

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## MAY 21, 2017



*"If you love me you will keep my commandments."* It's really as simple as that. We are only paying lip service to the Lord if we externally declare

ourselves to be Christians but don't follow through on a life that confirms it.

In our modern culture, we often think of love as a feeling or a kind of devotion. It is thus all too common to separate love from appropriate action. Perhaps we reassure ourselves that we love Jesus because we believe that he is the Son of God and our personal Savior. But these thoughts—or even any grateful or pleasant feelings that come along with them—are not the fullest manifestation of real love. Rather, as Jesus tells us directly in today's Gospel, *"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me."*

Now, for those of us who may be asking what exactly these commandments are, it's helpful to remember Jesus' response when he was questioned on the subject. *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mt 22:37-39). These fundamental principles embrace everything that Jesus calls us to do. If we put God first and foremost in our lives, and if we treat our neighbors as we would wish to be treated, then all the rest falls into place. The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and any other fundamental Christian codes of behavior are all summed up here. Indeed, if we truly seek to love Jesus, putting him first and following his ways won't feel like a burden but rather like a beautiful blessing.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Shirley Broussard, Reginald Douglas, Rosalind Gardner, Thelma Gardner, Herman Gary, Janet Gary, Florence Johnson, Bertha Kirkland, Robert Kirkland, Bernard Ladet, Hazel McClinton, Michael Mitchell, Montreal Moore, Hazel Rem, Sam Roy, John Paul Roy, Stephen E. Roy, Charles Thomas, Urabell Thomas, Elizabeth Thornton, and Kyle Wright.

**PRAYING THE ROSARY** – We pray the Rosary thirty minutes before each Mass. Please join us.

### MINISTERS FOR MAY 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>st</sup>, 2017

#### LECTORS

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

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

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

#### EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

5:00PM Shameika Jefferson, Phyllis Moss

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

11:00AM Laura Allen, Cheryl Cash, William Cash, Erika

Edmond, May Walker, Sylvester Whitmire

#### ALTAR SERVERS

5:00PM Chamia Manning, Charlene Manning, Carleysia Manning

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

11:00AM Matthew Edmond, Theresa Thomas

### LIVING FAITH:

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

**Monday:** Acts 16:11-15 \* Ps 149:1-6, 9 \* Jn 15:26—16:4

For the Lord loves his people, and he adorns the lowly with victory.

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34 \* Ps 138:1-3, 7-8 \* Jn 16:5-11

But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go.

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 \* Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 \* Jn 16:12-15

...so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us.

**Thursday:** Acts 18:1-8 \* Ps 98:1-4 \* Jn 16:16-20

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...

**Friday:** Acts 18:9-18 \* Ps 47:2-7 \* Jn 16:20-23

...you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

**Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28 \* Ps 47:2-3, 8-10 \* Jn 16:23-28

...so that your joy may be complete.

**Sunday:** Acts 1:1-11 \* Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 \* Eph 1:17-23 \* Mt 28:16-20

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet...

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying... All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer...

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Mon.</b>	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
<b>Tues.</b>	6:30 PM	Youth Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	8:30AM Choir Practice
<b>Thurs.</b>	8:30 AM	Kindergarten Graduation
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
<b>Fri.</b>	8:30 AM	Fifth Grade Promotions
<b>Sat.</b>	10:00 AM	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support to the Trinity Dome collection. Your participation will bring to completion the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, our church, America's Catholic Church.

## Offering for May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Regular Offering	\$11,075.00
Mailed in	\$ 710.00
Online Giving	\$ 792.44
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$12,577.44</b>
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 339.00
Trinity Dome Collection	\$ 615.42

*Thank you for sharing your blessing!*

### ONLINE GIVING

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

### DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND (DSF)

*As of 05-15-2017*

Parish Goal	\$ 64,000.00
Total Pledged	\$ 17,780.00
Total Paid	\$ 11,904.33
Total Number of Participants	85
Total Number of Households	1065
Paid over (under) Goal	(\$52,095.67)
Pledged over (under) Goal	(\$46,220.00)
Percent Paid	18.60%

My Sincere thanks to those who have answered the call to express God's love and compassion through your commitment to this year's DSF. Please know that you would have made a difference in someone's life by your contribution. Your contribution does matter and I am counting on you to help our parish achieve our goal for the first time ever. I know we can and we must do it because DSF serves many worthy causes. If you haven't responded yet, I urge you to consider offering your commitment at this time; each gift helps.

Fr. Justin

### SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next week, our second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. Fifty percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

### MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Sat.</u> 5:00 PM	For our Parishioners +Bobby Edmond by Betty Marquez
<u>Sun.</u> 8:30 AM	+Bennie Morton by Mrs. Bennie Morton & Family +Irene Moore by Angie Spencer
<u>Sun.</u> 11:00 AM	Educational Endeavors of our Children and Youth +Mary Trimmer by The Thornton Family +Johnathan Ashford by Angie Spencer

**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS

Congratulations to our *Fifth-Grade Graduating Class - 2017, Gavin Abernathy, Xhanai Barron, Tierra Brown, Lauryn Jackson and Robert Taylor*. We wish them continued success as they embark on their new educational journey.

### ADORATION

Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the First Friday of the month. Every first Friday of the month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and therefore we will have Eucharistic adoration from 6:00pm-7:00pm followed by Holy Mass. You are highly encouraged to come and spend an hour with Lord.



### Dominican Sisters Summer Camp 2017

Girls 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Looking for Summer Fun? Join the adventures at Dominican Sisters Summer Camp 2017, July 2 - July 8, at Camp Kappe. Activities: *Archery, Initiative Games, Singing, Arts and Crafts, and more*. For further information contact: Sr. Thomas Ann, OP, at 281-684-8011, or go online to [www.domhou.org](http://www.domhou.org) and follow the links under "Ministries" to download a brochure.

### FAMILY DAY

This year our Parish Family Day will be on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be **only one Mass at 10:00AM**. We would like all our parishioners, along with family and friends to come and celebrate our family!

### IN THE GALLERY

Now on display in the Gallery are the works by Mr. Ted Ellis. Extremely dedicated to his craft the artist draws on a style that was born in his childhood from impressions of his native city of New Orleans. If you would like to purchase any of the works, please contact Thelma Goodman in the Church Office.

### SCHOOL CORNER

Registration has begun for the 2016 - 2017 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.

### 2017 ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE (JULY 28 - 31, 2017)

The Archdiocesan Youth Conference (AYC) is a weekend gathering of high school age youth. The theme for this year is "**Holiness**".

The total cost for this conference is \$373.00. All you are required to pay is only \$190.00 and the Parish will pay the rest. If you are interested, please contact Daphne Sands at [daphinesands@aol.com](mailto:daphinesands@aol.com) or 713-515-4192 or church office for more info.

### May 21 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

**A Vocation View:** 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.' The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to embrace our Faith with a whole heart, but we must receive this gift in humility.

**DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and SISTER SERVANTS  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
800-553-3321**