

December 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are only 12 days away from celebrating the Birth of Jesus! We have also been preparing and keeping ourselves spiritually awake for the Second Coming of Christ through the repentance, confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, daily prayer including the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, reading of the Bible, and living out the Ten Commandments and God's two-fold law of love for Him and love for our neighbor. Now is the time to get our spiritual lives back on track or strengthen them for the Coming of the Lord. He is coming to us now in the Sacraments in a merciful way if we are open to Him. He comes now in the Sacraments and in the Church in mercy so that we will not experience His strict justice in His Final Coming. Thank you Jesus for your Divine Mercy! May we never delay in running to your mercy now!

Please pray for Deacon David Pinto who will be ordained a priest at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo this coming Saturday, December 19. David was also a parishioner of Fr. Derda's for 7 years when he was pastor at St. Ann near Gull Lake. David is a bit older than most seminarians and has a unique story of having to care for his family after his father died when he was a young man in seminary in the 1960's. David finally made it back to seminary in his mid 60's and will finally be ordained a priest. May he live to 100 and give many years of service to our Diocese as a Priest of Jesus Christ!

By now, we hope you have received in the mail or in today's bulletin the final revised schedule for Christmas and New Year's Holy Day Masses in our collaborative. **Please note that the 9 am Mass on Sundays at St. Mary's will continue to be outdoors and drive in. The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 4:00 pm New Year's Eve Mass at St. Mary's Visitation will also be drive-in and outdoors in the SMV parking lot.** These two Masses usually have the largest attendance and there will be no way to accommodate the number of people who will come otherwise. Also, all other Christmas Masses in the collaborative (SMV, St. Stanislaus, and Sacred Heart) will have overflow capacity in the parish hall and once we get to capacity in the church, guests will be directed to the parish hall to participate on a large screen via livestream and the Deacon will bring Holy Communion to the Hall at the appropriate time.

Please also remember to make a good confession of your sins in the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas. We are reminded that every Catholic needs to confess one's sins in the sacrament at least once a year. Usually that happens at least in the Lenten/Easter Seasons. However, this year many of us have yet to do so. There are many extra confession times at the three parishes in our collaborative. Once or twice every day the priests are available up until Christmas day. Please see the schedule in this bulletin and also refer to the Christmas Season Mass Schedule.

During the 7 days leading up to Christmas, the Church calls on Jesus in her daily Mass and Liturgy of the Hours under a different title that prophets gave to the promised Messiah in the Old Testament. That Promised One has come, however, we still need to call on Him to save our world today more than ever. As we face the challenges of the Covid situation and the political, social, and societal unrest in our country and the world, we encourage everyone to call on the

Name of the Lord in your daily prayer over the next two weeks using these titles of Jesus that are emphasized during the last week of advent:

"There are seven short verses sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer of the Church on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O". Each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent. The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. These seven verses, or antiphons as they are called, appear to be the originals although from time to time other texts were used. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons, the great bells of the church were rung. A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS. The phrase spells out the response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people: "Tomorrow I will be there". Why not join with the Prayer of the Church each evening and reflect on these words preparing for Christmas day by day:

**O Sapientia - December 17th** - O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.

**O Adonai - December 18th** - O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

**O Radix Jesse - December 19th** - O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

**O Clavis David - December 20th** - O key of David and scepter of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**O Oriens - December 21st** - O Rising Sun, you are the splendor of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**O Rex Gentium - December 22nd** - O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay.

**O Emmanuel - December 23rd** - O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Savior. O come and save us, Lord, our God."

*Taken from: <https://www.catholic.org/advent/advent.php?id=7>*

Just as the people of the Old Testament waited with longing hearts for the coming of the Savior, all people of goodwill in our day are also waiting for the Savior to intervene to save us from the spiritual darkness that has overcome so many in our country and the entire world today. We continue to reflect on the messages from modern day Catholic prophets who remind us that Jesus

will not wait forever to intervene with His Justice and confront human hearts with the truth about Him and about us as His beloved children. He will come soon to make Himself visible to all. And as these Catholic visionaries keep reminding us, in the spirit of the many prophets who came before them: Stay awake, be prepared, repent, confess, pray, live righteously and devoutly, for our Lord will not delay His Coming. Keep in mind, private revelation is not a replacement for the True Teaching of Christ we receive through the Bible and the holy Catholic Church, however, we are permitted to believe it and relieve it if it does not contradict. We only provide those prophecies which have not been condemned by the Church for your reflection and consideration. For your reflection this week, here are some of the most recent messages from heaven given through Catholic seers and prophets around the world:

### **Luz de Maria – A Great Shaking**

#### **The Blessed Virgin Mary to Luz de Maria de Bonilla on November 29th, 2020:**

*Beloved children of My Immaculate Heart: I hold you on my maternal lap; you are the children of my Son, I love you with my maternal heart. Beloved People of My Son, you must maintain due respect for the present disease and take the measures necessary so that you would not fall prey to it. I have given you the natural medicines necessary to free yourselves from this disease. Continue without fear, do not be seized with fear; be aware of Divine Love so that you would not lose Faith and so that you would remain in Hope and Divine Mercy.*

*Even if the Communist leaders, Masons and Illuminati of the Earth have prepared everything in order to make you fall into a panic, do not let them lead you into this trap. Keep in mind that this is not the end of the world, but of this generation, which is why you are facing such chaos caused by disobedience regarding My Revelations — those already fulfilled, those being fulfilled and those about to be fulfilled. The Devil knows this, and being aware of it, he has unleashed his fury against My children in order to lead them to damnation. It is supremely important that each person should look at themselves and unmask the true human self that they carry with them. It is not a time for you to be living in uncertainty, nor in unease, envy, pride or ambiguity; base passions will make you grow in the evil that Satan is sending to men so that they would fall into his traps and forget that they have been redeemed by My Son and are not subject to evil, but to good.*

*The one world government is holding humanity in a great spiritual battle, confusing you in order to instill fear regarding all that you are facing, in the absence of true Faith, Obedience and Hope within the People of God. You are headed for great tribulations, as you know... such as you have never experienced before. The world order has total change programmed for the whole of humanity, on every level. Their plan is to make humanity change in every regard by means of electromagnetic induction, programmed so that the human being's mind, thought, work and action would be altered. Be alert, People of My Son! Be alert, My children: resist, do not be caught unawares. Be aware that you are all my Son's children: remain in a state of grace – all of Christ, all for Christ. Remain prepared to live for My Son; this way they will be unable to change you. Do not fear the famine that is approaching throughout the Earth, nor the fall of the world economy; the Eternal Father alone is righteous and true, and He will not abandon His People. Do not fear the shaking of the earth, even if it is not behaving normally. The earth will shake.*

*The great shaking revealed by this Mother is coming, and it is therefore necessary for My children to keep their Faith firm.*

*Children, it is time to acknowledge your errors... It is time to return to the fold... It is time to unite... The dark hand of evil is looming over humanity, attacking humanity fiercely in order to change your state of mind and to disturb you, to lead you into uncontrolled fear, offering you security and promising you stability, and thereby controlling you as they control crowds in cities. Be firm in the Faith: do not allow uncertainty to take you by surprise. Pray, My children, pray; the earth will shake in the North with great force; pray for California, pray for Canada. Pray, My children, pray; in the South, the earth will be severely shaken, taking its inhabitants by surprise. Pray, My children, pray; in Europe and Asia the earth will move. Pray especially for Japan. Pray, My children; from space, a celestial body is approaching that will keep humanity in suspense. Pray, My children, pray; the earth will awaken in the Ring of Fire. Pray, My children, pray; time is accelerating and evil is increasing its pressure on humanity in order to make itself felt. Beloved People of My Son: Do not fall asleep; this is not the time to sleep, it is time to remain constantly vigilant. A new disease will attack the Earth and My children will suffer because of it. The Sun will take man by surprise; great changes are coming. In order to save your soul, you will need to live according to the spirit rather than material things. Not everything that is occurring is logical for man; Divine plans do not fit within human logic. What must be fulfilled will be fulfilled – not when man says so, but when it is decreed in heaven. Beloved children, war's arrival is accelerating: China is taking giant steps.*

*Before saying goodbye, My children, I want to call you to unity, to constant fraternity: everyone will need it, everyone. Prepare to take refuge in My Immaculate Heart; remain constantly united, offering yourselves and adoring the only God who is worthy of praise, the Alpha and Omega throughout all ages. You are in the Heavenly Father's hand at all times. You are not alone, stay within the marching column. I bless you. I love you. Do not fear!*

**Am I not here who am your Mother?** Taken from: <https://www.countdowntothekingdom.com/>

May Jesus prepare our hearts for His Coming! Come Lord Jesus!  
Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ & Deacon Ed