Saint Martha Parish
11301 Academy Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154-3304
Website: www.stmarthachurch.com
E-mail: churchoffice@stmarthachurch.com

SERVED BY:
Rev. Alexander Masluk, M.Div, M.A., Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Andrew J. Golias, S.T.D., Associate Pastor
Rev. Mr. Raymond F. Gwynn, Sr.
Rev. Mr. Stephen A. Guckin
Mr. Art Calvo, CCD Coordinator
Sr. Claire McMahon, IHM, Pastoral Care Coordinator
Sr. Paula Napoli, SSJ, Director of Music
Sr. Kate Shelly, SSJ, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Mrs. Karen Donofry, Principal, St. Martha School
Jeannie Kaminski, Parish Secretary
Maria Gilbert, School Secretary
Joseph Rafałowski, Business Manager
Tracey Drea, School Development Director
Kevin Long, Director of Maintenance
Theresa Sadowski, Bulletin Editor
Rich Konstance, Sacristan

MISSION STATEMENT
We, the family of Saint Martha Parish, in order to live richly in our Catholic heritage and Parish traditions, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the example of Saint Martha’s hospitality, devote our mind, body and spirit to:

Pray to God, through the most exalted mystery, the celebration of the Eucharist and recognize in this Union with Christ the Sacrifice, Sacrament and Real Presence.
Foster a home where Christianity is welcomed as the focal point, which will allow us to continue to grow as selfless, humble Catholic individuals and integral, involved members of our Parish and community;
Proclaim the Good News, as did our Patron, Saint Martha, by expressing our commitment to our faith as shown in our actions, spoken in our words, and reflected in our thoughts.
Serve, with humility, the spiritual and physical needs of all God’s people, born and unborn, by practicing our faith, both inwardly and outwardly, to ensure and strengthen our Catholic future.

We join in communal and individual prayer to God, with Mary, our Mother, and with the help and strength of our parish patron, Saint Martha, so that we, like she, may carry the Gospel Message and profess our belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

WE ARE A TITHING PARISH
God gives us everything we have and allows us to keep 90% of it for any good purpose. He simply asks that we return the first 10% to Him (5% to the local parish, 5% to God’s other good works, our personal charities) in gratitude. This spirituality of tithing is as old as the Bible itself, and disposes us to make God first in every area of our lives! The aim is to secure not the tithe, but the tither, not the gift, but the giver—for God!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
Elected / Appointed: Kathy Cantz, Art Calvo, Bobbie Harrison, Agnes Brady, Tracey Talley, Connie DiFillippo, Karen Peahota Helen Konstance, Tom Gilbert,
Ex officio: Mrs. Karen Donofry, Deacon Ray Gwynn, Fr. Al Masluk, Msgr. Andrew Golias, Deacon Steve Guckin and Joanne Trusdell

Follow Saint Martha Church on Facebook!
Stewardship is a Way of Life

God’s Plan for Giving:
Tithing: Weekend of March 13, 2016: $9,797.86
Income for March 15, 2015: $10,586.45
Children’s Offering for March 13, 2016: $86.00
High School Offering for March 13, 2016: $6.00
Church in Latin America: $547.45
Church in Europe: $389.00
Electronic Contributions: $584.17

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house and try me in this, says the Lord of Hosts. Shall I not open for you the floodgates of Heaven and pour down blessings upon you without measure?” Malachi 3:10

From the Pastor: I was thinking of old adventure movies, and how many have a scene in them where the bad guy is hanging on to a rope over a pit with one hand, and clinging to some fortune or treasure chest with the other, and how, despite pleadings by the hero that he let go and grab the rope with both hands, the bad guy plunges to his death because he could not let go of the loot. Living the tithing spirituality assures us that we will never be in this position. We cling to life with a greater enthusiasm and surrender joyfully the good things God lends to us on this earth. As always, thank you for embracing God’s Plan for Giving.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: “That we see our ends meet is just another of many small miracles we see performed each day. However, we do not give in order to make ends meet. That is merely the by-product. We love to give back to God to thank Him for His goodness.”

CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING
Saint Martha Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Contributions can be set up to debit automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at www.stmarthachurch.com,
2. Click on the [Give Now] button,
3. Click on the Create Profile button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.
Dear Members of the Parish Family,

With our celebration of Palm Sunday comes the beginning of the week we call “Holy,” the week during which God showed us His Mercy in a unique and unrepeatable and amazing way: the Death and Resurrection of His Son.

There are several final opportunities to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation this week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 PM. Accept God’s Mercy into your life. Be reconciled to God and to His Church.

Make the celebrations of the Triduum a central part of your life. Plan to be here Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon, and at the Solemn Easter Vigil to welcome Kevin and Jerome into the Church. Come to Morning Prayer at 8:15 on Friday and Saturday morning. Be grateful for the fact that not only did Jesus Christ die for us, Jesus Christ died for YOU!

Please also make a special sacrifice for the Easter Collection. We count on it to pay our bills and keep the parish alive and well. Make it a special gift to Jesus’ Church.

May we as a parish spend at least fifty more years “Believing, Welcoming and Serving,” and may we, like Saint Martha, always be friends of Jesus.

God’s Love,
Fr. Al

Follow Father Al’s Pastor’s Blog on St. Martha’s facebook page.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

20 March 2016

QUICK FINANCIAL FACTS

As we grapple with stopping increasing indebtedness and paying our bills on a timely basis, the Parish Finance Council thinks it important that each week you be made aware of some facts and figures we face.

This week, 377 adults used their envelopes, with an average contribution of $25.99 per envelope. If 500 adults used their envelopes with an average contribution of $25, we would make our weekly budgeted collection figure of $12,500.

WEEKLY MEMORIALS

The sanctuary lamp which burns before the Blessed Sacrament reminds us of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It would be a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one who now enjoys the heavenly banquet. If you would like the lamp to burn in honor of a loved one, either in Church or in the Rectory Chapel, please send a suggested offering of $10 to the rectory office with the name of the person remembered. We will publish these memorials in the bulletin. In addition, a donation of $25 will help supply the bread and wine which are used for the Eucharist, another fitting memorial.

The Sanctuary Lamp and the Bread and Wine have been donated this week in memory of

Charles and Dorothy Godin
Mass Intentions for the Week

Palm Sunday
5:00 PM +Patricia Konstance

Sunday, March 20, 2016 ~ Palm Sunday
8:00 AM +Intention of Celebrant
10:00 AM +People of St. Martha
12 Noon +Michael Altimari

Monday, March 21, 2016
8:15 AM +Benedict Konstance, Sr.

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
8:15 AM +Clifford C. Graham

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
8:15 AM + Frank Jarosiewicz

Thursday, March 24, 2016 ~ Holy Thursday
7:30 PM +Mass of Lord’s Supper

Friday, March 25, 2016 ~ Good Friday
8:15 AM +Morning Prayer & Office Readings
3:00 PM +Liturgy of Lord’s Passion

Saturday, March 26, 2016 ~ Holy Saturday
8:15 AM +Morning Prayer & Office Readings
2:00 PM +Blessing of Food

Easter Vigil
8:00 PM +Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27, 2016 ~ Easter Sunday
8:00 +People of St. Martha
10:00 +Elena Neuberger
12 Noon +Intention of Celebrant

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 20, 2016 ~ Palm Sunday
8:15 AM ~ CCD/Parish Hall
10:00 AM ~ CLOW & Procession/Palms

Monday, March 21, 2016
Report Cards distributed in school
11:30 AM ~ Seniors Meeting/Gym
7:00 PM ~ Rosary/Church
7:30 PM ~ Confessions/Church

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
3:00 PM ~ Youth Choir/Church
7:00 PM ~ Adult Choir/Church
7:30 PM ~ Confessions/Church
7:30 PM ~ RCIA/Rectory

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
12:30 PM ~ Dismissal
7:30 PM ~ Confessions/Church
7:30 PM ~ Knights of Columbus Meeting/Rectory

Thursday, March 24, 2016 ~ Holy Thursday
7:30 PM ~ Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, March 25, 2016 ~ Good Friday
8:15 AM ~ Morning Prayer & Office Readings/Church
3:00 PM ~ Service of Passion/Church

Saturday, March 26, 2016 ~ Holy Saturday
8:15 AM ~ Morning Prayer & Office Readings/Church
2:00 PM ~ Blessing of Food/Church
8:00 PM ~ Easter Vigil Mass/Church

Sunday, March 27, 2016 ~ Happy Easter!!!
8:15 AM ~ CCD/Parish Hall
10:00 AM ~ CLOW

“SPOTLIGHT ON ST. MARTHA SCHOOL”

The students in grades 5 and 6 wish to thank you for embracing their “Socks for Love” service project. Sixty-two shoeboxes were filled with toiletries and socks that were so generously donated. The boxes are destined for St. John’s Hospice. We also have several very large boxes full of items that will be taken to Mercy Hospice for Women. Thank you again for your generosity.

Call for an appointment and tour our school on WELCOME WEDNESDAY (any Wednesday tours are scheduled with an appointment). Come see us in action - SMS - A LITTLE SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART!

Check out our website for school happenings, and the school calendar: stmarthaparishschool.webs.com.

YES, YES, SMS!

Mrs. Donofry

UNITED WAY
United Way contributions may be designated to St. Martha CYO your by referencing #06115. The CYO thanks all, whose generous contributions provide activities and sports for the youth of the parish.

THE SCRIP OFFICE
The Scrip Office will be closed Thursday, March 24 through Sunday, March 27 in observance of the Easter Triduum.

DO THE BUNNY HOP
Lent is passing quickly and as we prepare for Easter, please remember the needy in our parish community. Scrip or a monetary donation would be appreciated. Mark the envelope: BUNNY HOP and drop it into the collection basket or stop by the rectory during office hours. Thank you for your generosity. Any questions please call Sister Claire McMahon.

ST. MARTHA PARISH HALL OR GYM ~ if you want to rent for parties or any other function, please call the rectory at 215-632-3720.
PARISH REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP
It is important that all Catholics within our boundaries be registered and active members of the parish. Circumstances sometimes change registration status. If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, you need to be sure you are registered correctly in the parish. (1) Have you moved away from your parental home (not just for college)? (2) Have you recently changed your marital status? (3) Are you living with your parents, over eighteen, and not receiving your own mailings and envelopes? If any of these apply, please call the rectory office to update your registration status. New families moving into the parish can register after any Sunday Mass. Welcome!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR INFANTS
Through Baptism, your children are plunged into the mystery of the Lord’s Death and Resurrection and become God’s own children, members of the family we call Church. You may arrange baptism by approaching one of the priests or deacons after Mass. To prepare for this sacred celebration, parents are required (and godparents invited but not required) to attend a Pre-Jordan Session. At this gathering, held on a Thursday evening at 7:30 in the rectory, one of the parish clergy and a couple who have presented children for baptism give an overview of the ceremony and theology as well as practical suggestions to enhance your experience of the big day. Pre-Jordan Class will be held on the following dates: May 19th and July 14th. Consider coming to the class before your baby is born, when things are just a bit less hectic.

SCRIP NEWS
Hours for the Scrip Office:
~ Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m.
~ Saturday morning 9 to 11 a.m.
~ Sunday 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Phone: 215 632 5821  E-mail: smsscripoffice@yahoo.com or visit Saint Martha Scrip on Facebook!

REMEMBERS:
~ We can not cover orders of more than $500 to any one retailer Unless a Pre-Order has been placed.
~ We accept Pre-Orders every week if you need to order our Additional retailers, make large purchases, or you just want to Guarantee your sale.
~ Some retailers, like Home Depot, Lowes’ and Disney, offer larger Denominations—place your Pre-Order to use towards your next Home improvement project or trip.

Your participation in the program and continued patience with our staff is always valued and greatly appreciated!

SAVE THE DATE!!!
THE FIFTH ANNUAL TICKET PICNIC AND AUCTION
WHEN: Saturday, April 2nd
WHERE: Parish Hall
More Details to Follow!!!

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE OUR PARISH AUCTION A SUCCESS? In addition to attending and having a fabulous time at the Auction, you can:
~ Invite your family, friends and co-workers to attend the Auction.
~ Donate a themed basket as a family, neighborhood or Saint Martha Alumni class.
~ Take a slice of watermelon from the picnic basket in the back of Church and donate that item to the Auction.
~ Do you frequent a certain restaurant? Perhaps you could ask the Owner to donate a Gift Certificate.
~ Do you know someone who has season tickets to our local sports teams and would be willing to donate tickets?
~ Check with your employer…your spouse’s employer…can they donate?
~ How about your hairdresser/barber, barista, nail care Specialist, insurance agent, banker, or doctor’s office…would they be willing to donate?
~ Do you know a business owner that could donate goods, service, gift certificate or perhaps a monetary contribution?

If you said YES, to any of these questions, please contact Sue Pavucek (spav116@comcast.net) or Joanne Trusdell (jtrusdell @comcast.net).
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

JUBILEE COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND HALL OF FAME
Please plan to attend our Fiftieth Anniversary Communion Breakfast after the 8:00 Mass on Sunday April 10 in the gym. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children, $25 for a family of four. Tickets are available at the rectory and sometimes in church. Our guest speaker will be our native son, Christopher Ferguson, the commander of the last space shuttle flight. Induction will also take place for the newest inductees into the Saint Martha Hall of Fame.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The Knights of Columbus are having a membership drive in the gym on Sunday April 17th after the 8:00 and 10:00 Mass. There will be a continental breakfast hosted by the choir. Stop in, have a cup of coffee, and pick up a brochure about the Knights. There will be representatives of the Knights present to answer any questions you may have.
ST. MARTHA SENIORS
Meeting: March 21, 2016
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM in the Gym
Doors open at: 11:30 AM
Speaker: Ellen Rosenzweig from Klein Life In Home Support. Lunch will be served.
New members are always welcome. Come join us and meet with some friends - old and new. If school is closed due to inclement weather, our meeting will be cancelled.

Future Meeting: April 11, 2016

N.B. When school is in session, please wear nametags when entering the gym/school building. New members will be provided one. In addition, please park only in the assigned area. This procedure will keep all car & bus lanes open for school dismissal. Thanks!

ARE YOU GLUTEN INTOLERANT?
The parish has special gluten-free hosts for those who suffer from celiac or other diseases which call for a gluten-free diet. Talk to Father Al and he will tell you how to make use of this opportunity.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Good Friday, March 25, 2016, we celebrate the mystery of the Lord’s Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our longstanding tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land.

As directed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, funds generated by this collection support programs and services in the Holy Land. Support is needed to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs as well as outreach programs for the poor through established charitable institutions.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I seek your most generous and sacrificial support of the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land on March 25, 2016. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Christ,
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL
SPEAKER WEEKENDS
I’d like to thank you and your family for the sacrifices you have made in order to support the Catholic Charities Appeal. Your support will benefit nearly 180 ministries and programs helping everything from childcare to retirement living, from homelessness to growing the Church on college campuses. Your generosity is a source of inspiration to me as we have all come together to become a part of A New Vision of service. I thank you for supporting this great Appeal.

ARCHBISHOP RYAN H.S.
FIRST ANNUAL TASTE OF PHILLY
April 16, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM
Featuring a sampling of food and drinks from Philly’s finest restaurants, bars and caterers. Entertainment by The Exceptions and DJ Bobby Sacco’00. Tickets are $40 in advance ~ $50 at the door. Register online at http://bit.ly/2016TasteofPhilly or contact Terri Evans at 215-637-1800 ext.221. Must be 21 to attend.

HOST FAMILIES
Host families are needed for Nacel Open Door international high school students who will be attending Archbishop Ryan this fall. These F-1 visa students, speak English, are fully insured and have their own spending money. Host families provide room, board and receive a generous monthly stipend. For more information, please contact Karen Hickey at 609-605-8020.

ST. HUBERT H.S. SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Sunday April 3 from 1 to 3 PM. Please use the Ditman St. Entrance. You may RSVP at huberts.org/openhouse. The Seventh Grade Practice Test will be offered on Saturday April 16 at 8AM. To register for exam go to huberts.org/scholarshipptest.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS
Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 5:15 PM Vigil Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. Celebrant will be Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. Registration is required. For more information call 215-587-0500 or visit www.Phillycatholiclife.org or email: famlife@adphila.org.

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE!
Rediscover and rekindle the loving relationship in your marriage on the weekend of April 15 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another weekend will also be held beginning August 12. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.
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