

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

*“If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.”*

— *Matthew 18:19*

A MESSAGE OF LOVE

In the final verses of today’s Gospel reading Jesus says that when two or three are gathered in his name, “there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). So we understand that fraternal correction is always undertaken with Jesus present to us. Likewise, encouraging the good in others is not only the right thing for us to do, it is a necessity. The Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that if he “does not speak out” to dissuade a person from evil, then he too will be held responsible. We live in a “do your own thing” age when moral objectivity is often ignored. Clearly when the message we share with others is one of love, our motives cannot ever be misinterpreted. As St. Paul writes, “Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Warn the wicked and try to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel — If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary

Wednesday: St. John Chrysostom

Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday: Sts. Cornelius and Cypria

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

FEELING ALONE

Dear Jesus, like the apostles who were in a boat on that stormy Sea of Galilee, we are feeling alone, uncertain, tired and afraid. Do not let waves of dread swamp us. Do not let the howling wind of bad news drown out your voice. Give us ears and hearts attentive to Your voice when You say to us, “Do not fear, it is I.” Amen.

CONDOLENCES

Fr. Prasad and the members of St. Edward Parish extend their deepest sympathy to the families of :

Catherine Gray Sherlock and Jim Bush Sherlock.

May their souls rest in peace.

REFLECTION

The reading of this Sunday is God’s command concerning our spiritual responsibility and individual accountability for others in our families, parishes, and community. This accountability arises from our identity as God’s children. In the first reading, God tells Ezekiel that he is to be a “watchman for the house of Israel,” obliged to warn Israel of moral dangers. If Ezekiel should refrain from speaking God’s word given to convert the wicked, God will hold Ezekiel responsible for the death of the wicked. In the second reading, St. Paul points out that the love we should have for one another should be our only reason for admonishing and correcting the sinner. Love seeks the good of the one who is loved. Therefore, we should admonish one another so that we all may repent and grow in holiness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that true Christian charity obliges a Christian, not only to assist his neighbors in their temporal and spiritual needs with material help and prayer, but also to aid with correction those brothers and sisters who have damaged the community by public sin.

If the erring one refuses a one-on-one, loving correction by the offended party, then the Christian is to try to involve more people: first, “one or two others,” and eventually “the Church.” Finally, Jesus mentions the efficacy of community prayer in solving such problems, for Christ is present in the praying Christian community. Modern believers tend to think that they have no right to intervene in the private lives of their fellow believers. Others evade the issue saying, “As a sinner, I don’t have the moral courage or the right to correct anyone.” But Jesus emphatically affirms that we are our brothers’ keepers, and we have the serious obligation to our brothers and sisters. We need to offer advice and encouragement to our friends, neighbors, and coworkers when it is needed, and loving correction, in private, for a personal offense where that is possible. Today’s Gospel reminds us of the good we can do together, and of how we can do it. Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Jesus makes it clear how important we are, one to another. One in Christ, our community can draw on God’s power to make His healing, life-giving love, more effective among the people.

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC) is the primary source of funding for many critical ministries. We are impacting the lives of our brothers and sisters both spiritually and physically – but there is still much to do. We must continue to fund programs focused on charitable works, outreach, education, and evangelization. Every gift to the CASC allows us to continue to fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us. Your participation is highly appreciated and let us reach our goal (\$19,882.00) by fulfilling the pledge and generous contribution. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$2,017.00	\$1,343.00
Number of Families contributing	68	58
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (33 Weeks)	\$111,001.00	\$112,584.00
Received to Date	\$91,000.00	\$72,308.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$20,001.00	\$40,276.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$264.00	\$6,797.00

Twenty contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$50.00	\$49,725.00

One person 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
\$5,705.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$58.00.

8 **CHILDREN** contributed \$21.00.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY totaled \$90.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. A Very Special Friend and Birdie's Patricia, Huey David, and Family in loving memory of Tommy Anthony McGuire on the 34th of his death;
2. the Family of Jack Costello in loving memory of him on the 15th Anniversary of his death and in loving memory of Betty Costello on the 7th Anniversary of her death;
3. Jimmy Jay and Mary Melissa in loving memory of Rev. Peter Clarke on his Birthday;
4. and Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

will begin this Monday, September 11th. Classes will be held from 4:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M in the New Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays only. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure their child/children attend Religious Education classes. Teachers and Teacher Aides are obligated to be at Religious Education for the day you volunteered for.

Religious Education Classes are as follows:

Monday — 5th thru 8th Grades

Tuesday — 1st thru 4th Grades

THANK YOU

a member for a \$100 donation in thanks to St. Expedite; and to two parish members for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

KEYBOARD & MUSIC CLASSES

will be held on Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. in the Church. The St. Philomens Teen Girls Group will meet at this time for practice. All those who are interested in practicing please come on Tuesday.

FALL ADORATION will begin next Monday, September 18th.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: *Funeral.*

Tuesday: For Mega Sherlock on her 11th Birthday and for Ansley Sherlock on her Birthday.

Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Brian Benedict Carroll on the 34th Anniversary of his death; for Bryan Jude Carroll; and for the repose of the soul of Anne Clarke.

Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Pete Curley Riley on his Birthday; for the repose of the soul of Jack Suedle on his Birthday; for the repose of the soul of Jim Bush; and for the repose of the soul of Betty Costello on the 7th Anniversary of her death.

Friday: For the repose of the soul of Mary Burke on the 3rd Anniversary of her death.

READERS

Sat. Sep. 9th, 4:00 P.M. **Sun. Sep. 10th, 10:00 A.M.**
Montela & Macy Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

Sat. Sep. 16th, 4:00 P.M. **Sun. Sep. 17th, 10:00 A.M.**
Julie Ann & Natalie Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 9th, 4:00 P.M. **Sun. Sept. 10th, 10:00 .M**
John Daley, Kody & Patrick D.
Tom Glavine

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Macy
Tuesday - Mary Martha
Wednesday - Gracelynn
Thursday - Sherlock's Mary Theresa
Friday - Paris

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun
Tuesday - Winnie Ann
Wednesday - Julie Ann
Thursday - Cathy Carroll
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **September 9th**
Right Theresa Hun
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M
September 10th **September 17th**

Ned's Rose Marie

Ned's Rose Marie