

## Daily Reflections

### **Sunday, Sep 27, 2020** TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Still time to change your mind

One of the lovely things about having a mind is that you can change it. A working brain takes in new information, reflects on it, and makes connections. Sometimes the result is a revised perspective on ideas you thought were chiseled in stone. People of faith also pray for wisdom and inspiration, which can be troubling prayers to have answered if you're banking on the status quo. Jesus told his followers that folks they had counted out of the circle of grace were being counted in by God. A thoughtful faith will be able to absorb the divine curveballs.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136). "Son, go out and work in the vineyard today." He said in reply, "I will not."

### **Monday, Sep 28, 2020** MEMORIAL OF LAWRENCE RUIZ AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Make an offering of your life

Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, patron saint of the Philippines and the first canonized Filipino martyr, died in 1637 and was elevated to sainthood in 1987. A Dominican-educated altar boy who grew up to become a clerk, marry, and have children, he was falsely accused of murder and fled on a ship to Japan in the company of missionaries. Once there, he was arrested and tortured for being a Christian, but he refused to recant his faith and was executed, saying, "Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him shall I offer." What sacrifices are you willing to make for your faith?

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50 (455). "Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

### **Tuesday, Sep 29, 2020** FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Pray for heavenly healing

Some Christians call today "Michaelmass," for Michael the archangel. And indeed, among the three archangels the Catholic Church honors today, the mighty Michael—depicted in art battling Satan—is probably best known. Almost as well known is Gabriel, who announces to Mary that she will conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and bear the Messiah. Raphael is least familiar. But, as the angel most known for healing—his name meaning "God's medicine"—Raphael is arguably the heavenly help we need right now. Ask for Saint Raphael's intercession today, to heal a world reeling from a pandemic.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647). "You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending."

### **Wednesday, Sep 30, 2020** MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Being a saint doesn't make you perfect

Saint Jerome (345-420) is a highly regarded scholar of the church who translated the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. He was also a complex human being whose crabby nature sometimes complicated his life. In other words, he was fully human. In addition to his enduring Latin translation, called the Vulgate, there are many homilies, quotes, letters, and commentaries attributed to Jerome. This

quote is one to contemplate on his feast day: "It is our part to seek, His to grant what we ask; ours to make a beginning, His to bring it to completion; ours to offer what we can, His to finish what we cannot." TODAY'S READINGS: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62 (457). "Let my prayer come before you, Lord. Daily I call upon you."

### **Thursday, Oct 01, 2020** MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Love greatly in small ways

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most accessible role models ever canonized. Her spirituality, affectionately known as the "Little Way," is a path anyone in any walk of life can follow because its central tenet is simple (though not easy to follow!): "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love." She lived a short, quiet life as a French Carmelite nun, modeling the conviction that people can live in profound union with God simply by carrying out our daily tasks with a loving spirit. Choose one task today that you can carry out with loving kindness. TODAY'S READINGS: Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12 (458). "Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand."

### **Friday, Oct 02, 2020** MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Watching over you

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear about the existence of angels. "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." In Genesis 16, Hagar's angel rescues her. In Exodus 23, when God told Moses to lead the people, he said, "My angel will go before you." In Numbers 22, an angel kept the oracle Balaam from the mistake of cursing Israel. Psalm 91 says that

God "commands his angels . . . to guard you wherever you go."

In the Book of Tobit, young Tobias is accompanied by the Archangel Raphael. Angels are the loving care of God personified in celestial beings, God faithfully standing at our side. You can call on angelic support in your time of need.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 (459); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). "Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

### **Saturday, Oct 03, 2020** Divinely inspired

Job is a famous biblical character many of us can admire from a distance but few would take the opportunity to imitate up close. During a pandemic, however, all of us get to taste some of what Job experienced. Job's story invites us to examine a central question: In whom or what do I place my trust? In a time of crisis, we're invited to dig down to a deeper truth underneath the shifting conditions—the unconditional love of God for all of us, regardless of the circumstances. Try offering your own love to others unconditionally and learn something about how God operates.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24 (460). "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you."

## ST. MARY'S Catholic Church

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*Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.*

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 2020

### 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.**

**Reverend Robert Sayer,  
Pastor  
(843) 957-2198  
[Rsayer@Charlestdiocese.org](mailto:Rsayer@Charlestdiocese.org)**

**Ann Mitchum  
Parish Secretary**

**Diocesan Office of Child  
Protection Services  
843-261-0430**

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister 843-856-0748**

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00am  
Sunday 9:30am  
Wednesday 9:00am  
Friday 9:00am

Confessions Wed & Friday  
8:00 – 8:30

. Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament - the first Friday  
of the month following Mass

## PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



**WELCOME: Welcome to St. Mary's!** Although we are not fully participating in our Parish Mass and activities at this time, we look forward to returning to normal schedules and opportunities to meet and greet each other once again. In the meantime, we pray that all our parishioners and their families remain safe and well during these most unusual times! If you are feeling unusually stressed and feel you need to speak with someone for some encouragement, do not hesitate to call Sister Hope, provided by Catholic Charities of SC. This is a free, anonymous "chatbox" available 24/7, where you can receive faith based emotional and mental thoughts. Text "HI" to Sister Hope at 315-276-3157 for instant support. If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts contact the Suicide Hotline at 800-273-8255

**St. Mary's Outreach Food Drive:** Thank you St. Mary's! The food just keeps coming. So many parishioners have continuously donated food for weeks! Please know your donations are feeding families in our community.

**ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB:** We will meet on **MONDAY, AUGUST 31 at 1PM at Lynn's house, 4199, just 4 houses down on the right from the church.** We have chosen a novel, "Tobit's Dog" by Michael Nicholas Richard. It is suggested that you read the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament prior to reading this book. The book is the "retelling of the biblical story of Tobit, set in North Carolina during the Depression. It brings to life in surprising ways the beloved Old Testament characters, including the important but often overlooked family dog." We WILL wear masks and social distance. We invite you to attend our meetings at any time.

**40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil:** Prayer vigil at West Ashley planned Parenthood has begun. It began Wednesday, Sept. 23 and ends Sunday, November 1. Please call Susan Zeleniak for more information or to sign up or you can go to the Web Site at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Charleston/>



### **PRAY FOR US**

Doyle Adams, Linda Adams, K. Baker, Barbara Barrs, Hazel Basilio, , Chester Broton, Jr., Betty Butler, Bea Clair, Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Maryanne Cortez, Robin Dagostini. Jacob Matthew Dupree, Frances Enos, Ken Fleming, Larry Gerth, Ruth Gerth, Bob Glenn, Elizabeth Good, Hugh Gorman, Sally Gorman, Tom Gould, Krista Groover, Petrina Jacques, Mary & Rod Jaros, DeeDee Huck, Milagros Lamar, Rowena Aquino Livingston, Ray McSwain, Jane Morley, Mary Lydia Moskow, Sarah Proulx, Elizabeth Smith, Landon Smith, Eloise Stroud, Larry Walker, Ellie Wilson, Mary Wilson, Edward Wolf.

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### **Record of Faithfulness**

**Thanks to all who have mailed in their contributions.  
9/20/2020**

Envelopes:	\$ 2180.00	Maint. & Repair	\$ 345.00
Loose	\$ 25.00	Disaster	\$ 780.00
		Catholic University	\$ 5.00
sub	\$ 2205.00		

**Please call or email the rectory at: (843) 889-8549, [stmarys165@charlestondiocese.org](mailto:stmarys165@charlestondiocese.org) or [stmarys165@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys165@gmail.com) with any bulletin announcements.**

**Blessing of Pets:** scheduled for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30am at St. Mary's, and for 11:30am at Sts. Frederick & Stephen (this way, we don't end-up "monopolizing" your entire Saturday afternoon; and, it give me plenty of time to set-up for Mass). Any animal that you have a "heart" for, I consider to be a "pet" -- so ALL are invited. There may also be some "treats" involved, in order to "ingratiate" me to some of our more "feisty" participants. Also, your friends (and their pets) are, of course, more-than-welcome to join us!!

*Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.  
(Philippians 2-3)*

From the fall of our first parents to the most recent family squabble, the world has held onto one philosophy when it comes to relationships: make sure you get your way, no matter what. Stand your ground. Even if you discover you were wrong, do not give in. Do not submit.

How different is the way of the Lord? Take today is second reading. St. Paul tells us that Jesus did not demand that we submit to him. Instead, he submitted to us. He who is Lord of all took "the form of a slave" pouring himself out in miracles of healing and deliverance (Philippians 2:7). He who is the wisdom of God patiently taught the way of forgiveness and holiness. And he who is pure and undefiled stooped to wash dirty, dust feet.

An in this final act of submission, he offered no resistance when we mocked him, beat him, and crucified him. Not because he was weak, but because he was strong. Not because he had lost, but because he knew that this was the way to win. And God proved him right. Because Jesus chose humility over pride and service over force, his Father raised him up and exalted him as Lord.

Jesus did not come to win an argument: he came to win our hearts. By humbling himself like this, he showed that his love is real, solid, and eternal. Now he asks us to follow his example. Just as he came not to be served but to serve, he asks us to serve each other. He asks us to win each other's hearts rather than try to break each other's wills.

This is not always easy. Sometimes it means caring for a fussy in-law, cooperating with an unhappy coworker, or cleaning your teenager's bedroom—again. There is no guarantee that you will win the other person's heart. But you will be pleasing Jesus, and that is its own reward.

*"Lord, teach me how to become a servant after your own heart."*