

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020

*Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.*

— *Isaiah 40:4*

### GOD'S DELAY

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory                      Development

<b>Last Week's Collection</b>	\$9,890.00	\$8,062.00
Number of Families contributing	138	11
Total Pledge for 2020	\$167,031.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (43 Weeks)	\$149,243.00	\$150,968.00
Received to Date	\$174,090.00	\$134,727.00
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$24,849.00)	\$16,241.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$552.00	\$17,917.00

Thirty ladies made a contribution last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$1,610.00	\$17,917.00

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

### BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$43,642.00

**POOR BOX** totaled \$33.00.

16 **CHILDREN** contributed \$109.00.

**BAA** totaled \$749.00.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*Jesus spoke to the people, saying, "John (the Baptist) is Elijah, whose coming was predicted."* —MATTHEW 11:13

Orthodox Jews still place an empty chair for Elijah at each yearly Seder meal. They do so, hoping this will be the year Elijah will return to prepare the way for the Messiah's coming.

Their practice and their hope is rooted in two Old Testament episodes. The first is the description of Elijah being taken "up to heaven" in a chariot of fire" (2 KINGS 2:11). The second is the promise of God that Elijah will return again prior to the Messiah's coming to prepare the way for him (MALACHI 4:5).

Jesus makes it clear that "Elijah has already come," in the person of John the Baptist (MATTHEW 17:12).

Advent is like the coming of the Baptist. It calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus. How well am I heeding its call?

*Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly.* —ROBERT H. SCHULER

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Donnie and Lindsay in thanks for Honor on her 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** The second collection this week is for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*. Please be generous in this collection.

### DEC. 8<sup>TH</sup>: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

is a *Holy Day of Obligation*. The Vigil Mass will be on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. and the Feast Day Mass will on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M.

### BILLIONAIRE TO MILLIONAIRE

A woman was telling her friend, "It is I who made my husband a millionaire."

"And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend.

The woman replied, "A billionaire."

**THANK YOU** to a member for a donation in thanks to the Baby Nino, St. Joseph, The Blessed Mother and St. Expedite; and to a member for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

**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.

### BUMPER STICKER

*I've taken a vow of poverty.  
To annoy me, send money.*

## KIDS ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS

- Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.  
**Premature death.**
- What is a terminal illness?  
**When you get sick at the airport.**

### JOKE OF THE WEEK

*A police car pulled up in front of Grandma Betty's house, and Grandpa Benny got out. The policeman explained that this elderly gentlemen said that he was lost in the park and couldn't find his way home.*

*"Oh, Benny," said Grandma, "You've been going to that park for thirty years! How could you get lost?"*

*Leaning close to Grandma so the policeman couldn't hear, Benny whispered, "I wasn't lost...I was just too tired to walk home."*

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of the soul of Ann Sherlock on her Birthday.  
**Tuesday:** For the repose of the souls and John L. McNally and Fast Eddie Carroll on their birthdays and for Hughie Burke Carroll on his Birthday.  
**Wednesday:** For the repose of the soul of O'Malley on her Birthday.  
**Thursday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.  
**Friday:** For the repose of the soul of John F. Carroll on his Birthday.

### AN ADVENT POEM

***If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road pregnant with the holy, and say, "I need shelter for the night, please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."***

***Then, under the roof of your soul, you will witness the sublime intimacy, the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever, as she grasps your hand for help, for each of us the midwife of God, each of us.***

***Yes, there under the dome of your being does creation come into existence eternally, through your womb, dear pilgrim the sacred womb of your soul, as God grasps our arms for help: for each of us is his beloved servant, never far.***

***If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the street pregnant with Light and sing.***

## READERS

- |                                                                   |                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b><br>Natalie & Christina | <b>Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b><br>Josie & Ireland           |
| <b>Sun. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b>                       | Bridgette Anna & Rose Marie                                             |
| <b>Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b><br>Skylar & Reed      | <b>Sun. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b><br>Carolyn & Bridgette Anna |
| <b>Sun. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b>                      | Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie                                               |

### READERS – WEEKDAYS

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | - Paige     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | - Skylar    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | - Julie Ann |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | - Kathleen  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | - Kara      |

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- |                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | - | Cathy Pole |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | - | Kim Gallon |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | - | Rosie Cat  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | - | Mary Cat   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | - | Rose Marie |

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</b> | <b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Front                     | Mary Margaret                  |
| Right                     | Cathy Pole                     |
| Left                      | Kim Gallon                     |

### Saturday 7:00 P.M.

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>December 12<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Winnie Ann                     | Kim Gallon                      |

### Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Rose Marie                     | Rose Marie                      |
| Mary Cat                       | Mary Cat                        |

## THE 4-UPS

1. **WAKE UP** — *Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24)*
2. **DRESS UP** — *The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man does. Man looks at outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7)*
3. **LOOK UP** — *To the Lord. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)*
4. **LIFT UP** — *Your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." (Philippians 4:16)*

### ~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

#### ADVENT PRAYER

*God of Power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*