

DAILY REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: LUKE 8:18

Reflect, today, upon your practice of prayerfully meditating upon the Scriptures. If this is not your current practice, resolve to make it so. Perhaps start with one of the Gospels and commit yourself to prayerfully reading it little by little every day. The goal is not to get through the books of the Bible. The goal is to enter into each book. Every chapter and every line provides us with a depth of spiritual insight and understanding just waiting to be given and received. Commit yourself to this holy practice, and you will be amazed at the spiritual riches our Lord bestows upon you.

TUESDAY: LUKE 8:19-21

Reflect, today, upon the fact that you are also invited to be the “mother” and the “brother” of Jesus. You share in these holy callings through obedience to the will of the Father. The more clearly you hear God speak and the more fully you obey all that He says will determine the depth of spiritual union you have with Him. Our natural selves must give way to the supernatural life of grace. Make the choice, with our Blessed Mother, to pursue the glorious life of grace so that you will conceive the Son of God in your heart, become a true child of the Father in Heaven, and become a spiritual brother or sister of our Lord.

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 9:1-2

Reflect, today, upon the fact that our Lord wants to minister to you in this threefold way. If you can work to overcome the obstacles put in your path by these demons, then you are in a good position to share in the other two missions given to the Apostles. You will be able to experience mental, emotional and spiritual healing in your life, and you will be able to allow the Kingdom of God to grow strong and powerful within your own soul. From there, you will be sent on a mission by our Lord to bring these graces to others in need.

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THURSDAY: LUKE 9:7-8

Reflect, today, upon Herod. First, reflect upon his curiosity about Jesus. This is a good quality, in that it’s much better than being indifferent. From there, think also about the fact that Herod never went to Jesus to listen to Him. His first meeting with Jesus was on the night of His arrest, when he interrogated our Lord and made fun of Him. As you consider Herod’s obstinacy, use it as an examination of your own life. Where you see any small reflection of obstinacy, fear of change or a closed heart, seek to remedy that by turning to our Lord telling Him you are open to all He wishes to say and that you are ready and willing to change in any way He calls you to do so. Do not fear the change our Lord wants of you. Embracing that change will land you on the quick and narrow road toward true holiness of life.

FRIDAY

Glorious Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, I entrust myself to your angelic mediation. Please set into motion God’s plan for my life, protect me from the evil one, deliver to me God’s holy word, and heal me of my sin. I thank you for the glorious duties you fulfill in the divine mission and rely upon you in my life. Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for me and mediate God’s grace to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

SATURDAY: LUKE 9:44-45

Reflect, today, upon the interior struggle of these Apostles as they came face-to-face with this the second time Jesus began to prepare them to accept, understand, choose and desire His passion. Consider the interior struggle they went through at that time and even as they saw this unfold. Eventually they understood. Eventually all fear vanished. And eventually they affectionately rejoiced in Jesus’ sacrifice. But it took much time and much surrender. Reflect upon those ways our Lord is inviting you to choose His Cross in your life. Where you see your affections resisting, try to surrender, pray for understanding and seek the courage you need to desire His Cross with all your soul.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

4255 HIGHWAY 165
YONGES ISLAND SC 29449-6011
(843) 889-8549
EMERGENCY (843) 731-1162
EMAIL: STMARYS165@GMAIL.COM
Website: www.stmarysyongesisland.org



**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

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-Juene
Bishop of Charleston**

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

**Email:
jnarichetti@charlestdiocese.org
(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!

THANK YOU: Thank You for your generosity to the Meals on Wheels collection last week. Your donation amounted to \$1,300.

NOTIFICATION: The notification sent out by St. Mary's for Meals on Wheels was also a huge success. Anyone not receiving an email or text, please let the office know at 843 889 8549.

BAKE SALE: The next Bake Sale at St. Mary's will be Sunday, October 1st, after both masses.

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: The book club will meet on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 1PM** at 4199 Hwy 165, just down the street from the church. We welcome new readers at any time. We have chosen "Vesper Time, The Spiritual Practice of Growing Older" by Frank J. Cunningham. Frank Cunningham is a former newspaper and magazine writer, university instructor and religion publisher of Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN. "Can we take a step beyond the spirituality of aging and ask if the experience of aging in itself can be a spiritual exercise." Come join us as we reflect on our relationship with God and others beyond just going to Mass and receiving Sacraments as we learn to embrace "spirituality in our lives at all levels."

ST. MARY'S OUTREACH: St. Mary's Outreach will meet on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 immediately following 8AM Mass**. The Outreach members of St. Mary's plan or support all Parish Activities. We suspended meeting in person during COVID, but have decided to resume meeting in the Parish Center. We have been blessed with so many new parishioners, we would like to extend an invitation to **our new parishioners** to join us in our future projects. Every year, St. Mary's has a food drive to assist the local food banks in the distribution of food, particularly during the holidays. In addition, St. Mary's has always had a Christmas toy drive to donate to local children. We will discuss these projects on October 15. Our meetings are efficient! You will be able to attend 9:30 Mass, following the meeting. **There is no requirement to be a member of "Outreach". All you need is the desire to donate your time and talents to our Church family.**

FOOD DRIVE: In anticipation of the holidays, St. Mary's Outreach will resume our food drive. All food donations are distributed by the food bank at Ravenel Baptist Church. You may leave your food donations in the Parish Center on Sundays. They have requested that donations be made in **plastic** containers only. Any non - perishable foods are accepted. However, keep in mind, most recipients do not have meats/chicken, therefore, the food items should not include adding meats to it. The food bank also distributes paper towels, toilet paper, and personal items such as soap and toothpaste. Your donations will serve members in our local community.

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



Helaine Ahern, Hazel Basilio, Chester Broton, Jr., Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Cherry Constable, Patrick Coryell, Maryanne Cortez, Teresita Y. Domingo, Jacob Matthew Dupree, Frances Enos, Ken Fleming, Elizabeth Good, Sally Gorman, J. Gould, Krist Groover, Emily Meyer Hall, Petrina Jacques, 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, Edward Wolf, Jose Yabut, and All Parishioners of our parish family.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS
September 17, 2023

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$3,940	BAA/CASC	\$
Loose	\$30	Maintenance & Repair	\$
Votive	\$	Parish Charity	\$20
The Assumption	\$	Disaster Relief	\$
Sub Total	\$3,970	Catholic University	\$20
Total	\$4,010	Sub Total	\$40

8am	28	9:30am	38	Total	66
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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, located in the back of the church and placing it in the offertory basket.
- Requesting a Mass Card be mailed directly to you, for whose intention the Mass will be offered.

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).

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Is life always fair? It would seem not. We have all experienced situations in life when we felt as though we were cheated. Children are especially sensitive to this and will often complain to a parent when they feel as though they have been treated unjustly. From an earthly perspective, it is true that life is not always fair. But we ought not live by an earthly perspective. We are called to live according to the divine perspective. From that perspective, everything is fair in the end, and true justice is meted out to everyone.

When we consider the question of whether or not life is fair, we should always begin with the Son of God. Jesus was certainly not treated fairly. In fact, it is hard to conclude that anyone who has ever lived received a more unjust treatment than Jesus, at least from an earthly perspective. He was perfect in every way. He treated everyone throughout His life with perfect virtue. He never lied, cheated, stole, etc. Yet we all know what happened to Him. He was falsely accused, dishonestly judged, brutally abused, and murdered on a cross. From an earthly perspective, it is clear that this was not fair.

Jesus' life, along with ours, must not be evaluated from the perspective of earthly justice. It's not that treating others unjustly is permissible by the will of God. Each of us has a moral responsibility to act in justice as a minimum requirement. But we are also called to exceed earthly justice and live by the new standard of supernatural grace. From that perspective, Jesus' suffering and death was not tragic; it was glorious. His Cross was not an instrument of injustice, it was His throne upon which He established His new Kingdom. Once grace enters the picture, all apparent injustice is turned upside down and must be looked at from a different perspective.

The parable we read today presents to us the scenario in which God has chosen to bestow His grace and mercy in abundance to all who turn to Him. We can never earn the right to His mercy. Nothing we can do will ever give us the right to the gift of eternal salvation. Therefore, this parable especially challenges us to look at Heaven and the life of grace on earth from the perspective of "gift." All is a gift from God. Whether we convert at the end of our lives, after living sinful lives, or whether we have spent our whole lives serving the will of God, all is a gift in the end, all is grace.

Only when we comprehend God's goodness and infinite generosity will we be able to overcome our temptations toward jealousy and selfishness. Those who have dedicated their entire lives to the love of God, if it is a genuine love and service of God, will, as a result, take on the perspective of the mind and heart of God. Part of that perspective is the burning desire to generously bestow God's infinite grace and mercy upon everyone who turns to Him. Even the most hardened sinner who has been the source of much hurt in life is a candidate for the fullness of God's grace if they repent. This must be our desire. We must be like the landowner in this parable who rejoices when laborers show up in the last hour and then lavishes a full day's wages upon them. Not only is this fair from the divine perspective, it must become our personal desire as we labor through life.