

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2016

*Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.
— Isaiah 35:10a*

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more.

J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$3,091.00	\$2,630.00
Number of Families contributing	128	102
Total Pledge for 2016	\$171,467.00	\$185,504.00
Pledged to Date (48 Weeks)	\$160,595.00	\$172,402.00
Received to Date	\$190,916.73	\$138,653.23
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$30,321.73)	\$33,748.77

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$469.00	\$11,236.00

Fifty-six ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2016 Parish Goal	\$23,330.00
Amount Received to Date	\$12,416.52
Amount Outstanding	\$10,913.48

Thirteen people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$135.00	\$11,408.00

Five people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$15.00.

38 **CHILDREN** contributed \$141.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$76.00.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION totaled \$395.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 300, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 150 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 250.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This is a story of two brothers. One was a drug addict and a drunkard who frequently beat up his family. The other one was a very successful businessman who was respected in society and had a wonderful family. Some people wanted to find out why two brothers from the same parents, brought up in the same environment, could be so different.

The first one was asked, "How come you do what you do? You are a drug addict, a drunk, and you beat your family. What motivates you?" He said, "My father." They asked, "What about your father?" The reply was, "My father was a drug addict, a drunk and he beat his family. What do you expect me to be? That is what I am."

They went to the brother who was doing everything right and asked him the same question. "How are you doing everything right? What is your source of motivation? And guess what he said? "My father. When I was a little boy, I used to see my dad drunk and doing all the wrong things. I made up my mind, that is not what I wanted to be."

Both were deriving their strength and motivation from the same source, but one was using it negatively and the other positively.

Life keeps on teaching us from different situations.

*However it is up to us what we want to learn. The rule is simple,
"GOOD MIND, GOOD FIND!"*

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Faro and Family in loving memory of Mary O'Mally Carroll on her 72nd Birthday,
2. the Family of Ned Blaster Sherlock in loving memory of him on the 42nd Anniversary of his death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

TOUCHING SAFETY PROGRAM

St. Edward Catholic Church Religious Education will present a sexual abuse prevention program to students December 12th – December 15th during class with a makeup date of January 10, 2017. As parents you have the right to choose whether your child participates in the program. Opt-out forms were given to parents at Religious Education Registration. If you haven't filled out a form please contact Bibbie's Rose Marie.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for the *Retirement Fund for the Religious*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 14th – 4:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21st – 6:30 P.M.

POLAR EXPRESS Thursday, December 15th St. Edwards will be having a Polar Express Pajama Party Night with Santa at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Church. Children's tickets are \$20 and adult tickets are \$10. If you want your child to have a prize and stocking you must purchase tickets by Monday, December 12th. If you want your child picture taken with Santa please take it on your own phone.

THANK YOU TREE This year we will have a **THANK YOU TREE**. The money will be distributed to the poor and needy during Christmas time. The contributors' name will be put on the tree. Kindly give your donation to the church Office or Mary Rita O'Hara.

THANK YOU to two members for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite; and a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite for needy and the Infant Child of Atocha.

JOKE OF THE WEEK After the Baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

SHORT FUNNY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. What 3 letters change a girl into a woman?
A. AGE.
- Q. Why is it impossible to send a telegram to Washington today?
A. Because he is dead.
- Q. What looks like a half apple?
A. The other half.
- Q. What often falls but never gets hurt?
A. Rain.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For a special intention.
- Tuesday:** In honor of the Holy Face of Jesus.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Thursday:** In loving memory of Petie Cat Gorman on the 8th Anniversary of his death and DeeDee Gorman on the Anniversary of her death.
- Friday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and Precious Blood.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Tuesday:** St. Lucy
- Wednesday:** St. John of the Cross

LESSONS IN FAITH

*Until I learned to trust You, Lord. Your strength I never knew.
Until my sorrows multiplied, I seldom prayed to You.*

*It took the bitter sting of time, some empty, pain-filled years,
To fall before Your throne of grace and know You shared my tears.*

*Oh Lord, You've sent the storms to prove you were my hiding place;
You've brought me glad, eternal joys, anointed me by Your grace.*

*Now that I've learned to fully trust and come to You in prayer,
You've blessed me in my weakness, Lord, by always being there.*

READERS

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|---|---|
| Sat., Dec. 10th, 4:00 P.M.
Kathy Boo &
Ann T. | Sat., Dec. 10th, 7:00 P.M.
Mary Melissa &
Jay |
| Sun., Dec. 11th, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie |
| Sat., Dec. 17th, 4:00 P.M.
Christina Apple &
Scott's Mercedes | Sat., Dec. 17th, 7:00 P.M.
Mary Melissa &
Jay |
| Sun. Dec. 18th, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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| Monday | Kathy Ann |
| Tuesday | Ann T. |
| Wednesday | Grace |
| Thursday | Mary Ashley |
| Friday | Christina |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

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| Saturday 4:00 P.M.
Front
Left Cup | Dec. 10th
Bridget Ann
Winnie Ann |
| Saturday 7:00 P.M.
Front
Cup | Dec. 10th
Jay
Ann Johnny Jay's |
| <u>Sunday 10:00 A.M.</u> | |
| Dec. 11th
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie | Dec. 18th
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

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|------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | Mary Cat |
| Tuesday | Pete Man's Nora |
| Wednesday | Ann T. |
| Thursday | Rose Marie |
| Friday | Bridget Ann |

PRAYER

God is like Wifi...He is available everywhere but you have to connect to him with a correct password. Which is: **PRAYER**

LOOK FOR

- Never look for a good face; it will turn old one day.
- Never look for a good skin, it will wrinkle one day.
- Never look for nice hair, it will turn white one day.
- Instead look for a loyal heart that will love every day.

PRAYER CORNER

LORD JESUS

Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with love for you and for your ways and help me to exchange the yoke of rebellion for the sweet yoke of submission to your holy and loving word. Set me free from the folly of my own sinful ignorance and rebellious pride that I may wholly desire what is good and in accord with Your will. Amen.