

DAILY REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: LUKE 1:64

Reflect, today, upon any sin you have committed that has had painful consequences in your life. As you ponder that sin, the real question is where you go from here. Do you allow that past sin, or lack of faith, to dominate and control your life? Or do you use your past failures to make new resolutions and decisions for the future so as to learn from your mistakes? It takes courage, humility and strength to imitate the example of Zechariah. Seek to bring these virtues into your life this day.

TUESDAY: LUKE 1:67-68

Reflect, today, upon the role of the Holy Spirit in your life this day. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you, inspire you, and strengthen you, and to give to you the wisdom you need to be a mouthpiece of the glorious gift of the birth of the Savior of the World this Christmas. No other gift could be more important to give to others than this message of truth and love.

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.

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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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 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 9:30 mass is being offered for Cornado Aquino, 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.

Christmas Eve
Lector Schedule for 12/24/2024
 8am Jim Madory
Eucharistic Ministers for 12/24/2024
 8am Becky Madory

Christmas Day
Lector Schedule for 12/25/2024
 9am Ryan Hall
Eucharistic Ministers for 12/25/2024
 9am Virginia Watson
Collection for 12/25/24
 Christmas Journey Envelope

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 15, 2024

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$2,940	Immaculate Conception	\$35
Loose	\$78	Religious Retirement	\$55
Votives	\$	CASC	\$5
Christmas Flowers	\$40	Church in Africa	\$533
Sub Total	\$3,058	Memorial	\$100
Grand Total	\$3,786	Sub Total	\$723

8am	31	9:30am	71	Total	102
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Christmas Services:

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve
 Mass, St. Frederick/Stephen 5 PM
 Mass, St. Mary's 8 PM
 Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day
 Mass, St. Mary's 9 AM
 Mass, St. Frederick/Stephen 11:30 AM

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Elizabeth expressed a beautiful humility in this statement. The Blessed Virgin Mary had just made a long journey to be with Elizabeth in her final months of pregnancy. As soon as our Blessed Mother greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth's child, Saint John the Baptist, leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth acknowledges this and then humbly expresses the fact that she is exceptionally blessed to have Mary, the mother of her Lord, come to visit her.

There are many things worth pondering in this visitation of our Blessed Mother. But try to focus upon the humble wonder and awe expressed by Elizabeth. "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth was clearly grateful for Mary's visit. But it appears that her reaction went even beyond gratitude. She was given the gift of wonder and awe. She clearly knew she was incredibly blessed by the fact that both the Mother of God and her Lord Himself were now in her presence in her home.

This gift of wonder and awe that Elizabeth experienced is one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's a gift that enters a humble heart, enabling it to first see its unworthiness of a special grace given. But then this humble soul receives the special grace and responds with an overwhelming amazement. Thus, not only is gratitude present, but there is also this holy amazement that results in praise of God.

In our own lives, there are so many incredible graces we have received from God. But too often we fail to see them for what they are. We fail to see the incredible graces God has given us and, thus, fail to experience the amazement that should result from God's gifts.

As you look at your own life, what graces has God given to you? Do you see them? Are you grateful for them? And, if so, are you able to go even beyond gratitude so as to experience a holy wonder and awe of God's goodness and blessings in your life? Though it might be difficult to arrive at this level of amazement, it is a true gift that we must all strive to obtain and experience every day of our lives.

Reflect, today, upon this holy gift of the Holy Spirit that Elizabeth experienced. Place yourself at the scene. Try to see the experience within her heart. Try to feel how she felt. Try to sense the praise that resulted. And try to open yourself more fully to receive this same gift of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Lord comes to you constantly by grace, especially every time you receive Him in Holy Communion. For that reason, we must all strive to live a holy wonder and awe every day of our lives.

