Farewell and Welcome

Farewell Fr. Frank

It was with a heavy heart that the Parish said “goodbye” to Msgr. Francis Caldwell on the weekend of June 25-26th. Three days later, with anticipation for a smooth transition, we welcomed Rev. Christopher Costigan as our new pastor. Through it all, the building stood serene as tears were shed, well-wishes were extended to both priests, and friendly handshakes were offered as a new parish journey began.

Welcome Fr. Chris

Bethany Hall was the setting for a series of receptions - one after each Mass on the weekend of June 25-26th followed by an evening event for parish volunteers, Fr. Frank’s family and guests. Then on July 3rd a reception welcoming Fr. Chris followed the 11am Mass. The parish family exemplified the hospitality of St. Martha on both weekends.
Thank You Father Frank!
We have been blessed by your presence.

K of C honor guard, photo ops, presentations, standing ovations, and a special parish blessing made the entire weekend special. Below: Parish Trustee, Tony Patino thanks, Father at the 5pm Mass.
Our New Pastor

Rev. Christopher Costigan officially began his tenure as the 6th Pastor of St. Martha’s at noon on Wednesday, June 29th. None of the parish family got to meet him in that capacity until the next day when he said the 8:30am Mass in the Chapel. The following weekend, Fr. Chris celebrated the English Masses and introduced himself at both the Spanish and Haitian Masses on Sunday.

A welcome reception followed the 11:00am Mass in Bethany Hall. Many that attended that Mass took the opportunity to meet the new pastor one-on-one.

Samantha Nicholson, a 2016 graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, was the recipient of the 2016 Scholar Award. The award is given through a Diocesan grant to the Haitian community and recognizes service to the parish. Samantha (shown with Deacon Hernst Bellevue, Fr. Frank and her mother, Cheryl Nicholson who serves as the Parish Assistant) is a Eucharistic Minister, an Altar Server and has been known to assist in the Parish Center as needed. She will attend Hofstra University in the fall.
Parish Activities—continued without interruption.

Both the Haitian and Spanish Marriage programs have been working with couples to validate their marriage within the church. For a variety of reasons, these couples had not been married according to church teachings and blessings. Happily the program has been a huge success.

Jose Buemo provided this photo of the couples from the Spanish Community along with the names of those who completed the Pre-Cana classes. Left to right: Fredy & Gloria Mendez, Hugo & Idelia Retana, Arnoldo & Marta Martinez, Jesus Morales & Damari Mejia, Felicito Hernandez & Mailin Benitez, Benjamin Larios & Karla Rivera, Carlos & Ana Rodriguez, Jacobo & Veronica Salinas. Program coordinators are Wilmer & Omayra Perez-Mejia, Jose & Roxana Bueno.

Find Parish Photos on Shutterfly.

Access the parish website at saintmartha.org and choose the link to Shutterfly.

Two of the couples on their wedding day!