11. Questions? Contact Danielle Schaaf, 281-358-0953.



NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES

Check us out! Come join **NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40 AND UP**, on Wednesday, December 14, for conversation and Coffee/Dinner at 7:00 p.m. at Zachary's Cajun Cafe, 716 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood. For more info about the group, contact Peggy Broyles at 281-359-4560 or peggybmom4@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED CATHOLIC MEN AND WOMEN

St. Martha parish will begin a 13-week program for divorced and separated Catholic men and women. This program offers much-needed support and assists with the healing process. The group will meet Tuesdays beginning January 3 through March 27 from 7—9:00 p.m. To register for the series or more info contact Denese Albracht at 713-582-6855 or e-mail CatholicSupport@gmail.com.

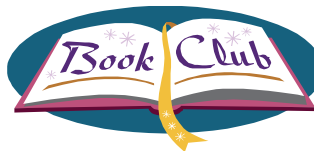
Maria Goretti Network (MGN) For all survivors of abuse

The **Maria Goretti Network** is an outreach to all victims of abuse (women and men): physical, sexual, verbal or emotional. The Chapter is led by Christian survivors of abuse and is a forum for peer to peer support.

To learn more about our monthly meetings contact: Shannon Deitz at smdeitz@earthlink.net, 281-360-4045, or visit MGN at www.mgoretti.org

PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is the confidential and compassionate outreach to women who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion. Its purpose is to foster reconciliation and healing between the parent and Christ, His Church, the child, and all other significant relationships. For information, call Bonnie Develle, L.P.C., 281-812-8641 or e-mail bdevelle@comcast.net.



The **Kingwood Page Turners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Dec. 19 at the Woodland Hills Campus,

Rm. 2. We will discuss *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. Please call Alan for more information, 281-359-2285.

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.

Caring Cooks



THANK YOU to all of our Caring Cooks who have so generously given of their time to make meals for those in our parish community who are truly in need at a difficult time and have no one to provide meals for them. This is an awesome ministry open to anyone who would like to provide a meal every now and then to a fellow parishioner in need. We are a blessed community in that we have so many caring and helpful folks to help out when one of us is in need. If you would like to be a part of this truly rewarding team of caring cooks please call: Karen Rexer 281-354-8857 or Marian Brown 281-360-6914 to sign up. And as always, if you should find yourself or someone you know in need of help with meals during a very difficult time please know there is someone there to help, Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food" God Bless!



Adult Opportunities

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Morning: BIBLE STUDY 101
 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. – **Room 2, Faith Formation Center**, led by George Henderson
 Learn the basics of what the Catholic Church teaches about sacred scripture while you drop your child off for CCE. Even if you don't have a child in CCE, you are invited to join us.

Tuesday Morning: BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY
STUDY IS CANCELLED UNTIL AFTER THE NEW YEAR. See Bulletin for start up date.

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

Recordings of previous adult classes, handouts, PowerPoints, upcoming events, schedules, important links, music, and more...check it out!

St. Martha Adult Faith Formation Library – Room 1

Sunday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Monday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am – 9:30 am

THE FAITH FORMATION/CCE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BEGINNING MONDAY, 12/18 THROUGH MONDAY, 01/02/2012. THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY, 01/03 AT 9:00 AM.

Are You Interested in Looking Into the Catholic Church or Completing your Sacraments?

The RCIA may be your answer!
 It is a process for adults:

- Who wish to know more about the Catholic faith, baptized and un-baptized
 - For Catholics who need to complete their sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation
 - For Catholics who have left the Church and wish to return
- Please call Linda Sarman at 281-358-1959 X 258 for more information.

Education/Youth Events



St. Martha School Scoops



Calling all SMCS Alumni! Do you remember how you felt on your first day and throughout your first year of high school? Do you wish you had known a little more about what to expect and what is REALLY important? **We want you** to share your gained wisdom and experience with our middle school students. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 14, at 1:30 p.m.**, for an alumni forum in which you can share with our 6th-8th graders hints that you know will be helpful for them to prepare for their high school years. Your sharing of your experiences will provide valuable guidance as you serve as the most important role models for our middle school students. Please contact Lynn Lucas at lucas@stmarthacs.org if you or any SMCS alumni you know would like to participate in this opportunity to turn *giving just one hour* into an experience that will make a difference in someone else's life!



St. Martha Catholic School is a fully accredited school for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our curriculum builds strong academic skills, Catholic values and moral character in a safe, secure, and caring environment. We offer the sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, track and volleyball. We also support a drama club, a band program, Rosary Guild, Student Council, and BETA Club and other activities.



Visit our website at www.stmarthacs.org to view the 2011-2012 school year calendar and the listing of all our wonderful school events and activities for the upcoming school year!

The Mission of St. Martha Catholic School is to provide a quality education sharing in the total Catholic formation of each person by developing



CHILDREN'S ADORATION HOUR
Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Bring your children to spend time with Christ. A time for prayer, a decade of the rosary and songs. Children of all ages are welcome.

ST. MARTHA SUNDAY NURSERY

Sundays- 9 AM, 11 AM and 5:30 PM (Life Teen)

Open every Sunday, with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter.
 Ages: 9 months old and able to sit up on their own through age 5 and not yet in kindergarten.



Nativity Pageant Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 p.m.

A mandatory practice will be held on Monday, December 19, at 10 a.m. in the church. Elementary Children who would like to participate need to attend the practice.

St. Thomas High School Open House 1 p.m. Sunday, January 8th Moran Fine Arts Center

The Basilian Fathers have been educating young men in Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge since 1900. With each passing year, St. Thomas continues to build on this tradition of excellence.

Let yourself soar and become a Man of St. Thomas!
High School Placement exam-Saturday, January 28th,
2012-8:30-11:30.

— There will be No Elem./ Middle School CCE Sunday, December 18, Thru Wednesday, January 4th. CCE Classes will resume on Mon 1/1 Sunday, January 8th!

3rd & 4th Grade CCE students celebrated Advent this week by creating a Jesse Tree! The Jesse Tree will be on display in the FLC/ CCE office until Christmas!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Life Night Tonight!

CHEESY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

On Sunday December 11th we will have our Life Teen Christmas Party and canned food drive. We will also have a CHEESY Christmas sweater contest. Wear the cheesiest Christmas sweater you can find and bring as many canned food items as you can carry. Food, Fun, Prizes... Don't miss it!

***** Wednesday Night***
Youth Group
7: 00 p.m.**

Elizabeth Moore
lifeteen@stmartha.com
(281) 358-6901



St. Martha Catholic Church
EDGE[®]
Middle School Youth Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

EDGE NIGHT!

Friday, December 16th (6:30—8:00 p.m.)

Join us for the LAST EDGE Night of 2011. Bring ALL of your friends for FREE pizza, and a whole night of FUN!

o WHAT IS THE EDGE? FIND OUT!
Sign-up for our EDGE Newsletter! It has important updates, pictures, and much more!

To subscribe, send an e-mail to Derek

♦ Derek Gallardo: derekg@stmartha.com



Tercer Domingo de Adviento

El tercer domingo de adviento nos llama al gozo de la misma manera que el primero nos llamó a velar y el segundo a la conversión. En muchas parroquias el sacerdote se viste de rosa para representar que en este tiempo penitencial podemos hacer una pausa y de ser alegres. En la corona de adviento se enciende una vela de color rosa también.

De nuevo es Juan el Bautista, la figura del adviento quien aparece en el evangelio. Esta vez con sus respuestas nos apunta a Jesucristo. No es coincidencia que hoy es el tercer domingo de adviento, también llamado el domingo de gaudette (gozo en latín) y que San Juan Bautista nos apunta a Cristo que es donde está la verdadera felicidad.

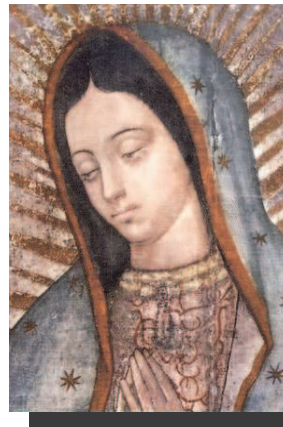
No se trata de una alegría barata. No se puede comprar por unas horas, por un puñado de dinero. No tiene que ver con la diversión, el entretenimiento o el placer. Se trata de prepararnos para la llegada de Alguien que nos ama, que nos liberará de todo lo que nos oprime: El dolor, la enfermedad, el pecado, la injusticia y la muerte.

Isaías en la primera lectura nos da las características de esa felicidad, es liberadora, consuela a los tristes, conduce a la salvación y es justa como la justicia de Dios, no como la humana. La razón de esa felicidad es que Dios viene en persona a nuestros corazones.

Esta semana como reflexión, te invitamos a analizar cuáles son las razones de la alegría en tu vida, como puedes ser más alegre y hacer más alegres a otros en esta Navidad. Estamos a dos semanas del día en que nuestro salvador nacerá. Oremos porque el mundo se llene de la felicidad que viene de Dios. AMEN.

RETIRO EN ESPAÑOL DE ACTS PARA HOMBRES

El segundo retiro para hombres ACTS MS-2 en español tendrá lugar del 26 al 29 de enero del 2012. Para mayor información llamar a Jaime Eysseric al (713) 213-7445.



No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre? No temas

Ven a celebrar con amor y alegría a la Emperatriz de las Américas.

NUEVA IGLESIA DE SANTA MARTHA

**LUNES 12 DE DICIEMBRE
SANTO ROSARIO**

7:00 PM

SANTA MISA

7:30 PM

WELCOME!!

If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out the following information. A registration form will then be mailed to you. You may also get a registration (“census”) form in the *Newcomer Information Packets* on the Ministry Cart in the Narthex. Again, welcome.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Were you registered at St. Martha before and have moved back? _____

If you are registered & have an address, phone, or name change, please check here. _____

Please place in Offertory Collection or mail to the Parish Office:

4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365



Retirement Fund helps senior religious. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to this weekend's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

THE 2012 SUNDAY MISSALS AND CHURCH CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!

Sunday Missal - \$2.00 / Church Calendar - \$1.00
Available in the Narthex or you can stop by the parish office
Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

REMINDER: During the school year, the 8:30 a.m. School Mass will take place at The Woodland Hills Church.

**School Mass Schedule for December:
Friday, December 16**
All other Masses take place at the new church.



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is the uninterrupted adoration of Jesus Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament. Today, during every hour of the day, every day of the year, Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is adored by the faithful throughout the world. Adoration enables us to thank Our Lord as we adore and praise Him for Who He is, what He has done, and what He continues to do for all people at all times.

Perpetual Adoration brings forth graces from heaven, leading to greater attendance at Mass, more frequent reception of the sacraments, especially Reconciliation, an increase in conversions and vocations, the renewal of family life, a more frequent spirituality in the parish, and a more sincere love among the faithful. In a word, as we adore and love the Lord, He is transforming us into His image, to His honor and praise. We are becoming more holy and more human, for "the glory of God is man fully alive!"

Listed below are hours that are most in need of weekly adorers at this time. However, please note that no hour is really ever "filled" since all parishioners are invited to choose an hour that works best for you, even if there are already two or more adorers signed up for that hour.

At the present time, there is one open hour: Friday 5-6 PM.

Second adorers are needed for the following hours:

Sunday: Midnight- 1 AM, 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, 5-6 AM, 2-3 PM

Monday: 11 PM-12 Midnight

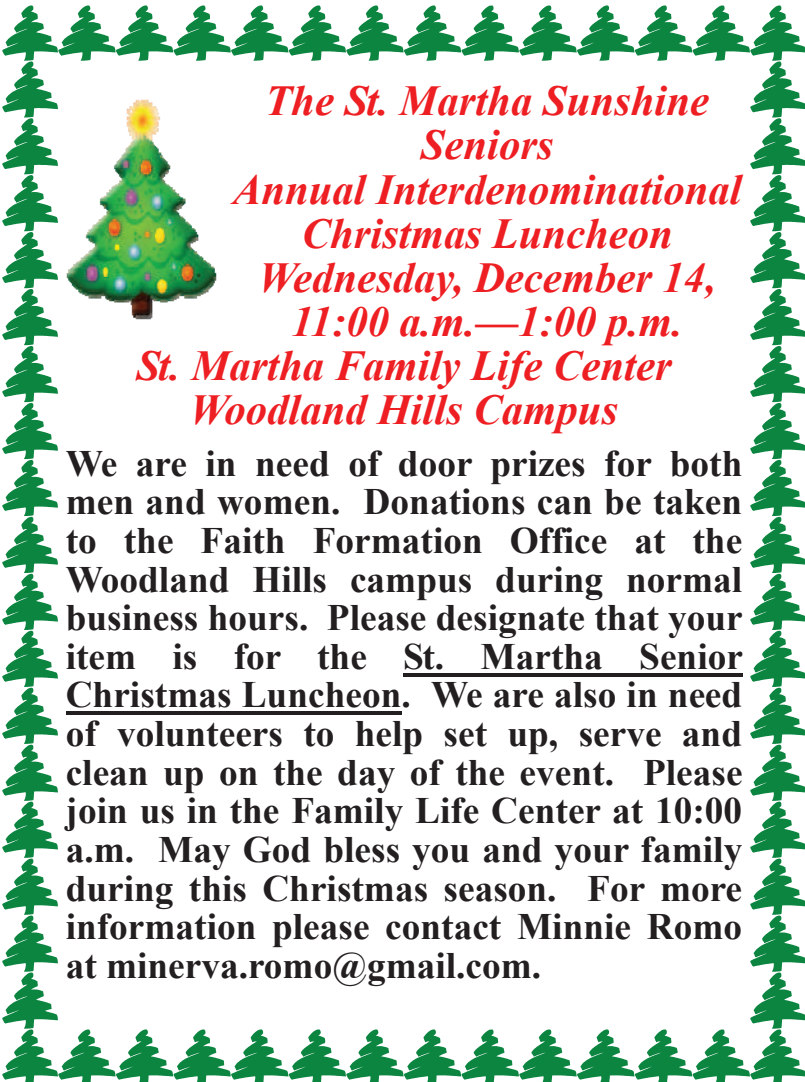
Tuesday: 11 PM-Midnight

Thursday: Midnight-1 AM, 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, 5-6 AM

Friday: 1-2 AM, 10-11 AM

Saturday: 1-2 AM, 10-11 AM, 12 Noon-1 PM, 3-4 PM, 8-9 PM, 9-10 PM

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact Brenda Benigno at either 281-361-7275 or eucharistic.adorers@stmartha.com. If you need a substitute, please call one of our Division Leaders: Robyn Laumbach at 281-360-7897 for Midnight- 6 AM, Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 for 6 AM- Noon, Mary Hogan at 281-358-0557 for Noon- 6 PM, and Beth Beckham at 281-360-2797 for 6 PM - Midnight.



The St. Martha Sunshine Seniors
Annual Interdenominational Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday, December 14,
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
St. Martha Family Life Center
Woodland Hills Campus

We are in need of door prizes for both men and women. Donations can be taken to the Faith Formation Office at the Woodland Hills campus during normal business hours. Please designate that your item is for the St. Martha Senior Christmas Luncheon. We are also in need of volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up on the day of the event. Please join us in the Family Life Center at 10:00 a.m. May God bless you and your family during this Christmas season. For more information please contact Minnie Romo at minerva.romo@gmail.com.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the Woodland Hills chapel. Everyone welcome.

Soundboard Operator

If you are knowledgeable about and experienced in operating a soundboard system, please e-mail Gayle at gayleh@stmartha.com. The sound system in the church needs operation during Mass times.



Calling all young adult/young professional pilgrims! Join us as we travel to Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day July 2013!

Participants must be at least 18 years of age and must have graduated from high school by June 2013. For more information on this amazing opportunity to share and celebrate your faith with young adults from all over the world, please e-mail Lauren at laurenmarielucas@gmail.com.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

“My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.”

“But remember, a family is holy not because it is perfect but because God’s grace is at work in it, helping it to set out anew every day on the way of love. Like the whole Church, every Christian family rests on a firm foundation namely, Christ’s promise to be faithful to those he has chosen.”
Follow The Way Of Love

“For more tips on marriage and family life, go to ForYourMarriage.org or contact Francine at franp@stmartha.com.



Economical Truck Needed

Now that St. Martha is operating two campuses, the need for a truck has become evident in order to carry furniture and equipment between campuses. St. Martha Catholic Church is looking for a used pickup truck that is gas friendly. If you have an older truck in good condition that you no longer need, please contact Steve Teets at 281-358-6637 x 254.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

*Are you not under my shadow and protection?
Do not fear.*

Come celebrate with love and happiness the Empress of the Americas

**SAINT MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH
DECEMBER 12
BILINGUAL HOLY ROSARY
7:00 PM
BILINGUAL MASS
7:30 PM**



**Saint Martha
New Year's Eve Dance
2012**

**Bring in the New Year with music, food and fun.
Enjoy a "Taste of the South" and dance the night away!!!**

When: Saturday, December 31, 2011 **\$20 per person**
Where: Family Life Center **Food provided along**
Time: 7pm – 12:30am **with Party Favors**



BYOB (Setups provided)
Champagne provided at midnight
DJ music - You call it
Zydeco included with
Karaoke available
For Tickets
Call Kent Arcement @
713-703-8013
or e-mail
kentarcement0300@gmail.com

Did You Know?

The Plaza area in front of the church introduces the Jerusalem Cross. The Jerusalem Cross was selected by Msgr. Borski to be used throughout the church. The Jerusalem Cross with its four small crosses around the large cross is a symbol of the Gospel being spread to the four corners of the world by the four Evangelists with Christ as our center.

The Plaza area welcomes the community as it leads to the worship space. Certain liturgical celebrations will begin in this space. On Palm Sunday the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem will be reflected in the procession of palms. At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle will be prepared and lighted at the fire pit and then lead all into the church to celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation and the Resurrection of our Lord.

Bronze statues of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus are being created and prepared by parishioner Mike Kaney to be placed in the Plaza area. These life-size statues emulate the hospitality extended by the parish of St. Martha. Because of the lengthy process in creating these works of art, they will be added to the Plaza in the summer of 2012.

Our second Capital Campaign already has \$1million pledged! Our goal is \$9 million with 100% parish participation!

Pledge cards are in the Welcome Kiosk or contact our Capital Campaign office at 281-713-8965 or ellenh@stmartha.com. Join Us!



*Sharing Our Faith
Securing Our Future*



Stewardship Saint for December Saint John of Kanty

John of Kanty, also known as John Cantius, was born to a wealthy family in Kanti, near Auschwitz, Poland, in 1390. He was educated at the University of Kraków and was ordained a priest soon after completing his studies.

John accepted an appointment to be a lecturer at the university. He was known to be an effective teacher and preacher. For a time, he was ordered away from his position by a superior and assigned to a parish.

Presumably, the reassignment was out of jealousy for John's success at the university. After a few years, however, he was recalled to university life to hold a chair in theology.

John was held in such high esteem that his academic gown was used to invest each new candidate at the conferring of doctoral degrees. He was known to be a good steward of the students entrusted to him and saw to their religious instruction. He taught them to oppose false statements and opinions with courtesy and persuasiveness.

He was renowned not only for his teaching but also for his good humor, humility, simple way of life and generosity to the poor. He subsisted only on what was strictly necessary to sustain his life, giving food and clothing regularly to the poor. When he was urged to take better care of his health, he replied by pointing out that the early desert fathers were notably long-lived.

John's fame was not all confined to academic circles. He was a welcome guest at the homes of the nobility, although once his simple cassock caused the servants to refuse him admission.

He made a number of pilgrimages, all by walking; four to Rome and one to Turkish-held Jerusalem where he desired to suffer Christian martyrdom at the hands of the Turks.

On Christmas Eve, 1473, John Kanty died at the age of 83 and his remains were interred in the Church of St. Anne in Kraków, where his tomb became and remains a popular pilgrimage site. He is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania, and his feast day is December 23.

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. These names will be published on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin. All envelopes should be turned in at the weekend Masses or the Church office no later than Sunday, **December 18.**

Please *pray* for our **active military** as seen on the wreath in the Narthex. To add a loved one call: Carole Parslow (home) 281-360-5475, (cell) 714-408-0751 or e-mail mcparslow@embarqmail.com.



CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS

Please join the **BENIGNO** Family in prayer this week as they host the Chalice and pray for Vocations. Interested? Please contact Jane Miller at 281-358-3222 or by e-mail at janeLSU1991@embarqmail.com to schedule a week.



Greeter Ministry

We are in need of volunteers who would enjoy welcoming visitors and parishioners to Mass. Contact Nora Twohy, 2etexas@gmail.com or 281-814-5431 for more details.

MARTHA'S KITCHEN

Martha's Kitchen wishes all parishioners a peaceful and blessed Christmas season and a healthful and happy 2012!

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your continued support and dedication to Martha's Kitchen. God Bless.

(Martha's Kitchen will be closed on Friday, December 23 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3)



Commemorative Ornaments

still available. The cost is \$20. If interested come by the parish office or e-mail ellenh@stmartha.com or call 281-713-8965.