



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR PARISH FAMILY

Time is ticking away – it's almost December, and we're less than a month away from Christmas.

We begin our new Liturgical year, with the penitential season of Advent. We set aside the Gloria for four weeks of Sundays in anticipation of singing it with the angels on Christmas.

THANKSGIVING THANK YOUS

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. It was nice to come together as Christians and offer our prayers of praise and songs of thanks to God for all the benefits we have received in the last year.

I am most thankful for all of you. These past 5 months are the happiest of my priesthood. I hope that I am not alone in my feelings. Everyone has been a blessing to me – from the tiniest baby to the most senior among us – I can honestly say "Thank God for you!"

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Our Lady, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. That makes December 8 our national patronal feast day.

We will have Mass at 8:30 am, Monday, December 8 for the solemnity. Even though it falls on a Monday, because it is a national feast, it is a holy

day of obligation. If you cannot make the 8:30 am Mass here, there will be Masses at other times in the surrounding parishes.

MEMORIAL PHOTOS

As we close out the month of November, please pick up your photos from our memorial tables in the back of the church. I know that I have made a habit of walking past the photographs of those who have died and offered a silent prayer for their souls and for those of us left behind. May God grant them eternal rest.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Hopefully you have already been contacted regarding the parish photo directory. If not, please stop by at the table under the Holy Family sculpture. If you haven't been called, make sure we have the right phone number and contact information.

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

Welcome to visitors, family, and friends who may be joining us during the holiday season. There's always room for more. Thank you for joining with us in worship around God's altar.

ADVENT RETREAT

There will be an Advent retreat on December 6 here at St. Elizabeth. More information is available elsewhere in the bulletin.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Pick up a baby bottle in the church lobby to fill with loose change over the next few weeks. H.I.S. Ministries is the

only fully pro-life program that gives a hand-up and not only a hand out.

As a parish, we will be consolidating your contributions so that we can support this valuable program for mothers in need.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

In addition to the regularly scheduled private confessions one hour before weekend Masses, we will have a penance service on December 17 at 7:00 pm. There will be several priests available to help prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming on Christmas.

BLESSINGS AND HOME VISITS

Celebrating an anniversary or a birthday? Going on a trip? I'm always happy to give a special blessing after Mass. If you're having surgery or going into the hospital, please ask for prayer and anointing.

SCHOOL NOTES

Girl's basketball was exciting and fun. I'm so proud of our girls and how well they played even when things weren't ideal. We've moved into boy's hoops, and I know we're all excited to see how that plays out!

The school Christmas program will be December 19 at 6:30 pm. Don't miss it!

MISCELLANEOUS

Please pray for each other and for me. God bless you for your generous gifts of prayer, as well as time, talent and treasure.

Fr. David



O COME O COME EMMANUEL THE MEANING, ORIGIN, AND HISTORY OF THE HYMN

December 17 marks the beginning of the “O Antiphons”, the seven jewels of the liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church recalls the variety of the ills of humanity before the coming of the Redeemer.

The antiphons beg God with mounting impatience to come and save His people. The order of the antiphons climb climatically through our history of Redemption.

In the first, *O Sapientia*, we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God. In the second, *O Adonai*, we have leaped from eternity to the time of Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400 B.C.). In the third, *O Radix Jesse*, we have come to the time when God was preparing the line of David (about 1100 B.C.). In the fourth, *O Clavis David*, we have come to the year 1000. In the fifth, *O Oriens* we see that the line of David is elevated so that the peoples may look on a rising star in the east, and hence in the sixth, *O Rex Gentium*, we know that He is king of all the world of man. This brings us to the evening before the vigil, and before coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, we

salute Him with the last Great “O”, *O Emmanuel*, God-with-us.

The “O Antiphons” are the verses for the ancient hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. The first letter of the Messianic titles: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—spell out Latin words ERO CRAS, meaning, “Tomorrow, I will come.”

The antiphons are part of the evening prayer of the Divine Office, the antiphon before and after the Magnificat. They are also the alleluia verse before the Gospel at Mass.



O Sapientia (December 17)

O Wisdom (Eccl 24: 5), you came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sir 24: 30), and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wis 8: 1). Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Isa 40: 14).

O Adonai (December 18)

O Adonai or O Lord and Ruler (Ex 6: 13) and Ruler of the house of Israel (Mt 2: 6), you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Ex 3: 2), and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law (Ex 20). Come, and with outstretched arm redeem us (Jer 32: 21).

O Radix Jesse (December 19)

O Root of Jesse, you stand for the ensign of all mankind (Is 11: 10); before you kings shall keep silence and to you all nations shall have recourse (Is 52: 15). Come, save us, and do not delay (Hab 2: 3).

O Clavis David (December 20)

O Key of David (Rev 3: 7) Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no man closes; you close and no man opens (Isa 22: 22). Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107: 10).

O Oriens (December 21)

O Rising Dawn (Zac 6: 12), Radiance of the Light eternal (Hab 3: 4) and Sun of Justice (Mal 3: 20); Come, enlighten those who sit in darkness & the shadow of death (Ps 107: 10; Lk 1: 78).

O Rex Gentium (December 22)

O King of the Gentiles (Hag 2: 8), Desired of all, you are the cornerstone that binds two into one (Eph 2: 20). Come, and save poor man whom you fashion out of clay (Gen 2: 7).

O Emmanuel (December 23)

O Emmanuel (Is 7: 14; 8: 8), our King and Lawgiver (Gen 49:10; cf. Ez 21: 32), the Expected of the nations and their Savior (Is 33: 22): Come, and save us, O Lord our God.