



Dos mecum annunti
abie laudem tuam.
Ecis in adiutorium

**& ST IGNATIUS
ST LUKE'S**

15 December 2019

The **O ANTIPHONS**, also known as The great Os, are Magnificat antiphons used at Vespers of the last seven days of Advent, the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23, with December 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. They are also used as the alleluia verses on the same days in the Mass.

They are referred to as the “O Antiphons” because the title of each one begins with the interjection “O”. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

December 17: O SAPIENTIA *O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.*

December 18: O ADONAI *O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the Law in Sinai: come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.*

December 19: O RADIX JESSE *O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign for the peoples, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek: come and deliver us, and tarry not.*

December 20: O CLAVIS DAVID *O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest, and no man shutteth, and shuttest, and no man openeth: come and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.*

December 21: O ORIENS *O Dayspring, Brightness of the Light everlasting and Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

December 22: O REX GENTIUM *O King of the Nations, and their Desire; the Corner-stone, who makest both one: come and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.*

December 23: O EMMANUEL *O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: come and save us, O Lord our God.*

There is one additional O antiphon which dates to the medieval English Church— O VIRGO VIRGINUM: *O Virgin of Virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.*

Originally, in the Anglican tradition, the antiphons were shifted to start on the 16th of December to allow this eighth antiphon to fall on the traditional closing date of the 23rd of December. The use of this antiphon has been integrated into Catholic practice with its inclusion in the Divine Worship Missal. The original seven antiphons fall on their traditional dates, with the *O Virgo Virginum* appearing as the alleluia verse at Mass on the morning of the 24th of December.



As to the origins of these antiphons, according to Fr. William P. Saunders, “The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the O Antiphons was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, Keep your O and The Great O Antiphons were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the O Antiphons have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church.”

And, as every schoolboy knows, the hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (in Latin, *Veni Emmanuel*) is a lyrical paraphrase of these antiphons.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Wesley Jackson, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Joyce Doyle, Patricia Ransom, David Hoppe, Jacqueline Chancio, Victoria P.; C. M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

15 December *The Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10; Psalm 146: 7-10;

James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

16 December *Advent Feria*

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25: 4-9; Matthew 21: 23-27

17 December *Advent Feria*

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Psalm 72: 1-4, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1: 1-17

18 December *Advent Feria*

Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Psalm 72: 1-2, 7, 12-13, 18-19;

Matthew 1: 18-24

19 December *Advent Feria*

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71: 3-6, 8, 16-17; Luke 1: 5-25

20 December *Advent Feria*

Isaiah 7: 10-14; Psalm 24: 1-7, 10; Luke 1: 26-38

21 December *Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

Song of Solomon 2: 8-14; Psalm 33: 1-3, 11-12, 20-21;

Luke 1: 39-45

22 December *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 7: 10-14; Psalm 24: 1-7, 10;

Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 11: 18-24

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 14 December

John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Sheila Brown [Jane Slattery]

Sunday, 15 December

The Third Sunday of Advent

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Douglas Seward + [Rosemary Collier]

11 am Edward Guinivan and companions [Susan White]

Monday, 16 December

Advent Feria

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 17 December

O Sapientia

9 am Msgr. William J. O'Donnell +

Wednesday, 18 December

O Adonai

9 am Jeremiah Donovan [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 19 December

O Radix Jesse

9 am John Geron and family [Joseph Conklin and Dagny Rughin]

Friday, 20 December

O Clavis David

9 am Carol Tice + [Rosemary Collier]

Saturday, 21 December

O Oriens

[Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church]

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Holly Henderson

Sunday, 22 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent [O Rex Gentium]

8 am Deceased clergy of the parish +

9:30 am Pro populo

11 am Special intentions of the Cacas and Bello families [Maria Cacas]

historic
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The logo features a large, stylized, decorative letter 'S' on the left. To its right, the words 'Saint Luke's at' are stacked above 'IGNATIUS CHURCH' in a serif font.

Saint Luke's at
IGNATIUS CHURCH