

DAILY MEDITATIONS

MONDAY: [John 16:33](#)

Reflect, today, upon the exceptionally important truth—that Jesus wants you to know His peace in your heart. And He wants that peace to sustain you. Reflect upon the interior battle that may take place within you between the world and the peace of Christ. Who is winning that battle for your soul? Is there more of the world or more of the peace of Christ reigning within you? Seek out the peace that only Jesus gives, and, as you discover His peace, you will also discover the source of that peace: Jesus Himself.

TUESDAY: [John 17:4-5](#)

Reflect, today, upon Jesus' act of perfectly fulfilling the will of the Father in His human nature. Even though our Lord was divine, He was also fully human. He, therefore, perfectly understands your human struggles and weaknesses. He knows what you go through, and His humanity is the model for you to follow in life. Reflect upon His human life and the way in which He lived in union with the will of His Father day in and day out. Commit yourself to this unwavering mission of fully accomplishing the will of the Father in your life and you, too, will share in the glory of our Lord.

WEDNESDAY: [John 17:14-15](#)

Reflect, today, upon the importance of learning how to discern both the voice of God and the lies of the evil one. Work to discern the voice of God so that you may follow Him more faithfully. And seek to discern the lies of the evil one so that you will not be influenced by him and can directly reject him. Commit yourself to a more rigorous discernment of these spiritual experiences in your life and allow this prayer of Jesus to direct you into His holy will.

THURSDAY: [John 17:20-21](#)

Reflect, today, upon this image of Jesus praying. Gaze at how attentive He would have been as He lifted His sacred eyes upward as a physical gesture honoring the glorious, all-powerful Father in Heaven. Try to imagine Jesus' devotion, intensity, respect and burning love. Imitate this holy gesture of prayer and attentiveness to the Father and remind yourself of the importance of expressing your love in bodily form.

FRIDAY [John 21:18-19](#)

Reflect, today, upon your attitude toward the sufferings that your loved ones endure. Do you find that your primary goal is to rid them of their sufferings? Or do you understand that even their sufferings have the potential to become a source of their own holiness and the source of grace for others? Strive to see suffering as Jesus sees it. Look at the sacrificial love that is made possible when your loved ones unite their sufferings to the Cross of Christ and try to commit yourself to the mission of helping them embrace that sacred gift of love.

SATURDAY: [John 21:24-25](#)

Reflect, today, upon the holy Gospel of Saint John. As we do conclude this Easter Season and our reading of John's Gospel, allow yourself to sit in awe of the infinite activity of our divine Lord in the lives of those who have turned to Him. Consider every movement of grace in their lives that has been accomplished with such care and love by our Lord. Reflect upon the fact that for eternity you will be contemplating the Eternal Word made Flesh, the Messiah, the Great I AM, the Son of the Father and every other name given to Him Who is our God and King. Saint John loved our Lord and understood Him deeply because he spent his life prayerfully pondering all that Jesus did. Continue to commit yourself to this holy pondering so that you will be drawn more deeply into this contemplation with holy awe.

Sts. Frederick & Stephen Catholic Church

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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

ASCENSION OF THE LORD MAY 21, 2023

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

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	11:30am
Tuesday Rosary	8:30am
Tuesday	9:00am
Thursday	9:00am
<u>RECONCILIATION:</u>	
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.

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.



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 Korpanty, Andrew Lee, Priscilla Martin, Tom Mack, Mimi McCole, Elaine McConnell, Lenore McDonald, Stephanie McDonald, Patty Molnar, 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.

Record of Faithfulness MAY 14, 2023

ENVELOPES	AMT	SECOND COLLECTION	AMT
PARISHIONERS	\$	CATHOLICS APPEAL	\$
LOOSE	\$	MAINTENANCE	\$
VOTIVE	\$	PARISH CHARITY	\$
		FLOWERS	\$
SUB TOTAL	\$	SUB TOTAL	\$
TOTAL	\$		
BUILDING FUND	\$		

Attendance

Saturday	Sunday	Total

GOSPEL REFLECTION

These are the parting and final words our Lord spoke while on earth. As soon as He spoke them He ascended into Heaven to remain with His Father forever, preparing a place for us so that we could join Him one day. Never again on earth would the disciples hear Jesus speak to them or see Him in physical form. Though He would soon send the Holy Spirit upon them and speak clearly to them interiorly through prayer, they would not encounter His audible voice and physical presence once again until Heaven.

Just prior to the passage quoted above, we read that the disciples did two things. One was ideal; the other was not. We read: "When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted." Of course, the fact that they worshiped Him is ideal, but the fact that they doubted is somewhat shocking and disappointing. After all that they went through with our Lord, after all they witnessed and heard, they still doubted. They witnessed Jesus cure leprosy, restore sight to the blind, heal the crippled, preach with a new authority, convert sinners, raise the dead and even rise from the dead Himself. And after all of this, they still had doubts.

Perhaps their doubts are recorded in this final encounter with our earthly Lord because it reveals to us our own ongoing doubts. Perhaps the real doubters are not only the disciples but also each one of us.

When you look into your own conscience, what do you see? Do you see a person with perfect faith and trust in God? Or do you see a person who seeks to worship God but also struggles with doubts? A doubt is a lack of faith. It is different from a difficulty, an uncertainty, or a confusion. A doubt is an action by which we positively make the choice to start down the path of disbelief. It's more than a weakness; it's a choice and not a good one.

The good news is that these doubting disciples eventually received something that eliminated every doubt from their minds. They received the Holy Spirit, and this gift of God began to dispel every temptation to doubt as they received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In particular, the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge would deepen their faith in God and enable them to both worship and believe.

As we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, reflect, today, upon the image of these disciples worshipping God and doubting at the same time. If this image strikes a chord within you, then pay attention to it. It is good to worship God, but it is also good to humbly admit where you lack perfect faith. Where you see this lack of faith, hold onto the hope that, just like these disciples, you will receive the full outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit in your life so that every doubt will be dispelled and you will receive true Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge in their fullness.