

MONDAY: [John 16:33](#)

Reflect, today, upon the exceptionally important truth—that Jesus wants you to know His peace in your heart. And He wants that peace to sustain you. Reflect upon the interior battle that may take place within you between the world and the peace of Christ. Who is winning that battle for your soul? Is there more of the world or more of the peace of Christ reigning within you? Seek out the peace that only Jesus gives, and, as you discover His peace, you will also discover the source of that peace: Jesus Himself.

TUESDAY: [John 17:4-5](#)

Reflect, today, upon Jesus' act of perfectly fulfilling the will of the Father in His human nature. Even though our Lord was divine, He was also fully human. He, therefore, perfectly understands your human struggles and weaknesses. He knows what you go through, and His humanity is the model for you to follow in life. Reflect upon His human life and the way in which He lived in union with the will of His Father day in and day out. Commit yourself to this unwavering mission of fully accomplishing the will of the Father in your life and you, too, will share in the glory of our Lord.

WEDNESDAY: [John 17:14-15](#)

Reflect, today, upon the importance of learning how to discern both the voice of God and the lies of the evil one. Work to discern the voice of God so that you may follow Him more faithfully. And seek to discern the lies of the evil one so that you will not be influenced by him and can directly reject him. Commit yourself to a more rigorous discernment of these spiritual experiences in your life and allow this prayer of Jesus to direct you into His holy will.

THURSDAY: [John 17:20-21](#)

Reflect, today, upon this image of Jesus praying. Gaze at how attentive He would have been as He lifted His sacred eyes upward as a physical gesture honoring the glorious, all-powerful Father in Heaven. Try to imagine Jesus' devotion, intensity, respect and burning love. Imitate this holy gesture of prayer and attentiveness to the Father and remind yourself of the importance of expressing your love in bodily form.

FRIDAY [John 21:18-19](#)

Reflect, today, upon your attitude toward the sufferings that your loved ones endure. Do you find that your primary goal is to rid them of their sufferings? Or do you understand that even their sufferings have the potential to become a source of their own holiness and the source of grace for others? Strive to see suffering as Jesus sees it. Look at the sacrificial love that is made possible when your loved ones unite their sufferings to the Cross of Christ and try to commit yourself to the mission of helping them embrace that sacred gift of love.

SATURDAY: [John 21:24-25](#)

Reflect, today, upon the holy Gospel of Saint John. As we do conclude this Easter Season and our reading of John's Gospel, allow yourself to sit in awe of the infinite activity of our divine Lord in the lives of those who have turned to Him. Consider every movement of grace in their lives that has been accomplished with such care and love by our Lord. Reflect upon the fact that for eternity you will be contemplating the Eternal Word made Flesh, the Messiah, the Great I AM, the Son of the Father and every other name given to Him Who is our God and King. Saint John loved our Lord and understood Him deeply because he spent his life prayerfully pondering all that Jesus did. Continue to commit yourself to this holy pondering so that you will be drawn more deeply into this contemplation with holy awe.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ASCENSION OF THE LORD MAY 21, 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!

CONGRATULATIONS: Gordon McCormick, grandson of Betsy Long, will be confirmed on Monday, May 22 at Blessed Sacrament. Betsy is his Confirmation sponsor. May God bless him on his Faith journey.

BAKE SALE! St. Mary's Outreach Bake Sales resume on **SUNDAY, JUNE 4** following both Masses. Come prepared to buy some great baked goodies!!

BOOK CLUB: In honor of May, the month of Mary, we are reading "Hail, Holy Queen" by Scott Hahn. "To understand the Mother of God, we must begin with God." We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month to discuss our current book. You are welcome to join us at any time. Call (843) 729-1644 for more information.

PARISH PICNIC: The Picnic has been rescheduled for **SUNDAY, JUNE 11 at 3PM** on the Church grounds. Delicious pulled pork, tacos, iced tea and lemonade will be provided. We ask each family to bring a dish to share. We will set up at 2PM, picnic begins at 3PM. **EVERYONE is welcome to attend.**

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:

- Please submit a Mass request by stopping by our Parish Office (4255 Highway 165, Yonges Island SC 29449) between the hours of 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursday.
- Calling our Parish office at 843-889-8549. You may leave a message with your contact information.
- 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).

MINISTRY OF THE SICK: Father Patrick Eyinla (St. Joseph Parish) celebrates Mass every Tuesday at 11:30am in the Roper St. Francis hospital chapel. This Mass is offered for the sick and the doctors and nurses who care for them. Roper St Francis Hospital is committed to maintaining a Catholic presence there. You are welcome to join in this celebration of the Holy Mass each Tuesday.



Pray For Us: Trina Aquino Haj, Hazel Basilio, Campos Family, Chester Broton, Jr., Betty Butler, Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Cherry Constable, Patrick Coryell, Maryanne Cortez, J. Gould, Hernandez Family, 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 MAY 14, 2023

	AMT		AMT
ENVELOPES	\$2310	BAA/CASC	\$
LOOSE	\$ 131	Catholic Charities	\$ 614
EASTER	\$	Catholic Home Miss	\$ 50
	\$	Easter	\$ 50
Sub Total	\$2441		\$ 764
TOTAL	\$3205		

8am	32	9:30am	46	Total	78
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St. Mary's contribution to the Catholic Appeal of SC for May was \$644.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

These are the parting and final words our Lord spoke while on earth. As soon as He spoke them He ascended into Heaven to remain with His Father forever, preparing a place for us so that we could join Him one day. Never again on earth would the disciples hear Jesus speak to them or see Him in physical form. Though He would soon send the Holy Spirit upon them and speak clearly to them interiorly through prayer, they would not encounter His audible voice and physical presence once again until Heaven.

Just prior to the passage quoted above, we read that the disciples did two things. One was ideal; the other was not. We read: "When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted." Of course, the fact that they worshiped Him is ideal, but the fact that they doubted is somewhat shocking and disappointing. After all that they went through with our Lord, after all they witnessed and heard, they still doubted. They witnessed Jesus cure leprosy, restore sight to the blind, heal the crippled, preach with a new authority, convert sinners, raise the dead and even rise from the dead Himself. And after all of this, they still had doubts.

Perhaps their doubts are recorded in this final encounter with our earthly Lord because it reveals to us our own ongoing doubts. Perhaps the real doubters are not only the disciples but also each one of us.

When you look into your own conscience, what do you see? Do you see a person with perfect faith and trust in God? Or do you see a person who seeks to worship God but also struggles with doubts? A doubt is a lack of faith. It is different from a difficulty, an uncertainty, or a confusion. A doubt is an action by which we positively make the choice to start down the path of disbelief. It's more than a weakness; it's a choice and not a good one.

The good news is that these doubting disciples eventually received something that eliminated every doubt from their minds. They received the Holy Spirit, and this gift of God began to dispel every temptation to doubt as they received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In particular, the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge would deepen their faith in God and enable them to both worship and believe.

As we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, reflect, today, upon the image of these disciples worshiping God and doubting at the same time. If this image strikes a chord within you, then pay attention to it. It is good to worship God, but it is also good to humbly admit where you lack perfect faith. Where you see this lack of faith, hold onto the hope that, just like these disciples, you will receive the full outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit in your life so that every doubt will be dispelled and you will receive true Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge in their fullness.