

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

“The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”

—Luke 1:35

THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people.
(2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord
(Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May

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Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

What do they do?

They all come to earth and spend time with it you.

So save them a space, one empty chair,

You might not see them, but they will be there.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts. And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of the universal peace. Amen.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Tuesday: St. Stephen

Wednesday: St. John

Thursday: The Holy Innocents

Friday: St. Thomas Becket

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: In honor of the Baby Jesus on his Birthday

Tuesday: 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

Pat Jude & Ann Rita Birthdays

For a special intention

Wednesday: Pete Suedle

Mary Louise †

Thursday: Tommy Suedle †

Friday: Wild John †

Annie Babe †

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

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Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs: "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting and repeating your prayers? God isn't deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "No, but grandma is!"

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,615.00	\$1,856.00
Number of Families contributing	96	57
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$154,981.00	\$157,209.00
Received to Date	\$133,280.00	\$104,099.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$21,701.00	\$53,110.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$239.00	\$10,817.00

Twenty ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$6,350.00	\$69,615.00

Two 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
\$7,584.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$86.00.

5 CHILDREN contributed \$14.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jude, Valerie, Tommy Touch and John Damon in thanks for Middleton on her 9th Birthday;
2. Tommy Newman, Josie, Saylor, and Eric Draven in loving memory of Popeye's Kate on the 20th Anniversary of her death;
3. the Family of Angela Fox in loving memory of her on the 3rd Anniversary of her death;
4. the Gallons in loving memory of Jett on his 12th Birthday;
5. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

CHRISTMAS 2023 MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th — 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 24th — 9:00 P.M.

Monday, December 25th — 10:30 A.M. — Christmas Day

Merry Christmas from

Father Prasad, Fr. Cherian & Fr. Raj

With heart brimming over with love and joy, let us wish all members of St. Edward's Parish family the Blessings and Joys of Christmas. May Christ come to you with the gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope, and the Promise of Peace. We will remember you all and your loved ones in the Christmas Mass.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Monday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday and will reopen Tuesday, December 26th.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Joseph and St. Expedite for the needy and to a member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 23rd, 4:00 P.M. Christina & Natalie
Sun. Dec. 24th, 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, 10:30 A.M. Jimmy Joseph

Sat. December 30th, 4:00 P.M. Leah & Dayna
Sun. Dec. 31st, 10:00 A.M. Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

New Year's Day, 10:30 A.M. Jimmy Joseph

New Year's Day falls on a Monday this year and it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

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.
Right Theresa Hun
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M

December 17th Ned's Rose Marie
December 23rd Ned's Rose Marie