

Daily Reflections

Sunday, Oct 25, 2020:

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Worship the God of glory

Leadership earns public honors, and the best leaders exercise humility in accepting them. Pope Francis began his papacy by donning simple attire and asking for our prayers before offering his first blessing. Genuine leadership recognizes that all authority comes from God. Today is Priesthood Sunday, honoring the multitudes of pastors who did their job this year with passion, grace, and ingenuity under extraordinary circumstances. Pray the Rosary's Glorious Mysteries for those who lead us to: rise up from despair, lift our gaze upward, encounter the Spirit's power, give ourselves body and soul, and accept honor with grace. TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40 (148). "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Monday, Oct 26, 2020:

Slow down, you're moving too fast

Too many people work too much. Some have a psychological compulsion to work incessantly. Some work excessively to acquire money and success. Some have no identity outside of their jobs. Some are driven by guilt and fear of being lazy. Some think that an overly busy work life makes them look important. And far too many are forced to work too much in order to make ends meet. None of these reasons are healthy or holy. God wants us to rest and enjoy life too—thus, the sabbath day. Let's work together to create a just society where all can get some rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17 (479). "Ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?"

Tuesday, Oct 27, 2020:

Console the consolers

Prayerful words from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, written by NACC member Lisa Ecks: "May the wilderness of this time, and the uncertainty we may feel, strengthen our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit." The NACC helps priests, religious women, and laypeople bring a trained, professional experience to their ministry of caring for the sick. Pray for all hospital chaplains during this Pastoral Care Week. They're consoling not just COVID-19 patients but medical workers on the front lines.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21 (480). "Jesus said, 'What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it?'"

Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020:

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

Obscure but still important

Much of what we know about apostles Jude and Simon is who they are not. Simon was called the Zealot—someone passionate, and perhaps revolutionary, about his Jewish faith. Calling him the Zealot also helped to distinguish him from the more famous Simon Peter. We find Jude (along with Judas, variant translations of the name Judah) mentioned in

the list of the apostles in Luke and Acts, but he is called Thaddeus in Matthew and Mark, perhaps to distinguish him from the traitor Judas Iscariot.

Regardless of their relative obscurity, Jude and Simon were chosen by Jesus to share the Good News and there is every indication they did just that. Even if your life seems quiet and unremarkable to you in some ways, the call to discipleship is your call as well. Saint Jude and Saint Simon, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). "Jesus called the disciples to himself. . . . Simon who was called the Zealot and Judas the son of James."

Thursday, Oct 29, 2020:

Do the right thing

Even in this day and age, Christians standing up for what is right have been killed for their efforts. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. comes to mind. So does Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, of Dayton, Ohio, who was murdered in 2005 for defending the poor and protected lands in the Amazon rain forest in Brazil. Would you allow yourself to be inconvenienced (or more) to do the right thing? Look for a way to stand up for a good cause today, even if it feels inconvenient.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35 (482). "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how many times I yearned to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."

Friday, Oct 30, 2020:

A time for healing

One of the comforting takeaways from our experience of church during the pandemic is that people are more important than rules. The obligation to physically participate in Sunday Mass has been dispensed during the pandemic by our bishops. We are given the opportunity to make a "spiritual communion" instead. We don't have to go to Confession to be absolved of our sins. A sincere Act of Contrition and a resolve to celebrate the sacrament when it once again becomes available is sufficient. Just as Jesus set aside the sabbath commandment in order to heal, so too our bishops set aside the precepts so that we may be healed. Let's pray today for our bishops, and for a time of healing. TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 14:1-6 (483). "The one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it."

Saturday, Oct 31, 2020:

Meal ministry

One of the many things to be longed for during this extended time of physical distancing is the free and easy sharing of meals with family and friends, in groups large and small. Shared meals hold a special place in family life, and in Catholic life as well. It's no mystery why meals are central. Something magical happens at mealtime, the communion among people is palpable. And in Catholic life, Communion is sacred. Pray we may safely gather again without appointment or extra precautions in the not distant future and freely share the mysteries of our faith in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood. Until then, let us raise a glass in remembrance of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484).

"On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully."

ST. MARY'S Catholic Church

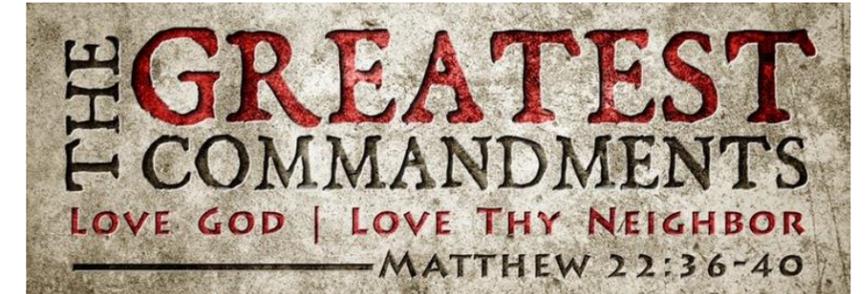
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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2020

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> <u>8:00 – 8:30</u>	

. 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

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: St. Mary's Outreach will begin the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We have done this for many years and know that in these times there are many more families that are in need of assistance. We would like to "specialize" our next few weeks with dinner fixin's! Mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, peas, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, black eye peas, mac and cheese, corn muffin mix, brownie mix, pumpkin pie mix and pie shells. St. Mary's parishioners have always been very generous and provided a Happy Thanksgiving throughout our community. You may leave your food items in the Parish Center at any time. Thank you!

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB: We continue to meet! Our next meeting is **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28** at **1PM**. We are meeting at Lynn's house at 4199, just four houses down on the right from the church. We will be watching the remake of "Fatima", as well as choosing our next book. We wear masks and social distance - whatever makes you comfortable. Everyone is welcome to join us 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/>

Diocese of Charleston Rosaries for life: See insert for details.



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, Eloise Stroud, Larry Walker, Ellie Wilson, Mary Wilson, Edward Wolf.

Record of Faithfulness

Thanks to all who have mailed in their contributions.

10/18/2020

Envelopes:	\$ 1040.00	Maint. & Repair	\$ 50.00
Loose	\$ 20.00	Parish Charity	\$ 270.00
sub	\$ 1060.00	Total All	\$ 1380.00
Attendance	8:00 26	9:30 27	Total 50

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

HEALTHCARE TREATS: St. Mary's Outreach continues to collect "treats" for our local doctors and nurses. These treats are delivered to Roper/St. Francis and distributed to their break rooms. Notes of encouragement are always welcome. You may leave these items in the Parish Center, marked "for healthcare". Thank you for your continued generosity!

St. Mary's notecards are now available in the Parish Center. These cards were made and donated by Kathy Hare to St. Mary's. There are four designs available, Get Well, Sympathy, Let Heaven and Nature Sing, and no verse. All feature a beautiful photo of St. Mary's. The price is \$3 each or 4 for \$10. The proceeds go towards St. Mary's Outreach.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats offer everyone who has had an abortion experience an opportunity to experience compassion and understanding, and to find God's forgiveness and mercy in a non-judgmental confidential setting. November 6-8, 2020, in Charleston, SC. For more information please call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010 or grace4healing@gmail.com

Love the Lord.....Love your neighbor. (Matthew 22:37, 39)

What a rough day! From the start, Jesus had to contend with groups of religious leaders trying to trip him up. First came the Chief priests and scribes, then some Pharisees, followed by some Sadducees, followed by even more Pharisees. And all the while, Jesus was trying to preach to the people—including "the blind and the lame" – who had gathered around him. (Matthew 21:14).

How ironic! Jesus faced a parade of dignitaries trying to trap hi instead of asking how they could better care for the people surrounding him. Their very actions showed how blind they were to what it really meant to love God. (Jesus) or their neighbor (the people). Of course, we should not single them out as especially evil or misguided. We can point to times when we have overlooked opportunities to love, even when they are staring us in the face.

Why should that be? Part of the reason is that we may have a narrow definition of Jesus' command to love. We might tend to reduce loving God to attending Mass or getting our prayer times in—walled-off situations that are limited in time and not very demanding. As for loving our neighbor, we can fall into the trap of deciding for ourselves who our "neighbor is. Maybe he is our husband but not the coworker who rubs us the wrong way. Maybe she is our sister but not the in-law who is always offering her advice, whether we want it or not.

Jesus came to expose the indifference that lies at the heart of our failures to love. But he did not stop there. He also overcame it as only he could; by pouring himself out in love for us. May we take up his example and pour ourselves out as well.

"Jesus teach me to love all my neighbors."

Word Among Us