

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 15, 2018



"Why do questions arise in your hearts?" After the Resurrection, the Apostles experienced their fair share of incredulity. Jesus had died—John had been there—and now the tomb was empty. What should they believe? Was the Jesus before them truly real? And who was Jesus really? It's no surprise that the Apostles were initially "startled and terrified" to the extent that they "thought that they were seeing a ghost."

Jesus has compassion on his confused disciples. Once he affirms his non-ghostly identity—"look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself"—Jesus gets down to business. He has risen from the dead, but life would not continue as normal. Throughout Jesus' ministry, he spoke in parables and veiled prophetic language. His followers likely thought much of his words were metaphors, some symbolism for the person and their relation to God. Now Jesus has something else in mind. He "opened their minds to understand the scriptures," making known the connections between his own words and deeds and "everything written about him in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms."

Why now? Why this increased depth of understanding? The answer lies in the shifting role of the Apostles. "You are witnesses of these things." The treasury of truth is no longer Jesus' responsibility alone but our own. Then and there, the Apostles are appointed to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus, the forgiveness of sins and the mercy of God. This message is no longer for only the Jewish people but "all the nations."

This is our invitation! We have the rich heritage of the Church's teaching. By sacramental grace, God's "peace" is "with us." We, too, are sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and the hope that belongs to his call.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Shirley Broussard, Patsy R. Coleman, Reginald Douglas, Sonya Douglas, Sophia Eaglin, Debra Evans, Rosalind Gardner, Thelma Gardner, Herman Gary, Janet Gary, Elizabeth Harris, Kandace Hebert, Florence Johnson, Jeanette Jones, Charles Julian, Mary Jane Julian, Robert Kirkland, Hazel McClinton, Verbal Martin, Michael Mitchell, Montreal Moore, Luther Pittman, Hazel Rem, Carolyn Softly, Harriett Thomas, Urabell Thomas, Jacob Viser, Mary Ann Willis, Kyle Wright, Bessie Young and Donald L. Young.

MINISTERS FOR APRIL 21st & 22nd, 2018

LECTORS

5:00PM Tracey Johnson, Heartha Broudreux, Umaja Savoy

8:30AM Tony Brown, Erica Johnson, Ronald Enard

11:00AM Erie Calloway, Johnny Mae Roy, Mary C Hamilton

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

5:00PM Glen Pratt, Deborah Thomas, Carmen Lockett

8:30AM Carla Joseph, Mary Julian, Dorothy Lewis, Cathy Paul-Steward, Patricia White, Mary Ann Willis

11:00AM Laura Allen, Cheryl Cash, William Cash, Erika Edmond, May Walker, Sylvester Whitmire

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00PM Chamia, Charlene & Carleysia Manning

8:30AM Valentine & Gregory Ezechukwu, Andrian & Avion Johnson

11:00AM Lucy Didikiri, Rita Didikiri, Naankwat Riemson

LIVING FAITH:

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Monday: Acts 6:8-15 * Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 * Jn 6:22-29

Remove from me the way of falsehood, and favor me with your law.

Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1 * Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21 * Jn 6:30-35
Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Wednesday: Acts 8:1-8 * Ps 66:1-7 * Jn 6:35-40
There was great joy in that city.

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40 * Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 * Jn 6:44-51
I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Friday: Acts 9:1-20 * Ps 117:1-2 * Jn 6:52-59
Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight.

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42 * Ps 116:12-17 * Jn 6:60-69
Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12 * Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 * 1 Jn 3:1-2 * Jn 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me...

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	6:00 PM	Youth Choir Practice - Rm 100
	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
Tues.	6:30 PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.
	7:00 PM	8:30 AM Choir Practice
Thur.	6:00 PM	Crawfish Festival Meeting
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Fri.	8:30AM	School Mass

PRAYING THE ROSARY

Join us for the Rosary thirty minutes before each Mass.

Offering for Apr. 7th & 8th, 2018

Regular Offering	\$10,708.03
Mailed in	\$ 2,970.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,046.60
Total Offering	\$14,721.63
Capital Improvement	\$ 117.00

Thank you much for your generosity!

ONLINE GIVING

www.stmaryshouston.net

(click on **online giving**)

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND (DSF)

As of 04 - 12 - 2018

Parish Goal	\$ 64,000.00
Total Pledged	\$ 22,445.00
Total Paid	\$ 12,132.50
Total Number of Participants	93
Total Number of Households	1080
Paid over (under) Goal	(\$51,867.50)
Pledged over (under) Goal	(\$41,555.00)
Percent Paid	18.96%

Thank you so much for answering the call to express God's Mercy and compassion through your commitment to this Year's DSF. Catholics throughout our arch diocesan community are uniting in faith, sharing their blessings, and giving gifts in Christ's name.

If you have heard Christ's call and have not yet responded, please consider offering your commitment today. With every parishioner's meaningful commitment, we will succeed in reaching our Parish Goal of \$64,000.00 and provide hope and help for those among us who are most in need. You may use the pledge card that are at the entrance of the Sanctuary and drop in the collection basket or do it online @ www.archgh.org.dsf.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday's Second collection will be for the Home Missions Collection. Please give generously to this collection.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5:00 PM	For our Parishioners
Sun. 8:30 AM	+Lucille Eddington by Hilda Mitchell +Barbara Montague by Shari Guidry & Family
Sun. 11:00 AM	+Mary Trimmer by Trimmer Family
Mon. 7:00 AM	Educational Endeavors for our Children and Youth

CONGRATULATIONS!

A Hearty Congratulations to the First Communion Class of 2018 who are making their First Communion this Sunday at the 11:00 A.M. Mass:

Reece Anderson, Aida Andha, Jared Armelin, Dylan Channell, Alexa Cooper, Julian Constantine, Dameyon Countee, Pretty Egwim, Kellan Evans, Zora Gabriel, Kyle Gandy, Nathaniel Glapion, Danese Moore, Madeleine Rey and Emile White.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir will practice on Monday, April 16th and 23rd, at 6:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m. If you are age 11-17 and interested in joining, please attend rehearsal.

MICKEY LELAND FOOD DRIVE

The Mickey Leland Food Drive is on now through April 27th. Please help the Knights & Ladies Auxiliary of Council and Court 159 by donating your non-perishable items or monetary gifts. You may drop your items in the box placed in the Gallery.

LLOYD & BERNICE BOURDA SCHOLARSHIP

The Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary 159 will award a scholarship to one boy and one girl in Catholic School, from grades Pre-K thru 8. You may submit your application to the office. Applications are available in the Church Gallery.

GRADUATION MASS

The Mass recognizing all of our graduates from High School, College or those receiving advanced degrees or certification will be on Sunday, May 27th at 11:00 A.M. Please submit a short autobiography, if you would like to participate. You may contact the Church Office @ 713-528-0571 for more information.

CRAWFISH FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Knights of Peter Claver Council and Court 159's, **26th Annual Crawfish Festival** will be on May 19th, from 11AM-10PM. Parishioners and patrons alike will be able to enjoy great crawfish and tasty Creole dishes while listening to authentic Creole Zydeco music. Please come out support their major fundraiser.

BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENT

We would like to welcome our newest advertiser, *Royal Palms Auto + Sales*, Craig Cassel-Owner; and thank those that continue to advertise with us on a regular basis. Please patronize our advertisers.

SCHOOL NEWS

Registration has begun for the 2018-2019 school year. We are proud of our Catholic school and we offer nothing less than the best for our children. Consider sending your children to our school. Please contact the School Office at 713-522-9276 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Also, we need a Teacher, Teacher Aide, and a Development Officer (*part-time*). If you are interested, please visit www.choosecatholicchools.org.

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus opened the minds of his followers to understanding of scripture. He pronounced them as his witnesses. Be the hands and feet of Jesus today.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DIVINE
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CONTACT 800-553-3321