

Daily Reflections

Sunday, Feb 28, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Go all in

Erin became a Roman Catholic in midlife. When asked why, she says she tried fiercely to make life work according to her plan. Erin told God many times how it should go, attempting to persuade the powers that be to see it her way. Then one day God replied: My plan for you is so beautiful, wonderful, elegant. Why not try it instead? When Erin celebrated the Rites for Candidates for Full Communion on a Lenten Sunday just like this one, she found the joy she was missing. Pray for this year's candidates—and for candidates for years to come.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26). "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Monday, Mar 01, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY Mercy me!

Pope Francis called mercy the "beating heart of the gospel." Mercy is forbearance, divine favor, compassionate treatment of the distressed and undeserving. It's another word for God's love. Consider showing devotion to it by reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a rosary-based prayer that was received by Saint Faustina, a Polish nun in the 1930s, through visions of Jesus. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated the week after Easter, but many make the Chaplet part of their regular Lenten practice by reciting it every day at 3 p.m. (the traditional hour of Christ's death). You can find the Chaplet on the USCCB website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Tuesday, Mar 02, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Celebrate humble history.

Women's History Month celebrates well-known women but also unsung heroines. How appropriate, then, that today is the feast of Agnes of Bohemia, a lesser-known saint. First cousin of Elizabeth of Hungary—and descendent of Good King Wenceslaus—Agnes came upon her vocation naturally. She built a hospital for the poor, a Franciscan friary, and a monastery for Poor Clare nuns. When she also became a nun and was urged to become abbess, she referred to herself only as "senior sister." She continued to cook for her sisters and mend the clothing of lepers rather than live a royal life.

Celebrate the unsung heroines in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Wednesday, Mar 03, 2021

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

We have work to do.

Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) is a saint for our time. Born into a successful Philadelphia banking family, she used her wealth to improve the lives of others. Her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament devoted their lives to education of Native and African Americans, building more than 100 schools in cities, rural areas, and on reservations. Though Katharine and her sisters at times faced criticism, endured racist taunts, and were threatened by the Ku Klux Klan, they remained steadfast in their mission. Patron saint of racial justice and philanthropy, Saint Katharine epitomizes the sacrifice of the Blessed Sacrament. How will you commit your own life to making the world more just?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232).

"Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

Thursday, Mar 04, 2021 MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR

Grace under pressure.

Saint Casimir seemed destined for riches and power, but this patron saint of Poland, called the Peacemaker, took a different path. Born in 1458 to the king and queen of Poland, he was a devout, ascetic child. At age 14 his father had him lead an army to install himself as king of Hungary, but with an overpowering enemy and troops beginning to desert, Casimir instead returned home. His furious father exiled him, but Casimir would never again take up arms. Rejecting violence when those around you embrace it can take great inner strength.

Cultivate an inner compass that can pursue peace despite pressure.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233).

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD."

Friday, Mar 05, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Pray for besieged people everywhere.

Prayer is our life with God. Sometimes we carve out a particular time during the day, and sometimes there are specific words, images, or experiences that help us be more aware of or express our relationship with God. And so of course during Lent prayer is one of the pillars, along with fasting and almsgiving, that help us turn to God. On today's 2021 World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical observance, we are invited to "Build on a strong foundation." This theme comes from the women of Vanuatu, an island hit by Cyclone Harold in 2020. Despite the perils they faced—and we've all faced in a year of pandemic—the message of today's prayer is one of confidence in God's steadfastness and the rock of faith.

Unite in prayer for healing and recovery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). "The kingdom of God will be . . . given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Saturday, Mar 06, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Sibling rivalry of biblical proportions.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son could as easily be called the Parable of the Bitter Brother. The story might have ended with the celebration at the return of the repentant prodigal. But instead we are left to ponder the feelings of the "good son," the obedient one who followed all the rules but never got a party thrown in his honor. It's a very human story, reenacted in nearly every family in one form or another. "Mother always liked you best." "You were Dad's favorite." "All we ever did was bail you out of trouble." Will the bitter brother in the gospel story reconcile? Has bitterness or division in your own family been reconciled? Consider being the reconciler who brings it about.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). "Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends"

ST. MARY's Catholic Church

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Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2021

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.

**Ann Mitchum
Parish Secretary**

Stmarys165@charlestondiocese.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00am

Sunday 9:30am

Until further notice there will be no week day masses or confession.

Diocesan Office of Child Protection Services

843-261-0430

Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister 843-856-0748

Friday, March 5, is World Day of Prayer

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 collect food items for the Food Bank during Lent. **Please leave your non-perishables in the Parish Center on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Sundays.** Your donations STAY in our community. The next food distribution will be **SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 10am-12pm** at the Ravenel Baptist Church on Highway 165. Anyone can come to the food distribution, but you must show a picture ID to receive food assistance. Thank you, St. Mary's, for your continued generosity!

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: We never stopped meeting! Our next meeting is **WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 at 1PM.** We are meeting at Lynn's house at 4199, just four houses down on the right from the church. We are reading "The Girl's Still Got It" by Liz Curtis Higgs. This is the story of Ruth, a young woman who leaves her home and family to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem. "Where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." This is a beautiful story of a "leap of faith". You are welcome to join us at any time. We meet safely in person or on Zoom. If you would like the Zoom link to join us, leave your name and email address at (843) 729-1644. This is a great way to stay connected with each other!

Volunteers Needed: To help count Sunday donations, usually after 9:30 Mass on Sunday. If interested, please email Carolyn at: carolyn29449@[gmail.com](mailto:carolyn29449@gmail.com).

Lectors Needed. Maybe you have been thinking about reading during Mass but are uncertain You will receive training. What better time to give it a try, while the church is still half-empty due to Covid! If you are willing to read, please contact Renee Meyer: Rpmeyeryi@gmail.com. Together we could figure out a schedule for your readers. Our previous scheduler hasn’t returned to Mass at St Mary’s since Covid restrictions have been in place. In more ways than one we are on our own for a while. Hopefully that will include opportunities as well as work. Best to you, Renee



Doyle Adams, K. Baker, d, Barbara Barrs, Hazel Basilio, , Chester Broton, Jr., Betty Butler, Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Maryanne Cortez, 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, Judy Lumpkin (Mother of Michael) ,Milagros Lamar, Rowena Aquino Livingston, Susan Mance, 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, and All Parishioner of our parish family..

Linda Adams, a long Parishioner died last week. Please keep her and her family in our prayers.

**Record of Faithfulness
Thanks to all who have mailed in their contributions.
02/21/2021**

Envelopes:	\$ 1890.00	Maint & Repair	\$ 514.00
Votive	\$ 19.45	Black & Indian Missions	
			\$495.00
Total	\$ 1909.45	Ash Wed.	\$ 790.00

Attendance 8 am 20 9:30 am 26 Ash Wed \$ 32
Please call or email the rectory at: (843) 889-8549, stmarys165@charlestondiocese.org or stmarys165@gmail.com with any bulletin announcements.

Grief support group If anyone is interested in a grief support group Irene Chambers has agreed to facilitate the meetings. Time and place to be announced based on interest. Please contact Vicki Miller 843-870-8789; vickim4691@gmail.com

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ONLINE: Although we do not have in-person, weekly, Stations of the Cross during Lent, there is an alternative. Bishop Barron offers a reflection of the Station of the Cross on You Tube. You can just Google "Bishop Barron Stations of the Cross" and you will be taken to the video. It is approximately an hour long.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: The pandemic has challenged us all to stay connected with each other. We may not be able to "see each other", however, we are a parish community of faith and support. We will continue to pray for each other and reach out as best we can in these unusual circumstances. If you are in need of some emotional support, you can text "HI" to Sister Hope at 315-276-3157. This is a free service provided by Catholic Charities. If you ever feeling more desperate or alone or having suicidal thoughts contact the Suicide Hotline at 800-273-8255. **We have continued our regular Sunday Mass schedules. If you are comfortable, join us at Mass. We wear masks and social distance for everyone's protection.**

He . . . handed him over for us all. (Romans 8:32)

Yes, God loved us so much that he did not spare his Son. But what St. Paul doesn’t mention in today’s passage is how persistent God was in handing Jesus over to us. Neither does Paul talk about how resistant we can be to this great gift.

At Christmas, God handed over his Son to us as a gift of *peace*. Mary and Joseph welcomed him openly, and a few shepherds embraced him, but the rest of the world seemed pitted against him. Even Herod and all Jerusalem feared him and trembled at the news of his birth (Matthew 2:3).

Then the Father handed Jesus over to us as a gift of *wisdom*: “This is my beloved Son,” he proclaimed (Matthew 3:17). He sent him to teach us how to live in love with him and each other. But rather than receive Jesus humbly, we questioned his every motive and were hard of heart and slow to believe.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, God offered Jesus as a gift of *glory*: “This is my beloved Son,” he said yet again, adding an impassioned plea: “Listen to him” (Mark 9:7). Still, even Peter misunderstood the gift. He sought to capture Jesus’ glory as a static memorial rather than a living presence.

God even used Pilate to hand Jesus over to us, this time as a gift of *sacrifice*: “Behold, the man! . . . Take him yourselves and crucify him!” Pilate cried. He didn’t even know that he was helping fulfill Jesus’ mission. But again we rejected the gift: “Take him away!” we replied (John 19:5, 6, 15).

On Easter Sunday, God gave Jesus to us again, this time as a gift of *forgiveness and redemption*. And every day since then, he continues to offer Jesus to us in the humble form of bread and wine: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Jesus is here. Accept him. Let him change your heart.

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but you still offer yourself to me. Help me to embrace you so that my soul may be healed.”

Word Among Us