

## Daily Reflection

### Monday, Feb 17, 2020: MEMORIAL OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us

The Servites helped popularize a special form of Rosary prayer that's dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. Called simply the "Rosary of the Seven Sorrows"—and not to be confused with the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary—this form of devotional prayer recalls seven instances when Mary suffered. Mary's "Seven Sorrows" are: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in the temple, Mary's meeting of Jesus during the Way of the Cross, the Crucifixion, the taking down of Jesus' body from the cross, and the burial of Jesus. The devotion became widespread during the Black Plague of the 1300s; more recently, it's associated with an apparition of Mary to one of the victims of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. It's a reminder that Our Mother is with us always, even and especially during tragedy. TODAY'S READINGS: James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13 (335). "He sighed from the depth of his spirit."

### Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020: Higher ground

Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. In the words of Saint John Damascene: "The bread and wine are not a foreshadowing of the body and blood of Christ—by no means!—but the actual deified body of the Lord." Catholicism teaches that Christ is literally and wholly present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in what you receive and adore, through a process called transubstantiation that occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest during Mass. The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life," the church says—let it take you higher! TODAY'S READINGS: James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21 (336). "Watch out, guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

### Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020: Be a doer

"Religion" has a bad name these days. Among other things, hypocrites, extremists, and institutional sin have caused many to reject organized religion—what Christians would simply call "the church." Even so, secular people everywhere admire members and leaders of organized religion when their lives reflect radical love. That may be why two movies have already been made of the life of Fred Rogers, the kindly Presbyterian minister who produced Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. By extending unconditional love in word and deed, Rogers was what James in today's first reading called a "doer." Be the doer of an act of Christian charity and bring authenticity to your religion. TODAY'S READINGS: James 1:19-27; Mark 8:22-26 (337). "Religion that is pure and undefiled . . . is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

### Thursday, Feb 20, 2020: Threading the needle

Can you be rich and be Christian? The author of the Letter of James speaks challenging words about wealth and poverty, and in this he is not alone. The biblical witness is filled with warnings about the dangers of great wealth. The rich man went away sad, not ready to part with his wealth for the sake of the Kingdom. On the other hand, both Job and Abraham were wealthy men who loved God more than their wealth. It is a question of priorities. If you have been blessed with wealth, consider it a loan from God. Your task is to accomplish as much good for as many as possible with that wealth.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 2:1-9; Mark 8:27-33 (338). "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom . . . Are not the rich oppressing you?"

### Friday, Feb 21, 2020: The cost of commitment

The recently canonized John Henry Newman was born on this date in 1801. Criticized by both liberals and conservatives, he disliked hierarchical triumphalism, but found bedrock truth in Catholicism. In fact, he gave up social support in the Church of England to convert. Because he upheld the laity's role, the primacy of conscience, and the intellectual life, he's called a forefather of Vatican II. Today is also the feast of Robert Southwell, a Jesuit and poet who ministered secretly in England when it was forbidden, under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I—and died in 1595 for his faith. Read a bit about both of their lives to learn what integrity means.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 2:14-24, 26; Mark 8:34—9:1 (339). "What could one give in exchange for his life?"

### Saturday, Feb 22, 2020: FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

The successors of Peter

This isn't the feast day of a piece of furniture. "Chair" holds the meaning of a person presiding over a meeting or a group. In this case, "chair" refers to the office of Saint Peter, who presided over what would become the early church. It's interesting to note that technically speaking, popes do not succeed each other, e.g., Francis did not succeed Benedict. Rather all popes are the successors of Saint Peter. He is not only the proto-pope, he is the eternal pope who presides over the church through the popes of history. Pray for our pope. The whole world is his parish.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

## THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

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## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 16, 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)**

**Deacon Charles LaRosa  
(803)- 530-4339**

**Ann Mitchum  
Parish Secretary**

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00am  
Sunday 9:30am  
Wednesday 9:00am  
Friday 9:00am  
Confessions on Wednesdays  
and Fridays at 8:30am.  
Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament - the first Friday  
of the month following Mass

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

## PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



**WELCOME: Welcome to St. Mary's!** We trust you find a welcoming community here. We invite you to come over to the Parish Center after Mass. New parishioners are asked to complete a registration form. You may deposit the forms in the collection basket or bring it over to the Parish Center. If you wish to receive weekly contribution envelopes, please call the Parish Center and leave your name and number. We encourage our new parishioners to become active participants in our parish. **Snacks today are provided St. Mary's Outreach.**

**WELCOME:** We welcome Joseph and Tracy Pejsa and mom, Coletta, to our parish family.

**MARRIAGE VOW RENEWAL:** Fr. Bob invites all married couples at Mass **TODAY** to renew the vows you made to each other at the time of your marriage.

**BOOK CLUB: We will meet on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 1PM in the Parish Center.** We have chosen "A Love Devine" by Alexandra Ripley for our next book. We will read to page 156. This is historical fiction about Joseph of Arimathea "There is a legend of Joseph of Arimathea that is many centuries old, widely believed and reverently cherished. It tells us that Joseph was a man of the sea." You are welcome to join us at any time.

**PALMS:** Please put your old palms in the box in the back of the church. They will be burned and used for ashes on **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.**

**MASS INTENTIONS:** You may request an intention for any Mass. This may be to commemorate a death, celebrate a birth, a birthday or anniversary. You may wish to make a special intention for anyone and for any reason. There are envelopes in the back of the Church. Please give them to Fr. Bob or bring them to the Parish Office.



**BAKE SALE:**  
Next bake sale is **SUNDAY, February 23!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Doyle Adams, Linda Adams, Barbara Barrs, Hazel Basilio, Pat Botti, Chester Broton, Jr., Betty Butler, Bea Clair, Allison Condon Chappell, Jack Cooper, Jacob Matthew Dupree, Frances Enos, Ken Fleming, Ruth Gerth, Bob Glenn, Elizabeth Good, Hugh Gorman, Sally Gorman, Tom Gould, 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.

**We would like to update the prayer list. If there are any additions or deletions, please call the Parish Office.**

#### Record of Faithfulness 02/09/2020

Envelopes	\$ 2,060.00	Black & Indian Mission	\$ 550.00
Visitors/Loose	\$ 72.00	Latin America	\$ 20.00

**Total \$ 2,132.00**

Attendance	8:00am	42	9:30am	72
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**Second Collection Today: Maintenance & Repair**  
**Second Collection Next Sunday: Parish Charity**

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**SOUP DINNERS:** As is a tradition at St. Mary's, we will have soup dinners following Stations of the Cross each Wednesday evening of Lent. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Center. We ask our volunteers to provide soup and bread. Beverages will be provided. Please come over to the Parish Center to sign up for a Wednesday.

**TAX INFORMATION:** If you contributed to St. Mary's and have not received a tax letter, please contact the Parish Office :stmarys165@charlestondiocese.org.

**Journeying Through Lent - How to Set Your GPS.** What do I need for the journey from Lent to Easter? What do I need to pack for the journey? What do I leave behind? Who or what might be my guides? What will be the "mile-markers" on my journey?

**Wednesday, March 11 from 10 am to 3 pm**  
**a mini-lenten retreat offered by Sr. Susan Schorensten, HM and Sr. Gay Rowzie, HM.** The retreat will be held in the Clare Boothe Luce Library. Parking is available in the Retreat Center parking area. You can register on line at [mepkinabbey.org/visit/book\\_a\\_lecture](http://mepkinabbey.org/visit/book_a_lecture). An offering of \$10 per person, can be paid at the door. Please bring a bag lunch.

***"Before man are life and death...whichever he chooses shall be given him. (Sirach 15:17)"***

Free will. It's God's greatest gift to us, and it's also our riskiest characteristic. Free will has enabled us to decide for ourselves what kind of people we will be. It has enabled us to create music and art, to build cities and roads, to marry and have children. It has also enabled us to destroy instead of to create, to hurt and betray instead of to heal and build up. Most important, it's through our free will that we decide whether to follow Jesus or our own thoughts and desires,

Sirach seems keenly aware of how much of a two-edged sword our free will can be. Each of us, he says, is free to choose between "fire and water, life and death, good and evil" (Sirach 15:16, 17). And God will respect whatever we choose.

Of course, our heavenly Father longs for us to choose life in him, be he will never force himself on us. He is not like the pagans, who use threats and manipulation to keep their people in line.

God also knows that free will has consequences. And so, Sirach teaches, "Whichever he chooses shall be given him" (Sirach 15:17). While God honors our choices, he also respects the results those choices bring.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a real-life illustration. "Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement" (Matthew 5:22). If you choose to nurture anger resentment and condemnation, don't be surprised if other people begin treating you in the same way. But if you build an environment of trust and respect, that's what you will receive.

So, choose life today. Use this awesome gift of your free will to will to choose gentleness, patience, and all the other fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), Above all choose Jesus. Welcome him into your life, and let his love soften your heart. It's the best choice you could ever make.

***"Jesus, help me to choose you in every situation today."***

***Word among us***