

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
Marlena Snyder, Director of Music
Mrs. Karen Donofry, Principal, St. Martha School

Jean Gallagher, Parish Secretary
Maria Gilbert, School Secretary
Joseph Rafalowski, Business Manager
Art Calvo, School Development Director
Anna Garvin, School Advancement Director
Kevin Long, Director of Maintenance
Melanie Romano, Bulletin Editor



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on Facebook!

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,
Mike Ragucci, Karen Peahota
Matthew Romano, James Shupe

Ex officio: Mrs. Karen Donofry, Deacon Ray Gwynn,
Fr. Al Masluk, Msgr. Andrew Golias,
Deacon Steve Guckin and Joanne Trusdell

WELCOME TO ST. MARTHA PARISH

Stewardship is a Way of Life

God's Plan for Giving

Tithing: Weekend February 11, 2018:
\$8,733.74

Income for February 12, 2017: \$9,539.28

Children's Offering for February 11, 2018
(Included in Tithe): \$31.50

High School Offering for February 11, 2018
(Included in Tithe): \$11.00

Building and Maintenance: \$544.00

"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: We just celebrated Valentines Day. Love is not just a mushy emotion or some stirring in the loins; it is a decision, made day after day. In this, it resembles tithing, a decision to put God first, day after day and week after week. Tithing is a form of love: of God and parish and all in need! Thank you for being faithful tithers!

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "The parish gives to me, my husband and my community. It offers me a community of worship and prayer, and financially I want to help it continue. Also, my parish gives to the sick, poor and others, and I want to be a part of that."

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.

SERVICES AND SCHEDULES

Mass Schedule

Daily Masses	8:15 Monday-Saturday
Sunday Vigil	5:00 PM Saturday
Sunday Masses	8:00, 10:00, 12:00
Holy Day Masses	As Announced

Reconciliation

Saturday	3:30 to 4:30 PM
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Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms for children are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month at 1:15 (except during Lent) and on most Sundays of Easter. Parental instruction is required for the each child. See the priest after Sunday Mass to set up baptism. For adults, contact the rectory to join the RCIA program. These sacraments are usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples planning marriage should contact the parish office at least nine months in advance. Weddings are not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the parish office at the onset of serious illness. On the Sunday before you enter the hospital, please ask one of the priests to administer the Anointing, so that the healing touch of Christ may come to you in this beautiful sacrament.

Communion Calls for Shut-Ins

The homebound can be visited regularly by the parish priests and pastoral staff and brought Holy Communion on Sunday by special ministers of the Eucharist. Contact Sr. Claire if there is a need.

Funerals

Upon the death of a family member, contact the parish office so that a priest or other member of the pastoral staff can visit to offer comfort and help plan the funeral liturgy. Arrangement regarding time and dates of funerals are made through a funeral director.

PARISH INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

CCD & Baptism Team	Art Calvo	632-3720
RCIA, Bible Study, Pre Jordan,		
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Michelle Whitely	
Special Ministers and Lectors		632-3720
Choir	Marlena Snyder	632-3720
Pastoral Care	Sr. Claire	632-3720
Blood Drive	Marybeth Jannotti	637-8347
	Or Jerry Bowes	552-9204
CYO	Greg Smith	205-6738
Garden Club	Bill Jeffrey	632-6358
HS CYO	Nanette Sacidor	637-6364
Holy Dusters	Betty Janco	637-6671
Home & School	Kathy Goldstein	267-939-9766
Knights of Columbus/	Art Calvo	632-3720
Prayer Group	Bobbie Harrison	637-5441
Pre Cana	Tom & Maria Gilbert	
Pro Life	Ed & Ann Markowski	637-5446
Seniors	Jim Kilcoyne	501-0222
Ushers	Rich Konstance	637-5834
Ladies Who Love	Carol Lynn Steffen	637-2531
Alumni	Art Calvo	632-3720

Rectory Office Hours

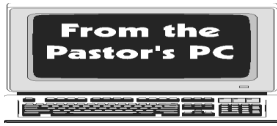
Monday to Thursday: 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM until 6:30 PM

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

SCRIP Office—215-632-5821 Email: smsscripoffice@yahoo.com

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Articles for the next bulletin must be submitted in writing to the rectory by noon on Friday. Bulletin inserts should be submitted to the rectory 10 days in advance of printing.



18 February 2018

Dear Members of the Parish Family,

Lent is a time for new beginnings, removing the hardened edges of our hearts and taking on new hearts (to use a biblical analogy). More important than giving up candy or TV or texting (though all those are good ideas) is a real change of life, because we humans can get lazy. The routine, especially as the seemingly interminable winter drags on, with its spate of colds and flu and bugs, wears us down and we all get a little spiritually sloppy. And so, Lent comes at a good time of year as it calls us to "tighten up."

I have a particular concern which I share as your pastor in the hopes it will lead some hearts to reflection and conversion.

I keep track, both from observation and by recording children's envelopes, of the Catholic families whose children go to our school and who I simply do not see in church, or see very seldom. Part of the deal with giving a family a reduced tuition (in effect a scholarship) is that the family attends Mass every week, and supports the parish (which in turn supports them and their children). My heart swells with pride when I see the many, many faithful families who fulfill this basic parental responsibility. My heart aches when I think of those who do not.

I urge all those who are not bringing their kids to church every Sunday to make this their real act of repentance and change of heart this Lent, starting immediately. You need it. The children need it. The parish needs your presence if we are to worship as well as we can. And if I still don't see you, you might just get a little phone call from your friendly neighborhood pastor, seeing if I can do something to get you back on track.

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.

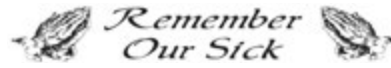


God's Love,
Fr. Al

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

WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BILLS

Each week, remember that our victory over current bills depends on taking in \$12,000 or more in the collection. Check the figures posted each week to see how we are doing. Thanks to all whose efforts are helping us in this struggle. Remember to be sure your offering comes every week, even when you are away. Consider electronic giving.



Sick Parishioners, Relatives and Friends

Andrew Avizius, John Baranosky, Sr., Christian Baus, Linda Bianco, Danielle Bobitsch, Elizabeth Bondiskey, Patricia Brennan, Michael Buck, Robert Buck, Zachary Canale-Schall, Angela Carrozzo, Debra Collins, Laura Comerton, Edward Coughlin, Robert Cowden, Samantha Crompton, Dorothy Delgado, Phillip Delgado, Lillian DeLuca, James Devenney, Rita DiFillippo, Frank Dorr, Barbara Elaine, George Fadgen, Jr., Caila Fencl, John Forward, Joan Gain, Edward Gallagher, Joan Gallagher, Donna Garcia, Stephanie Gilchrist, Jennifer Graber, Courtney Rose Gross, Lorretta Gunn, Galen Hamel, Deacon Edward Hanley, Joanne Henes, Daniel Hennessey, Kelly Joyce, Colleen Kane, Mary Kane., Thomas H. Kane, Jerry Kean, Loretta Ketner, Maryanne Klinewski, Albert Kolber, Jr., Robert Konschak, Joseph Kubach, Janet Ladzenski, Robert Edward Loftus, Patricia Lutz, Ivy Lynch, Julia Maples, Jane Marasino, Susan Marrone, Debra Marvel, Tom McCuen, Francis McEntee, Eileen McGranaghan, Sean McGranaghan, Margaret McGuigan, Michael McKee, Mary Meschler, John Montagno, Brian Murphy, Baby Bridget Murphy, J. Murphy, John Murphy, Linda Nasife, Josh Newman, Francis Olsen, Christopher Pastino, Angela Perilli, Kathy Pisacano, Terry Plunkett, Chip Rapp, Gail Reid, Sarah Reid, John Ritter, Diane Rockwell, Baby Adelynn Roush, Dolores Rozanski, Joseph Rozanski, Dominic Rufflo, Irene Russell, Julia Ryan, Brad Sacchetti, Rita Savage, Laurie Selfridge, Robert Shaw, Kathleen Slane, Riley Stone, Nicholas Vinci, Mary Walen, Bob Walsh, Lillian Weeks, Rich Whalen, Susan Wixted and Owen Ziglar

Men and Women in the Service

Miguel Araujo, Eric Baus, Jude Tyler Bickel, Kevin Bury, Michael Byrne, Allen Costello, Marianne Daniels, Thomas Delaney, Vincent DiRenzo, Ryan Evans, Chuck Fassano, Captain Courtney Gallagher, Alyssa Garfield, Matt Garvin, Luis Alexander Gonzalez, Thomas Gaus, Christopher D. Hingley, Jerry Kean, Samuel Kline, Patrick R. Lewis, Ricky Mallon, Mark McAllister, Nicholas McKee, Brett McMonagle, Adam Spina, Alec Trusdell and Connie Kline Whalen.

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*

Alexander Masluk

February 18, 2018 1st Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions for the Week

1st Sunday of Lent
 5:00 PM +Harriet & Richard Hughes
Sunday, February 18, 2018 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM +People of St. Martha
 10:00 AM +Intention of Celebrant
 12 Noon +Dawn Klar & Leah Wilbert
Monday, February 19, 2018
 8:15 AM +Norma J. Fullbright
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
 8:15 AM +Christine M. Spinelli
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 ~ St. Peter Damian
 8:15 AM +Msgr. John Miller
Thursday, February 22, 2018 ~ The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 8:15 AM +Alexander Masluk
Friday, February 23, 2018 ~ St. Polycarp
 8:15 AM +Alexander Masluk
Saturday, February 24, 2018
 8:15 AM +Vincent Rota
2nd Sunday of Lent
 5:00 PM +People of St. Martha
Sunday, February 25, 2018 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM +Kenneth Roonan
 10:00 AM +Frank Jarosiewicz
 12 Noon +Intention of Celebrant

ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS—
 LOOKING FOR POCKET MONEY?
 As winter approaches, we will probably have to deal with the “s” word: “Sn*w” (I don’t want to even spell it out entirely!) Anyway, we would like to get a list of able-bodied high school students whom our Director of Maintenance, Kevin Long, could call upon to help when shoveling and salting are necessary. A modest per hour stipend will be paid. Call Father Al for more information.

ARCHDIOCESAN POLICY CHANGE: AGE FOR CONFIRMATION

On January 31, it was announced that the age for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese will change, effective this Fall. Rather than receive the sacrament in 4th, 5th or 6th grade (current policy) young people will receive Confirmation in 7th or 8th grade. With the assumption that St. Martha will move Confirmation to seventh grade, this means there will be no celebration of Confirmation in fall of 2018. The present fifth grade will be in seventh grade in 2019 and receive the sacrament in that fall. This policy is mandatory in all Catholic schools and PREP programs in the Archdiocese.

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 18, 2018 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM ~ CCD/Children meet in Chapel
 10:00 AM ~ CLOW
Monday, February 19, 2018
 7:00 PM ~ Rosary/Church
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
 3:00 PM ~ Youth Choir/Church
 7:00 PM ~ Adult Choir/Church
 7:30 PM ~ RCIA/Rectorry
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
 7:30 PM ~ Parent Reconciliation Meeting/Church
Thursday, February 22, 2018
 7:30 PM ~ Bereavement/Rectorry
Friday, February 23, 2018
 No School - Faculty Retreat
Saturday, February 24, 2018
 10:00 AM & 12 Noon ~ Morning of Recollection
Sunday, February 25, 2018 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM ~ CCD/Children meet in Chapel
 10:00 AM ~ CLOW

Mary Queen of Angels will be celebrating the founding of the Knights of Columbus at our **Founders Day Mass on Sunday March 18** at the 10:00 Mass. There will be a continental breakfast after Mass in the school gym where any Catholic men 18 and older will have the opportunity to speak with a Knight of Columbus.

On **March 28 at 7:30 PM** in the rectory basement we will hold an open meeting for any Catholic male to attend to see what the Knights are all about and to see if there is an interest in joining.

ATTENTION SMS FAMILIES & PARISHIONERS
 Help St. Martha School earn money by collecting Box Tops. Box Tops can be found on many different products. Each box top submitted before the expiration date is worth \$0.10 to St. Martha’s! Simply BUY a box top product, CLIP the box top and BRING them to school or church. St. Martha’s in return will earn \$\$\$. For your convenience we have a Box Tops Pink Mailbox in the church vestibule for collection all year. Thank you for your support!



Needed: Volunteers to assist with **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** on Sundays during the 10:00 Mass. Please contact Michelle Whitely at 267-226-9571 for details.





**“SPOTLIGHT ON
ST. MARTHA SCHOOL”**



“Where there is despair, hope”

The Peacemaker of the Month program is based on the virtues of Courage, Charity, Forgiveness, faith, Hope, Patience, Joy, and Love. A child from each class is chosen to be the Peacemaker of the Month. The children in grades K-8 were recognized at our 8:15 School Mass on February 2 and were given a pin and their pictures are posted on the bulletin board next to the chapel. For the month of February the virtue is Hope. Children who demonstrate the virtue of Hope trust that God will always be present in their lives and they persevere in doing their daily work. Even when tasks are difficult, they do not give up. They try their best. This month we proudly award peacemaker pins to the following students:

- Kindergarten: Matthew O’Neill
- Grade 1: Marcus Lampkin, Jr.
- Grade 2: Patrick Houseman
- Grade 3: Joseph Welk
- Grade 4: Luke Cozzi
- Grade 5: Zoey Welk
- Grade 6: Natalie Dalaimo
- Grade 7: Munah Doe
- Grade 8: Steven Biancianiello

Congratulations to these students and their families.

Hope is a thing with feathers

That perches in the soul.

And sings the tune without words

And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
215-632-0320

“Tabs for Education,” save your tabs from cans and place them in the lobby or next to the Giving Tree by my office. Money used will help the school. Don’t forget your “Boxtops.”

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. Consider coming to the class before your baby is born, when things are just a bit less hectic. ***Pre-Jordan Class will be held on the following dates: March 8 and May 17.***

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 you 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!

Please consider taking a pledge card from the table in the back of the church and giving a one-time gift to St. Martha School *or* join the 25 people who are faithfully giving \$10 a month. Just place your gift in an envelope, mark it “Development” and it will make it’s way to the Development Office. Thank you for your generosity.

YOU ARE INVITED

Our Blessed Mother, on many occasions, has asked her children to pray the rosary. To honor that request, you are invited to join in the recitation of the rosary every Monday at 7:00 PM in the church. Please come as a family, come with a friend or come alone.



Time to think golf! SMS Golf Outing on **Saturday, April 28, 2018.** Save the date!



ST. MARTHA SENIORS

St. Martha Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to the **9/11 Memorial and Museum** in New York City on Tuesday, 5/8/2018. For more information, contact Loretta 215-637-9522 or Claire at 215-632-5594.

New members are always welcome. Come join us and meet with some new friends-old and new. At your first meeting– lunch is free.

LUNCH TRIPS SPEAKERS GAMES

General Meeting: February 26, 2018

Meeting Time: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM in the Gym

Doors open at: 11:30 AM

Activity: Fun and Games

Lunch will be served.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2018

If school is closed due to inclement weather, our meeting will be cancelled.

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 and bus lanes open for school dismissal. Thanks!

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of some our high school students. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence:



Father Judge High School

First Honors: Kevin King and Shane Curran

Second Honors: Daniel Adams, Brian King, and Daniel Goldstein

Little Flower Catholic High School

Anna P. O'Neill is ranked number 1 in the class.

Anna P. O'Neill achieved first honors.

Maggie Volz achieved first honors.

Roman Catholic High School

Sean Terrance Devlin, Jr. achieved first honors.

David James Dickerson achieved second honors.

Holy Ghost Prep

Distinguished Honors: Anthony Baum

Second Honors: Liam Farrell

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP

The Mother's Prayer Group at St. Martha's meets on the **first and third** Mondays of the month. We meet from 7:30-8:30 PM in the Chapel on the first floor of the school. We pray for our children and the intentions of each other. Join us! If you need additional information, contact Margaret Breen at 215-637-5666

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!

REMINDERS:

- ~ 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 SEVENTH ANNUAL
TICKET PICNIC AND AUCTION**



WHEN: Saturday, April 14

TIME: 6:00 Preview, 7:00 Start

WHERE: Parish Hall

**PRICE: \$20 with 10 basket tickets (presale)
\$25 at door**

***Must be 21 to attend**

Tickets will be sold after each Mass.

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE OUR PARISH AUCTION A SUCCESS? In addition to attending and having a fabulous time, you can:

- ~Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to attend the Auction.
- ~Donate a themed basket as a family, neighborhood or St. 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, a gift certificate or perhaps a monetary contribution?

*****If you said YES to any of these questions, please contact Kathy Goldstein (Kathygold9778@yahoo.com)**

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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