

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

*“When He calls on me, I will answer Him;
I will deliver Him and give Him glory, I will grant Him length of days”.*
Psalm 91(90):15-16

WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE

The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew's Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father's hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

Psalm — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$3,809.00	\$2,629.00
Number of Families contributing	98	84
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (7 Weeks)	\$25,588.00	\$25,952.00
Received to Date	\$20,545.00	\$15,789.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$5,043.00	\$10,163.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$238.00	\$1,614.00

Thirty-one ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$5,175.00	\$11,873.00

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

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$1,254.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$133.00.

14 **CHILDREN** contributed \$61.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, “In everything give thanks.” Constructive criticism is OK but “moaning, groaning, and complaining” are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst point! Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly! Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. “Love covers a multitude of sins!”

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the “tube?” Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Black Pete, Bridgette Anna, and Johnny Ringo in thanks for Juda on her 7th Birthday.
2. the Family of Hambone's Mary Catherine in loving of her on the 3rd Anniversary of her death;
3. Philip, Jill and Raquel in loving memory of Big Joe on his Birthday;
4. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for Danny Patrick Sherlock and Savannah Carroll.

The Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for Thomas Cruise Carroll and Luxe Sherlock.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER Thanks to the Legion of Mary, we will have Morning and Evening Prayer in the Church during Lent. All are requested to make use of this golden opportunity to join in the worldwide praise of God at the beginning and the close of each day. Morning and Evening Prayer will begin next Monday, February 27th.

MORNING PRAYER Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m.
EVENING PRAYER Monday thru Thursday 3:30 p.m.
Friday 6:30 p.m.

MASS ON FRIDAYS during Lent will be at 7:00 P.M.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent, will be held every Friday after 7:00 p.m. Mass. The Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday:

- Mar. 3: Legion – O.L. of Epiphany
- Mar. 10: Religious Education Teachers
- Mar. 17: Lectors
- Mar. 24: Youth Group & Young Girls Org.
- Mar. 31: Society of Mary Immaculate
- Apr. 7: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe*.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA will be held daily at 3:00 P.M. in the Church during Lent.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

JOKE OF THE WEEK A man walks into a church, outside of mass hours and finds the priest. He pulls out a gun and says, "Give me everything you have."

The priest panics and desperately searches his pocket. He doesn't have any money on him, but finds several pieces of wrapped candy, which he holds out and says, "I'm sorry. This is all I have!"

The robber replies, "But, Father, I gave up candy for Lent!"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** St. Gregory of Narek; Julian Calendar Lent begins
- Friday:** St. Katharine Drexel; **Abstinence**; First Friday; World Day of Prayer
- Saturday:** St. Casimir; First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of the souls of Betty McGuire and Huey Gabe Sherlock on their Birthdays.
- Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of Black Pete on the 54th Anniversary of his death; for the repose of the soul of Black's Pete's Winnie Ann on her Birthday; and for the repose of the soul of Big Johnny's Winnie Ann.
- Wednesday:** 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 Johnny Edward Riley on his Birthday.
- Thursday:** For Matt Edward on his Birthday.
- Friday:** For Monroe on her 16th Birthday; for the repose of the soul of Betty Costello on her Birthday; and for the repose of the soul of Beasley's Bridget Ann on the Anniversary of her death.

GOD'S GREAT LOVE

There are so many ways God shows us His love

By sending His gifts from heaven above,

The sun and the rain, the flowers and trees,

The moon and the stars, a soft Summer breeze.

A baby's sweet smile and a warm gentle touch,

He shows that He loves us so very much.

When you feel down and alone, and think no one cares,

Look to our Lord for the love that He shares.

For when we are sad, He makes our hearts rise,

And wipes the tears away from our eyes,

His love is omniscient if we take time to see,

For there is no greater love than God's love for you and me.

READERS

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| Sat. Feb. 25th, 4:00 P.M.
Montela & Christina | Sat. Feb. 25th, 7:00 P.M.
Mary Martha & Natalie |
| Sun. Feb. 26th, 10:00 A.M. | Lauren Ashley & Taniel |
| Sat. Mar. 4th, 4:00 P.M.
Cathy Lisa & Reed | Sat. Mar. 4th, 7:00 P.M.
Savannah & Ritz |
| Sun. Mar. 5th, 10:00 A.M. | Lauren Ashley & Taniel |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Monday | - | Christina Apple |
| Tuesday | - | Macy |
| Wednesday | - | Josie |
| Thursday | - | Mary Martha |
| Friday | - | Julie Ann |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|------------------|
| Monday | - | Theresa Hun |
| Tuesday | - | Jack's Mary Rita |
| Wednesday | - | Julie Ann |
| Thursday | - | Betty Jo |
| Friday | - | Ned's Rose Marie |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 4:00 P.M. | February 25th |
| Right | Winnie Ann |
| Left | Bridget Rita |

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

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|-----------------|------------------------------|
| February | Bridgette Anna & Theresa Hun |
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Sunday 10:00 A.M.

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| February 26th | March 5th |
| Ned's Rose Marie | Nora |

DIFFERENT APPROACH TO FASTING

Fast from:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Anger and Hatred | * Discouragement |
| * Judging others | * Complaining |
| * Resentment and Bitterness | * Spending too much money |

May you find yourself walking in the love of Jesus during this Season of Lent.

PERFECT WORDS FOR A STRONG RELATIONSHIP

If we don't know...ASK.

If we don't agree...DISCUSS.

What we don't like...SAY IT POLITELY.

But, we shouldn't start JUDGING silently.

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

JESUS GIVE ME

Lord Jesus, give me a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and a great love of You. Take from me all lukewarmness in the mediation of Your word, and dullness in prayer. Give me fervor and delight in thinking of You and Your grace, and fill me with compassion for others, especially those in need, that I might respond with generosity. Amen.