

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

— *Baruch 5:7*

A DEEP CHANGE OF HEART

When John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, as today's Gospel relates, he called people to a deep change of heart. For John the Baptist, repentance was not simply regret for past failings, but a commitment to orient life around God's desires and purposes. What might living in alignment with God's desires look like? Our readings offer some clues. Baruch indicates that when mercy and justice are embraced like a royal garment, we may see the fruits of repentance. Paul notes how the Holy Spirit has been active within the church in Philippi, forming them to live in a loving and united community of faith, so they may witness to the love of God. And John himself suggests that a repentant heart clears a path for God to enter, leveling the mountains and valleys of our resistance, so that God might dwell within.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalms — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$5,346.00	\$5,083.00
Number of Families contributing	111	73
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (42 Weeks)	\$148,228.00	\$150,912.00
Received to Date	\$148,033.00	\$119,102.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$195.00	\$31,810.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$193.00	\$9,163.00

Twenty ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$30,960.00	\$164,935.00

Six people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$69,865.00

POOR BOX totaled \$149.00.

10 **CHILDREN** contributed \$54.00.

BAA totaled \$65.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Former *Good Morning America* weather person Spencer Christian grew up in Virginia during the 1950s with parents — Spencer, Sr. and Lucy — who embodied their Christian faith. "God was present in our life every day," he recalled during an interview, noting that they emphasized leading "a Christ-like life." And due to their example, faith remains an important part of Spencer's life today.

He said, "My dad was a laborer, and we were poor black people in the old South, who faced the in-your-face racism that confronted people of every color every day in those days. Yet when Christmas would roll around, my dad would take the last few dollars he had left over and buy a bunch of items, like fruits and candies and nuts, and he and my mom would make these little gifts baskets. We would deliver them to people who were even poorer than we were, who had less than we had. That was the Christmas example they put out there for my brother and me. So, I grew up with that sort of practice of the faith."

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)

Make me an example of a Christ-like life, Lord.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Apple's Mattie on the 25th Anniversary of his death and John Keystone on the 33rd Anniversary of his death.
2. and a Parish Family member in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS The second collection this weekend will be for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa* and the second collection next weekend will be for the *Retirement Fund for the Religious*. Please be generous in these collections.

DEC. 8TH: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

is a *Holy Day of Obligation*. The Vigil Mass will be on Tuesday, December 7th at 5:00 P.M. and the Feast Day Mass will be on Wednesday, December 8th at 10:00 A.M. The Society of Mary Immaculate will take care of the Feast.

THANK YOU to two parish members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Raphael, St. Mother Theresa and Padre Pio; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Theresa the Little Flower; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Jude; a member for a donation in thanks to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony and St. Jude; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Padre Pio and St. Expedite; and a member for a donation in thanks to the Divine Mercy, St. Anthony, Infant of Prague for a miracle received.

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.

MISSALETTES The new Missalettes for the church will not be available until the weekend of December 18th and 19th.

PRESTIGE & HONOUR

*PRESTIGE comes when you feel you have done something well...
HONOUR comes when others feel you have done something well!!*

BLESSING MEANS:

- B — Begin your day with**
- L — Love in your heart**
- E — Expect Blessings**
- S — Share goodness**
- S — Shine like the sun**
- I — Inspire someone**
- N — Never forget that**
- G — God is with you all the time.**

JOKE OF THE WEEK

First man: I think we should all confess our faults one to another. I've got a terrible habit of stealing!

Second man: I've got a terrible habit of lying!

Third man: I beat my wife!

Fourth man: When no one is around, I get drunk!

Fifth man: I've got the terrible habit of gossiping, and I can hardly wait to get out of here!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** St. Nicholas
- Tuesday:** St. Ambrose; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Wednesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Thursday:** St. Juan Diego
- Friday:** Our Lady of Loreto
- Saturday:** St. Damasus I

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** *Funeral.*
- Tuesday:** For Hughie Burke Carroll on his Birthday and for the repose of the souls of John L. McNally and Fast Eddie Carroll on their Birthdays.
- Wednesday:** In thanks for Jax on his 16th Birthday and for Hyness and Rylie on their 12th Birthday.
- Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of O'Malley on her Birthday.
- Friday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory and for the repose of the soul of Ann Sherlock on her Birthday.

COME TO ME

**Draw me close to You, my God
Let my spirit know,
That you dwell here, inside of me,
Never to let go.**

**Let me feel your presence, Lord
As I stumble and I fail,
For only through Your awesome strength
Can my tired soul prevail.**

**Speak to me, my mighty King,
Through the canyons of my mind,
Inspire me with Your daily love
To be merciful and kind.**

READERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sat. Dec. 4th, 4:00 P.M.
Christina & Julie Ann | Sat. Dec. 4th, 7:00 P.M.
Dayna & Leah |
| Sun. Dec. 5th, 10:00 A.M | Theresa Maria & Jersey |
| Sat. Dec. 11th, 4:00 P.M.
Cathy Lisa & Reed | Sat. Dec. 11th, 7:00 P.M.
Natalie & Mary Martha |
| Sun. Dec. 12th, 10:00 A.M | Theresa Maria & Jersey |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|----------|
| Monday | - | Marilyn |
| Tuesday | - | Lauren |
| Wednesday | - | Graclynn |
| Thursday | - | Fallon |
| Friday | - | Ciara |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

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|------------------|---|---------------|
| Monday | - | Kim Gallon |
| Tuesday | - | Nora |
| Wednesday | - | Catherine Ann |
| Thursday | - | Mary Cat |
| Friday | - | Rosie Cat |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 4:00 P.M. | December 4th |
| Front | Winnie Ann |
| Right | Cathy Pole |
| Left | Catherine Ann |
| Saturday 7:00 P.M. | December 4th |
| Right | Blue |
| Left | Bridgette Anna |
| Sunday | Sunday |
| December 5th | December 12th |
| Rose Marie | Rose Marie |
| Mary Cat | Mary Cat |

WISDOM OF ST. FULTON SHEEN

The Rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful, and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal, and the spiritual, and in that order.

SERMON SAMPLER

- **COTTON CANDY SERMON**
Very sweet and full of air; when bitten into, nothing there.
- **STUFFED OLIVE SERMON**
Pleasantly fashioned, pleasantly tart, stuffed with intellect but no heart.
- **JELLO FRUIT SERMON**
Shaking, prancing, quivering, preaching, lots of action but low-calorie teaching.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER

*Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet Your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*