

# LITURGICAL LIVING

Series 17: December 17-23

## December 17: Third Sunday of Advent- Joy

**Gaudete Sunday:** During Advent the Church uses the color purple to remind ourselves that Advent is a season of preparation. We are to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus in our hearts, for his second coming and for his birth at Christmas. However, on the third Sunday of Advent, the priest will be wearing pink. I mean rose. This is a color of joy! On the Third Sunday of Advent, we rejoice because our waiting is coming to an end! Advent is half over. All of the readings will be about joy.



To live in the joy of Gaudete Sunday, pray the [Joyful Mysteries](#) of the Rosary on Sunday or sometime this week. All of the Joyful Mysteries are moments from Jesus' life that were filled with joy!

**Bambinelli Sunday:** Tradition is to ask your pastor to bless the Baby Jesus Statue from your nativity scene. Perfectly enough, Bishop Chad is leading an Advent prayer service on the 17th in St. Peter at 1pm. [Here](#) are the details.



## **What's the Deal with the O Antiphons?**

The O Antiphons are traditional, scriptural prayers that the Church prays during the week leading up to Christmas Eve. They are like a countdown as we draw closer to Jesus' arrival!

An **antiphon** is a short prayer that is spoken, sung or chanted before and after a longer prayer. The O Antiphons feature the seven titles for the Messiah found in the Book of Isaiah. Each of the meanings of the names originally found in the Old Testament match up to who Jesus was (is) , what He said (says) , and what He did (does). They are sung to the hymn, "O Come, O come Emmanuel" and have been used by Christians for over 1300 years! So beautiful and rich!

## **Traditions**

- Some families acquire or make O Antiphon Christmas tree ornaments and add one to their Christmas tree each day, starting on December 17.
- Read the scripture in both the Old and New Testament related to each O Antiphon title. The next page has all of that information listed in a table!
- Listen to all 7 verses of "O Come, O come Emmanuel" each day leading to Christmas, starting December 17.
- The O Antiphons help us to renew the focus of Advent. To help us make our final preparations for Jesus' coming. And fun fact, if you spell out the titles- **EROCRAS**- which in Latin means, "tomorrow, I will come." Pretty fitting I'd say!

## **O Antiphons Resources**

- O Antiphons [coloring book](#) and [ornaments](#) (This is for all of the O Antiphons!)
- [Listen](#) to the O Antiphons in English and Latin (This is for all of the O Antiphons!)

## **The O Antiphons**

### **December 17: O SAPOENTIA**

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



### **December 18: O ADONAI**

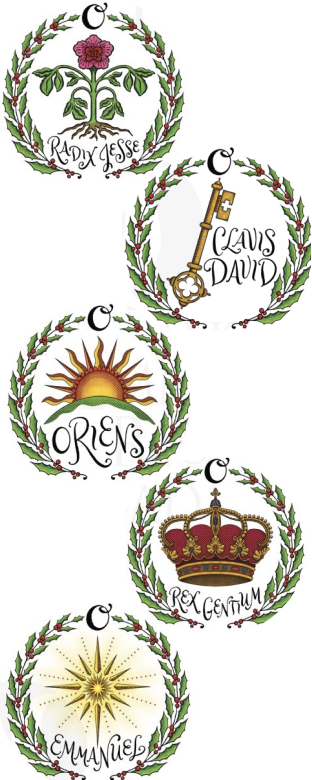
*O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your  
mighty power!*



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### The O Antiphons



DATE	ENGLISH TITLE	LATIN TITLE	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
December 17	O Wisdom	O Sapientia	Isaiah 11:2-3	Luke 2:46-47
December 18	O Lord	O Adonai	Isaiah 33:22	Matthew 21:9
December 19	O Root of Jesse	O Radix Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 1:1-17
December 20	O Key of David	O Clavis David	Isaiah 22:22	Luke 1:32
December 21	O Radiant Dawn	O Oriens	Isaiah 9:2	Matthew 24:29-30
December 22	O King of All Nations	O Rex Gentium	Isaiah 9:6	Luke 1:33
December 23	O God Is With Us	O Emmanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23

### **December 19: O RADIX JESSE**

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

Celebrate: Learn about Jesus' family tree through the [Jesse Tree](#)

### **December 21: O ORIENS**

*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.*

Celebrate: This is the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Remember that Jesus is the light of the word. Another good time to take in the Christmas lights.

### **December 20: O CLAVIS DAVID**

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

Celebrate: Bring the joy of Advent by sending cards, making a phone call, etc. to your friends, family and neighbors!

### **December 22: O REX GENTIUM**

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

Celebrate: [Advent Coloring Page](#) & Watch a video on the Nativity: One for [younger](#) and one for [older](#) children

### **December 23: O EMMANUEL**

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

Celebrate: Finish decorating your Christmas tree if you haven't & [Seeking our Savior Activity](#)