

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

— Mark 13:33

REFLECTION

The new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a ‘vigilant’ disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus. The Season of Advent is a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the ‘Light’ to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives. In today’s Gospel, using the short parable of the servants and gatekeeper of an absentee master who could return at any time, Jesus instructs his followers to be alert and watchful while doing their Christian duties with sincerity. The gatekeeper and the household servants are expected to be ever vigilant because their master is sure to return. Although the time of his return is uncertain, the reward or punishment is sure and certain.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. John Damascene

Wednesday: St. Nicholas

Thursday: St. Ambrose

Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Juan Diego

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Jack Dempsey Birthday †

Tuesday: Ann Sherlock Birthday †

Ireland Birthday

London Birthday

Wednesday: In honor Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.

Jimmy Gorman

Bryan Jude Carroll

Honor Birthday

Tommy Suedle 1st Anniversary †

Maul’s Jim Birthday †

Maul’s Jim Bridget Ann †

Thursday: John L. McNally Birthday †

Hughie Burke Birthday †

Fast Eddie Birthday †

Friday: Jax Birthday

Jim Landon Birthday

Rylie Birthday

Hyness Birthday

Hughie Burke Birthday †

Pete Turner Riley Anniversary †

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC) is the primary source of funding for many critical ministries. We are impacting the lives of our brothers and sisters both spiritually and physically – but there is still much to do. We must continue to fund programs focused on charitable works, outreach, education, and evangelization. Every gift to the CASC allows us to continue to fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us. Your participation is highly appreciated and let us reach our goal (\$19,882.00) by fulfilling the pledge and generous contribution. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,539.00	\$1,327.00
Number of Families contributing	84	69
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (44 Weeks)	\$146,413.00	\$148,512.00
Received to Date	\$127,775.00	\$100,014.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$18,638.00	\$48,498.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$263.00	\$10,103.00

Twenty-eight people contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$0.00	\$50,465.00

No one made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$7,369.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$60.00.

10 CHILDREN contributed \$97.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Apple's in loving memory of Apple's Mattie on the 27th Anniversary of his death and in loving memory of John Keystone on the 35th Anniversary of his death;
2. the Family of Tommy Suedle in loving memory of him on the 1st Anniversary of his death;
3. the Wife and Family of Billy O'Hara in loving memory of him on the 2nd Anniversary of his death;
4. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for Jayden Carroll and Windsor Sherlock.

DEC. 8TH: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is a *Holy Day of Obligation*. Mass on Friday, December 8th will be at 10:30 A.M.

WEEKDAY MASSES While Fr. Prasad is in India masses Monday thru Friday will be at 10:30 A.M.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection next weekend will be for the *Retirement Fund for the Religious*. Please be generous.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A police car pulled up in front of Grandma Betty's house, and Grandpa Benny got out. The policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park and couldn't find his way home.

"Oh, Benny," said Grandma, "You've been going to that park for thirty years! How could you get lost?"

Leaning close to Grandma so the policeman couldn't hear, Benny whispered, "I wasn't lost...I was just too tired to walk home."

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

It is asked that everyone donate \$10 for poinsettias. Please give your donation to Mary Rita O'Hara, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

KEYBOARD & MUSIC CLASSES will be held on Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. in the Church. All those who are interested in practicing please come on Tuesday.

SINGING PRACTICE for the children will be held on Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. All children are welcome.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 2nd, 4:00 P.M. Leah & Dayna
Sun. Dec. 3rd, 10:00 A.M. Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

Sat. Dec. 9th, 4:00 P.M. Christina & Julie Ann
Sun. Dec. 10th, 10:00 A.M. Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Lauren Ashley
Tuesday - Josie
Wednesday - Gracelynn
Thursday - Jilie Ann
Friday - Macy

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun
Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday - Julie Ann
Thursday - Cathy Carroll
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **December 2nd**
Right Theresa Hun
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M

December 3rd **December 10th**
Ned's Rose Marie Ned's Rose Marie