

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## FEBRUARY 18, 2018



Why do we always go to the desert? We see this example in Scripture time and time again. The Israelites wandered in the desert. King David and prophets were driven into the wilderness. And now Jesus is in the same place. Lent after Lent, we too are invited into a barren, desolate place. Why do we always go to the desert?

Throughout Scripture, the desert is a place of testing. It's also a place of hiding and withdrawal. In the Old Testament, David fled into the wilderness to hide from Saul, Elijah from Jezebel, and Jonah from God! In other words, the desert is a place of "retreat." In Christian circles, we use the word to describe a spiritual weekend away. But its meaning comes from warfare, as we well know. To retreat means to draw back, to separate oneself from the fighting. Of course, a military retreat brings its own kind of "battle" - the internal assessment of why the fighting went so poorly.

As we enter into this Lenten season, we are invited to retreat into the desert with Jesus. Attending a day or weekend of reflection is a wonderful spiritual practice. This "desert spirituality," however, can fill all forty days. We can fulfill our Lenten resolutions with a purpose - writing daily notes to family and friends can inspire new gratitude, every time we pass up that specific food item can be cause for intercession for deeper sufferings and privations of others.

The Gospel tells us that "the Spirit drove him out into the desert." In other words, God wants us to be here. What feels uncomfortable is actually part of our spiritual journey. To be stretched, to be challenged, to confront our own areas of weakness - these things are essential in our walk with God. This Lent, will you go to the desert?

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Shirley Broussard, Patsy R. Coleman, Reginald Douglas, Sonya Douglas, Sophia Eaglin, Lucille Eddington, 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, Michael Mitchell, Barbara Montague, Montreal Moore, Pier Angela Nichols, Luther Pittman, Hazel Rem, Carolyn Softly, Harriett Thomas, Urabell Thomas, Mary Ann Willis, Kyle Wright, Bessie Young and Donald L. Young.

### MINISTERS FOR Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### LECTORS

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

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

11:00AM Lawrence White, Eric Calloway, Douglas Butler

#### EUCHARIST MINISTERS

5:00PM Janiece Jefferson, Shameika Jefferson, 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, Syltoester Whitmire

#### ALTAR SERVERS

5:00PM Chamia, Charlene & Carleysia Manning

8:30AM Carson Brown, Mason Brown, Brain Stubblefield, Vincent Doucet

11:00AM Ifeoma (Ify), Ilome & Mojoko (Mojo) Mbue

### LIVING FAITH:

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 \* Ps 19:8-10, 15 \* Mt 25:31-46

Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11 \* Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 \* Mt 6:7-15

If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10 \* Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 \* Lk 11:29-32

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.

**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4 \* Ps 23:1-6 \* Mt 16:13-19

Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock.

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28 \* Ps 130:1-8 \* Mt 5:20-26

You say, "The Lord's way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19 \* Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 \* Mt 5:43-48

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 \* Ps 116:10, 15-19 \* Rom 8:31-34 \* Mk 9:2-10

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Mon.</b>	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
<b>Tue.</b>	6:30 PM	Pastoral Council
	6:30 PM	Rosary Group
	7:00 PM	8:30 AM Choir Practice
<b>Wed.</b>	1:00 PM	Bible Study
	6:00 PM	Bible Study
<b>Thur.</b>	7:00 PM	Mixed Practice
<b>Fri.</b>	8:30AM	Stations of the Cross with school children
	6:30PM	Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

**PRAYING THE ROSARY** - Join us for the Rosary thirty minutes before each Mass.

## Offering for Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Regular Offering	\$ 8,206.74
Mailed in	\$ 3,435.00
Online Giving	\$ 903.60
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$12,545.34</b>
Capital Improvement	\$ 60.00

*Thank you for sharing your blessing!*

### ONLINE GIVING

[www.stmaryshouston.net](http://www.stmaryshouston.net)

(click on online giving)

#### MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat. 5:00 PM** For our Parishioners  
**Sun. 8:30 AM** +Edmond Zenon by Ella Williams & Family  
+Hilma Sassau Broussard by Her Family  
**Sun. 11:00 AM** +Elizabeth Thornton by The Thornton Family  
+Hilda Bergeron by Her Family  
**Tues. 7:00 AM** +Young Adults  
**Thurs. 7:00 AM** +Special Intentions - Jean Dember

#### BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENT

We would like to welcome our newest advertisers; *Itz 4 Kidz by Kidz*, *Dr. Umekei Smith-US Dentistry*, and *The Wing Quarter*; and thank those that continue to advertise with us. Please patronize all of our advertisers.

#### MISSION EXPERIENCE TO JAMAICA

Sponsored by Divine Word Missionaries Vocations Office - **May 19-28, 2018**. Get ready for an adventure. Recent participants report that there are many needs in Jamaica. People need adequate housing, kids need help in school and others just need someone to care. This is your chance to make a difference. Apply today! For more information contact Len Uhal at 800-553-3321 or [lual@dwc.edu](mailto:lual@dwc.edu).

#### THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the different Ministries that are active in our parish, and making a difference in the lives of many. Thank you for your participation in the Ministry Fair Sunday last week. A special note of thanks and gratitude, to our Pastoral Council members, for all the work behind the scene and for making this Ministry Fair Sunday possible. **Thank You Everyone!**

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GATHERING

The theme for this year's gathering is, "Grace-Filled Black Catholic Women: Standing on the Promise". Sponsored by the National Black Sisters' Conference When: July 27<sup>th</sup> - July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Where: New Orleans Marriott Hotel, 829 Convention Center Blvd. Reservation is now open: 1-800-305-6342

For more information Contact:

NBSC office 202-529-9250

[thenationalblacksistersconfer@verizon.net](mailto:thenationalblacksistersconfer@verizon.net)



#### "INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S MERCY" - 2018 DSF

This year DSF invites you to be an 'Instrument of Mercy' to our fellow brothers and sisters in need. Jesus Christ calls us to reach those who are sick or in need, to bless them, serve them, and show them mercy. The thousands of people served through 60 plus ministries throughout the archdiocese need your compassion and generosity. Your kind gift to DSF enable us to reach out to the people in our parish and throughout the entire archdiocese.

If you have not already offered your pledge in this year's DSF, please prayerfully consider doing it today. You may use the pledge card that you received from Cardinal DiNardo or from the parish last weekend and bring it to Mass and place it either in the collection basket or in the DSF box placed at the entrance of the sanctuary. If you prefer, you may also do it online at @:

[www.archgh.org.dsf](http://www.archgh.org.dsf).

**Our DSF Parish goal for 2018 is \$ 64,000.00.** With every family's full participation, we will surely exceed this amount and do our share to help many in need, advancing the work of the church in our community. Please accept Our sincere thanks and appreciation to those of you who have already responded. **Currently we have 26 Parishioners who have committed to the DSF 2018.**

#### STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK

Thank you so much to everyone for your support to our School and Catholic education by participating in the Steps for Students 5K Run/Walk. The goal of Steps for Students is to raise awareness of the importance of a Catholic education and provide much needed resources for all our Catholic Schools.

You can still support our school by making a donation to our school at [www.steps4students.org](http://www.steps4students.org)

#### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

If you haven't received your offertory (tithe) envelopes, or have changed your address, please contact the church office at 713-528-0571 to update us.

#### LENTEN SEASON, 2018



**Lenten Revival on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM**

**Revivalist:**

**Rev. Paul Whittington, O.P.**

**Confession on March 21<sup>st</sup> followed by Revival**

**+ Every Friday Stations of the Cross at 8:30am (with school children) and 6:30pm followed by Mass.**

**► KPC Ladies and Knights will sell fish dinners every Friday during Lent.**