



### THE “O” ANTIPHONS

Beginning in the eighth century, each “O” antiphon became a prayer announcing the coming of the Messiah. Each antiphon begins with a biblical title and ends with an intercession. The antiphons proclaim the coming Christ as fulfillment of Old Testament hopes and the hopes of today. The word “Come” emphasizes the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. As we pray each day’s “O” antiphon, we celebrate the gift and presence of Jesus in our lives.

DECEMBER 17

**O WISDOM OF OUR GOD**, guiding all creation with your strong yet tender love:  
*Come and teach your people the path of knowledge*

DECEMBER 18

**O LEADER OF THE HOUSE ISRAEL**, giver of the commandments to Moses on Sinai:  
*Come enfold us with your strength and guidance*

DECEMBER 19

**O ROOT OF JESSE’S STEM**, sign of God’s love for all people:  
*Come, to protect and hold us without delay*

DECEMBER 20

**O KEY OF DAVID**, opening the gates of God’s eternal reign:  
*Come and free the captives of darkness.*

DECEMBER 21

**O RADIANT DAWN**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
*Come, shine on all who dwell in darkness and the fear of death*

DECEMBER 22

**O KING OF ALL THE NATIONS**, joy of every human heart:  
*Come and embrace us whom you created in your image and likeness.*

DECEMBER 23

**O EMMANUEL**, desire of the nations and Savior of all people:  
*Come and set us free, Beloved God*

Begin with the last title and take the first letter of each – **E**mmanuel, **R**ex (King of all nations), **O**riens (Radiant dawn), **C**lavis (Key of David), **R**adix, (Root of Jesse ) **A**donai (Leader of the house of Israel), **S**apientia (Wisdom). Put together, these form the Latin phrase *ero cras*, which means “Tomorrow I come.” Jesus, now speaks to us: “Tomorrow, I come.” The O Antiphons accompany us throughout Advent and lead us to a joyful moment of celebration — Christmas.

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#### Sunday Presiders:

First Sunday: Father Gerry Kleba  
Second Sunday: Father Dan Kearns  
Third Sunday: Father Tom Melancon  
Fourth Sunday: Father Dan Kearns

#### Saturday Presider:

Father Tom Byron

**Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA), Preparations for Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage:** Contact Sister Janice at 314.241.9165

# Most Holy Trinity Parish

[mhtstl.org](http://mhtstl.org) | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT | DECEMBER 18, 2022

*Listen...a sign...  
Emmanuel, God with us.*

*Isaiah 7: 10-14*



*Reflection: Frances Wessel, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND*

### MISSION:

We are a people graced by God, who come together as a community of faith, supporting each other as we live and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Parish Mass Schedule:** 9:30 AM Sunday (church); 4:00 PM First Saturday of the Month (rectory chapel)

Listen...a sign... Emmanuel, God with us.  
– Isaiah 7:10-14

The Mass on Christmas day tells the story of what God is doing all the time. It is an eternal truth. The full story of Christmas is that Jesus was born, and that God embraces all generations throughout time, and the same loving God still embraces all.



The Eucharistic prayer states, “By your Spirit, you move human hearts...and people seek to meet together.” The Spirit brings us together and is the source of our hope for our divided world. The liturgy tells the story of God’s action in our world. God works in our hearts and minds to bring us together. What else would a God of love do?

The coming of Jesus into the world is the source of all the communion that our hearts long for. Joy and peace are Jesus’ gifts to us now and always.  
– Sister Janice

## MASS INTENTION

**During the Christmas Season:** Most Holy Trinity parishioners, friends, and benefactors

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, December 24

*Midnight Mass:* Carols begin at 11:30 pm  
*Presider:* Father John Vogel  
*Lector, First Reading:* Brenda Tillman; *Second Reading:* Melita Long  
*Eucharistic Ministers:* Donna Lindsay, S. Luanne

#### Sunday, December 25

*Christmas Day Mass:* 9:30 am  
*Presider:* Father Gerry Kleba  
*Lector, First Reading:* Christine Trudell; *Second Reading:* Carol Nowak  
*Eucharistic Ministers:* Madonna and Korky Buhr

#### Sunday, January 1

*New Year’s Day:* Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, 9:30 am, Mass  
*Presider:* Father Gerry Kleba  
*Lector, First Reading:* Meg Reask; *Second Reading:* Mattie Patterson  
*Eucharistic Ministers:* Brenda Tillman, Sharon Ryan

#### Sunday, January 8

*The Epiphany of Jesus*  
*Presider:* Father Dan Kearns  
*Lector, First Reading:* Rochelle Jones; *Second Reading:* Robin Feeherty  
*Eucharistic Ministers:* Sister Luanne, Doris Speed



**WE HOLD IN HEART AND PRAYER:** Ed Deason, Tom George, Mary Lee Howard, Doris (Feeherty) Janz, Ethel Long, Joetta Lukowski, Mary Meyer, Sharon Morrow, Marta Reyna, Sargeant Steve Salvaggio (co-worker of Lt.Col. Rochelle Jones), James Smith, Amanda Suchara, Daniel Thompson (Mary Grayson’s relative), John Towles, and the Tracy and Usanga families.

**COLLECTION:** 12/4/22 - \$2,546

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8: A CELEBRATIVE GATHERING

Epiphany is the origin of Christmas gift giving. At this Mass we celebrate wise seekers bringing gifts to Jesus. We celebrate Most Holy Trinity and the gifts all of us are and bring to this faith community. We gather after Mass with humble hearts receiving gifts that our faith community offers to each other. With joy and gratitude, we receive others into our hearts in this beautiful season. *All are invited to come to the Rectory for visiting and refreshments.*

### CELEBRATING OUR NEIGHBORS\*

**ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI STAINED-GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT:** Installed for the 1904 World’s Fair by Mayer and Co of Munich Germany, the 54 iconic stained glass windows have succumbed to the environment over the past 100+ years. The windows now must be resealed to prevent water from leaking into the walls of the church. Please donate to help restore each stunning stained glass window. *St. Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Catholic Church; Window Restoration; 1118 N Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63106.*

\* NEW bulletin feature in response to a December 4 *All Things New* table conversation



### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

We wish the greatest joy and happiness to everyone this Christmas Season and always.

This blessed Emmanuel is our star to follow, a light in our darkness, and strength for our life’s journey.

– The Staff  
Mary Busciglio, Paul Hasser  
and Sisters Gail and Janice

### THE SEASON OF JOY

“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from evil, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.” – Pope Francis.

Francis’ reminder that joy born anew is what we celebrate at Christmas — the incarnation of the Word made flesh, when God breaks into human life to take on human flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The words of Isaac Watts’ traditional Christmas carol are true, “Joy to the world, Jesus is come.” This joy permeates the essence of our lives.



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