

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

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

— Mark 13:33

GOD'S DELAY

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

CHRISTMAS HUMOR

- Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee?
Starbucks.
- What is the best Christmas present?
A broken drum – you can't beat it.
- How do you know when Santa's around?
You can always sense his presents.
- What do you call cutting down a Christmas tree?
Christmas chopping.
- What happened to a thief who stole all Christmas calendars?
He got 12 months.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

ADVENT PRAYER

God of Power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. John Damascus I
Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday: St. Lucy
Thursday: St. John of the Cross

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Bibbie's Catherine Ann Birthday
Tuesday: Tommy Suedle 1st Anniversary †
Wednesday: In honor Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.
High
Jimmy Gorman
Bryan Jude Carroll
Donnie Birthday
Pat "Rat" Riley Anniversary †
Thursday: Petie Cat Gorman 15th Anniversary †
Friday: In honor of the Holy Souls and Precious Blood

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.

JOKE OF THE WEEK Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he then calls it a poem, they give him \$50.00."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.00."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect the money."

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$1,720.00	\$1,289.00
Number of Families contributing	58	44
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (45 Weeks)	\$149,439.00	\$151,581.00
Received to Date	\$129,495.00	\$101,303.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$19,944.00	\$50,278.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
182.00	\$10,285.00

Nineteen people contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$10,700.00	\$61,215.00

2 people 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
\$7,479.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$136.00.

6 CHILDREN contributed \$35.00

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Hughie Burke Carroll in loving memory of him on his Birthday;
2. the Family of Maul's Jim and Bridget Ann in loving memory of her on the 1st Anniversary of her death;
3. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite and to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, and St. Theresa.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- To your enemy: ***FORGIVENESS.***
- To an opponent: ***TOLERANCE.***
- To a friend: ***YOUR HEART.***
- To a customer: ***SERVICE.***
- To all: ***CHARITY.***
- To every child: ***A GOOD EXAMPLE.***
- To yourself: ***RESPECT.***

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS The second collection this weekend will be for the ***Retirement Fund for the Religious*** and the second collection next weekend will be for the ***Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.*** Please be generous.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES for 1st – 8th grades are held on Monday from 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

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

Sat. Dec. 16th, 4:00 P.M. Sun. Dec. 17th, 10:00 A.M.
Macy & Montela 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 9th
Right Theresa Hun
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M

December 10th December 17th
Ned's Rose Marie Ned's Rose Marie

GOD CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT AGAIN

*God can make things right again
When everything goes wrong,
He can mend a broken heart
And fill it with a song.*

*He is a loving Father,
He care for His own,
He's someone you can count on,
You need not feel alone.*

*God can mend a broken heart,
Thus fill it with a song;
Somehow make things right again
When everything goes wrong.*