

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 17, 2019



What an audience Jesus has in today's Gospel! "A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of people from all over Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon." Disciples, pagans, and devout Jews gathered together to hear Jesus speak in the Sermon on the Mount. All of these people had something in common. God was someone to be bargained with, and if God liked you, you were rewarded with good fortune. This Sunday, Jesus tells us a different story. "Woe to you; who are rich, who are filled now, who laugh, when all speak well of you. Blessed are you; who are poor, you who are now hungry, when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you." Jesus completely flips the script on what it means to be blessed by God. What he proclaims as "woe" are states of life we often strive for, and "blessed" are the states we work hard to avoid!

Jesus is concerned with the kingdom of God and the world to come, not the typical structures of power and privilege. The word "now" appears often in these statements. Why? If you are well "now," that's beside the point. To be rich in this life has no direct bearing on your immortal soul. If you're struggling "now," that's not an indication that God has forgotten you or that - in light of eternity - you're worse off than someone else. In fact, it could be an indicator that you're enduring something that will bring you to a place of greater, eternal joy in the future.

This Sunday, consider your priorities. Who do we reject as not blessed, and thereby inflict woe upon ourselves? When we encounter difficult situations in our own lives, do we see them as opportunities to remember God and lean on His mercy and grace?

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Claudia Brown, Patsy R. Coleman, Reginald Douglas, Sonya Douglas, Sophia Eaglin, John Estorge III, Debra Evans, Rosalind Gardner, Herman Gary, Janet Gary, Mary Gilliard, Wiliby Goode, Elizabeth Harris, Kandace Hebert, Louis (BJ) Hawkins, Florence Johnson, Jeanette Jones, Charles Julian, Mary Jane Julian, Robert Kirkland, Clara LaBome, June Marsh, Hazel McClinton, Verbal Martin, Michael Mitchell, Krista Moore, Montreal Moore, Ani Josephine Pendleton, Hazel Rem, Theresa Rideau, Genevieve Rousseve, Carolyn Softly, Urabell Thomas, Leroy Thornton, Jacob Viser, Melina Volair, Mary Ann Willis and Kyle Wright.

MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY 23rd & 24th, 2019

LECTORS

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

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00 PM Shameika Jefferson, Carmen Lockett

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 PM Carlesysia, Chamia & Charlee Manning

8:30 AM Carson & Mason Brown, Vincent Doucet

11:00AM Prince & Princess Egwim

LIVING FAITH:

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 * Ps 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21 * Mk 8:11-13

Then the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 * Ps 29:1-4, 9-10 * Mk 8:14-21

...[God] regretted that the had made man on the earth...

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 * Ps 116:12-15, 18-19 * Mk 8:22-26

He took the blind man by the hand...Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on him and asked, "Do you see anything?"

Looking up he replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." Then he laid hands on his eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly.

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13 * Ps 102:16-21, 29 * Mk 8:27-33

"Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

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

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build me Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7 * Ps 145:2-5, 10-11 * Mk 9:2-1

...his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 * Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 * 1 Cor 15:45-49 * Lk 6:27-3

Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	6:00 PM	Rosary Group
	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
Tues.	6:30 PM	Pastoral Council Meeting
	7:00 PM	8:30 AM Choir Practice
Wed.	1:00 PM	Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Bible Study
Thur.	7:00 PM	11AM Choir Practice
Fri.	8:30AM	School Mass
Sat.	10:00 AM	St. Vincent de Paul

Offering for February 9th & 10th, 2019

Regular Offering	\$ 8,706.82
Mail-In Offerings	\$ 4,760.00
Online Giving	\$ 768.15
Total Offering	\$14,234.97
Capital Improvement	\$ 281.00

Thank you so much for your generosity!

ONLINE GIVING

www.stmaryshouston.net

(click on **online giving**)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5:00 PM	For the Parishioners
Sun. 8:30 AM	+Thomas Malone by Sandria Tolliver +Hilma Sassau Broussard by Bobbie Broussard Tennell Educational Endeavors of our Children & Youth
Sun. 11:00 AM	For our Parishioners
Mon. 7:00 AM	+Hilma Sassau Broussard by Bobbie Broussard Tennell

MOVIE ON SAINT PAUL

As we are wrapping up our Bible study on the book of the Acts of the Apostles (Almost half of the Book of Acts is about Paul's Conversion and his Mission to Gentiles), we will screen a movie on St. Paul on Wednesday, February 27th, at 1PM & 6:30PM. Everyone (*even if you didn't attend the bible study*) is invited to come and watch.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kindly keep in your prayers Elder Jean Wilkins-Dember, commonly referred to by many as "Mother Dember" whom the Lord called from this world to Himself. Also, please keep the bereaving family in your prayers. May She rest in peace!

HAIR CARE PRODUCT DONATIONS

St. Mary's YACAD (*Young Adult Catholics of African Descent*) is collecting donations for **Montrose Grace Place**. Montrose Grace Place is having their 2nd Annual Black Hair Care Product Drive throughout February, collecting hair care products and accessories for youth. While the majority of the teens they serve are Black, they very rarely get donations of products specifically for their hair types.

They are collecting everything from shampoos, conditioners, combs, clips and beyond. Everything you need at home to care for your hair, these homeless teens need as well. For more information visit <https://www.montrosegraceplace.org>. You may take donations to their location at Kindred or place them in the Donation Box here at St. Mary's in the Gallery.

GULF COAST CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Why Attend? ...For your family, for your parish, & you! The 4th Annual Gulf Coast Catholic Men's Conference, will be held on Saturday, March 9th, 8am to 3pm at Sylvan Beach Pavilion at 1 Sylvan Beach Drive in La Porte, TX. For more details and to purchase tickets go to www.gc-cmc.org.

CATHOLIC VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

"AMEN"

A Hebrew word meaning "truly; it is so; let it be done," signifying agreement with what has been said. The prayers of the New Testament and of the Church's liturgy and the Creeds conclude with "Amen." Jesus used the word to introduce solemn assertions, to emphasize their trustworthiness and authority.

YOUTH CHOIR

St. Mary's Youth Choir, together with the Percussion and Liturgical Dance Ministries, has begun planning for their *2nd Annual Youth Music Workshop in June 2019*. They are in need of adult volunteers, instructors in the arts, and assistance with organizing, sponsoring, and promoting the event. If you are interested in participating, contact Felicia Baham at 713-423-4575 or bahamfelicia@gmail.com.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This month began as a week in 1926, and expanded to a month in 1976, in order to fully celebrate and promote the teachings and accomplishments of African American History. In honor of this, you are encouraged to wear African clothing throughout the month of February.

We are very happy to welcome our Congolese brothers and sisters this weekend to join us at 11AM Mass and give us a taste of the Liturgy in Congolese Rite.

SCHOOL CORNER

Special thanks to everyone who supported our school by registering/donating for Steps4students, we have raised \$23,698.00. You can still support our school by donating online at www.steps4students.org please make sure to select St. Mary of the Purification from the list of schools.

2019-2020 SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for students in PreK-3 through the 8th grade. That's right, St. Mary's is extending its program to a full middle school including an athletic program among other advance programs. Please call the school for further information and to schedule a tour, 713-522-9276 or email rtaylor@stmaryshoustonschool.org.

LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:

March 6th: Mass at 7am, 8:30am, and 7pm

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

† Healing mass on Monday, March 11th @ 7:00pm

† Revival on March 18th, 19th, & 20th at 7:00pm

► KPC Ladies and Knights will sell fish dinners on Fridays during Lent.