

Daily Reflections

Sunday, Nov 29, 2020: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT _Keep your eyes open

Nothing is more empowering than a fresh start. Advent brings with it a new gospel to guide us through the new liturgical year: Mark, the shortest of the four narratives about Jesus. Consider reading all 16 chapters at the start of the liturgical year to grasp the breathless beauty of Mark's story. Reflect on other ways to stay alert to new spiritual discoveries, in keeping with Jesus' summons: "Watch!" Pay attention, not just to the news of the day but also to the movements of the Spirit in you. Where might you be prompted to forgive, be generous, get involved, or keep silent?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Monday, Nov 30, 2020: FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE _First responder

Saint Andrew has a special place in the collective heart of Scotland. He is sometimes known as the "first called" apostle because of his early encounter and following of Jesus, alongside his better-known brother and fellow fisherman Simon Peter. When confronting his own crucifixion in the year 60, it is said Andrew chose an X-shaped cross, or saltire, because he felt unworthy to be crucified on the same kind of cross as Jesus. That saltire is now Scotland's national flag. Follow the Scottish example: Give first-called Andrew a special place in your heart. TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Tuesday, Dec 01, 2020: ADVENT WEEKDAY _A light shines in the darkness

In this first week of Advent, the church highlights the theme of hope. We remember that the "people who walk in darkness will see a great light." Good news at this time of long nights as we are reeling mentally, physically, financially, emotionally from the coronavirus pandemic and find it hard to cope. But today is also World AIDS Day, a time to remember another virus-borne pandemic that has killed more than 30 million worldwide, calling to mind the inspiring way our world can come together at its best to respond to terrible diseases. Pray for an increase in hope and healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain."

Wednesday, Dec 02, 2020: ADVENT WEEKDAY _Martyrs in our time

Forty years ago today, four American churchwomen were murdered and dumped in a shallow grave in a cow pasture in Santiago Nonualco, El Salvador. Maryknoll sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan were victims of the country's civil war, killed by members of the Salvadoran National Guard. The women knew they faced danger and yet they could not leave the people. Jean Donovan wrote in a letter two weeks before her death: "Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity." Inspired by the life and martyrdom of Archbishop Saint Oscar

Romero, all four women shared a commitment to the church's "preferential option for the poor." Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean—you walk with us still and we remember.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). "Jesus summoned his disciples and said, 'My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they . . . have nothing to eat.'"

Thursday, Dec 03, 2020: MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST Gain from apparent loss.

While focus is often on Francis' youthful fervor, which sparked his missionary adventures in Asia, less emphasis falls on his maturation. In Japan, he learned to appreciate local culture, connecting it with the gospel. While ocean travel in the 16th century was perilous, long separation from Ignatius of Loyola may have been an even greater suffering. Francis was one of Ignatius' first companions at the founding of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, as they are commonly known. And imagine Francis' disappointment when he couldn't reach his ultimate dream destination: China. Have you ever had a "dream deferred," an unrealized goal? What have you learned from the apparent failure that you might not have learned from success?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). "The house . . . did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

Friday, Dec 04, 2020: MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH An iconic witness

History takes some strange turns. John Damascene is considered one of the great fathers of the Eastern Church, known today for its beautiful iconographic representations of the communion of saints. Yet back in the seventh century, John had to defend the use of icons against a movement in the East to ban them. And who protected him from being arrested by his powerful opponents? The Muslim caliph of Damascus under whose rule John lived and served administratively. Beneath the twists of history, search for the hidden story of salvation, unfolding through the centuries and before our eyes in these iconic times as well. TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). "Then he touched their eyes and said, 'Let it be done for you according to your faith.' And their eyes were opened."

Saturday, Dec 05, 2020: ADVENT WEEKDAY _Pay it forward

Why is it that the season of Lent seems to get all the instructions of what to do—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—but with Advent, we have no handy summary about what to actually do during the season—besides wait? Sure, we have our creches and wreaths, maybe even a Jesse tree or, better yet, an Advent calendar with chocolate hidden behind each door. While all these customs are good, how can we "effect"—that is, bring about—the new life we so eagerly await? The world may have an answer for us. Today marks International Volunteer Day. How can you put into action on behalf of others your faith and expectation of new life in God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

ST. MARY's Catholic Church

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First Sunday of Advent November 29, 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**

**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
<u>Confessions Wed & Friday</u> 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!

ST. MARY'S OUTREACH: We will **SUSPEND** the collection of food donations for the remainder of this year. We will resume food collections in 2021. "Well done, my good and faithful servant". THANK YOU!

Angel Tree:: There are 20 Angel Tags located on the Confessional Door. This way you can read the "Wishes" and take the one you want. Remember, a \$20 limit per tag, since some of the tags are requesting gift cards for food and gasoline it would be a good idea for two friends to share one tag. That way St. Mary's will be able to give the recipients more of their wishes. Gifts need to be returned **no later than Sunday, December 13th.** Gifts to be in a gift bag with the original Angel attached on the outside. The Angel Tags are color coded, **Girls are Red. Boys are Green and Adults are Yellow.**

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: : We continue to meet! Our next meeting is **WEDNESDAY, December 2** at 1PM. We are meeting at Lynn's house at 4199 Hwy 165, just four houses down on the right from the church. The new book is "The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs. "A sacred season is about to unfold for three women whose hearts belong to God." This is a study of Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna. masks and social distance - whatever makes you comfortable. **Everyone is welcome to join us at any time.**

Women's Virtual Retreat with Fr. Kirby. Friday December 4 and Saturday December 5, 2020, it is \$20 for the book & recommended. To register, email familylife@charlestdiocese.org or call 803.547.5063.

Free Virtual Retreat with Fr. David Nerbun: Intimacy with another through the Other: Dec 12 from 9-12. To register please email to familylife@charlestdiocese.org or call 803-547-5063



PRAY FOR US

Doyle Adams, Linda Adams, K. Baker, Gwin Ballard, 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, Krista Groover, Petrina Jacques, Mary & Rod Jaros, DeeDee Huck, Milagros Lamar, Rowena Aquino Livingston, Jane Morley, Mary Lydia Moskow, Sarah Proulx, Elizabeth Smith, Landon Smith, Bill Smyer, Eloise Stroud, Richard Unger Larry Walker, Ellie Wilson, Mary Wilson, Edward Wolf, Jose Yabut.

Record of Faithfulness Thanks to all who have mailed in their contributions. 11/22/2020

Envelopes:	\$ 1990.00	Parish Charity	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 20.00		
sub	\$ 2010.00	Total All	\$ 2020.00
Attendance	8:00 26	9:30 30	Total 56

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

We are an all-volunteer Parish and request your help. We are in need of Lectors for both Masses. We will provide the guidance/training needed. Please call or email the Church office. Additionally, we would like to have greater representation on the Parish Council. The Council is the primary advisory board for St. Mary's Pastor. We meet monthly, second Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Parish Council meeting at the parish center at 6:30 Tuesday. December 8th. Any member of the Parish is welcome to attend.

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, December 7th (Vigil Mass) - 5:00 p.m. - **SM**
Tuesday, December 8th - 9:00 a.m. - **FS**
(Please Note: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Mass at FS is cancelled)

*I give thanks for the Grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 1:4)*

Welcome to Advent! Whether it is your first time entering this holy season or you ninetieth, be assured that God, your heavenly Father, is eager to bestow his grace on you.

As Paul says in today's second reading, God has already poured his grace on you. He has given you access to every spiritual gift as you wait for Jesus to reveal himself to you (1 Corinthians 1:7). And God wants to do even more. He wants you to have a great Advent! He wants to make this season into a time for you to grow closer to him and come to know him better. That does not necessarily mean these days before Christmas will be easy. Your faith might deepen, or you might receive unexpected blessings. But you might also experience hardship or setbacks. Yes, no matter what happens, God will reward whatever effort you put into your Advent preparations. That is because he wants nothing more than for you to deepen your relationship with Jesus. That is the grace God is offering you this season.

So, dig in! Start by committing to spend more time in prayer this month. Use this magazine to read the Mass reading and meditations with an open heart. Participate in the life of your parish, maybe through Eucharist Adoration or a service project. Pick up a spiritual book or do an Advent Bible study to develop your understanding of your faith.

Above everything else, be hopeful; "God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his son" (1 Corinthians 1:9). That is what this season is all about.

"Father, I want to experience your blessing as I wait and watch and

Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 24th (Vigil Mass) - 5:00 p.m. - **SM** / 10:00 p.m. - **FS**

(Please Note: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. Daily Mass at FS is cancelled)

Friday, December 25th - 8:00 a.m. - **FS** / 11:00 a.m. - **SM**

(Please Note: Friday 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass at SM is cancelled)

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New Year's - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 31st (Vigil Mass) - 4:00 p.m. - **SM** / 6:00 p.m. - **FS**

(Please Note: Thursday 5:00 p.m. Daily Mass at FS is cancelled)

a "Midnight Mass" - Thursday, 11:30 p.m. - **FS** (**No** Obligation) **b**

Friday, January 1st - 9:00 a.m. - **SM** / 11:00 a.m. - **FS**

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The **Epiphany** of the Lord

Saturday, January 2nd (Vigil Mass) - 5:00 p.m. - **FS**

Sunday, January 3rd - 8:00 a.m. - **SM** / 9:30 a.m. - **SM** / 11:45 a.m. - **FS**