

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2019

The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

— *Isaiah 11:9*

THE LONG-AWAITED ONE

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets.

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).

Psalm — 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).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,320.00	\$1,462.00
Number of Families contributing	76	61
Total Pledge for 2019	\$167,031.00	\$163,188.00
Pledged to Date (48 Weeks)	\$154,283.00	\$149,528.00
Received to Date	\$132,604.00	\$106,236.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$21,679.00	\$43,292.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$105.00	\$8,046.00

Fifteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$70.00	\$58,551.00

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

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$208,330.00
Total Received	\$14,247.00

PARKING LOT totaled \$4.00.

16 CHILDREN contributed \$28.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$33.00.

The ATTENDANCE for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 280; Saturday 7:00 P.M. was 130 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 120.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A happy mom had a newborn son, but without EARS. He grew into a handsome young boy but always aware of his imperfection. Distraught, he rushed home from school one day. "A big boy, called me a freak!" he told his mom. She was speechless, and felt her heartbreak.

Despite his imperfect appearance affecting his confidence, his talent for literature and music began to shine through. His parents took him to see a top surgeon. "I believe I can graft on a pair of outer ears. All we would need is a donor," the surgeon said.

Two years passed by with no sign of a possible donor being found. At last, good news arrived! "We have a donor and we can operate right away...but the donor is wanting to remain ANONYMOUS," his father said. After the successful operation all of his insecurities were gone. He lived happily and found success in all aspects of his life.

But his donor remained a secret. Once in a while, he asked his father for information on the donor. The reply was always negative.

Many years later the young man faced the darkest day of his life, his mother's funeral. He stood with his father beside her casket. His dad gently bent down and kissed her on the cheek. Then, he slowly brushed back her hair from the side of her face...revealing that she had no ears. "Your mother said that it was a small sacrifice to make to see you happy...all she had to do was grow her hair long."

A mother's love is the fiercest. There is no sacrifice greater than hers. For this mother she saw her own body as secondary in importance next to that of her child's.

Kindness, Love and Compassion for other's lives go on far longer than your body. This is how you live forever, through the love you leave behind. Love in its truly purest form is everlasting.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Eddie E. Carroll and Mary Hun in loving memory of them on the Anniversary of their deaths;
2. the Family of Jay Carroll in loving memory of him on his 81st Birthday;
3. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. this Thursday, December 12th.

FACTS IN LIFE

You cannot be perfect without making mistakes,

You cannot get success without facing failures.

You cannot feel happiness without being sad.

Everything comes in a pair and you can never get one without facing the other.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in thanks to the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart, Precious Blood and St. Expedite; a member for a donation in honor of the Infant Jesus, a member for a donation in honor of St. Theresa, a member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony for the poor, and a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS It is asked that everyone donate \$10 for poinsettias. Please give your donation to Bibbie's Catherine Ann, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

JOKE OF THE WEEK A heavily jeweled lady was consulting a specialist.

"What will the operation of lifting my face cost, doctor?"

"Five thousand dollars, madame."

"That's robbery," she protested. "Isn't there something less expensive I could try?"

"You might try wearing a veil," he answered.

ADDICTION PROBLEMS Do you have addiction problems? Please call Richard Harmon 803-270-8376.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Tuesday:** International Human Rights Day
- Wednesday:** St. Damasus I
- Thursday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Friday:** St. Lucy
- Saturday:** St. John of the Cross

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of the souls of John L. McNally and Fast Eddie Carroll on their Birthdays.
- Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of O'Malley on her Birthday.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague for all the sick and St. Joseph for all the holy souls in purgatory.
- Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of John F. on his 64th Birthday.
- Friday:** For the repose of the souls of Susie Mulholland and Danny Mulholland.

THE VOICE WITHIN

*Listen to the voice within
And you will surely find
Directions meant to live by,
And new-found peace of mind.*

*Listen with your inner ear
And you will surely hear
God's voice and purpose for your life
Unfold and become clear.*

*As we journey through the years
Undaunted, head held high,
Through tribulations and through tears,
God knows that we have tried.*

READERS

- Sat. Dec. 7th, 4:00 P.M.**
Rita Riley & Grace
- Sun. Dec. 8th, 10:00 A.M.**
Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat
- Sat. Dec. 14th, 4:00 P.M.**
Joy & Leah
- Sun. Dec. 15th, 10:00 A.M.**
Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat
- Sat. Dec. 7th, 7:00 P.M.**
Bridgette Anna & Carolyn
- Sat. Dec. 14th, 7:00 P.M.**
Christina & Natalie

READERS – WEEKDAYS

- Monday** - Taneil
- Tuesday** - Fallon
- Wednesday** - Cathy Lisa
- Thursday** - Pamela
- Friday** - Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.**
Front
Left Cup
- Dec. 7th**
Bridget Ann
Winnie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- Dec. 8th**
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie
- Dec. 15th**
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- Monday** Cathy Pole
- Tuesday** Pete Man's Nora
- Wednesday** Margaret Butts
- Thursday** Betty Jo
- Friday** Mary Cat

ABBREVIATIONS AND MEANINGS

- NEWS:** *North East West South*
- DATE:** *Day And Time Evolution*
- SMILE:** *Sweet Memories In Lips Expression*
- BYE:** *Be With You Every Time*

COIN

***MONEY is a small COIN,
HEALTH is a big COIN,
LOVE is a lucky COIN,
RELATIONSHIP is a sweet COIN,
FRIENDSHIP is a gold COIN.
KEEP IT SAFE.***

FORCE

**God opens millions of flowers without forcing the buds.
It reminds us not to force anything,
For things happen in the right time.**

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

PRAYER FOR EASING OF STRESS AND ANXIETY

Lord, help me to allow myself more time to rest, relax and pray. Guide me toward something spiritual to read everyday and a quiet time afterwards to reflect on what I have read and how it pertains to my life. I truly want to simplify my life and live more as You did. Help me to remember that there is no loss or problem I must face alone. You are always near, with Your love and compassion to comfort me. Amen.