

## DAILY MEDITATIONS

**MONDAY:** Mark 3:22 By this time, Jesus was fully engaged in His public ministry. He had healed the sick and lame, cast out many demons, called the Twelve Apostles and given them authority over evil spirits, and preached the Good News to many. Just prior to this Gospel passage, some of Jesus' own extended family had criticized Him, claiming that Jesus was out of His mind. Then the scribes began their public condemnation of our Lord. The scribes were faced with a dilemma. They saw Jesus cast out demons from those who were possessed, so they needed to come up with an explanation. They concluded that Jesus was able to cast out demons by the power of the prince of demons. Jesus goes on to address the scribes' criticism by identifying their condemnation as a sin against the Holy Spirit. Jesus explains that every sin can be forgiven except the sin against the Holy Spirit. He says that "whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness but is guilty of an everlasting sin." Why is that? In this case, the sin against the Holy Spirit is not only the false condemnation spoken by the scribes against Jesus. First and foremost, their sin is one of obstinacy. They spoke falsely about our Lord, which is a grave sin, but what's worse is that they did so in such a way that they remained firmly grounded in their error. They refused to humble themselves and reconsider their error.

**TUESDAY:** Mark 3:34-35. Jesus said many things that caused people to pause and think. Just prior to the passage, Jesus was told that His mother and brothers were outside looking for Him. After hearing this, instead of going to greet them, He asked those around Him, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Then He looked around and answered His own question with the above quoted Scripture. What may have caused some people to pause and think at that time, and even now when this passage is read, is that Jesus' comments can easily be misunderstood. Some will conclude that He was distancing Himself from His own family and that He was even disowning them to a certain extent. But nothing could be further from the truth.

First of all, we know that Jesus had a perfect love for His dear mother Mary and that she loved Jesus with a perfect reciprocal love. As for His "brothers," it was common to refer to one's extended family (such as cousins) as brothers and sisters. Therefore, these brothers who were coming to see Jesus were relatives to one degree or another. And though our Blessed Mother, the mother of Jesus, was perfect in every way, Jesus' extended family was not.

**WEDNESDAY:** Mark 4:20, This description from the Parable of the Sower seems to describe a growing number of people in our world today. The first grouping of people mentioned in this parable have little to no faith and are represented by the seed sown on the path which is quickly consumed by satan. The second group of people have a little initial faith and are represented by seed sown on rocky ground. The passage above represents the third grouping of people who are like seeds sown in good soil but are also among thorns. The fourth are those who are like rich soil and the Word of God grows deeply in their lives. Let's consider the third grouping of people in more detail. There are three evils that choke off the Word of God in our lives: "worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things in their lives.

**THURSDAY:** **THURSDAY:** Mark 4:22 This passage comes from the section on "The Last Judgment" rather than "The Particular Judgment." The Particular Judgment will come for all of us at the moment of our passing from this world. It will be an accounting of our sins and virtues before God in a personal and private way. But the Last Judgment will come at the end of time and should be seen as a universal judgment upon all in a very definitive and public way. If the Scripture passage above, as well as the passage from the *Catechism*, are properly interpreted to mean that during the Last Judgment even our deepest sins, including those that have been forgiven through the Sacrament of Confession, will be made manifest for all to see, this idea can, at first, be a bit frightening. But it shouldn't be. It should be liberating. If every action of our lives, both good and bad, will be made manifest for all to see at The Last Judgment, then this will result in one thing and one thing alone for those who are in Heaven: the glory of God and much rejoicing.

**FRIDAY:** Mark 4:26-27 It's beautiful to reflect upon how the Word of God changes people's lives. This short passage above analogizes the sharing of the Word of God with the planting of seed. The sower goes forth and scatters seed into the ground and then observes how that seed grows into a fruitful plant. The mysterious line states "he knows not how."

So, it is with the Word of God. When that Word is received by another, we are blessed to be able to stand back and watch as that Word takes root and transforms their lives. Of course, at times we may sow the Word and it doesn't take root. This is on account of either the hardness of another's heart or on account of the way in which we sow. But when the seed of God's Word does take root, we should be in awe of how God works in that soul. Think about this reality in your own life. How did you first receive the good seed of God's word? Perhaps it was through a sermon, a retreat, the reading of Scripture, a book or the witness of another. Think about how you first received God's Word into your life and what effect it had upon you.

**SATURDAY:** Mark 4:36-38 Throughout our lives, we can be assured that at some point we will encounter a storm. Not just a physical storm but a spiritual one. It may come in the form of a tragic event, a deep wound inflicted by another, the effects of our own sin or some other painful experience. And for many people, this will happen more than once. When such a "storm" is encountered in life, it may seem as if Jesus is "asleep" and not readily available to help us through. When this happens, the message of the Gospel above is very helpful to prayerfully ponder. As this Gospel passage continues, we read that the disciples, in a panic, woke up Jesus and said, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus got up, addressed the storm and said, "Quiet! Be still!" and all was calm. He then said to the disciples, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" The disciples were left in amazement and wonder. The key is faith. When we face a storm in life, we must have faith. But what does that mean? It means that we must know, with a deep certitude, that Jesus is in fact always with us. Facing the storms in life with faith is transforming. And often Jesus appears to be asleep for a reason. The reason is that He wants us to trust.

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## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 22, 2023

**Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Juene**  
Bishop of Charleston

**Rev. Jesuprathap Narichetti**  
(Father JP)  
Pastor  
Email:  
[jnarichetti@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:jnarichetti@charlestdiocese.org)  
843-731-1162

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	11:30am
Tuesday Rosary	8:30am
Tuesday	9:00am
Thursday	9:00am

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday	4:15-5pm
Tues/Thurs	8:30-9am

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



## PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**WELCOME: THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. FREDERICK AND ST. STEPHEN WELCOMES ALL NEWCOMERS TO OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE FILL OUT A REGISTRATION CARD, WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AND DROP IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.**

**Visitors: We ask our visitors to sign our Guest Book, so we may have a record of your attendance and remember you at the Church.**

**MARDI GRAS:** Wear your favorite purple, gold or green for a night of fun, food and fellowship!  
**FEBRUARY 21st** at 6pm in the Parish Hall.  
 Donations accepted.

**TOGETHER IN HOLINESS:** Come celebrate your marriage with a special Bilingual Anniversary Conference. The conference will be held on **February 11** at **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 11am-6pm, at 5 St. Teresa Drive in Charleston**, There will be a dynamic presentation, Mass, childcare (2-12yrs), Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation. We are asking that all who plan to attend please register so that we can have an accurate count for refreshments and have your information if you desire a certificate. Registration link: [bit.ly/anniversaries2023](http://bit.ly/anniversaries2023) (English y Espanol). For more information, please contact Natalie Burt, [nburt@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:nburt@charlestdiocese.org) or 803-899-4946. Registration cost is \$64 a couple or \$40 per individual.

Matrimonios Eucarísticos sábado de febrero 11 Descubriendo el plan de Dios en la familia Creciendo juntos hacia la santidad Contacte a María Romero 305.979.1573 - [mromero@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:mromero@charlestdiocese.org) Para registrarse en la conferencia: <https://bit.ly/matrimonios2023>.



June Alberti, Lynn Bagnal, Rita Cullen, Dan Cutler Marlis, Egbers, Theresa Garrido, Conchi Gelner, Elizabeth Good, Nelson Hartrich, Angie Hayes, Tara Huck, Cubby Huffines, Fred Kellish, Vic Ketchum, Ding Kizer, Wilbur Kizer Ken Korpany, Andrew Lee, Priscilla Martin, Tom

Mack, Mimi McCole, Elaine McConnell, Lenore McDonald, Stephanie McDonald, Shannon Montgomery, Nirmala Mary Narichetti, Elizabeth Neustadt, Mott Parker, Bunny Perkins, Christy Petillo, Voyta Sailer, Annie Seyle, Patsy Sheahan, Bill Smyer, Marge Suchman, Fran Taylor, Harriet Tindall, Bubba Unger, Dickie Unger, Layla Venegas, Brice Voorneveld, Susie Voorneveld, Samuel Wenthe, Samuel Wingate, All Parishioners of our Parish.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Father JP welcomes the opportunity to offer Masses for special intentions or in memory of loved ones. An instruction page to guide you through making the request is on the lectern in the narthex. We ask that you use an envelope and follow the listed steps so that we may assure your requests are fulfilled. If you need help or have questions, please ask an usher or sacristan.

### Record of Faithfulness January 15, 2023

ENVELOPES	AMT	SECOND COLLECTION	AMT
PARISHIONERS	\$1500.00	PARISH CHARITY	\$170.00
LOOSE	435.00		10.00
VOTIVE		MAINT & REPAIR	\$105.00
		CLEANING	\$50.00
SUB TOTAL	\$1955.00	SUB TOTAL	\$335.00
TOTAL	\$2290.00		
BUILDING FUND	\$6180.00		

### Attendance

Saturday	45	Sunday	35	Total	80
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## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In Matthew's Gospel, from which we read today, we hear the first words spoken by our Lord as He begins His public ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Up until this point, Matthew's Gospel presented us with Jesus' genealogy, His birth, the story of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, Jesus' baptism, the preaching of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus' forty days in the desert. Now, after these introductory stories of Jesus' life, we enter into His public ministry.

Recall that John had just been imprisoned, thus concluding his public ministry. Therefore, the time for the preaching and ministry of the Son of God had arrived. And though Jesus continues the theme of repentance started by John, Jesus takes John's words further. Jesus adds something that John could not: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Since we are still at the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time, it's important to understand this transition from the Old Testament prophets, of which John was the last, to the New Testament preaching of our Lord. The difference is that all that had been prophesied and pointed to in the Old Testament had now arrived. Saint Jerome, in commenting upon this passage, says that as the Old Testament Law ceased, the Gospel commenced. And, of course, the fulfillment of this new era of the Gospel was only a few short years away when our Lord would offer up His life for the salvation of many.

As Jesus begins His preaching, His words are challenging but also very hopeful. By saying that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," Jesus stirs interest and holy curiosity among His first listeners. His call to repentance was softened by His new proclamation about the Kingdom.

One helpful insight we can take from these first words of Jesus' public ministry is that this is the best way to share the Gospel with those who do not yet follow Christ. Oftentimes, when we see someone living in serious sin, we want to judge and condemn. But usually what they need the most is hope—hope that there is something much greater that comes from repentance. Certainly, we need to speak against sin. But one of the most effective ways to do so is by initially offering the listener hope of something much better than the sin with which they struggle—specifically, the hope of the Kingdom of God.

think about those in your life who also need this initial sense of hope and holy curiosity about the Gospel and pray that God will inspire you and use you to be an instrument of this merciful message.