

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.
Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God
(Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. How do you know Santa has to be a man?

A. *No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.*

Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

A. *Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells.*

Q. What did the big candle say to the little candle?

A. *I'm going out tonight.*

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

### **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

***God, sometimes I get too caught in the Christmas commercialism. Okay, a lot of times. Today, I'm going to refocus my heart and remember why I'm celebrating this wonderful day in the first place. I'm celebrating Jesus today...and every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.***

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius

**Saturday:** St. John of Kanty

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday:** Dee Dee Gorman †  
Winnie Catherine Cat Birthday †

**Tuesday:** Margaret Sherlock 9<sup>th</sup> 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

Devin Birthday

Eddie E. & Mary Hunn Anniversaries †

For a special intention

**Thursday:** Middleton 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Friday:** Magnum 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### **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**

***A lady dropped her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. An honest, little boy noticed her drop the handbag, so he picked it up and returned it to her. The lady looked into her handbag and commented, "Hmmm...That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."***

***The boy quickly replied, "That's right lady. The last time I found a purse, the owner didn't have any change for a reward."***

## OUR GIFTS RECORD

|                                 | Offertory    | Development  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Last Week's Collection          | \$1,337.00   | \$940.000    |
| Number of Families contributing | 53           | 38           |
| Total Pledge for 2023           | \$160,375.00 | \$163,292.00 |
| Pledged to Date (46 Weeks)      | \$151,965.00 | \$154,150.00 |
| Received to Date                | \$130,761.00 | \$102,243.00 |
| Envelopes Outstanding           | \$21,204.00  | \$51,907.00  |

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

| Amount given last week | Amount given to Date in 2023 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| \$293.00               | \$10,578.00                  |

Nineteen people contributed last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

| Amount given last week | Amount given to Date in 2023 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| \$2,050.00             | \$63,625.00                  |

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   |
|----------------------|-------------|
| \$7,579.00           | \$19,882.00 |

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

5 CHILDREN contributed \$11.00

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Nora Frances in loving memory of her on the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

### CHRISTMAS 2023 MASS SCHEDULE

*Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 4:00 P.M.*

*Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 9:00 P.M.*

*Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day*

*Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation.*

*You still have to fulfill your Sunday obligation by attending Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass.*

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS The second collection will be for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*. Please be generous.

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

CHURCH ENVELOPES Offertory and Development Fund Envelopes, Ladies envelopes, and Children's envelopes for 2024 are in the Atrium of the Church. If you don't find your envelopes, please contact the Church office immediately.

## 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.

### WHAT YOU DO

**ABILITY** is what you're capable of doing.

**MOTIVATION** determines what you do.

**ATTITUDE** determines how well you do it.

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. 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.** Macy & Montela

**Sun. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

**Sat. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 P.M.** Christina & Natalie

**Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

**Christmas Eve, 4:00 P.M.** Paris & Julie Ann

**Christmas Eve, 9:00 P.M.** Heidi & Montela

**Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph

### 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 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Right** Theresa Hun  
**Left** Cathy Carroll

### Sunday 10:00 A.M

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Ned's Rose Marie Ned's Rose Marie