

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2016

"You . . . must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

— Matthew 24:44

PREPARE THE WAY

Saint John the Baptist appears on the scene today as Advent enters its second week. The mysterious consumer of locusts and wild honey, John echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah as he calls for repentance in the face of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. The rhythms of the Christian life are often confounding. Each year we meet the Baptist and hear his calls for repentance. Each year we see him pointing to the one who is coming after him, the Lord Jesus. Yet each year the words and actions of John the Baptist echo anew in our hearts, because we have fallen into old sinful traps again and again. Advent gives us the opportunity once again to turn away from our sinful ways and embrace the gospel way of life. John the Baptist invites us to prepare the way for the Lord, in whom we place our hope. **J. S. Paluch Co.**

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalms — Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

Gospel — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Your nights and your mornings don't come together." This is a South African expression.

The South Africans are very sensitive to promises made by their people. They expect a person to do what he promises. That makes sense, doesn't it?

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote through the leadership of the Holy Spirit that each of us is to be honest before God. What is there to gain in lying to God? So many of our vows are faithless, empty promises! The tragedy therein is that He knows our lying hearts and the content of every empty promise we make.

Do you remember the last promise you made to God? Did you keep it? Have you ever promised to be a better Christian and serve Him more faithfully? Did you keep that promise?

Take inventory for a few minutes and see how well you measure up to the promises you have made to God.

Remember - you gave God "your word"! The South African would ask, "Do your mornings and nights come together?"

*When you make a vow to God, do fulfill it.
Ecclesiastes 5:4*

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$4,762.00	\$3,200.00
Number of Families contributing	146	107
Total Pledge for 2016	\$171,467.00	\$185,504.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$157,310.00	\$168,904.00
Received to Date	\$188,012.73	\$136,023.23
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$30,702.73)	\$32,880.77

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$357.00	\$10,767.00

Forty-three ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2016 Parish Goal	\$23,330.00
Amount Received to Date	\$12,096.52
Amount Outstanding	\$11,233.48

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

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$90.00	\$11,273.00

Four people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$16.00.

32 **CHILDREN** contributed \$145.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$58.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 310 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 230.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Family of Apple's Mattie in loving memory of him on the 20th Anniversary of his death;
2. and a Parish Family member in thanks to St. Expedite.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Thursday, 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 Wednesday, December 7th, at 7:00 P.M. and the Feast Day Mass on Thursday at 10:00 A.M.

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.

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 An airplane pilot had had a particularly difficult flight and a rough landing. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile and give them a “Thanks for riding Royal Airlines.” But, in light of his bad landing, the pilot had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane. She said, “Please don’t mind if I ask you a question?” “Why no, Ma’am,” replied the pilot, “what is it?” The little old lady said, “Did we land or were we shot down?”

THINGS WE CARRY TO ETERNITY

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have *RECEIVED* - only what you have *GIVEN*.

“A full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.” Saint Francis of Assisi

TRUTHS BUT INTERESTING!!!!

1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
2. Growing old is inevitable, growing UP is optional.
3. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
4. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
5. Faith is the ability to not panic.
6. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
7. If you worry, pray. If you pray... don’t worry.

WORDS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO JUAN DIEGO

“Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.”

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** In loving memory of Maul’s Jim on his 84th Birthday.
- Tuesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Wednesday:** In loving memory of John L. & Fast Eddie on their Birthdays.
- Thursday:** In thanks for Jax Carroll on his 11th Birthday.
- Friday:** In loving memory of Mary O’Malley Carroll on her Birthday.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Tuesday:** St. Nicholas
- Wednesday:** St. Ambrose;
- Thursday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Friday:** St. Juan Diego

REST BENEATH HIS WINGS

In this restless world, Lord, help me to be still,
 And walk in peace, surrendered to Your will.
 In all I say and do May You be glorified,
 Lord, be my strength from morn ‘till eventide.

When the day is done and darkness falls again,
 Let me forget the things that brought me pain.
 And with a grateful heart find rest beneath Your wings,
 Until the rising sun new hope and healing brings.

Regina Wiencek

READERS

- Sat., Dec. 3rd, 4:00 P.M.** Christina & Julie Ann
- Sat., Dec. 3rd, 7:00 P.M.** Mary Melissa & Jay
- Sun., Dec. 4th, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie
- 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

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.** Front Left Cup
- Dec. 3rd** Bridget Ann Winnie Ann
- Saturday 7:00 P.M.** Front Cup
- Dec. 3rd** Jay Ann Johnny Jay’s

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- Dec. 4th** Pete Man’s Nora Rose Marie
- Dec. 11th** Pete Man’s Nora Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

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

TIME

“Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of your life.”

OCCUPANCY

“An “enemy” occupies more space in the brain that a ‘well-wisher’ in the heart. Don’t ‘damage’ your heart”.

INNER PEACE When someone is mean, don’t listen. When someone is rude, walk away. When someone tries to put you down, stay firm. Don’t let someone else’s bad behavior destroy your inner peace.

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

**LOVING GOD**

Loving God give us a pure heart that we may see You. A humble heart that we may hear You. A Heart of love that we may serve You. A heart of Faith that we may abide in You. Amen.