

**December 11, 2016**  
3rd Sunday of Advent

# Saint John Catholic Church



## Parish Contact Information

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins  
Pastor

## Church Office

Phone: 515-523-1943  
Hours: T-W-Th 9am-3pm  
Closed: Monday & Friday

Website:  
[adairstjohn.org](http://adairstjohn.org)

## Parish Administrative Secretary

Brenda Wedemeyer  
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## Bookkeeping

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## Adella Vogl

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## REFLECTION: THE O ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT - USCCB.ORG

When I'm out shopping in mid-November, and I hear the strains of "Silver Bells" and "The Little Drummer Boy" wafting from hidden store speakers, I just want to cover my ears. By the middle of December each year, I've usually had it up to here with most Christmas music. The ever-present repetition of Christmas carols often serves to point out that the rest of the world is celebrating Christmas, while we're still in the season of Advent.

For me, the one exception to this audio barrage is a simple chant for Advent, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." This song, with its longing for the coming of the Savior, genuinely belongs to Advent and not to Christmas. Its melody is based on Gregorian Chant, and its verses are all taken from the Church's "O" antiphons. These antiphons introduce the Magnificat, or canticle of Mary, at evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, from December 17<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each of them begins with a traditional title for Christ. They are: "O Wisdom," "O sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of all the nations," and finally, "O Emmanuel" which means "God with us." Each of these traditional titles for the Messiah connects the coming of Christ with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament.

In some Catholic parishes, the Sunday liturgies during Advent feature the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" as the setting for the Holy Holy, the Great Amen, and other sung parts of the Mass. While it's asking a lot for this simple tune to bear so much repetition for four weeks, this setting does anchor us firmly in the longing and anticipation of Advent. But the original hymn, with its pleading for Christ's coming, still serves as a welcome antidote to the onslaught of bad commercial Christmas music that we have to endure every November and December. It also connects us to the evening prayer of the whole Church in the last week of Advent. — Rev. Larry Rice, CSP

## THE "O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT - USCCB.ORG

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. 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.

### December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

### December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

### December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

### December 20

O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

### December 21

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.

### December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!



### December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!

—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

# Parish News & Events

**December 11, 2016**  
3rd Sunday of Advent

<b>This Week's Calendar</b>  w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries	<b>Sunday 12/11</b> 3rd Advent <b>8am Mass</b> For Joanne & Ed Littler <b>9am</b> Rel. Ed.	<b>Monday 12/12</b> <b>Anniversary: Francis &amp; Deb Hollinrake 1981</b>  <i>No Office Hours Monday or Friday.</i>	<b>Tuesday 12/13</b>  <b>Birthday: Elizabeth Moreland</b>	<b>Wednesday 12/14</b>  <b>8:30am MASS</b> For Megan Sloss	<b>Thursday 12/15</b> <b>6:30pm Mass</b> For John W. Brincks  <b>Friday 12/16</b> <b>Birthday: Troy Christensen</b>	<b>Saturday 12/17</b> <b>Birthday: Heather Schneider</b>  <b>Sunday 12/18</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>8am Mass</b> For Robert Fagan  
							

## E-Bulletins & Updates

Weekly bulletins are published online through both our websites and via your personal email address - *if* you have provided us with your current email contact information. The bulletin comes to your personal address at 9am each Saturday. It is also available on our website by Friday afternoon. Please contact the church office to subscribe.

Visit: [www.adairstjohn.org](http://www.adairstjohn.org) to view our bulletins.



**Toy Collection** St. John's Faith Formation will accept new, unwrapped toys through December 4th for **Toys for Tots** and used toys in great shape for **Catholic Charities** until December 18th.

The toys can be dropped off in the hall after Mass. Thank you!

<b>Financial Report For:</b>	December 4, 2016	<b>Regular Tithes</b> \$491.00	<b>Children's Collection</b> \$12.00	<b>Special:</b> Retirement Fund for the Religious \$20.00	<b>Repair Fund Balance</b> \$9,128.70	<b>Altar Furn. Fund</b> \$6,100.00	<b>ADA Balance Due:</b> \$300.00
<b>Liturgical Ministers December 18th</b>	<b>Cross Bearer:</b> Dave Richter	<b>Greeters:</b> Brett Dorsey Family	<b>Lector:</b> Julie Plowman	<b>Host:</b> Dave Richter	<b>Cup:</b> Sr. Andre Scott Suhr	<b>Servers:</b> Cade Suhr Madison Suhr	<b>Traveling Chalice:</b> Deb & Francis Hollinrake

**Holy Father's December Prayer Intentions *Universal:*** That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving. ***Evangelization:*** That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

**NOVOS Young Adults** If you're a young adult looking for social, spiritual and service activities, check out Novos Young Adults. Events happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month and occasionally on weekends. For more information, go to the Novos Young Adults Facebook page.

**SACRAMENT of BAPTISM:** Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office to make arrangements.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Preparation for marriage must begin **at least six months before** the anticipated date of the wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to speak with Father.