

We are all familiar with the song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

What many may not know is that it provides a coded countdown to Christmas?

During this last week leading up to Christmas, we hear in the Alleluia verses for the Mass, and in antiphons for Vespers ... and in the verses of the song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” ... seven titles for Our Lord.

For the record, they are:

*Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, Emmanuel*

Emmanuel is Hebrew for “God is with us.”

In Latin, the seven words are: *Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, Emmanuel*

The first letters of which spell ... backwards ... the Latin phrase *ero cras*.

Which means “*tomorrow I will come.*”

One can only imagine that without television or the internet that medieval monks had a bit of time on their hands, and worked out this secret code as a way to count down the last seven days to Christmas.

Each of these seven titles: Wisdom, Lord, Root, Key, Dawn, King, and Emmanuel; give us a facet of who Jesus is.

As we draw to a close this Advent of 2011, let us reflect on who Jesus is ... for us. And let us keep ... God with us ... throughout the Christmas season and the New Year.