

DAILY REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: MATTHEW 8:8-9

Reflect, today, upon the perfection of the authority of Christ. Do you believe that He can exercise His perfection of power in your life? Do you believe that His authority is what is needed to order your life, your family, our Church and even our world? Prayerfully submit yourself to the authority of Christ this day and allow yourself to become amazed as you witness all that He is able to do.

TUESDAY: LUKE 10:23-24

Reflect, today, upon your desire. The prophets and kings of old “desired” to see the Messiah. We are privileged to have Him alive in our presence today, speaking to us and calling to us continually. Foster within yourself a desire for our Lord. Allow it to become a blazing flame which longs to consume all that is true and all that is good. Desire God. Desire His Truth. Desire His guiding hand in your life and allow Him to bless you beyond what you can fathom.

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 15:36-37

Reflect, today, upon these first disciples of Jesus. Ponder, especially, their wonder and awe as they stayed with Him for three days without food. This draw of our Lord must take hold of you and overwhelm you so much that Jesus is the one and only central focus of your life. And when He is, all else falls into place and our Lord provides for your many other needs.

DAILY REFLECTIONS

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 7:21

Reflect, today, upon that important question in your own life. “Am I fulfilling the will of the Father in Heaven?” What will I wish I had done, here and now, as I stand before the judgment seat of Christ? Whatever comes to mind, spend time with that and strive to deepen your resolve to whatever God reveals to you. Do not hesitate. Do not wait. Prepare now so that the day of Judgment will also be a day of exceeding joy and glory!

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 9:30-31

Reflect, today, upon whether Jesus would caution you about speaking too loudly about your vision of Who He is. Do you struggle with presenting a “god” who is not actually God? Or have you come to know the very Person of Christ our Lord to such an extent that you are able to give witness to Him Who died. Do you boast only in the Cross? Do you proclaim Christ crucified and preach only the deepest wisdom of humility, mercy and sacrifice? Recommit yourself to a true proclamation of Christ, setting aside any and all confused images of our saving God.

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 9:37-38

Reflect, today, upon this exceptionally glorious calling you have been given to be Christ to another. Embrace this duty of love. See yourself as one called to be a laborer for Christ and commit yourself to the full and glorious fulfillment of this mission, no matter how it is to be lived out in your life.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 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!

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: Our December meetings are **Wednesdays, December 4 and December 18 at 1PM at 4199 Hwy 165.** We are reading "Brideshead Revisited" by Evelyn Waugh. "The novel is perhaps one of the fictional literary works which most integrates the Catholic imagination, to live and think imaginatively with the Church. It is about recalling youth and recalling a lost era." For more information, call (843) 729-1644.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED

VIRGIN MARY: **Monday, December 9th** is the Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 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.** Please use the envelope marked December 8th for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary for this service. "Welcome" envelopes will be available to use Sunday December 8th for the Regular Support collection. Sorry for any confusion.



ST. MARY'S ANGEL TREE IS UP! The angels were decorated by our CCD students this year, and they look wonderful! The toys we are collecting will be donated to the First Sgt's Association at Charleston Air Force Base. The Airmen who receive these gifts for their families are identified by a First Sgt in each unit, who is familiar with their individual needs.

Each angel has an age, and either 'boy' or 'girl' printed on the back. Please return unwrapped gifts (with the angel attached) to St Mary's by Dec 15.

Many thanks to all of you who donate toys to this worthy cause— you will be making a child's Christmas brighter this holiday season!

If there are any questions, please call or text Leslie Bauknight at (843) 327-5327.

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 12/8/2024

8am Donna Hudson

9:30 Katie Wolf

Eucharistic Ministers for 12/1/2024

8am Wayne Hudson

9:30 Matt Wolf

Immaculate Conception 12/9/24

Kim Terry

Collection for 12/8/24

Retired Religious Fund

Collection for 12/9/24

Immaculate Conception

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 NOVEMBER 24, 2024

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$4,180	CASC	\$
Loose	\$146	Guatemala Mission	\$705
Votives	\$52	Campaign for Human Dev	\$70
	\$	Maintenance and Repair	\$4
Sub Total	\$4,378	Parish Charity	\$40
Grand Total	\$5,197	Sub Total	\$819

8am	54	9:30am	62	Total	116
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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

“That day.” These two words are spoken twice in the passage above. To which day is our Lord referring? Clearly, He is referring primarily to the day of our final judgment and is warning us to make sure we are prepared for it in case it were to come at an unexpected moment. So how do we prepare?

Animals have the natural gift of instinct. They know how to survive, how to reproduce, how to gather food and how to avoid danger. They know this because God has implanted this knowledge within them. By this natural gift of instinct, they know what to do and what to avoid.

We, as humans, also have basic natural instincts. But our natural instincts are only sufficient to help us accomplish that which the animals accomplish. Therefore, if we are to gain an even greater knowledge and are to know how to properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the sudden and unexpected coming of Christ, then we need more.

The way we most properly prepare is through a special grace by which God reveals Himself and His will to our human reason. When that happens, we will know the best way to be fully prepared for “that day” the moment it comes. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe this ability is by describing it as a “supernatural instinct.” When our natural instincts become open to grace, and when the information on which we base our daily decisions in life comes to us by an ongoing and personal revelation from God through the infused gift of faith, then we will find that we simply know what to do and what to avoid. By analogy, just as a bird knows to fly south for the winter or a salmon knows to return to its place of birth to lay its eggs, so we will “know” within our spirit how to best serve the will of God and, thus, be most fully prepared for His imminent return. “Supernatural instinct” is nothing other than us allowing the grace of God to enter our lives so as to take control of everything we do and to lead us into the fulfillment of the perfect and glorious will of God. When that happens, we can be certain that we are perpetually prepared for all that comes and will never be caught by surprise like a trap.

Reflect, today, upon whether you are daily led by the knowledge of God's will alive within you as a supernatural instinct. If this language seems foreign to you, then perhaps it is a time to ponder the question “Why?” Why aren't you led by God's grace through an ongoing gift of supernatural knowledge of His will? And if this language does resonate within you, then spend time pondering this gift and being grateful for the way that God has truly taken over your day-to-day life.

