

**MONDAY:** [John 4:46-48](#)

**Reflect, today**, upon the depth of your own faith. When life is hard, do you love God and serve Him anyway? Even if He doesn't remove the crosses you carry? Seek to have true faith at all times and in every circumstance and you will be amazed at how real and sustaining your faith becomes.

**TUESDAY:** [John 5:5-6](#)

**Reflect, today**, upon this beautiful virtue of patient endurance. The trials of life should ideally be seen not in a negative way but as an invitation to patient endurance. Ponder the way you endure your own trials. Is it with deep and ongoing patience, hope and joy? Or is it with anger, bitterness and despair. Pray for the gift of this virtue and seek to imitate this crippled man.

**WEDNESDAY:** [John 5:25-26](#)

**Reflect, today**, upon the sacred mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Pray that God reveals Himself more fully to your mind and more completely consume your will. Pray that you will be able to share deeply in the life of the Trinity so that you will be filled with a holy amazement and awe.

**THURSDAY:** [John 5:44](#)

**Reflect, today**, upon the praise you give and receive. Do you allow misguided praise of others to misdirect you in life? And when you compliment and praise another, is that praise based on the Truth of God and directed to His glory? Seek to give and receive praise only when it is grounded in the Truth of God and directs all to His glory.

**FRIDAY** [John 7:1-2; 10](#)

**Reflect, today**, Today, upon the image of Jesus coming to you during your long journey through the desert of this life. He initially comes to you in secret, veiled in His true essence. As He teaches you, He desires to lift that veil and reveal to You His true glory. He desires that you dwell with Him through prayer and remain attentive to His Word. As you gaze upon our Lord, reflect upon the question of how clearly you hear Him speak each day. He is here, with you always. But are you with Him? Do you hear Him, believe in Him, follow Him and serve Him? Do you allow Him to lead you every day toward His promises of new life? Allow our Lord to pitch His tent next to yours so that You will daily be attentive to His teaching and be led by Him to the glories of Heaven.

**SATURDAY:** [John 7:46-49](#)

**Reflect, today**, upon the distasteful and bitter words of these Pharisees. But do so to help yourself understand the tactics the evil one often takes as you seek greater holiness in life. Be assured that the closer you get to God, the more you will be attacked. But do not be afraid. Identify any personal, social, cultural or even governmental attack for what it is. Have confidence and do not be deterred as you seek to follow Christ more completely every day.

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 19, 2023

**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-Juene  
Bishop of Charleston**

**Rev. Jesuprathap Narichetti  
(Father JP)  
Pastor**

**Email:  
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(843) 731-1162**

#### 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!

**Catholic Appeal of South Carolina formerly BAA** has a new accounting procedure. Please make checks payable to CASC in the future. This next quarter (April-June) BAA envelopes will still be used, starting in July an envelope with CASC will be the first collection every month.

**Our Deepest Sympathy** to Renee Meyer and her family on the death of her mother, Traute Page.

**Welcome** Stephen and Kim Terry to our St. Mary's Family.

**St. Mary's Book Club** will meet **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.** At 4199 Hwy 165, just down the street from the church. We are taking a break from reading and will be watching the series, "The Choses" during Lent. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time. For more information, call (843)729-1644.

**Stations of the Cross** will be hosted by St. Mary's on Wednesday evenings at 6pm, with soup/bread to follow in the Parish Center. **We are still in need of hosts** to sign up to bring a crock of soup/bread or muffins each week- sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** Meals on Wheels of St. Paul's Parish, a small group of volunteers serving this area over 30 years, needs some additional help. We deliver a hot lunch Monday-Friday in the Hollywood, Meggett, Ravenel area. Drivers, Servers and Board Members are needed. For more info please contact Edwin Worrell 843-494-1893.

**Notification of Mass Cancellation:** Let us know how you would like to be contacted via email, text or phone. Email us at [stmarys165@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys165@gmail.com) or contact the Parish Office at 843-889-8549, to provide us with your preferred communication.



**Pray For Us:** Trina Aquino Haj, Hazel Basilio, Chester Broton, Jr., Betty Butler, Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Cherry Constable, Patrick Coryell, Maryanne Cortez, J. Gould, Jacob Matthew Dupree, Frances Enos, Ken Fleming, Elizabeth Good, Hugh Gorman, Sally Gorman, Krist Groover, Petrina Jacques, Henry Kerr, Mary & Rod Jaros, Eileen Killenberger, Yvonne Livingston, Gus Long, John Lucas, Susan Mance Kelly Meyer, Ann Mitchum, Jane Morley, Suzy Patterson, Nirmala Mary Narichetti, John North, Sarah Proulx, Elizabeth Smith, Landon Smith, Bill Smyer, John Stacy, Diane Stokes, Eloise Stroud, Larry Walker, Ellie Wilson, Mary Wilson, Mike Winn, Edward Wolf, Jose Yabut, and All Parishioners of our parish family.

### Record of Faithfulness March 12, 2023

	AMT		AMT
ENVELOPES	\$1,982	BAA/CASC	\$
LOOSE	\$ 116	MAINT & REPAIR	\$
Votive	\$	PARISH CHARITY	\$
		EASER FLOWERS	\$ 621
Sub Total	\$2,098		\$ 621
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,719</b>		

8:00 am	26	9:30am	70	Total	96
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### GOSPEL REFLECTION

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith. We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of [Exodus 20:5-6](#) in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight. The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story. After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus. The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.