

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7

AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

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

Second Reading — I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,372.00	\$1,983.00
Number of Families contributing	86	75
Total Pledge for 2018	\$118,199.00	\$167,136.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$154,343.00	\$150,488.00
Received to Date	\$156,173.20	\$120,710.00
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$1,830.20)	\$29,778.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$83.00	\$8,940.00

Fifteen ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2018 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$13,638.94
Amount Outstanding	\$12,066.06

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

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$14,418.00	\$78,730.00

Twenty-four people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$4.00.

9 **CHILDREN** contributed \$45.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$42.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 180, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 140 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 120.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Usually the student's from Omaha's Catholic high schools are in heated competition, either for sports, drama or speech. But each Christmas season they act as one, collecting turkeys and other foods to feed some 1,600 area families in need.

For the past 40 years, the student-run program, Operation Others, has helped teens tap into our God-centered call to love our neighbor. "it helps you refocus," says teen Justine Sacco.

Offers high school senior Jason Passarelli, "Delivering the food is probably the coolest thing of all. To see the smiles on people's faces is something you can't really describe."

In reaching out to lift up others, we renew God's love in our own hearts and lives.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. — Luke 6:38
Enable us to hear and answer those in need, Oh Lord.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Petie Rabbit and Carrington in thanks for Ransom on her 1st Birthday;
2. Hughie, Melissa, Johnny Andrew and Hudson in thanks for Radiance on her 8th Birthday;
3. the Family of Mary O'Mally Carroll in loving memory of her on her 74th Birthday,
4. the Family of Fast Eddie Carroll in loving memory of him on his 65th Birthday;
5. the Family Nora Francis in loving memory of her on the 1st Anniversary of her death;
6. the Family of Jay Carroll in loving memory of him on his 81st Birthday;
7. Big Mike and Betty Jo in loving memory of Ned Blaster Sherlock on the 44th Anniversary of his death;
8. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hagee Richard Smith who was Student of the Month in his class.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for Johnny Michael Sherlock and Danielle Mulholland.

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 this Wednesday, December 12th at 10:00 A.M. The Society of Mary Immaculate takes care of the celebration.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Jude and to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

BEAUTY IS IN THE HEART

I'm not "*HANDSOME*,"
but I can give my "*HAND*" to "*SOME*" one who needs help.
Beauty is in the heart, not on the face.

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.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS It is asked that everyone donate
\$10 for poinsettias.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
"Hello? Is this the state mental hospital?"
"Yes, it is."
"Can I speak to Mr. Russell in room 27?"
"One moment and I'll connect you...(pause) I'm sorry,
Mr. Russell is not answering."
"Good. That means I must have really escaped."

FOR WHAT
If you do not fight for what you want,
don't cry for what you lost.
Nothing depends on luck,
everything depends on work because even luck has to work.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:* Second Sunday of Advent
- Monday:* International Human Rights Day
- Tuesday:* St. Damasus I
- Wednesday:* Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Thursday:* St. Lucy
- Friday:* 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:* In honor of the Holy Spirit and Precious Blood for a
special intention.
- Wednesday:* In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Thursday:* For the repose of the soul of Margaret Sherlock on
the 4th Anniversary of her death.
- Friday:* For the repose of the souls of Pete Turner Riley,
Susie Mulholland and Danny Mulholland on the
Anniversaries of their deaths.

GOD LOOKED AROUND HIS GARDEN

*God looked around his garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb,
So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered,
"Peace be thine.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.*

READERS

- Sat. Dec. 8th, 4:00 P.M.** Rita Riley & Grace
- Sat. Dec. 8th, 7:00 P.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Natalie
- Sun. Dec. 9th, 10:00 A.M.** Mary Cat & Theresa Maria
- Sat. Dec. 15th, 4:00 P.M.** Christina & Natalie
- Sat. Dec. 15th, 7:00 P.M.** Jay & Carolyn
- Sun. Dec. 16th, 10:00 A.M.** Mary Cat & Jimmy Joseph

READERS – WEEKDAYS

- Monday** - Reed
- Tuesday** - Melissa Gallon
- Wednesday** - Skylar
- Thursday** - Christina Apple
- Friday** - Fallon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.** December 8th
- Front Bridget Ann
- Left Cup Winnie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- December 9th December 16th
- Pete Man's Nora Pete Man's Nora
- Rose Marie Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- Monday** Mary Cat
- Tuesday** Pete Man's Nora
- Wednesday** Rosie Cat
- Thursday** Betty Jo
- Friday** Rose Marie

ONE

*One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can life a soul;
One word can frame the goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise your spirits;
One touch can show you care;
One life can make the difference,
Be that one today.*

HAPPY

*Happy people are always happy,
not because everything is right in their life.
They are happy because their attitude
towards everything is right.*

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

Lord Jesus, You are the only foundation that can
hold us up when trials and disaster threaten us.
Give me the wisdom, foresight, and strength of
character I need to do what is right and good and to
reject whatever is false and contrary to your will.
May I be a doer of Your word and not a hearer only.
Amen.