

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main St., Bluffton | (260) 824-1380 | stjosephchurch@adamswells.com | stjosephchurchbluffton.org

## The O Antiphons

They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



### *O Sapientia or O Wisdom (December 17)*

O wisdom (Sirach 24:3), you came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sirach 24:3), and reaching from beginning to end You ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wisdom 8:1). \* Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Isaiah 40:14).



### *O Adonai or O Lord and Ruler (December 18)*

O Adonai (Exod. 3:14) and Ruler of the house of Israel (Matt 2:6; Micah 5:1; 2 Sam 5:2), You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Exod. 3:2) and on Mount Sinai gave him Your Law (Exod. 20). \* Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jeremiah 32:21).

### *O Radix Jesse or O Root of Jesse (December 19)*

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



### *O Clavis David or O Key of David (December 20)*

O key of David (Isaiah 22:22, Rev 3:7) and Scepter of the house of Israel (Numbers 24:17): You open and no man closes; you close and no man opens (Isaiah 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 or O Rising Dawn or Morning Star (December 21)*

O Rising Dawn, (Jer. 23:5; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12), Radiance of the Light eternal (Habakkuk 3:4; Wisdom 7:26; Hebrews 1:3) and Sun of Justice (Malachi 3:20): \* come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10; Lk 1:78).



### *O Rex Gentium or O King of the Nations (December 22)*

O King of the Gentiles (Jeremiah 10:7; Haggai 2:7), and the Desired of all, You are the Cornerstone that binds two into one (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:20). \* Come, and save man whom You fashioned out of clay (Genesis 2:7).

### *O Emmanuel (December 23)*

O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Luke 1:31-33), our King and Lawgiver (Genesis 49:10; cf. Ezekiel 21:32), the Expected of the nations and their Savior (Isa 33:22): Come, and save us, O Lord our God.



Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's Email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com | Sacramental Emergency Number: (260) 296-0511

Administrative Assistant / DRE: Michelle Paxton | Director of Sacred Music: Teresa Smith

-----(cut here)-----

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [ ] We've Moved, here is our new information

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 15, 2024

This weekend (December 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Third Sunday of Advent**, also known as **Gaudete Sunday**. This name comes from the Latin *gaudete*, or "rejoice," which is the beginning of the Introit for this Mass. The reading from which the Introit is taken (Philippians 4:4) will be heard in full as our second reading this lectionary-cycle. Each of our readings this weekend are suffused with expressions of joy and jubilation.

**Gaudete Sunday** marks the liturgical halfway point of **Advent**, and the Church rejoices because Jesus's coming is near. This expectant joy is reflected in the rose-colored vestments worn by the priest and the third **Advent** candle, both of which mix the penitential violet of **Advent** with the joyful gold of **Christmastide**. Though we return to our more austere practices tomorrow, let us rejoice today knowing that the Lord is near.

This coming Tuesday (December 17<sup>th</sup>), the Church will fully change her focus from the coming of Christ at the end of time to His coming on Christmas Day. On Tuesday, we will begin the recitation of the "*O Antiphons*," included on this weekend's cover, every night during Vespers or Evening Prayer. Dating back to at least the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, each antiphon is an Old Testament messianic prophecy that has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

By the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, the "*O Antiphons*" were in regular use in Rome. In the view of some historians of liturgical music, it was Benedictine monks who first arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose and order: Working in reverse order, the first letter of each antiphon spells out *E-R-O C-R-A-S*, Latin for "*Tomorrow, I come to you.*" As the "*O Antiphons*" end on **Christmas Eve**, this phrase anticipates the coming joy of the Christ-child on **Christmas Day**.

In our modern day, these antiphons are perhaps most recognizable from the lyrics of "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*" The repeated use of "*Come!*", crescendo-ing with each verse, is meant to emphasize our intense longing and desire for Jesus Christ. In the same way, these four weeks of **Advent** are meant to awaken us from slumber, stoke the flames of our hearts, and prepare us to welcome the Christ-child on **Christmas Day**.

### UPDATE ON PARISH RENOVATIONS—PART II

Earlier this year, I was able to share how we are starting to move forward in preparing plans for our parish renovation. As previously mentioned, we are working together with Bill Heyer of William Heyer Architecture out of Bexley, Ohio. As of this past week, after consulting with our Parish Council at our December meeting, we have approved the "scope of work" for the project.

Following the approved "scope of work," Bill and his team are preparing conceptual designs that we will be able to share with the parish in the coming months. The main scope of work remains focused on updating our flooring to replace the heavily worn carpet in the sanctuary and nave, fresh paint and stenciling in the sanctuary and nave, and increasing our seating capacity in the nave to better accommodate the size of our growing parish family.

In addition to these needed updates, we are also looking at how to better highlight and add increased devotional space in the Church. This includes highlighting the location of our current statuary (*St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Infant of Prague and St. Thérèse of Lisieux*) and how we can include additional statuary into our Church. It is my hope that we will be able to add a statue or painting of Bl. Solanus Casey, who served in nearby Huntington, into the Church as a part of this renovation.

Along with the original blueprints from the church, we have also shared a number of historical pictures and details with Bill and his team. As we enter into our 150<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary, this renovation will also be an opportunity to help incorporate various elements of our parish's history into the Church design and decoration. What a beautiful way to celebrate such a momentous time in the life of parish, uniting our past with our present as we look towards the bright future that lies ahead in Jesus Christ.

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

### Saturday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*  
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*  
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*  
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

### Sunday, December 15

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*  
7:30 a.m. Geoff Frank +  
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*  
10:00 a.m. Marj Sanders +

### Monday, December 16

*No public Mass*

### Tuesday, December 17

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Adoration*  
8:00 a.m. Vickie Kidwell  
8:30 a.m. *Confession*

### Wednesday, December 18

6:00-7:00 p.m. *Adoration*  
6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*  
7:00 p.m. Agnes & Rosie Herr

### Thursday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Martin & Lois Simon +

### Friday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Phyllis Makowski +

### Saturday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*  
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*  
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*  
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

### Sunday, December 22

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*  
7:30 a.m. Greg Mayer +  
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*  
10:00 a.m. Rose Marie & Robert Bates +



### MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon., Dec. 16 - Third Week of Advent -**  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Ps 24:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 / Mt 21:23-27

**Tues., Dec. 17 - Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17 / Mt 1:1-17**

**Wed., Dec. 18 - Jer 23:5-8 / Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Mt 1:18-25**

**Thurs., Dec. 19 - Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 / Lk 1:5-25**

**Fri., Dec. 20 - Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-6 / Lk 1:26-38**

**Sat., Dec. 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 / Lk 1:39-45**

**Sun., Dec. 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Mi 5:1-4a / Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45**



Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Jeff Tillman, and Richard Payne.



### THANK YOU!

Through the goodwill of our parish family, our pancake and sausage breakfast raised \$2,250.00 to donate to St Vincent De Paul Society. Knights of Columbus Council 7555 is so grateful for your support.

### Helping Hands Advent Wish List

Please support our local Pregnancy Resource Center. Items on their "Wish List" include... Diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6 (Pampers Preferred); Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent (Preferably Fragrance Free); and Food Items: Canned Meats, Granola Bars, Canned or Freeze-Dried Fruit, and Pudding Cups, and Sippy Cups.

### FORMED.ORG - Our Parish Code: 7N68MY



### PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Dec. 14** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 15** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 15** - Religious Education Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Mon., Dec. 16** - Children's Choir Practice - 5:30 p.m.
- **Mon., Dec. 16** - *Book Study* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Tues., Dec. 17** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 18** - Adoration - 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 19** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 19** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Fri., Dec. 20** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 21** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Dec. 21** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 22** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 22** - No Religious Education Class- Christmas Break.
- **Mon., Dec. 23** - Children's Choir Practice- 5:30 p.m.
- **Tues., Dec. 24** - **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve Masses - 4:00 p.m. / 6:00 p.m. / Midnight.**
- **Wed., Dec. 25** - **The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Morning Mass - 9:00 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Social Hall. All are Welcome!!**
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Parish Office Closed Today
- **Thurs., Dec. 26** - Christmas Octave - *NO Catholicism Explained.*
- **Fri., Dec. 27** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Fri., Dec. 27** - Parish Office Closed Today
- **Sat., Dec. 28** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30
- **Sat., Dec. 28** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Dec. 29** - No Religious Education Class- Christmas Break

### Weekend of December 21st & 22nd



**5:00** Dan Lautzenheiser  
**7:30** Mike Morrissey  
**10:00** David Smith



**5:00** Stacey Coulardot  
**7:30** Barb Ault  
**10:00** Jacque Johnson



**5:00** Volunteer  
**7:30** Jill Morrissey  
**10:00** Rick Singer, Jeff Miller, Volunteer



**5:00** Alex/Audrey Mechling, Volunteer  
**7:30** Phillip/Angela/James Mayer  
**10:00** Grant Reifsteck, Luke Miller, Sam Smith

### St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Adult Envelopes- \$2,669.00  
 Loose- \$183.00  
 Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$422.93  
 Immaculate Conception- \$780.00  
 Christmas Flower Donation- \$561.00  
 Christmas Offering- \$10.00  
 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- \$10.00  
 Hall Rent- \$80.00  
 Votive Candles- \$273.84  
 General Bequest- \$625.00  
**Total- \$5,614.77**

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$2,276.40 ahead of our budget for the month of December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$10.00

*Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish are greatly appreciated. Thank you!*

To set up Online Giving through Our Sunday Visitor, please visit:  
<https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton/giving/funds>

Join us for the Celebration of *Christmas*

<p><i>Christmas Eve</i>  <b>December 24th</b>          4:00 PM Vigil Mass          5:30 PM Christmas Carols          6:00 PM Vigil Mass</p>	<p><i>Christmas Day</i>  <b>December 24th</b>          12:00 AM Midnight Mass          9:00 AM Mass          Brunch following Mass          All are Welcome!</p>
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Merry Christmas  
 please be our Guest for  
*Christmas Brunch*

Join us Wednesday,  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
 following the **9:00 AM**  
**Christmas Morning Mass in the Parish Social Hall for Christmas Brunch and Fellowship.**  
**Sign-up sheet in the narthex.**



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 St. Vincent de Paul

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 Office: 260-622-1000



Thursday's: 3pm-8pm  
 Friday's: 3pm-8pm  
 Saturday's: Noon-8pm  
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**Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.**  
**St. Francis of Assisi**


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 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



**THINK!**  
 T - is it true?  
 h - is it helpful?  
 i - is it inspiring?  
 n - is it necessary?  
 k - is it kind?  
 "Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."  
 - St. John Paul II



Before you speak...  
**THINK!**  
 T - is it true?  
 h - is it helpful?  
 i - is it inspiring?  
 n - is it necessary?  
 k - is it kind?