

DAILY MEDITATIONS

MONDAY: Luke 21:1-24 When Jesus looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

Did she really give more than all the rest? According to Jesus, she did! So how can that be? This Gospel passage reveals to us how God sees our giving compared to the worldly view.

Giving, in this case, is in reference to money. But this is simply an illustration of all forms of giving we are called to offer. Consider the giving of some of the great saints who lived hidden lives. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, for example, gave her life to Christ in countless small ways. She lived within the walls of her convent and had little interaction with the world. Therefore, from a worldly perspective, she gave very little and made little difference. However, today she is considered one of the greatest doctors of the Church thanks to the small gift of her spiritual autobiography and the witness of her life. The question is really this: How does God see your daily service?

TUESDAY: Luke 21:10-11 This prophecy of Jesus will most certainly unfold. How will it unfold, practically speaking? That's still to be seen. True, some people may say that this prophecy is already being fulfilled in our world. Some will try to associate this and other prophetic passages of Scripture with a certain time or event. But this would be a mistake. It would be a mistake because the very nature of a prophecy is that it's veiled. All prophecy is true and will be fulfilled, but not all prophecy will be understood with perfect clarity until Heaven. For each one of us, there may be many "earthquakes, famines, and plagues" that we encounter in life. They will take on various forms and will be the cause of much distress at times. But they do not need to be. If we understand that Jesus is aware of the chaos we may encounter and if we understand that He actually prepared us for it, we will be more at peace when the troubles come. In a sense, we will be able to simply say, "Oh, this is one of those things, or one of those moments, Jesus said would come." This understanding of the challenges to come should help prepare us for them and endure them with hope and trust.

WEDNESDAY: Luke 21:12-13. This is a sobering thought. And as this passage continues, it becomes even more challenging. It goes on to say, "You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

There are two key points we should take from this passage. First, like yesterday's Gospel, Jesus is offering a prophecy to us that prepares us for the persecution to come. But do not give in! The Lord foresaw this and is preparing us for it.

Second, Jesus gives us the answer to how we deal with being treated harshly and maliciously. By remaining strong through the trials of life and by retaining hope, mercy and confidence in God, we will become victorious. This is such an important message. And it's a message that is certainly easier said than done.

THURSDAY: Luke 21:27-28 Only three days left in this current liturgical year. Sunday begins Advent and a new liturgical year! Therefore, as we move closer to the end of this current liturgical year, we continue to turn our eyes to the last and glorious things to come. Specifically, today we are presented with the glorious return of Jesus "coming in a cloud with power and great glory." What's most interesting and helpful in this particular passage above is the call we are given to enter into His glorious return with our heads raised with much hope and confidence. This reality will take place. It's just a matter of time. Jesus will, indeed, return and all will be made new. The question is this: Will you be ready? Will this day take you by surprise? If it were to happen today, what would your reaction be? Would you be fearful and suddenly realize you should have repented of certain sins? Would you immediately have certain regrets as you realize it is now too late to change your life in the way our Lord desires? Or will you be one of those who stands erect with your head raised as you joyfully and confidently rejoice in the glorious return of our Lord.

FRIDAY: Luke 21:31b. We pray for this every time we pray the "Our Father" prayer. We pray that "Thy Kingdom come." In this Gospel passage Jesus states that the Kingdom of God is near. It is near, yet so often it is also very far away. It is near in a twofold sense. First, it is near in that Jesus will be returning in all His splendor and glory and make all things new. Second, His Kingdom is near in that it is only a prayer away. Jesus longs to come to establish His Kingdom within our hearts, if we only let Him in. Unfortunately, we often do not let Him in. We often keep Him at a distance and go back and forth in our minds and hearts as to whether or not we will fully enter into His holy and perfect will. We are so often hesitant to fully embrace Him and to allow His Kingdom to be established within us. Do you realize how near His Kingdom is? Do you realize it is only a prayer and an act of your will away? Jesus is able to come to us and take over our lives if we but let Him. He is the all-powerful King who is able to transform us into a new creation. He is able to bring perfect peace and harmony to our soul. He is able to do great and beautiful things within our hearts. We only have to say the word, and mean it, and He will come.

SATURDAY: Luke 21:34-35a This is the last day of our liturgical year! And on this day, the Gospel reminds us of how easy it is to become lazy in our life of faith. It reminds us that our hearts can become drowsy from "carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." Let's look at these temptations. First, we are warned against carousing and drunkenness. This certainly applies on a literal level, meaning, we should obviously avoid abusing drugs and alcohol. But it also applies to numerous other ways that we are made "drowsy" through a lack of temperance. Whenever we seek momentary escapes from life without turning to God, we allow ourselves to become spiritually drowsy. Second, this passage identifies "the anxieties of daily life" as a source of becoming drowsy. So often we do face anxiety in life. We can feel overwhelmed and overly burdened by one thing or another. When we feel burdened by life, we tend to look for a way out. Jesus speaks this Gospel as a way of challenging us to remain awake and vigilant in our life of faith. The moment we turn our eyes to the burdens of life and fail to see God in the midst of all things, we become spiritually drowsy and begin, in a sense, to fall asleep. God is calling you to become wide awake!

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD KING OF THE UNIVERSE NOVEMBER 20, 2022

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

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MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	8am
Sunday	9:30am
Wednesday	9:00am
Friday	9:00am
Adoration	following 9:00am Mass 1 st Friday of each Month

CONFESSION:

Sunday	7:15-8am
Wed/Fri	8:30-9am

Diocesan Office of Child Protection Services
843-261-0430
Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister 843-856-0748

PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

WELCOME: We welcome all our visitors to St. Mary's. We hope you find St. Mary's to be spiritual and welcoming as you join us today in celebrating the Mass. We invite our new parishioners to join in participating and volunteering in our events. Coffee is served following 9:30am Mass.

THANKSGIVING: Mass will be celebrated at Sts. Frederick and Stephen on **THURSDAY** at 9AM.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: St. Mary's has a rich history of generosity! The food drive was a huge success. There was a wonderful assortment of food and paper products. The food was delivered to the Ravenel Baptist Church in time for distribution before Thanksgiving. Thank you to all those who contributed to our food drive; you have made a difference in your community with your giving heart!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: DECEMBER 8th is a **Holy Day of Obligation.** Mass will be celebrated at: Sts. Frederick and Stephen at 9AM St. Mary's at 6PM.

PARISH SECRETARY: We are in dire need of a **Parish Secretary.** Since our secretary has been ill, many volunteers have been trying to keep the Parish office business in order. If you have any interest in this position, please contact Mark Bauknight at (843) 327-5371 or Father JP at (843) 731-1162 for more information. It is a paid, part-time position with flexible hours.

ST MARY OUTREACH: Outreach is selling beautiful St. Mary's note cards. These cards feature a picture of St. Mary's on the front. We have "Get-Well", "Sympathy", "Heaven and Nature Sing" cards, and you add your personal message. The cost is \$3 each and are in the Parish Center.

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: The book club will meet at **1PM on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30** at 4199 Hwy 165. We will meet right down the street from the church. We will be taking a break from reading and will be watching a series of videos on "What Do Catholics Believe". Everyone is welcome to attend at any time. Call (843) 729-1644 for more information.



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, Buddy Green, DeeDee Huck, Petrina Jacques, Henry Kerr, Mary & Rod Jaros, Eileen Killenberger, Yvonne Livingston, Gus Long, John Lucas, John North, Susan Mance Kelly Meyer, Ann Mitchum, Jane Morley, John North, Nirmala Mary Narichetti, Sarah Proulx, Elizabeth Smith, Landon Smith, Bill Smyer, 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 Nov. 13, 2022

ENVELOPES	AMT	SECOND COLLECTION	AMT
PARISHIONERS	\$2415	Military	\$992
LOOSE	\$68	BAA	\$25
VOTIVE		All Souls Day	\$70
SUB TOTAL	\$2483	SUB TOTAL	\$1087
TOTAL	\$3570		

8:00am	35	9:30am	28	Total	63
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Second collection Today is for the Campaign for Human Development.

Second collection next Sunday is for the Guatemalan Mission.

HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING!

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When we say Jesus is a king, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide. The difficulty with this is that it's very easy for us to reject this kind of kingship. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He desires to become the absolute ruler and monarch of our souls. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always. But He will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. We must accept it freely and without reservation. Jesus will only govern our lives if we freely surrender ourselves over. When that happens, though, His Kingdom begins to become established within us! And through us in the world. Additionally, Jesus does wish for His Kingdom to begin to be established in our world. First and foremost this takes place when we become His sheep and thus become His instruments to help convert the world. However, as King, He also calls us to establish His Kingship by seeing to it that His truth and law is respected within civil society. It's Christ's authority as King that gives us the authority and duty as Christians to do all we can to fight civil injustices and bring about a respect for every human person. All civil law ultimately gains its authority from Christ alone since He is the one and only Universal King.

But many do not recognize Him as King, so what about them? Should we "impose" God's law upon those who do not believe? The answer is both yes and no. First, there are some things we cannot impose. For example, we cannot force people to go to Mass each Sunday. This would hinder one's freedom to enter into this precious gift. We know Jesus requires it of us for the good of our souls, but it must still be embraced freely. However, there are some things that we must "impose" upon others. The protection of the unborn, poor and vulnerable must be "imposed." The freedom of conscience must be written into our laws. The freedom to practice our faith openly (religious liberty) within any institution must be "imposed" also. And there are many other things we could list here. What's important to point out is that, at the end of all time, Jesus will be returning to Earth in all His glory and He will then establish His permanent and unending Kingdom. At that time, all people will see God as He is. And His law will become one with "civil" law. Every knee will bend before the great King and all will know the truth. At that time, true justice will reign and every evil will be corrected. What a glorious day that will be!

Reflect, today, upon your own embrace of Christ as King. Does He truly govern your life in every way? Do you allow Him to have complete control over your life? When this is done freely and completely, the Kingdom of God is established in your life. Let Him reign so that you can be converted and, through you, others can come to know Him as Lord of all!