

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 29, 2023

Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

— Psalm 27:14

### THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

In our Gospel reading from Matthew, we hear the Beatitudes, the stirring opening to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God, and begins by considering what kind of people will enter and participate in this kingdom. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, the peacemakers. We hear both Zephaniah and Paul echo this, as God specifically chooses the weak and the lowly to be God's agents in ushering in the reign of God. By living with humility and integrity, their hearts are open to being transformed by the grace of God. We too are called to live in this way. Jesus invites us to be people with open hearts, to receive God's blessing. And working through us, God may bless all of creation.  
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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

**Psalm** — The Lord blesses the humble and gives them the heavenly kingdom (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

**Gospel** — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The thieves had planned the robbery over a period of three weeks. The night had finally arrived. They approached the radio shop from the rear, gained entrance and then it happened. They triggered an alarm that switched on floodlights, started five motor driven cameras, and set off a tape recorder that bellowed over loud speakers for the police. Their presence and crime were no longer a secret.

The result was one captured thief and all-out police alerts for the other one. His picture had been recorded by the cameras and only time was needed to suspend him. Christ told his disciples in Luke 12:2 to always be on guard. Be careful to keep your life clean and spotless for there is "nothing covered," He told them.

Just as surely as the thieves were caught for their crime, so will man face a judging God one day. Those secrets sins of life are not hidden from God. He sees, and he knows the heart of man. He remembers our sins, if not confessed, and will hold us accountable for them. The presence of sin in man's life does not go unseen by God for "there is nothing covered that will not be revealed."

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Duggan's in loving memory of Duggan on his Birthday;
2. Tommy Newman, Josie, Saylor, and Eric Draven in loving memory of Popeye on his Birthday;
3. the Family of Nancy Gorman in loving memory of her on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death;
4. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE** The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for Patrick Joseph Mack and Mary Theresa Carroll.

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory                      Development

Last Week's Collection	\$1,816.00	\$1,254.00
Number of Families contributing	70	59
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (4 Weeks)	\$13,444.00	\$13,576.00
Received to Date	\$8,805.00	\$7,243.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$4,639.00	\$6,333.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$177.00	\$868.00

Twenty-five ladies contributed last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$60.00	\$180.00

Two 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
\$289.00	\$19,882.00

**POOR BOX** totaled \$60.00.

16 **CHILDREN** contributed \$47.00.

**LATIN AMERICA** totaled \$99.00.

### LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTERS

*At the end of life, what really matters is not what we bought but what we built; not what we got but what we shared; not our competence but our character; and not our success, but our significance.  
Live a life that matters. Live a life of love.*

**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE** St. Blaise is the patron saint of those with throat maladies. We shall celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise this Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 A.M. with Solemn Mass and Blessing of Throats.

### BEAUTIFUL THOUGHTS

- None can destroy iron, but its own rust can. Likewise, none can destroy a person, but his own mindset and emotions can.
- Ups and downs in life are very important to keep us going, because a straight line even in an E.K.G. means we are not alive.

**THANK YOU** to a parish member for a donation in honor of St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus for a special intention; a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Jude and St. Anthony; and to two parish members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

**STATEMENT**

The most humbling statement we can say is that,  
“I am nothing God.”  
The most powerful statement is,  
“With God, I can do anything.”

**JOKE OF THE WEEK** For two solid hours, the lady sitting next to a man on an airplane had told him about her grandchildren. She had even produced a plastic-foldout photo album of all nine of the children.

She finally had realized that she had dominated the entire conversation on her grandchildren. “Oh, I’ve done all the talking, and I’m so sorry. I know you certainly have something to say. Please, tell me...what do you think of my grandchildren?”

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Catholic Schools Week  
Tuesday: St. John Bosco  
Thursday: The Presentation of the Lord;  
World Day for Consecrated Life; Groundhog Day  
Friday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; First Friday;  
Blessing of throats  
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday:** For the repose of the souls of Pat and Bonnie.  
**Tuesday:** For Joanne Cat.  
**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 the repose of the soul of Pete Jason Carroll on the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death; and for the repose of the soul of Maggie Taylor on the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death.  
**Thursday:** For the repose of the souls of Beasley and Bridget Ann.  
**Friday:** For the repose of the soul of Underdog on the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death.

**MY SECRET PLACE**

*There’s a secret place within my heart  
Where no one else can go.  
I enter there when I am sad  
Or feeling kind of low.*

*I dwell upon God’s love for me  
And the happy times of the past.  
I savor and draw strength from them;  
The first memory until the last.*

*Each rhythmic beat of my contented heart  
Reminds me that life must go on.  
I close the door to my secret place  
For now my blues have gone.*

**READERS**

**Sat. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.** Leah & Dayna  
**Sat. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.** Natalie & Apple’s Carolyn  
**Sun. Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Taniel  
**Sat. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.** Julie Ann & Macy  
**Sat. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.** Savannah & Ritz  
**Sun. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.** Lauren Ashley & Taniel

**READERS – WEEKDAYS**

Monday - Theresa Hun  
Tuesday - Macy  
Wednesday - Julie Ann  
Thursday - Lauren Ashley  
Friday - Christina

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS**

Monday - Theresa Hun  
Tuesday - Jack’s Mary Rita  
Wednesday - Julie Ann  
Thursday - Betty Jo  
Friday - Rosie Cat

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND**

**Saturday 4:00 P.M.** **January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Right Winnie Ann  
Left Bridget Rita  
**Saturday 7:00 P.M.**  
**January** Kim Gallon & Rita Weaver  
**Sunday 10:00 A.M.**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>** **February 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Ned’s Rose Marie Nora

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS & OFFERINGS**

- ❖ *The collection is a church function in which many take a passing interest.*
- ❖ *The way people give, you would think the church is coin operated.*
- ❖ *It’s funny how a dollar can look so big when you take it to the church and so small when you take it to a restaurant.*
- ❖ *Anybody who thinks there’s a shortage of coins hasn’t been to church lately.*

**CATHOLIC JOKES**

- Q. Why did God create man before woman?*  
A. Because God didn’t want to have to listen to any advice.  
*Q. Why did Moses wander the desert for 40 years?*  
A. He left his Promised Land GPS back in Egypt.

**PRAYER CORNER**

**GOD BE IN MY HEAD**

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.*