

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017

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

— Mark 13:33

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalms — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$3,895.00	\$2,254.00
Number of Families contributing	124	104
Total Pledge for 2017	\$175,815.00	\$188,514.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$160,170.00	\$169,624.00
Received to Date	\$161,651.56	\$137,783.20
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$1,481.56)	(\$31,840.80)

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$339.00	\$13,959.00

Thirty-nine ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2017 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$14,333.61
Amount Outstanding	(\$11,371.39)

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

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$225.00	\$10,661.00

Six people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$8.00.

34 **CHILDREN** contributed \$135.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$63.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 310, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 110 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 190.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A man died, when he realized it, he saw God coming closer with a suitcase in his hand. "Alright son, it's time to go," God said. "Now? So soon? I had a lot of plans..." the man responded in surprise. "I'm sorry. But it's time to go."

"What do you have in that suitcase?" the man asked. "Your belongings," God answered. "My belongings? You mean my things, my clothes, my money?" the man asked. "Those things were not yours, they belonged to the Earth," God answered. "Is it my friends and family?" the man asked. "I'm sorry, they were never yours they belonged to the path," God answered. "Is it my wife and son?" the man asked. "They were never yours, they belonged to the heart," God answered. "Is it my body?" the man asked. "It was never yours, it belonged to the dust." "Is it my soul?" the man asked. "No my son, that is mine." God answered with a smile.

Full of fear the man took the suitcase from God and opened it just to find out the suitcase was empty. With a tear coming down his cheek the man said, "Dear God, I never had anything?" "That is correct, every moment you lived were only yours," God said.

Life is just a moment, yet within that moment lies a realm of possibilities. Most importantly, learn to live with compassion so that your moment etches in the hearts of others to the end of time.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Johnny Jones, April Ann and Darien in thanks for Ireland on her 8th Birthday;
2. the Family of Eddie E. Carroll and Kate Hun Carroll on the Anniversary of their deaths;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The Vigil Mass will be Thursday, December 7th, at 7:00 P.M. and the Feast Day Mass on Friday, December 8th at 10:00 A.M. Society of Mary Immaculate will take care of the Feast.

SPECIAL THANKS to the men of St. Edward's Parish for their donation of \$2,300 for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

MASTER'S TABLE Ann T.'s Legion Group, Our Lady of Epiphany, is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master's Table in Augusta this Thursday, December 7th. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity, please contact Ann T.

PINEVIEW MEMORIAL GARDEN CANDELIGHT VIGIL
Come join Pineview Memorial Gardens for a Candlelight Vigil December 9th at Dusk. Candles will be placed on each grave.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE will be celebrated on Monday, December 11th at 7:00 P.M. To prepare ourselves for the Feast, we begin a novena on Saturday, December 2nd. The Young Girls Organization is taking care of the celebrations.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation of \$100 in thanks to St. Expedite; a member for a donation of \$100 in thanks to Jesus, the Blessed Mother Mary, and St. Expedite; and to three members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

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

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.

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.

LIFE IS BLESSINGS

Shakespeare once said:

I cried when I had no shoes, but I stopped crying when I saw a man without legs...!

LIFE is full of blessings, sometimes we don't **VALUE** it. So **value** what you have in **life without complaint**.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

There's a funeral procession with two hearses, and behind the two hearses is a guy with a vicious dog and behind him about a hundred guys. As they're all passing through town, a guy steps off the curb and asks the guy with the dog what's going on.

"My dog killed my wife and my mother-in-law," was the answer.

"Can I borrow the dog?" the guy asks.

"Get in line."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. John Damascene

Wednesday: St. Nicholas

Thursday: St. Ambrose; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Friday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the souls of Apple's Mattie and Keystone on the Anniversary of their deaths.

Tuesday: In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.

Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Maul's Jim on his 85th Birthday and for a special intention.

Thursday: For the repose of the souls of John L. McNally and Fast Eddie Carroll on their birthdays.

Friday: In thanks for Jax Carroll on his 12th Birthday.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 2nd, 4:00 P.M.
Sable &
Mary Martha

Sat. Dec. 2nd, 7:00 P.M.
Carolyn &
Mary Regina

Sun. Dec. 3rd, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria Cat

Sat. Dec. 9th, 4:00 P.M.
Grace &
Rita Riley

Sat. Dec. 9th, 7:00 P.M.
Jay &
Mary Melissa

Sun. Dec. 10th, 10:00 A.M. Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	Kara
Tuesday	Karen
Wednesday	Christina Apple
Thursday	Cathy Lisa Butts
Friday	Annette

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	December 2nd
Front	Bridget Ann
Left Cup	Winnie Ann

Saturday 7:00 P.M.	December 2nd
Front	Jay
Cup	Johnny Jay's Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

December 3rd	December 10th
Pete Man's Nora	Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie	Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	Mary Cat
Tuesday	Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday	Ann T.
Thursday	Bibbie's Catherine Ann
Friday	Ann Rita

LIFE

Life is a fingerprint that cannot be duplicated.

So make the best impression with it –

Live it, love it and don't waste a single moment in your life, because time has no holiday, dreams have no expiry date and life has no pause button.

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

I GIVE THANKS

Jesus, You understand our weakness and us the very source of all goodness and strength in the gift of Your Body and Blood. Just as my body craves food to sustain life, so too my spirit is thirsting for You as illness overwhelms me. May this Communion, Your gift of self, bring joy and comfort to me in the face of pain. All glory and honor to You. Amen. Alleluia!