

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

— Isaiah 55:7b

REFLECTION

There is an old rabbinic parable about a farmer that had two sons. As soon as they were old enough to walk, he took them to the fields and he taught them everything that he knew about growing crops and raising animals. When he got too old to work, the two boys took over the chores of the farm and when the father died, they had found their working together so meaningful that they decided to keep their partnership. So each brother contributed what he could and during every harvest season, they would divide equally what they had corporately produced. Across the years the elder brother never married, stayed an old bachelor. The younger brother did marry and had eight wonderful children. Some years later when they were having a wonderful harvest, the old bachelor brother thought to himself one night, "My brother has ten mouths to feed. I only have one. He really needs more of his harvest than I do, but I know he is much too fair to renegotiate. I know what I'll do. In the dead of the night when he is already asleep, I'll take some of what I have put in my barn and I'll slip it over into his barn to help him feed his children. At the very time he was thinking down that line, the younger brother was thinking to himself, "God has given me these wonderful children. My brother hasn't been so fortunate. He really needs more of this harvest for his old age than I do, but I know him. He's much too fair. He'll never renegotiate. I know what I'll do. In the dead of the night when he's asleep, I'll take some of what I've put in my barn and slip it over into his barn." And so, one night when the moon was full, as you may have already anticipated, those two brothers came face to face, each on a mission of generosity. The old rabbi said that there wasn't a cloud in the sky, a gentle rain began to fall. You know what it was? God weeping for joy because two of his children had gotten the point. Two of his children had come to realize that generosity is the deepest characteristic of the holy and because we are made in God's image, our being generous is the secret to our joy as well. Life is not fair, thank God! It's not fair because it's rooted in grace. In today's gospel we have a fantastic insight into the wisdom of reversal of values which is at the heart of the Kingdom of God.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Joseph for the needy; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony for something found; a member for donation in honor of St. Christopher for a special intention; and also to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Psalm — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

Gospel — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Wednesday: St. Vincent De Paul

Thursday: St. Wenceslaus; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

Friday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

Saturday: St. Jerome

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Johnny Mumbo Birthday †

Tuesday: Tom Cat Gorman 38th Anniversary †

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

Black Brian Gorman 31st Anniversary †

Patsy Cadillac †

Tom Cat Gorman 38th Anniversary †

Thursday: John L. McNally 31st Anniversary †

Big A. 14th Anniversary †

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

Jimmy Gorman

Bridget Marie Carroll Birthday †

Pete Anthony Birthday †

JOKE OF THE WEEK As soon as the thunder was roaring and the lightning flashed, a little girl's mother was worried and got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school.

As she did, she saw her little girl walking along the sidewalk. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile.

The mother pulled up next to her daughter, opened the door, and asked, "What are you doing, Honey? Why are you stopping and smiling every time there is lightning?"

The child answered, "God keeps taking pictures of me," the little girl said. "Don't you think he wants me to smile?"

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$3,429.00	\$2,122.00
Number of Families contributing	106	75
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (35 Weeks)	\$116,913.00	\$118,582.00
Received to Date	\$98,671.00	\$78,317.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$18,242.00	\$40,265.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$130.00	\$7,325.00

Twenty-nine people contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$130.00	\$49,905.00

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
\$6,125.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$80.00.

16 CHILDREN contributed \$53.00.

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.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Tommy Cat and Family on loving memory of Tom Cat Gorman on the 38th Anniversary of his death;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for Pete Patrick Carroll and Monroe Carroll.

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.

ALTAR SERVER PRACTICE will be held on Tuesday after 7:00 P.M. Mass for children in 3rd grade and up.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, September 28th and will reopen Monday, October 2nd.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will be held from 4:00 P.M.— 5:00 P.M. in the New Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Teachers and Teacher Aides are obligated to be at Religious Education for the day you volunteered for.

Religious Education Classes are as follows:

Monday — 5th thru 8th Grades

Tuesday — 1st thru 4th Grades

READERS

Sat. Sep. 23rd, 4:00 P.M.

Leah & Dayna

Sun. Sep. 24th, 10:00 A.M.

Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

Sat. Sep. 30th, 4:00 P.M.

Montela & Macy

Sun. Oct. 1st, 10:00 A.M.

Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 23rd, 4:00 P.M.

Patrick D.

Sun. Sept. 24th, 10:00 A.M.

Easton & Jim Richmon

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Macy

Tuesday - Mary Martha

Wednesday - Gracelynn

Thursday - Sherlock's Mary Theresa

Friday - Paris

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun

Tuesday - Winnie Ann

Wednesday - Julie Ann

Thursday - Cathy Carroll

Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.

Right

Left

September 23rd

Theresa Hun

Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

September 24th

Ned's Rose Marie

October 1st

Ned's Rose Marie

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

### DEAR GOD

*Dear God, I know that I am not perfect, I know sometimes I forget to pray. I know I have questioned my faith, I know sometimes I lose my temper, But thank You for loving me unconditionally And giving me another day to start over again.  
Amen.*