

DAILY REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: [Luke 5:18–19](#)

Reflect, today, upon the love Jesus had for these religious leaders. Though they came to find fault with Him, falsely judge Him and continually tried to trap Him, Jesus never ceased in His attempts to win them over. As you think about this mercy of our Lord, consider also the person in your life who is most difficult to love, and recommit to loving them with your whole heart in imitation of our divine Lord.

TUESDAY: [LUKE 1:30-31](#)

Reflect, today, upon the miraculous actions of the Mother of God. But reflect, especially, upon her motherly love. Her love is a pure mercy, a gift of the deepest care and compassion. Her only desire is our holiness. Speak to her this day and invite her to come to you as your merciful mother.

WEDNESDAY: [MATTHEW 11:28](#)

Reflect, today, upon whether you feel weary at times. Ponder, especially, any mental or emotional weariness. Oftentimes these forms of weariness are actually spiritual in nature and need a spiritual remedy. Seek the remedy our Lord offers you by accepting His invitation to come to Him, deeply in prayer, and rest in His presence. Doing so will help to lift the heavy burdens with which you struggle.

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THURSDAY: [MATTHEW 11:12](#)

Reflect, today, upon your call to grow in fortitude and boldness so as to combat those enemies that attack within. Fear is useless in this battle. Confidence in the power and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only weapon we need. Rely upon Him and do not give in to the many ways that these enemies seek to rob you of the peace of Christ.

FRIDAY: [MATTHEW 11:16-17](#)

Reflect, today, upon the clear, unmistakable, transforming and life-giving words and presence of the Savior of the world. Reflect upon how attentive you have been in life to all that He has clearly spoken and to His very presence. If you do not find yourself “dancing” for God’s glory and “mourning” over the evident sins of your life and within our world, then recommit yourself to a radical following of Christ. In the end, the Truth that God has spoken throughout the ages and His holy and divine presence are all that matter.

SATURDAY: [MATTHEW 17:12-13](#)

Reflect, today, anyway that you have found yourself confused by the Word of God. Try to humbly open your heart more fully to that which our Lord wants to speak to you. Listen with an open mind and heart and allow the pure gift of faith to become your guide so that you will be led to those deepest truths of our faith.

*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



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 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@charlestondiocese.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
Christmas Eve 8:00pm
Christmas Day 9:00am

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 OUTREACH: St. Mary's Outreach is once again selling Christmas Ornaments and Christmas Cards. They're in the parish center. Ornaments are \$10 each and Christmas Cards are 4 for \$12. Cards and the Ornaments are made by Kathy Hare.


ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Please mark your calendars for a special free Advent/Christmas program of Lessons and Carols to be presented at **St Frederich and Stephen Church on Sunday, December 17th at 3pm.** This will be an hour program of songs and readings pertaining to the coming of Christ. A choir will sing songs and the congregation can join in. This is our first attempt at this so come and rejoice.

ANGEL TREE: The Angels are on the Tree. Since this has always been a very successful event for St. Mary's we have added additional "Angels" to the tree this year. The angels simply designate a gender and age for a child. The recipients of your gift will be children of Airmen in need, stationed locally, with the First Sergeant's Association of the Charleston Air Force Base. The gifts should not exceed \$25 and will be given to parents, in order for them to place them under their tree for their children on Christmas morning. **Please attach the Angel to your UNWRAPPED Gift and leave it in the Parish Center or under the Angel Tree. In order for us to make a one-time delivery of the gifts on time, please return all gifts by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17.**

ADVENT WREATH: On this Second Sunday of Advent, the scriptural passages proclaimed at Holy Mass continue to call all of us to prepare for the coming of the Lord. To live as though we know he will return and to look for His Coming. The great Hebrew Prophet Isaiah is an important part of the Advent season. He was, and is, a Messianic prophet. The passage we will hear at Mass is the beginning of the 40th chapter of the Book and it begins what is called the "Book of the Consolation of Israel". (Catholic.org)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: St. Mary’s, Sunday, December 24th at 8:00pm, and Christmas Day, December 25th at 9:00am. St. Frederich and Stephen, December 24th 5pm, and Christmas Day, December 25th at 11:30am.

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, Maryanne Cortez, Colleen Cremin, 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 Killennerger, Yvonne Livingston, Gus Long, John Lucas, Susan Mance Kelly Meyer, Patti McDermott, 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.

THANK YOU: To all of you who donated to Giving Tuesday on November 28th, we raised **\$1,185** of our goal of **\$1,600.00!** You can still make donations by accessing the link below or by placing them in the collection basket on Sunday. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine to be placed in the Church. AED/CPR defibrillator may save one's life in the event they were to go into cardiac arrest while on our premises. We will continue to accept donations thru the end of May, 2024. <https://charleston.igivecatholic.org>.

REHEARSALS FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS: Rehearsals for Lessons and Carols will **be at St Frederich and Stephen Sat Dec 16th at 2pm**(expect these to be 2hrs long) All who signed up are encouraged to make these practices, especially the ones at St Frederich and Stephen. Thank you for all your support and time!



RECORD OF FAITHFULLNESS
December 3, 2023

	AMT		AMT
Envelopes	\$2,920	Immaculate Conception	\$14
Loose	\$45	Guatemalan Mission	\$30
Votive	\$33	Christmas Flowers	\$973
	\$	Maintenance & Repairs	\$10
Sub Total	\$2,965	Human Development	\$10
Grand Total	\$4,002	Sub Total	\$1,037

8am	33	9:30am	57	Total	90
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that’s obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The “way of the Lord” still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.