

DAILY REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: LUKE 2:36-38

Reflect, today, upon how well you imitate this holy woman in your own life. Do you foster an interior life of prayer and penance and daily seek to devote yourself to the glory of God and the salvation of your soul? Evaluate your life this day in light of the wonderful prophetic life of Anna that we are given to ponder.

TUESDAY: JOHN 1:3-5

Reflect, today, upon the very real spiritual battle that takes place each and every day within your soul. But reflect upon it in the truth of this Gospel passage. The battle is easily won. Invite Christ the Light, and His Divine Presence will quickly and easily replace any darkness within.

WEDNESDAY: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Reflection: Only a mother could begin to understand the great mystery and beauty of motherhood. But only one mother could begin to understand the unfathomable beauty of being the mother of the Son of God. After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds came to adore her Child and recounted how a multitude of heavenly hosts appeared to them, revealing that Mary’s Child was the Messiah. As Mary heard those words, she pondered them, reflected upon them, and kept them in her heart. This was but the first time we are told of Mary’s pondering heart after the birth of her Son, but we can be certain that she pondered Him over and over, entering ever more deeply into the mystery of her motherhood of the Son of God.

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THURSDAY: JOHN 1:26-27

Reflect, today, upon your calling to imitate the humility of Saint John the Baptist. Never shy away from humbling yourself before the greatness and glory of God. Doing so will not demean you or hamper your greatness. Rather, only in the deepest humility before the glory of God is God able to draw you into the greatness of His very life and mission.

FRIDAY: JOHN 1:32-34

Reflect, today, upon the spiritual truth that God the Father wants to speak to you in the depths of your own soul so as to draw you into a certainty about Himself and all that He has spoken as true. Do you hear God speak? Have you allowed yourself to be convinced by His Voice? Listen to Him today and allow all that He speaks to you to become the source and goal of all that you say and do in life.

SATURDAY: JOHN 1:38-39

Reflect, today, upon this gentle invitation that our Lord gave to these disciples. As you ponder these words, hear them spoken also to you. At first, spend time reflecting only upon the word “come.” Allow it to penetrate your soul. Allow it to become deeply personal. Know that it is a real and loving invitation from Jesus. After that, try to spend time pondering the words “and you will see.” What is it that God wants you to see? What personal revelation of faith does God want to bestow upon you? “Come, and you will see.” Allow these words to change your life, just as they changed the lives of these first disciples of our Lord.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 29, 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 Father Timothy Akanson, 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 and Eucharistic Minister for 01/01/2025

Ryan Hall and Ginny Bruneau

Lector Schedule for 01/05/25

8am Vickie Gall

9:30am Leslie Bauknight

Eucharistic Ministers for 01/05/2025

8am Phillip Gall

9:30am Mark Bauknight

Collection for 01/05/25

Catholic Appeal of SC

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 Killenenger, 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 25, 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

Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

