

December 17, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent The Lewis County Catholic Times

> A Weekly Bulletin for Saint Patrick Catholic Church, Weston, West Virginia Established 1848

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement. No, the prophecy of Micheus is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the selfsame incarnate eternal Son of God who journeved to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehems, there to be born anew. again and again.

impassable road up steep hills and down precipitous valleys and through dangerous mountain passes? Do you wonder that these prophets of His coming insist so strongly that merely sentimental longings and routine prayers, however multiplied, cannot prepare us worthily for the entrance He must expect and the welcome He craves? Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church's crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Meditate long on the wanton and malicious opposition He encounters on His way to them from souls that leave their senses and heart and mind to be ruled by earthly vanities, and their whole selves to be willing victims of the sensual and selfish illusions and witcheries of the seven capital vices.

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!

Excerpted from Our Way to the Father by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, S.J.

Can you still fail to see why Isaias and the Baptist compare the hardships of the way of the world's Messiah-King to souls with a rough, crooked, and almost

You May Be Wondering...

Q: This year the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 23rd/24th) comes right before Christmas. Do we have to come to Mass twice?

A: Yes. This is on Jesus' gift list this year. Choose one of our weekend Masses:

> Saturday, Dec. 23 at 6pm, Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9:30am and 12:30pm (Latin).

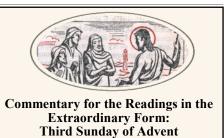
Add one from our Christmas Mass schedule will be: Sunday, Dec. 24th at 6pm, Monday, Dec. 25 at midnight, 9:30 am and 12:30 pm (Latin).

You have many options to choose how to fulfill both your weekend obligation and you Christmas obligation!

Q: Will the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God also be a Holy **Day of Obligation?**

A: No. New Year's Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2018.

Volume II, Issue 51



"I (John) am the voice of one crying in the desert, . . .but (pointing to Christ) in the midst of you there has stood One Whom you do not know" (Gospel).

This is known as "Rejoice" Sunday, from the opening word of the Introit. Despite our self-praised progress, real joy is missing from modern life. In such a "desert" we must look to Christ. Only He can "bring light to the darkness of our minds" (Prayer). Only He can bless deliver and forgive (Offertory). Only He can "say to the faint-hearted, 'Take courage" (Communion Verse).

During these days before Christmas "have no anxiety" about selecting or receiving mere tinsel gifts, but prepare "in. . .prayer. . .with thanksgiving" and guard. . .your minds in Christ," the true source of our joy (Epistle).

Excerpted from My Sunday Missal, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

Weekly Devotions

Wednesday

5:00p Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5:20p Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena

5:45p Benediction

Friday

(When students are present.) 9:00a Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30a Benediction

What's Inside...

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St. Patrick **Catholic Church**

210 Center Avenue Weston, West Virginia 26452 www.spchurchweston.net 304-269-3048 304-269-1244 (fax)

Pastor:

Rev. James R. DeViese, Jr., J.C.L. pastor@spchurchweston.net

Secretary: Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary secretary@spchurchweston.net

Weekend Masses:

Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Latin)

Reconciliation: Wednesday and Saturday, 5:00pm Sunday, 8:45 & 11:45 a.m.

Weekday Masses: M, T, Th, F, 8:15 a.m. Wed., 6:00 p.m.

> **Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:45p.m. Friday, 9:00 to 9:30a.m.

(See Weekly Schedule for any changes to times or location!)

Religious Education

CCD and Sacramental Prep Sunday, 8:30—9:15, school Introduction to Catholicism/RCIA Sunday, 8:30–9:15, parish office

Parish Office Hours:

- Sunday, 10:30 12:30
- Monday, 9 4
- Tuesday, 9 4
- Wednesday, 9 1
- Thursday, 1 8
- Friday, 9 1

Prayer Chain: Micki Snyder, 304 269-3688 or 304 476-8819

Bulletin Deadline

Announcements for the Lewis County Catholic Times must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday. Email submissions to: secretary@spchurchweston.net.



A Joyful Sunday. The Third Sunday of or wall hangings. The third candle of the Advent is also known as Gaudete Sun- Advent wreath is rose. day. The word "gaudete" is derived from **Joyful Prayers.** The prayers in the Rothe Latin words "gaudium," joy, and man Missal on the Third Sunday of Ad-"gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete vent convey a joyful message. The imme-Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days be- diacy of Christmas is addressed in the fore Christmas, and the nearness of the Collect, "O God, who see how your people feast is reason for great joy. faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Na-

The Term "Gaudete." Gaudete is tak- tivity," followed by two explicit references en from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice to joy: "enable us ... to attain the joys of in the Lord always; again I say, re- so great a salvation" and "to celebrate ioice. Indeed, the Lord is them with ... glad rejoicing." Preface II of near" (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is Advent says "we rejoice at the mystery of a time of joyful expectation and eager his Nativity" and that we are "exultant in preparation for the Solemnity of Christ- his praise." The Communion Antiphon contains the joyful message, "Behold, our mas.

Multiple Reasons for Joy. There is God will come, and he will save us" (cf. Is joy in looking forward to the annual cele- 35:4). Two invocations in the Solemn bration of Christmas, but there is also joy Blessing for Advent refer to joy: the secin looking back to remember the birth of ond, "may he make you ... joyful in hope," Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is and the third, "So that, rejoicing now with heightened by the importance of his birth devotion at the Redeemer's coming." that he was born to save people from their **Joyful Readings.** The scripture texts sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to for the Third Sunday of Advent, Year C, anticipation of the Second Coming, either are filled with references to joy. The first at the end of physical life or the end of the reading exhorts, "Shout for joy, O daughworld, the time when believers will be ter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad given the crown of righteousness (2 Tim and exult" (Zeph 3:14), and continues, 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn "The Lord ... will rejoice over you with 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels gladness ... he will sing joyfully" (Zeph 3:17b). The refrain for the Responsorial and saints for all eternity.

A Joyful Color. Rose represents joy Psalm begins, "Cry out with joy and gladand may be used as the liturgical color for ness" and the first stanza adds, "With joy Gaudete Sunday. Violet remains the offi- you will draw water at the fountain of salcial color for the Season of Advent, the vation" (Is 12:3). The second reading Third Sunday included, because all of Ad- repeats the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice vent has a penitential tone, a time to be in the Lord always. I shall say it absolved of sin and be in the state of grace again: rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). In the gospel for Christmas. Gaudete Sunday offers a John the Baptist makes the joyful anbrief respite to focus on the uplifting, up- nouncement: "One mightier than I is coming joyful celebration of the Nativity. coming" (Lk 3:16). Joyful Adornments. The priest may wear a rose chasuble and the deacon may

2

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Mary of Nazareth

Who was Mary, Mother of the Messiah? Experience life with Christ through the eyes of his mother in this

peautiful film capturing Mary's special role in God's plan for our



entation of the life of the Blessed Mother...Highly recommended and prais God for the gift of His mother! —Alfredo N., Buda, TX

Decking the Halls



We will decorate the sanctuary with "poinsettia trees" during this Christmas season. All donations collected in the "Christmas flower" envelopes will be used to purchase these flowers. Poinsettias are \$15.00. If you do not have envelopes, you can still contribute by contacting the parish office at 304 269-3048 or by putting a check in the collection basket with Christmas **flowers** in the memo line.

Please Return Unsold Concert Tickets

Please begin turning in leftover tickets from your group and all money collected after masses on Saturday and Sunday, December 16,17, & 23 to Trustee, John Moran, Grand Knight, Chris Todd, Steve Corley, Jim Mehr, John Collins, or JJ Jordan. All tickets must be accounted for to WVU, by ticket number on December 24.

Teams:

•	Chad Westfall	101-200
•	Jim Mehr	201-300
•	Jeremy Garton	301-400
•	Rob Clem	401-500
•	Armando Almase	501-600
•	JJ Jordan	701-800

Tickets are still available through the church office for late purchasers and can also be purchased online at: ww.KOC1415.org.

St. Patrick Catholic Church Festival Orchestra And Chorus Friday, Dec. 29, 2017 **Tickets \$11** Lyell B. Clay Center, Morgantown, WV **Transportation available!**

FOR TRANSPORTATION RESERVATIONS-This can be provided from St. Patrick Church to WVU by contacting Rob/304-439-4825 or Suzi/304-884-7658 or Judy/304-517-9127. Leave your name, email, and/or phone number and this will be coordinated.

COME CELEBRATE the BIRTH of CHRIST!



From Father Michael Van Sloun

edemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and "This is a spell-binding and touching

wear a rose dalmatic. Church decorations

may include roses or other flowers, a rose

-colored altar cloth, drapery on the pulpit

or ambo, chalice veil, tabernacle curtain,

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Saturday— December 16 Saturday of the Second Week of Advent 5:00p Confessions 6:00p Anticipated Sunday Mass for Sr. Eileen by the Pascasio family Sunday — December 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Confessions 9:30a Mass for People of the Parish 11:45a Confessions 12:30p Mass (Latin) for †Msgr. Daniel O'Connor Third Sunday of Advent Monday — December 18 Monday of the Third Week of Advent **No Mass Tuesday** — December 19 Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent 8:15a Mass for Dan and Sandra Mick Wednesday — December 20 Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent 5:05p Confessions 6:00p Mass for †James Blake Thursday — December 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church 8:15a Mass for Mass for Sam McLaughlin Friday — December 22 Friday of the Third Week of Advent 8:15a Mass for Intentions of the donor Saturday— December 23 Saint John of Kanty, Priest 5:00p Confessions 6:00p Anticipated Sunday Mass for †Clarence Weber by family Sunday — December 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45a Confessions 9:30a Mass for †Mary "Marc" McLaughlin by Joe, Jack, and John McLaughlin 11:45a Confessions 12:30p Mass (Latin) for People of the Parish Third Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS: Please contact the parish office or use one of the envelopes in the vestibule to schedule your Mass Intentions.

Liturgical Calendar for the Traditional Latin Mass **During the Week**

- 12/18 Greater Feria of Advent
- 12/19 Greater Feria of Advent
- Ember Wednesday of Advent 12/20
- 12/21St. Thomas, Apostle
- Ember Friday of Advent 12/22
- 12/23 Ember Saturday of Advent

Add Your Voice

Choir practice for our Christmas liturgies will take place on four Saturday evenings following the 6:00pm Mass. The final practices will be December 16 and 23, 2017. Please direct any questions regarding practice to Marilyn Bean or Jim Weber following weekend masses.

Formed.org

FORMED is a revolutionary digital platform that offers a wealth of informative and entertaining Catholic audio talks, eBooks, feature films, documentaries, and video-based study programs from trusted providers like Catholic Answers, Sophia Press, Knights of Columbus, Ignatius Press, St. Paul Center, and more. We invite everyone to explore this website. Advent is a great time to begin making faith formation a part of your daily life today.

- 1. Go to formed.org/register
- Enter the access code: WPVBMM 2.
- Enter your email and create a password

Last Day to Submit Names for the Christmas Food Baskets is Sunday, Dec. 17.

If you know someone who could benefit from a food basket this Christmas, please call the parish office at 304-269-3048. Please ask the person or family if it is okay before adding their name to the list. Please do not add someone who is already receiving a food basket from another church or organization. By doing this, we are able to help more people who otherwise might be overlooked.

When you call the office, please have the following information available:

- Family name
- Family size (broken down by the number of adults and kids)
- A contact number for the family
- Your name and phone number

If you add someone to the list, you are responsible for distributing the basket of food to them or for making sure they are able to pick up the basket themselves.

Need Help? Get Help!

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA - Tues., Thurs., & Sat., 8pm school basement. **Narcotics Anonymous**

NA - Mon., 7pm school basement

Use the door on the side of the school building facing the rectory for AA and NA meetings.

32nd Annual Lewis County Christmas Dinner

The 32nd Annual Lewis County Christmas Dinner is Monday, December 25, from 10am to 2pm at the Lewis County Senior Citizens Center on West Second Street. A delicious traditional meal of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings is the menu.

Dine in, carry out, or have your dinner delivered to you. To place an order, call 304-884-6789 and please leave a message.

Volunteers are needed for Dec. 24 and Christmas Day for food preparation, serving, and cleanup. Drivers are needed for delivery to the those who can't make it out. To volunteer call Ella Clem at 304-269-4028.

Donations of desserts may be dropped off at the Senior Center on December 24 from 12pm to 3pm.

The Lewis County Christmas Dinner is staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by donations. If you wish to make a monetary donation, make checks payable to: Lewis County Christmas Dinner, and mail them to PO Box 1012, Weston, WV 26452.

2018 CALENDARS

The 2018 parish

calendars are in the

vestibule. Please pick

one up today.

Scripture

Readings

Week of Dec. 17, 2017

Monday (18)

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-

19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday (12)

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-6, 16-

17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday (13)

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday (14) Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45 Friday (15)

1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7,

8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday (16)

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4bc-5ab,

8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday (16)

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps

89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk

1:26-38



Pure Vanilla Extract For Sale

The Catholic Daughters are selling 40z bottles of homemade vanilla extract for \$10 each. No water, no additives. Madagascar vanilla beans are used for a pure vanilla for all your baking! Christmas Makes a great gift! Available after Mass in the church vestibule.

Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an "active" member of the parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the "Catholic tuition" rate at St. Patrick's School), the parish takes into account family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries, and Mass attendance. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving enve opes currently, please contact the parish office. Parishioners over 18 are encouraged to register as their own household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.

Ministry Schedule for Weekend Masses, Dec. 23 & 24

Saturday, December 23, 2017 Servers: Jayna Jerden, Brady Jordan, Ian Riffle Reader: J. J. Jordan EMHC: Tom Ruppert, Micki Snyder, Valerie Corley

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Cantor: Kathy Sims

Servers: Michael Riley, Makenna West, Morgan Turner Reader: Michele Turner EMHC: Butch Cain, Judy Foster, Betty Hill

Cantor: John Collins

December Rosary Leaders: Saturday: Margaret Blake Sunday: Micki Snyder

December Linens: Melissa Allison

Dec. Funeral Greeters: Mary Wagoner and Mary Ellen Rittenhouse

January Rosary Leaders: Wednesday: Steve Moran Saturday: TBD Sunday: Jeremy Garton

January Linens: Barb King

Jan. & Feb. Funeral Greeters: Gennette Casto and Barb King

16 Sat: 7pm, Cho 18 Mon: No Ma 21 Thu: 7pm, Scl gym 23 Sat: 7pm, Cho Christm 24 Sun: 6pm,Ch 25 Mon: Midnig 9:30an 12:30p 26 Tue: 6pm, Soi 29 Fri: Christma Chorus, Clay Cer

Ministry Schedule for Christmas Masses, Dec. 24 & 25, 2017

Sunday, December 24, 2017	Monday, December 25, 2017	Monday, December 25, 2017	
6pm	Midnight	9:30am	
Servers: Payton and Jordyn Aman, Joe and Tom Derico, Ian Riffle, Lily Davis Reader: Deanna Pascasio Gifts: Sarah Riffle and family EMHC: Paul Derico, Margaret Blake, John Weber Cantor: Donna Lake	Servers: Logan and Hayden Barnette, Erin and Morgan Turner, Jayna Jerden, Ethan Mehr Reader: Danielle Mick Gifts: Jerden family EMHC: Judy Foster, Tom Ruppert, Jim Mehr Cantor: John Collins	Servers: Hunter and Joseph Blake Reader: Jenny Garton EMHC: Larry and Luanne Bowers, Micki Snyder Cantor: Jeremy Garton	1251

• Those who are sick: Sam McLaughin (Matt's brother), Barbara Ables, Amanda Smith Burcham, Jimmy Butcher, James Carni, Steve Colburn, Rose Determan, Larry Dodson, Gerry Donaldson, Anita Droppleman, Robert Fealy, Seth Fishbaugh (Laura Determan's cousin), Nathan Fisher, Carl Ford (Lynne Shaver's step-dad), Mary Groover, Bobby Gill, Mandy Heater, Ed Hubbs, Jim Kerrigan, Shelly Kraus, Jeff Linger, Matt McCauley, Donna Moore, Mary Ann Murray, Burke Riley, Mike Riley, Tim Rinehart, Cathy Snuffer, Kinley Weaver, Jane White

• Those who have died: Tom Coughlin, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Prayer List

Of your charity, please offer prayers for...

• Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

♦ All Military Personnel: Alan Hamilton, Aaron Hamilton

UPCOMING EVENTS	Weekly Attendance & Collection			
December 7 pm, Choir Practice, choir loft m: No Mass 2 7 pm, School Christmas pageant, 7 pm, Choir Practice, choir loft Christmas Mass Schedule 2 6 pm, Christmas Mass m Midnight 9:30am 12:30pm (Latin) 5 6 pm, SoulCore, cafeteria Christmas Festival Orchestra and 5, Clay Center, Morgantown	Saturday:101Sunday:159Latin Mass:30General:\$2564Loan:\$630School:\$80Latin Mass:\$360Religious Retirement Appeal:\$2066Upcoming Second Collections• Dec. 25: Catholic Charities of West Virginia			

Due to the transition in Development Director, errors were made regarding the Donor Recognition in the St. Patrick School newsletter. Our sincerest apologizies go out to the following parishioners who contributed gifts to the school through the School Support Fund:

Benefactor Club Ethan Garton Katherine Riley

Patron Club

Kathleen Boyle Kristi Goe Mary Lough Mr. & Mrs. Martin Riley Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wagoner John Weber

Shamrock Club

Rusty & Melissa Allison Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bowers Bernard Cain Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Caufield Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Cunningham Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Derico Mr. & Mrs. Ed and Anita Droppleman Mr. & Mrs. James Fealy Mrs. & Mrs. Joseph Frazier Rock Garton James Karp Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kiro Frances McCauley Alice Morrison Fave Mullooly Alice Murrav Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murray Susan Pickens Mr. & Mrs. William Riley Mrs. Garry Shearer Mr. & Mrs. Carl Sherrell Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thompson James Weber

Plastic Bags Needed

Do you have extra, clean, plastic grocery bags without holes you want to get rid of? If so, the backpack food program can use them. Each week, the program uses 134 bags to send food home to 67 students who attend Robert Bland Middle School. The food items are double bagged to make transport easier.

Bags can be left in the church vestibule of dropped off at the parish office during normal office hours.

Thank you to everyone who has given food or donations to this program. If you wish to make a monetary donation, make check payable to the church with "backpack" in the memo line.

Honor Roll

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Aman Frank Angotti Leslie Butcher Chad & Amy Clem Dominique Ecton Amanda Empoules Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Flesher Mr. & Mrs. Michael Franklin Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gissy Mr. & Mrs. John Jordan Shirley Mason Renee Moodispaw Mary Ann Murray Holly Proctor Grant & Sarah Riffle Ben & Jen Riley Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ruppert Micki Snyder Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thompson

Charitable Giving

As the year draws to a close, many begin to consider giving to charitable organizations. Our parish community offers several opportunities for giving as a 501(c)3 organization:

- Our Sunday collections constitute about 70% of our parish operating budget. The rest comes from royalties and donations. The parish is always grateful for the generosity of all who contribute to continue the mission of St. Patrick's Checks can be made payable to St. Patrick Church.
- The St. Patrick School Annual Fund is an ongoing fundraising effort that helps to fund our parish school, keeping the cost of education down. Checks can be made to St. Patrick School Annual Fund.
- Our parish school is also blessed to benefit from The St. Patrick School Foundation, an invested fund of over \$1.8 million, that provides a portion of the returns to our school each year. The Foundation's mission is to ensure the long-term stability and viability of St. Patrick School through a combination of fundraising and investment. Checks may be made to The St. Patrick School Foundation.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

As you consider your end-of-year charitable giving, please consider one of the above, that our parish and school may continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in Lewis County and beyond for many years to come!

Kids' Corner Catechesis

Find these 12 Bible Places

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B A B Y L O N S E O MEGIDDO SINAI	Y	Т	I	т	D	Ν	Е	υ	L	L	
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A Pre-Christmas Novena

Some of you may have noticed the significant absence of the **December 17**: hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" from this Advent's mu-O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, sical repertoire up to this point. This was not accidental. reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and While it has become a staple of Masses during Advent, it holds sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence. a far greater significance than simply being the single most O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodidisti, attingens a familiar Advent song. This ancient and venerable hymn is fine usque ad finem, based upon some beautiful theological prayers called the fortiter suaviter disponensque omnia: veni ad docendum Great—or "O"—Antiphons. nos viam prudentiae.

These "O Antiphons" developed during the Church's very first centuries. The writer Boethius (+525) mentions them. By the special antiphons, and their texts spring from the Old Testa- Sinai: come, and redeem us with outstretched arms. ment Hebrew Scriptures, the Prophetic and Wisdom Books. The O Antiphons begin on December 17, seven days before the mae rubi apparuisti, Vigil of Christmas (December 24). The seventh and last antiphon is sung at Vespers on December 23. They are called the chio extento. "O" Antiphons because they all begin with the letter-word "O": they address Jesus by one of His Old Testament titles. They are fervent prayers asking Our Lord to come to us.

obvious that the monks who first began to chant these antiinteresting and beautiful message. The Latin versions of each ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare. of the titles of the Messiah are:

Sapientia (Wisdom) Adonai (Lord) Radix (Root) Clavis (Key) Oriens (Dawn) Rex (King) Emmanuel (Emmanuel).

Take the first letters of each of the titles, starting with the last and working back to the first. You spell: EROCRAS or "ero cras... I will be (there) tomorrow". So, the message is complete on the day before Christmas Eve.

The song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is simply a reworking of the seven O Antiphons-each verse being based on a different one. When we sing it, we are joining ourselves to a vast throng of Christians stretching back across centuries and spanning the whole of the earth who prayed as all Christians do, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20)

And so, it is only fitting that during this novena before Christmas we intensify our longing for the coming of the Christ Child, and unite our hearts, minds, and voices in praying these texts as the Church has always intended—as a liturgical countdown to our spiritual "liftoff" that is the Incarnation of God, Jesus Christ. And we do so by making our singing of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" in this last week of Advent sweeter, as it echoes those ancient texts which inspired it.

As a spiritual exercise for this pre-Christmas novena, let us all take just a brief 30 seconds each morning, and pray these beautiful prayers as we await the coming of Our Lord.

December 18:

O Lord and Ruler the house of Israel, who appeared to Mo-8th century they were in use at Rome. There are seven of these ses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flam-

et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in bra-

December 19:

O Root of Jesse, that stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gen-It may not be apparent in English, but in the original Latin it is tiles shall make supplication: come, to deliver us, and tarry not. O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem phons arranged them in a very specific way, so as to convey an continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni

December 20:

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: come, and lead forth from his prison the captive who sits in the shadows.

O clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel: qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris.

December 21:

O dawn of the east, brightness of light eternal, and sun of justice: come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae:

veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris et umbra mortis.

December 22:

O King of the gentiles and their desired One, the cornerstone that makes both one: come, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

O Rex gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

December 23:

O Emmanuel, God with us, our King and lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: come to save us, O Lord our God.

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.

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