



December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Collection December 3, 2023

Regular Collection	\$595.00
Flowers	10.00
Maintenance	2000.00
Attendance	40

December 17, 2023

Lector: Wesley Young
Commentator: K. Thompson
Ushers: Hathaway/B. Thompson
Eucharistic Ministers: Stanley/Yost

Readings for December 17, 2023

Reading 1	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Reading 2	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayer List -Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Stephen Petrowski, Joy McComb, Jerry Stanley, Bill Vest, Raegan Ray, Marianne McGriffin, Georgia Snell English, Margaret McLawhorn, Carol Canty, Father Bernie, Shannon Yates, Lynn Canty, Chuck Yates, Ron Morgan, Sue Dasse, Tod Young, Mary Ann Phillips, Shelia Zellars, Charlie Taylor, Donna Gilmore, Adam Conner, Aaron Quain, Jim Hopkins, and Larry Riffey.
Let the Stanleys know if you have additions or deletions

Information about St. Edwards- Daily readings, the bulletin, homilies, and other information can be found on our webpage at:
<https://stedwardpulaski.org>

On Saturday, Dec. 16: St. Jude's in Radford will host a Divine Mercy Mission with The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy from Washington DC. It begins with mass at 8:30 in the morning and ends with the Hour of Divine Mercy at 3pm. All are welcome. To register go to:
tinyurl.com/divinemicymission

Schedule for December Christmas Masses-

December 24th- 11:00 am NO MASS
5:30 pm Christmas Eve choral program
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
7:00 pm Reception in the Hall following Mass

December 31st - 11:00 am Mass

December Birthdays

Mary Klima	Dec. 4
Walt Harriman	Dec. 8
John Balconi	Dec. 10
Cheri Strenz	Dec. 10
Dan Grubb	Dec. 21
MaryBeth McNair	Dec.31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Anniversaries

Rick & Jackie Yost	Dec. 11
Megan & Ricky Talbert	Dec.12

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Daily Prayer This Week

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, "What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?" The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am, and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, "there will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!" "What is desert, barren, dry, lifeless in you will come to life!" "You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary." "Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom."

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: "Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life." We may be able to be specific and ask, "Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting." As we go to work or do laundry or go shopping, or head home from work, we might ask even more specifically for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and

expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the mist of our very busy days.

The Two Parts of Advent:

Part 1: up until December 16

While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day. After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Savior. So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfillment or connection with the gospel.

Part 2: December 17 - 24

In these last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel. So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfillment builds as we read the story of the preparation for Jesus' first coming into this world for us.