

DAILY REFLECTIONS

WEDNESDAY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Reflection: Christmas Day is among the most celebrated feasts in the world. Everything else in life stops while the Christian world, in particular, celebrates the birth of the Savior of the World that took place over 2,000 years ago in the small town of Bethlehem. The first Christmas was celebrated by Mary and Joseph, but a multitude of angels saw to it that poor shepherds from the nearby fields joined the celebration as representatives of the entire Christian world to come. Though the Incarnation took place nine months prior when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive a Child, that Child exited her sacred womb and breathed His first breath of air on that holy night.



DAILY REFLECTIONS

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 10:19-20

Reflect, today, upon the profound truth that God never abandons us. In fact, when we suffer the most or endure persecution, rejection or any form of mistreatment, God is especially present. Look at your own life and consider those moments that you find most challenging. Pray to Saint Stephen and ask him to pray for you so that you will be open to the inspired words and actions of our Lord when you need them the most.

FRIDAY: JOHN 20:1-3

As we honor this unique and holy Apostle, reflect, today, upon the simple truth that you are also invited to share in the holy and intimate love shared by Jesus and Saint John. Ponder the fact that our Lord also loves you with perfect charity, intimacy and totality. If you can gaze upon the love in the heart of this beloved disciple, then you, too, can share in that love and become a beloved disciple yourself.

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 2:13

Reflect, today, upon the will of God for your life. In what ways is God calling you to be like Saint Joseph and protect the most innocent and most vulnerable? How are you being called to be a guardian of those entrusted to your care? Certainly, on a civil level we must all work to protect the lives of those who are unborn. But every parent, grandparent and all those entrusted with responsibility for another must strive to protect those in their care in countless other ways. We must diligently work to preserve them from the evils in our world and the numerous attacks of the evil one on their lives. Ponder this question today and allow the Lord to speak to you of your duty to imitate the great protector, Saint Joseph.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(CHRISTMAS)
DECEMBER 25, 2024**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to form Christian Communities that will glorify God by our loving and serving one another, and to extend our love, support, and compassion to the needy.

**Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune
Bishop of Charleston
Rev. Jesuprathap Narichetti
(Father JP)
Pastor
Email:
jnarichetti@charlestdiocese.org
(843) 731-1162
Parish Secretary Becky Chaski**

MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday 8am & 9:30am
Wednesday 9:00am
Friday* 9:00am
***Adoration following Mass on the 1st Friday**
RECONCILIATION
Sunday 7:15-8am
Wed/Fri 8:30-9am

**Diocesan Office of Protective Services
(843) 261-0430
Diocese Victim Assistance Ministries
(843) 856-0748**

PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

WELCOME: WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS TO ST. MARY'S! WE TRUST YOU WILL FIND US A WELCOMING AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY AS YOU JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE MASS TODAY. COFFEE IS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH CENTER AFTER MASS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS: Today's 9:00 mass is being offered for Sam Anderson and Family, on behalf of Joy Aquino.

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. We will not meet January 1 due to a holiday. We will begin a new book in 2025, "a love worth giving" by Max Lucado. "Living in the Overflow of God's Love." we welcome new readers at any time. For more information, call (843) 729-1644.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:

Wednesday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, a holy day of obligation for all Catholics. Mass will be offered at **St. Mary's at 9am** and at **St. Frederick and St. Stephen at 5pm.**

COLUMBARIUM: The St Frederick and St Stephen Columbarium is open to all St. Mary's parishioners. Each niche will hold two urns. Each niche will cost \$3975. If you are interested in buying a niche, please contact Laraine or Gary Watkins, 803-348-1185 or 843-603-0623 to setup an appointment to select a niche, sign a contract and write a check for \$3975. If you are not quite ready to purchase but have questions about the Columbarium please contact, Bill Swift, 706-832-2561.



Lector Schedule for 12/29/24

8am Vickie Gall
9:30am Katie Wolf

Eucharistic Ministers for 12/29/24

8am Phillip Gall
9:30am Matt Wolf

Collection for 12/29/24

Maintenance and Repairs Green Envelope

We pray for each other. In your time of prayer, please remember the following people and intentions:



Helaine Ahern, Hazel Basilio, Chester Broton, Jr., James Butski Jr., Allison Condon Chappell, Frank Chestnut, Julliet Collins, Jack Cooper, Cherry Constable, Maryanne Cortez, Sonja Dees, Teresita Y. Domingo, Jacob Matthew Dupree, Frances Enos, Victoria Flanders, Ken Fleming, J. Gould, Patricia Gould, Jamekia Grampus, Krist Groover, Emily Meyer Hall, Jerrie Hess, Petrina Jacques, Mary & Rod Jaros, Eileen Killenberger, Yvonne Livingston, Gus Long, John Lucas, Susan Mance Kelly Meyer, Patti McDermott, Ann Mitchum, Jane Morley, Nirmala Mary Narichetti, Yvonne Nasser, John North, Megan North, Sarah Proulx, Miquelina Sanchez, Elizabeth Smith, Landon Smith, Bill Smyer, Diane Stokes, Eloise Stroud, Sandy Unger, Larry Walker, Mary Walker, Ellie Wilson, Mary Wilson, Jose Yabut, and All Parishioners of our parish family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Father JP welcomes your mass intentions for celebrating a special occasion, on behalf of a family member or friend, or a deceased loved one. A Mass request can be submitted by the following:

- Calling our Parish office at 843-889-8549. You may leave a message with your contact information.
- Completing a Mass Intention Envelope, checking the calendar located in the back of the church for date availability and placing your envelope in the box above the calendar.
- Requesting a Mass Card be mailed directly to you, for whose All Mass Intentions are voluntary offerings, since the Holy Eucharist is the universal prayer of all the church. The typical offering is ten dollars.

Stipends for Mass Intentions may be brought or mailed to the Parish office (cash or check).

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

**FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 22, 2024**

N/A

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$	Immaculate Conception	\$
Loose	\$	Religious Retirement	\$
Votives	\$	CASC	\$
Christmas Flowers	\$	Church in Africa	\$
Sub Total	\$	Memorial	\$
Grand Total	\$	Sub Total	\$

8am		9:30am		Total	
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Merry Christmas! Our Advent preparations have been completed, and we are now invited by our Lord to enter into the glorious celebration of His birth!

How well do you understand the awe-inspiring mystery of Christmas? How fully do you comprehend the significance of God becoming a human, born of a virgin? Though many are quite familiar with the beautiful and humble story of the birth of the Savior of the World, that familiarity can have the surprising negative effect of keeping our intellect from deeply probing the depths of the meaning of what we celebrate.

Notice the last line of the Gospel passage quoted above: "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." What a beautiful line to ponder this Christmas day. Mother Mary was the one person who would have understood the mystery of the birth of her Son, the Son of God, the Savior of the World, far more deeply than anyone else. It was to her that the Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing her pregnancy and His birth. It was her who carried her Son, the Son of God, in her Immaculate womb for nine months. It was to her that Elizabeth, her cousin, cried out, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" ([Luke 1:42](#)). It was Mary who was the Immaculate Conception, the one who was preserved from all sin throughout her life. And it was her who gave birth to this Child, carried Him in her arms and nursed Him at her breast. Our Blessed Mother, more than any other, understood the incredible event that had taken place in her life.

But, again, the Gospel above says that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." One thing this tells us is that even Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savor this most holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation.

Another thing this tells us is that there is no end to the depth of the "pondering" to which we must commit ourselves if we want to enter more deeply into the mystery of the birth of the Son of God. Reading the story, setting up a nativity scene, sharing Christmas cards, attending Mass and the like are central to a holy celebration of Christmas. But "pondering" and "reflecting," especially during prayer and especially at the Christmas Mass, will have the effect of drawing us ever deeper into this Mystery of our Faith.

Reflect, today, with our Blessed Mother. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, acknowledging that the more you know about the mystery of Christmas, the more you know how little you actually know and understand. But that humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.

