

## DAILY REFLECTIONS

**MONDAY: LUKE 7:6-7**

**Reflect, today**, upon the humility of this well-respected Roman centurion. Try to understand the power of his humble approach by which he sent his friends to Jesus on his behalf. As you do, pick a saint in Heaven and ask them to go to our Lord on your behalf and request that our Lord grant you the same humility and faith as this centurion. Doing so will lead our Lord to be amazed at your faith and humility also.

**TUESDAY: LUKE 7:11-12**

**Reflect, today**, upon anyone in your life who resembles this widow of Nain. Who is it that God wants you to notice and to feel compassion for? As your empathetic heart notices those who need your compassion, open yourself, also, to the supernatural gift of hope. Have divine hope that God will heal them. As you do, allow that hope to manifest faith in God and offer that compassion, hope and faith to God as your prayer for those who are in need.

**WEDNESDAY: LUKE 7:32-35**

**Reflect, today**, upon the calling you have been given to live in a well-ordered way. Do so by considering how attentive you are to the people around you. Does the attentiveness of your charity help you to see the hurt within the hearts of those who are suffering? Are you compelled to offer them a compassionate ear and merciful heart? When others are experiencing the joys of life, are you able to share that joy with them? Can you do so fully, without jealousy or envy of any kind? When God inspires you to some act of conversion and bestows some grace, do you listen and promptly obey, responding in the most appropriate way? Our souls must become sensitive to the promptings of grace and must respond accordingly. Seek to have a well-ordered soul so that you will live and experience the life that God places before you each day in accord with His perfect will.

## DAILY REFLECTIONS

**THURSDAY: MATTHEW 9:11-13**

**Reflect, today**, upon how satisfied you are with your life. Is there something missing? If so, look at your goals and priorities in life. What do you spend most of your time thinking about, talking about and daydreaming about? If it is not our Lord Who occupies your mind, heart and every desire, then you can expect that you will experience discontentment in life. In that case, look to the witness of Saint Matthew. He is a saint today because he responded to Jesus' invitation to abandon his life of sin and greed so as to follow Him in poverty. But in that worldly poverty and abandonment of earthly things, Saint Matthew became abundantly rich and will remain so forever in Heaven.

**FRIDAY LUKE 8:1-2**

**Reflect, today**, upon the extent that you have consecrated every part of your life to our Lord and His mission. Doing so does not necessarily require that you become a public evangelist, spend all day at Church or the like. It simply means that Jesus and His mission are invited into everything you do every day all day. We can never serve our Lord fully enough. As you examine your daily activity, look for ways to bring our Lord into everything you do. Doing so will truly make you one of His faithful disciples who are all in with your life.

**SATURDAY: LUKE 8:8**

**Reflect, today**, upon the fruits of the Spirit. Review them carefully and prayerfully as you examine your own life. Where you see them in abundance, rejoice and give thanks, and work to foster their growth. Where you see them lacking, rejoice also in that insight and consider the reason they are lacking. Are there worldly anxieties, desires for riches or pleasures that hinder their growth? Seek to be that truly rich soil, and our Lord will indeed bring forth much good fruit in you and through you.

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 17, 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**

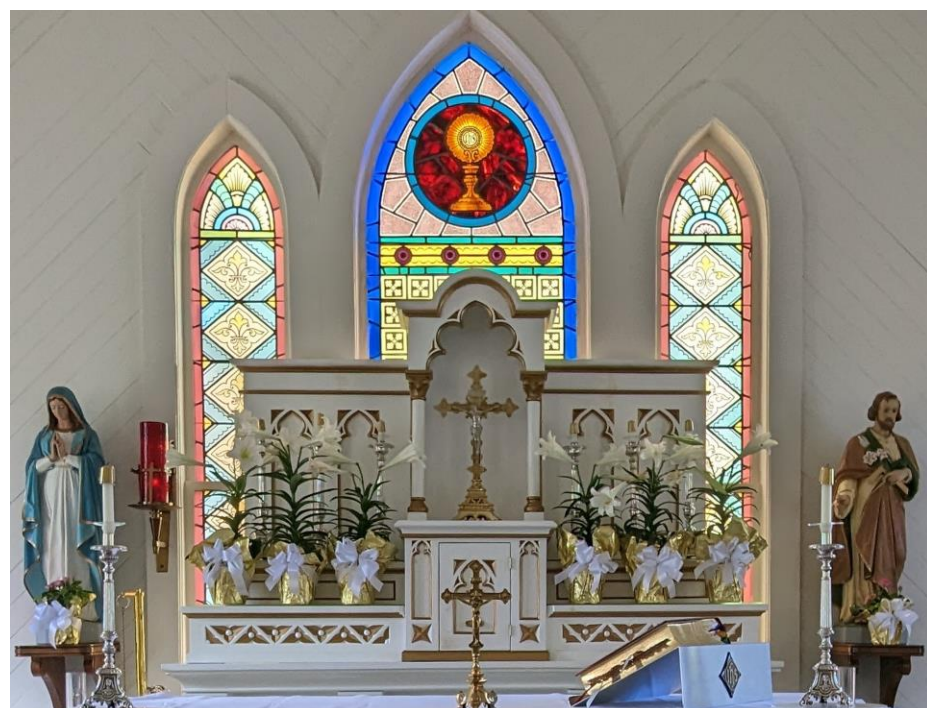
## PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**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:** Bryan and Carolyn Gibbs would like to express their Thanks to everyone at St. Mary's for their prayers and Good Wishes for Bryan's knee surgery this past week. He is doing much better.

**SUNDAY SHOOL (CCD):** Sunday School (CCD) will resume on **Sunday, September 24** following the **9:30** Mass. Classes are available for all children 3 and above. Parents, remember you are the primary religious educator of your children; the CCD program just supplements your teaching in the home.

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** St. Paul's Meals on Wheels serves a small group of clients in our community by providing a meal Monday through Friday. MOW volunteers prepare the food trays and personally deliver them to the local clients. They are recruiting volunteers to assist in this service. It takes approximately one hour to either prepare the meals or deliver them. They are seeking either volunteers willing to commit to ONE HOUR PER WEEK, or become a substitute for the current volunteers who would need coverage only in instances where a current volunteer is vacationing. If you would like more information, please contact Edwin Worrell at (843) 494-1893.



*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 10, 2023

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$2,210	BAA/CASC	\$20
Loose	\$132	Maintenance & Repair	\$40
Votive	\$	Miscellany	\$40
The Assumption	\$20	Disaster Relief	\$10
Sub Total	\$2,362	Catholic University	\$422
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,894</b>	Sub Total	<b>\$532</b>

8am	37	9:30am	53	Total	90
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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

Love, kindness, gentleness, mercy...these and many like qualities are easy to think about. They inspire us to be holy by growing in virtue. But sometimes we need more. Sometimes pondering the beauty of the virtues and fruits of the Spirit do not suffice to help us embrace a life of holiness. This is one of the reasons for our parable today.

The *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius of Loyola present us with a structure by which a spiritual director may lead a retreatant through a thirty day private retreat. Ignatius outlines thirty days worth of meditations. Interestingly, Ignatius does not begin by inviting a person to ponder the beautiful virtues to which they are called. Instead, for the first week, he has the retreatant ponder the horror of sin and the devastating effects that sin has upon a soul. By doing this, the person's eyes are more fully opened to their own sin so that, in the subsequent three weeks, they will be more properly disposed to reflect upon the inspiring life of Christ and His many virtues. S

In a sense, our Gospel today is an ideal Gospel to ponder during that first week of an Ignatian retreat. And for that reason, it is an ideal Gospel to ponder anytime we want to get our spiritual lives in order. It is very easy to become complacent in our Christian walk. It is easy to become lukewarm in our prayer and even in our moral life. If that is you to any degree, then this Gospel is worth your careful and thorough attention.

The sin that Jesus addresses in this passage is the sin of unforgiveness. It clearly depicts the wrath of God that will be inflicted upon those who refuse to forgive others. The "wicked servant" to whom this is addressed was a man who was forgiven a "huge amount" by God. This is all of us. Every one of us has been forgiven by God an amount that cost Jesus His very life. The consequence of our sins was the death of the Son of God. Each of us deserves the penalty of death. But death has now been transformed into the very means of new life through the forgiveness of sins. And if we want to receive the forgiveness of sins and the new life that awaits us, we must fully share in God's forgiveness. Not only must we receive His forgiveness, we must also forgive those who have sinned against us. Completely. Totally. Without reserve.

In this parable, the wicked servant failed to forgive his servant's small debt. In fact, every sin committed against us, no matter how grave in the eyes of God, is a small debt compared to the debt we owe God. For that reason, we must never hesitate to forgive. Never. If this is difficult, and if reflecting upon God's mercy, kindness, compassion and love do not compel you to completely forgive everyone to the fullest extent, then spend time with this parable. "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" These are words directed at us when we fail to forgive completely from the depths of our hearts. They are merciful words from Jesus to help us wake up to what we need to do.

In a commentary on this passage from St. Thomas Aquinas, the "torturers" spoken of, to whom we will be handed over if we do not forgive, are the demons. They will torment us when we lack forgiveness toward others. The torture, for now, will come in the form of obsessing over our wounds, dwelling upon thoughts of revenge, holding grudges, and lacking interior peace. This is the work of the demons, and they will torment us this way until we forgive.