

**Listening to Jesus from the Kitchen – Memorial of St. Martha July 29th,
2020 (1 John 4:7-16, Luke 10:38-42/John 11:19-27)**

Brothers and sisters today would probably be a good day to honour and thank those who usually prepare meals daily for our physical nourishment. Today we celebrate the memorial of St. Martha patron of cooks. She is a biblical figure who lived in Bethany with her siblings Mary and Lazarus. She offered Jesus her warm hospitality on several occasions as affirmed in Luke 10:38, “Jesus entered a village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.”

Martha was busy cooking and serving the meals trying to offer Jesus the best hospitality, but her sister Mary sat at the Lord’s feet. Martha complained to Jesus, “Lord do you not care?” Jesus’ response to Martha was: “You worry about so many things, and yet, one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” Jesus is not downplaying housework or active life. Whether active life or contemplative life, the two are equally important. In either lifestyle, what finally matters is our love and faith in God.

We can still be in the Kitchen and still hear and listen to the voice of God. Usually the woman in the kitchen will often know exactly what is going on in the rest of her house. Jesus does not preclude us from listening to him from our daily active chores. Martha had plenty of faith and love when she was preoccupied with worries of taking care of Jesus. She is even the one who utters the highest profession of faith in Jesus as the resurrection and the life resulting in Jesus raising her brother Lazarus from the dead. Even while working, let us keep our focus on God and not be distracted by anxieties. **Amen.**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar