



Saint Anthony Parish

15 Church Street
White River Junction
Vermont 05001

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

Reverend Fr. Cyraín G. Cabueñas
ccabuenas2001@yahoo.com

Very Rev. Msgr. John J. McDermott, J.C.L.
Diocesan Administrator

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Saturday from
3:15 to 3:45 PM or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents must contact the
parish for the necessary forms at least
one month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the
parish at least six months in advance.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM

Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin.

PARISH CONTACTS

Please contact the parish by email or phone. If we are unable to answer your call, please leave a message. Father is available for appointments at St. Anthony Parish on Monday and Friday and at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Windsor on Tuesday and Thursday. The phone number at St. Francis is 802-674-2157.

Telephone: 802-295-2225, ext. 3
Email: stanthonychurch@vermontcatholic.org
Website: stanthony.vermontcatholic.org

Parish Secretary: Meghan Rushton

Religious Education: Diane Usher
Email: dmgu70@icloud.com

Bulletin: Paula Roux
Email: pfroux88@gmail.com

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16	4:00 PM	Sr. Jeanette Lozeau, S.M.S.H. by Lionel R. Lozeau & family
Sunday, December 17	8:30 AM	The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Monday, December 18	9:00 AM	Thanksgiving to St Anthony by Jean Louis Desrochers
Friday, December 22	9:00 AM	Seminarian Giang Vu by Knights of Columbus
Saturday, December 23	4:00 PM	Thanksgiving to St Anthony by Jean Louis Desrochers
Sunday, December 24	8:30 AM	The People of Saint Anthony Parish
Sunday, December 24, <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 PM	Everyone memorialized in the Christmas flower
Monday, December 25, <i>Christmas Day</i>	8:30 AM	offering.

CATHOLIC MASS ON TV: Those **unable** to attend Sunday Mass in person due to illness or medical conditions may view the celebration of Mass livestreamed at:

<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/> at 10:00 AM or watch televised Masses at:

WCAX-TV	(Channel 3)	5:30 AM
WNNE-TV	(Channel 13)	10:00 AM
CatholicTV Network	(Channel 166)	10:00 AM
EWTN	(Channel 38)	8:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Daily Mass may be found at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/> or on CatholicTV and EWTN.



SANCTUARY LAMPS

will burn this week for

In honor of John Guarino's devoted service.



A Sanctuary Lamp burning in front of the tabernacle may be sponsored for your intentions. A donation to help defray the cost of the candle is appreciated, but not necessary. Please contact the parish office for availability.

RECTORY CHAPEL

The rectory chapel is now open for visits on:
**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Charlotte King	Diane Reilly
Virginia Philbin	Frank Klymn
Roger Tatro	Dianne Hopkins
Elizabeth McArthur	Heidi Whidden
Doug Albanese	

PARISH SUPPORT

Our weekly need to meet expenses: **\$4,250.00**

Last Week's Collection **\$3,526.00**

Thank you for your continued support!

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CYRAIN:

There is no mistaking the theme which rings out loud and clear in today's liturgy - it's a message of hope and rejoicing. The dawn is breaking and the Lord is closer to us than we realize. This call to rejoice is a basic Christian vocation for we were created to be happy. It is the purpose of our whole being and we spend our lives searching and striving to attain it.

Yet truth to tell, sadness is so much part of the fabric of our lives and the dreadful events in our world these days give little cause for rejoicing.

Yet again, Christian joy does not come from the absence of sorrow, pain, or trouble but from an awareness of the presence of Christ within our souls. Our greatest mistake is to equate joy with pleasure and to look for it in things material. We need to remember that all the money in the world cannot purchase happiness, real and lasting happiness.

The joy of a Christian is something deeper and richer than the smile and laughter upon a happy face. It comes from an awareness that God is with us and produces a contentment and an inner peace that cannot be taken from us. No trial can drown this joy since it is born of faith. And no one who has ever experienced this joy would exchange it for all the pleasures and comforts of this world.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like to have a Mass offered for your intentions, for loved ones living or deceased, or for a special occasion, please contact the parish office by email, phone, or drop a note in the collection box. Please include the name of the person for whom the Mass will be offered and who is requesting the Mass. Let us know if you want a specific day or if you would prefer the first available Mass, weekday, or weekend. We will do our best to accommodate your requests. Please include your contact information if we are unable to reserve the date you have requested. The customary offering is \$10.00. Thank you.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: The Appeal supports over 20 ministries and services throughout our diocese. If you have already received a pledge card in the mail, please send your gift directly to the diocese. There are additional brochures and pledge cards on the tables at the entrance of the church if you have not already received one and would like to make a gift to this important annual appeal. **To learn more or make a gift online,**

visit: bishopsappealvt.org. As of November 15, 2023, our parish donations total \$17,629.84. This is 51% of our parish goal of \$35,032.00.

COLLECTION BASKETS/OFFERING OF GIFTS: We have reinstated the traditional way of passing the collection basket and offering of the gifts from the entrance and down the aisle, in accordance with the rites and rubrics of the Liturgy. We appreciate anyone who would like to volunteer!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, deputed by the Bishop/Priest for a period of time, may now assist in distributing Holy Communion to the faithful every weekend.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Next classes for all religious education students (Grades 1-6) will be held **Sunday, January 7, 2024**. Join us in prayer for three of our young people - Charlotte Alden, Henry Ogden, and Ethan Whitten - who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this month. May they continue to follow their faith and be blessed.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2025 will meet briefly this **Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 PM**, and then share in a Christmas celebration and to welcome our new Brother Knights.



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Join us in prayer and celebration for long-time parishioner Patricia Coutermarsh, who is celebrating her 100th

Birthday on December 21!

Patricia and her husband joined St. Anthony Church in 1953 and raised five children in the parish. Patricia was also Parish Secretary for many years. If you would like to send her a card, her daughter, Patricia, has asked that they be addressed to: Anne Adams, 1275 Hebard Hill Road. Randolph, VT 05060.

An **organizational meeting** for the **Christmas Bazaar, Craft, and Bake Sale** will be held in the Church hall at 6pm on **January 9, 2024**. We will review 2023 and start planning for 2024.

Come share your ideas, talents, and spirit to continue this hugely successful fundraiser for St. Anthony Church. Contact Philomena at funari_5@hotmail.com for details.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE: Reminder that Christmas Eve Mass is on Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 pm. Christmas Day Mass is at 8:30 am on Monday, December 25th.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: White envelopes are located in the back of the church if you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers. *Please write the name of the person being remembered on the outside of the envelope.* Place your completed flower donation envelope in the collection basket during Mass with your regular collection envelope. **Thank you!**



FAMILY IN NEED: Many thanks to all who responded to the call for the family in need. They are grateful for your support. If there are any additional gifts, please bring them to the office by Wednesday, December 20th. For questions, call the parish office.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone. —Isaiah 9:1.

ANNUAL ADVENT APPEAL: Please consider being the light for Vermonters in need of emergency assistance by making a gift to Vermont Catholic Charities' annual Advent Appeal. For 29 years, you have answered the call to bring the joy and hope of the Advent season to those in need.

The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. At Christmastime and throughout the year, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families.

By giving to the Advent Appeal, you help people in crisis, especially the most vulnerable among us — children, struggling parents, the elderly and those dealing with medical issues. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give on online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.



**Upper Valley
Haven**

THE HAVEN FOOD SHELF: The Food Shelf is open to anyone in our community Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM & Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Visit uppervalleyhaven.org/foodshelffaq/ for more information. St.

Anthony parish has long supported the Haven by collecting non-perishable food in the basket at the entrance of the church. As the holidays and cold weather near, the need for food is especially great. **Thank you for your generosity!**

NEWS FROM The Inland See *December 16–22, 2023*

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses around the diocese

ALBURGH • St. Amadeus • Christmas Eve: 6:30 PM	MIDDLEBURY • Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 7:30 PM
BARRE • St. Monica • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 8:30 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	MILTON • St. Ann • Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM & 6:30 PM • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM
BARTON • St. Paul • Christmas Eve: 7 PM	MONTGOMERY CENTER • St. Isidore • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM
BELLOWS FALLS • St. Charles • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 7 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM	MONTPELIER • St. Augustine • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 7 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
BENNINGTON • Sacred Heart/St Francis de Sales • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 8 AM	MORETOWN • St. Patrick • Christmas Day: 11 AM
BETHEL • St. Anthony • Christmas Eve: 12 AM	MORRISVILLE • Most Holy Name of Jesus • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
BRADFORD • Our Lady of Perpetual Help • Christmas Eve: 7 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	NEWPORT • St. Mary Star of the Sea • Christmas Eve: 4 PM; 7 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
BRANDON • Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary) • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 11 AM	NORTH BENNINGTON • St. John the Baptist • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
BRATTLEBORO • St. Michael • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	NORTHFIELD • St. John the Evangelist • Christmas Eve: 6 PM
BRIDPORT • St. Bernadette • Christmas Day: 9 AM	NORWICH • St. Francis of Assisi • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
BRISTOL • St. Ambrose • Christmas Eve: 7 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM	ORLEANS • St. Theresa • Christmas Eve: 4 PM
BURLINGTON • Cathedral of St. Joseph • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM & 12 PM (Vietnamese)	ORWELL • St. Paul • Christmas Day: 10 AM
BURLINGTON • Catholic Center at UVM • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	PITTSFORD • St. Alphonsus Liguori • Christmas Eve: 6 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
BURLINGTON • Christ the King • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 5:30 PM • Christmas Day: 9:00 AM & 11 AM	POULTNEY • St. Raphael • Christmas Eve: 4 PM
BURLINGTON • St. Anthony • Christmas Eve: 4:15 PM, 8 PM & 12 AM (Latin) • Christmas Day: 9 AM (Latin)	RANDOLPH • Our Lady of the Angels • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
BURLINGTON • St. Mark • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 9 AM	READSBORO • St. Joachim • Christmas Day: 8:30 AM
CAMBRIDGE • St. Mary of the Assumption • Christmas Eve: 7 PM • Christmas Day: 11 AM	RICHFORD • All Saints • Christmas Eve: 5 PM & 8 PM • Christmas Day: 8:15 AM
CASTLETON • St. John the Baptist • Christmas Eve: 4 PM	RICHMOND • Our Lady of the Holy Rosary • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 8:30 AM
CHARLOTTE • Our Lady of Mt. Carmel • Christmas Eve: 4 PM (at Old Lantern) & 10 PM	RUTLAND • Christ the King • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 7 PM • Christmas Day: 7:30 AM & 9:30 AM
CHESTER • St. Joseph • Christmas Day: 9 AM	RUTLAND • St. Peter • Christmas Eve: 4:15 PM • Christmas Day: 11 AM
COLCHESTER • Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel at SMC • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 11 AM	ST. ALBANS • Holy Angels • Christmas Eve: 4 PM; 7 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
COLCHESTER • Holy Cross • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	ST. JOHNSBURY • St. John the Evangelist • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
COLCHESTER • Our Lady of Grace • Christmas Eve: 5:30 PM	SHELBURNE • St. Catherine of Siena • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 7 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
DANVILLE • Our Lady Queen of Peace • Christmas Eve: 7 PM	SHELDON SPRINGS • St. Anthony • Christmas Day: 10 AM
DERBY LINE • St. Edward the Confessor • Christmas Eve: 4 PM	SOUTH BURLINGTON • St. John Vianney • Christmas Eve: 5 PM & 7 PM • Christmas Day: 8 AM & 10 AM
EAST FAIRFIELD • St. Anthony • St. George • Christmas Day: 11 AM	SOUTH HERO • St. Rose of Lima • Christmas Eve: 4 PM
ENOSBURG FALLS • St. John the Baptist • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 9 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	SOUTH STRAFFORD • Our Lady of the Light • Christmas Day: 8 AM
ESSEX CENTER • St. Pius X • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 6:30 PM • Christmas Day: 9:30 AM	SPRINGFIELD • Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Christmas Eve: 5 PM & 8 PM
ESSEX JUNCTION • Holy Family • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM	STOWE • Blessed Sacrament • Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
ESSEX JUNCTION • St. Lawrence • Christmas Eve: 4 PM	STRATTON MOUNTAIN • Chapel of the Snows • Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM
FAIR HAVEN • Our Lady of Seven Dolors • Christmas Day: 10 AM	SWANTON • Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM
FAIRFAX • St. Luke • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM	TROY • Sacred Heart of Jesus • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
FAIRFIELD • St. Patrick • Christmas Eve: 4 PM (Children's Mass) & 7 PM	UNDERHILL CENTER • St. Thomas • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
GEORGIA • Ascension • Christmas Eve: 6 PM • Christmas Day: 8:30 AM	VERGENNES • St. Peter • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 12 AM
GRAND ISLE • St. Joseph • Christmas Day: 9 AM	WAITSFIELD • Our Lady of the Snows • Christmas Eve: 6:30 PM
GREENSBORO • St. Michael • Christmas Eve: 6 PM	WALLINGFORD • St. Patrick • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 11 AM
HARDWICK • St. Norbert • Christmas Eve: 4 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	WATERBURY • St. Andrew • Christmas Eve: 4 PM & 11 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM
HIGHGATE CENTER • St. Louis • Christmas Day: 9 AM	WELLS RIVER • St. Eugene • Christmas Eve: 4 PM
HINESBURG • St. Jude • Christmas Eve: 7 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	WEST RUTLAND • St. Bridget • Christmas Day: 9 AM
IRASBURG • St. John Vianney • Christmas Day: 9:30 AM	WEST RUTLAND • St. Stanislaus Kostka • Christmas Eve: 4 PM
ISLAND POND • St. James the Greater • Christmas Eve: 4 PM	WILLISTON • Immaculate Heart of Mary • Christmas Eve: 9 PM • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM
LUDLOW • Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM • Christmas Day: 9 AM	WILMINGTON • Our Lady of Fatima • Christmas Eve: 5:30 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM
LYNDONVILLE • St. Elizabeth • Christmas Eve: 12 AM	WINDSOR • St. Francis of Assisi • Christmas Eve: 6 PM • Christmas Day: 10:30 AM
MANCHESTER CENTER • Christ Our Savior • Christmas Eve: 4 PM; 5:30 PM & 8 PM • Christmas Day: 10 AM	WINOOSKI • St. Francis Xavier • Christmas Eve: 4 PM; 7 PM & 12 AM • Christmas Day: 10 AM

This list was compiled from responses to a survey of parishes. If a church is not included, please call the church directly for Mass information.

Upcoming Events



12|17 SUNDAY Lessons and Carols

Our Lady of the Snows, Waitsfield • 2 pm
Featuring singers from Thomas Aquinas

College in Northfield, MA, and Ruth Tittle and her husband Leigh. Outdoor reception with refreshments will follow.



12|20 WEDNESDAY Lessons & Carols

St. Michael, Brattleboro • 5:30 pm

Join us for an Advent service of Lessons and Carols. Let hymns, sacred music, and readings from Holy Scripture prepare your heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas. All are welcome!



12|20 WEDNESDAY FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession

via Zoom • 6:30-8 pm

This program from Augustine Institute explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. Led by Fr. William Beaudin, pastor of Christ Our Savior, Manchester Center. Register at: forgivencosp@gmail.com.



12|25 MONDAY Free Christmas Dinner!

St. Anthony, Bethel • 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Come enjoy a free, incredible, and scrumptious dinner cooked by Cathy Day and her crew. This meal is for anyone who wants a warm dinner and conversation this Christmas Day. Come and know the dignity you have in God.



01|12, 02|09 FRIDAYS Essex Community Dinners

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm

Essex Community Dinners are provided in order to grow and promote our community! They are intended to feed the hungry, lonely and needy amongst us. These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. Take out dinners are also available for those who still need to avoid crowds.



01|13, 02|17 SATURDAYS St. Peter's Cemetery Committee – Bingo

St. Peter Parish Hall, Vergennes • 5 pm

Doors open at 5 PM, Bingo starts at 6 PM. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.



01|14, 02|11 SUNDAYS Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter Parish Hall, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, french toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins juice, milk, and coffee. \$12 adults, \$7 Children 8 to 12yrs., \$38 immediate family maximum.



01|14, 02|11 SUNDAYS Monthly COSP KofC Fund Raising Breakfast

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Proceeds to support parish and community outreach programs.



01|18, 02|15 THURSDAYS Knights of Columbus BINGO

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Held on the third Thursday of each month. The jackpot is \$1,000. Doors open at 4:30 and the first game begins at 6:30. Come join the fun with friends and family. Bring a non-perishable food item(s) and receive two free game sheets for the "winner take all" game.



01|20 SATURDAY Men's "Cor" Formation

*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
10 am - 11:30 am*

Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a deeper faith! You are invited to participate in COR Formation. "Cor" is Latin for Heart. Through fraternity, prayer, and the study of God's word in Scripture and holy examples, we intend to grow closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. COR Formation will be held on third Saturdays beginning on October 21st at 10 AM in the Saint John Vianney Church basement. Coffee and refreshments provided by the K of C. All men from all parishes are welcome.



01|21 SUNDAY Knights of Columbus St. Stephen's Council #2284 Pancake Breakfast

St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski • 8 - 11 am

Serving in the school gym. Cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family of 4 (each additional family member \$5). Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, coffee, and juice.



02|04 SUNDAY Diocesan Marriage Day Mass

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

Married Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2024, who wish to be recognized at the Diocesan Anniversary Mass, can register by contacting Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or 802-658-6110 ext. 1131. Recognition is given to couples celebrating marriages of 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, 51, or more years. The deadline to register is Friday, January 26, 2024. Parishes who wish to recognize significant anniversaries locally can request certificates signed by Monsignor John McDermott and mailed to the parish.



02|18 SUNDAY Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 pm

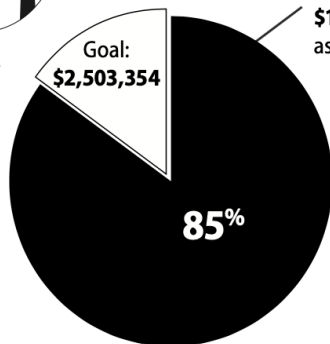
The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Monsignor McDermott on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. During the Rite of Election, the Church "elects" those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. The Church also recognizes those already-baptized Christians seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church and pledges the support of prayer as they journey toward Full Communion in the Catholic Church. Friends and family of those participating in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited to celebrate with us.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL



Progress: 85% to goal

Give Online
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline
or scan the QR code to the left.

Donate By Mail
Bishop's Annual Appeal
Diocese of Burlington
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

Stock Gifts/Planned Gifts
802-658-6110 ext.1226
ekane@vermontcatholic.org



Sunday, Dec 17, 2023

Oh, Antiphons!

At evening prayer tonight, the church begins to invoke seven names for Jesus traditionally called the O Antiphons. These names—Wisdom, Sacred Lord, Flower of Jesse's Stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, Emmanuel—suggest to us how the stories of the Old Testament foreshadow the arrival of God-With-Us. As Mary Winifred observes in *Hasten the Kingdom: Praying the O Antiphons of Advent*: "The Word, which joyfully shouted all the galaxies into being, left All Power and came silently into the womb of a young girl." Seek to encounter Jesus today in wise people, books, and practices.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8). "[John] came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him."

Monday, Dec 18, 2023

Pray for safe passage

Today's O Antiphon of Advent, the second of seven leading up to Christmas Eve, is "O Sacred Lord and Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" Today is also International Migrants Day, which recognizes the contributions of migrants, their challenges, and their human rights. Migrants number in the hundreds of millions the world over—some by choice but many forcibly displaced. Jesus and his family became migrants fleeing for their lives soon after the birth that we are preparing to celebrate. Make safe migration and the humane treatment of migrants everywhere your prayer intention with this O Antiphon.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "*When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*"

Tuesday, Dec 19, 2023

Grafted onto Jesus' family tree

Near Bethlehem stands an olive tree scientists say is 5,000 years old. It's not uncommon for olive trees to reach the ripe old age of 900+ years in Mediterranean countries. Once they grow so old that they stop bearing fruit, olive trees are cut down to mere stumps. But that stump? Leave it alone for a couple of years, then suddenly new shoots spring forth. A shoot or root in this context does not symbolize fragility but rather hardiness and promise. Such are the descendants of the House of David, a spiritual family tree that includes Jesus and us. If you don't mark Advent with a Jesse tree, review the tradition—and pray the Jesse Tree Litany, a version of the Litany of the Saints.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "*Though you are barren and have had no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son.*"

Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023

Stand together

On this International Human Solidarity Day, enacted by the U.N. in 2005, we remember Blessed Michael Piaszczyński, who in the early 1900s taught at the diocesan seminary of Lomza, Poland. Modest and compassionate, Father Piaszczyński had a deep respect for Judaism and even invited rabbis to speak at his school.

During World War II he was imprisoned by the Nazis and often shared his bread with elderly Jewish inmates. Piaszczyński died in the camp in 1940. He was beatified by his compatriot, Pope John Paul II, in 1999. What are small ways you can show solidarity with your fellow humans, especially those who seem different from you?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*"

Thursday, Dec 21, 2023

Radiant reminders

Monks, nuns, and others who take part in evening prayer are now chanting the O Antiphons, a rich series of references to the coming Christ recited from December 17-23. Today's antiphon proclaims: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." Look around you today and seek out the many lights associated with Christmas: Advent candles, strings of light, Posadas candles, fires for holiday gatherings. Let each one remind you of the light of Christ coming into the world.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "*Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.*"

Friday, Dec 22, 2023

The "O Hail No" antiphon

Few have direct experience of royalty, and so the words "queen" and "king" might do little other than remind us of some TV or streaming series. For some though, the terms hit hard because within their culture, people experienced oppression and violence from ruling classes. Singing the O Antiphon, "O King of All Nations," then, might not evoke a hopeful experience of God. How might we tap into the deeper meaning of the antiphon? What words and images can help us experience the longing for God who brings peace and right relationship, who removes barriers that divide, and who breathes life into our tired bodies?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "*My spirit rejoices in God my savior.*"

Saturday, Dec 23, 2023

We stand corrected

John Kanty (1390-1473) was a Polish priest, philosopher, physicist, and theologian. He helped develop early scientific theories of inertia that Newton would later use to formulate his laws of motion. Kanty's theories also helped Galileo figure out the orbital motions of the planets around the sun. During Kanty's time, the Catholic Church taught the geocentric model that the planets and the sun orbited around the Earth. In 1632 Galileo's work was condemned by Pope Urban VIII, and he was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life. Kanty was canonized in 1767, around the same time Rome finally capitulated to Galileo's heliocentric model of the solar system. Give thanks for the church that corrects its faults.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST (O EMMANUEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). "*Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed.*"

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



©2023 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**