



December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Collection December 10, 2023

<i>Regular Collection</i>	<i>\$854.00</i>
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>144.00</i>
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>40</i>

December 24, 2023

Lector: *Rebecca Harriman*
Commentator: *Patti Williams*
Ushers: *Hathaway/Klima*
Eucharistic Ministers: *McNair/Warburton*

Readings for December 24, 2023

Reading 1	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Reading 2	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38

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>

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Anniversaries

<i>Rick & Jackie Yost</i>	<i>Dec. 11</i>
<i>Megan & Ricky Talbert</i>	<i>Dec.12</i>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gaudete Week

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

Daily Prayer This Week

This third week of Advent, begins with *Gaudete* (rejoice!) Sunday. Our daily prayer continues to allow us to become much more concrete about naming our desires and preparing the way for the Lord. We begin this week with joy, knowing that our celebration of all the ways our Lord comes to us is getting nearer.

In these familiar readings is an invitation to us to ask again for help, perhaps especially in dealing with our fears. On Tuesday we hear God's message to us Isaiah: "Fear not. You shall not be put to shame." Fear can stop us from asking God for the very help we need in our lives.

In the midst of what our culture tells us should be a picture-perfect holiday season, we can step back and get in touch with our fears and ask God to help us deal with the relationships we are afraid of, the family tensions that make us apprehensive and the stress that can take us out of the spirit of Advent reflection. If we pause for just a minute, we can feel in our hearts that Jesus is saying gently to us each day: "Do not be afraid."

These very busy days can still be a time for us to focus our desires, perhaps each morning at the side of our bed, while in the shower or while going about our daily errands. We can ask God to remind us again that what we are doing in our daily lives is touched by the sacred because God is present in even the most mundane tasks.

"Lord, let me place my trust in you. I get so independent and think I need to fix everything myself. Let me remember not to be afraid of so much and to ask you for the healing that my heart needs so badly. Give me the patience this week to deal with the relationships in my life that need mending and the forgiveness that I can give others and that I need so badly myself. Be with me through the darkness so that I can see the light that you bring to us and the joy with which you want to fill our hearts."

We are moving toward the end of our Advent journey. Even if we don't feel like we have "started" on Advent yet, we can begin today. We are being invited: "Do not be afraid!"

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.