

THE RECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends of St. Francis Church,

"The Lord is now nigh; come, let us adore." (Invitatory of Matins, Roman Breviary.) I pray that you and your families are well, preparing to celebrate the feast of Our Lord's birth. On Thursday, the Church will begin singing her great, "O Antiphons," in the seven days before Christmas Eve. As a devotion for each family, I wish to suggest praying these antiphons on their assigned days before dinner, and including Our Lady's "Magnificat" after them, followed by a repetition of the antiphon. The last invocation, "O Emmanuel," immediately and fittingly precedes Christmas, because "Emmanuel" means "God with us," as the Christ Child will be on Christmas. But, as you may know, a clever and beautiful "secret message" has been included in these antiphons, using the initial letters of the Latin name invoked for each day, starting from the last, "Emmanuel," working toward the first, "Sapientia." From these letters, we spell the Latin words of Our Infant Lord to us: "*Ero cras!*", meaning "Tomorrow, I shall be!" O come, o come, Emmanuel!

In the Love of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

Fr. McCambridge, F.S.S.P

The Great, or "O" Antiphons

December 17: O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

December 18: O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammæ rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

December 19: O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

December 20: O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

December 21: O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis

December 22: O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

December 23: O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum, et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salvatore meo, quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes, quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum Nomen eius, et misericordia eius in progenies et progenies timentibus eum. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordi sui; deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles; esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes. Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae, sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula

O Wisdom that comest out of the mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence!

O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry.

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

O Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

O King of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Corner-stone, that maketh of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth!

O Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God!

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the humility of His handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done great things to me, and holy is His Name. And His Mercy is from generation unto generations upon them that fear Him. He hath shewed might in His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away. He hath received Israel, His servant, being mindful of His mercy. As He spoke to our Fathers, Abraham and His seed forever. (Repeat Antiphon)

FRATERNITAS SACERDOTALIS SANCTI PETRI

"Qui seminant in lacrimis, in exsultatione metent" (Ps 125, 5)



St. Francis of Assisi Church

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

DECEMBER 13—19, 2015

Rev. Fr. Jared McCambridge, FSSP Rector

Rev. Fr. Evaristus Eshiwu, FSSP Assistant Rector

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8:30 am Members of St. Michael's Defense Guild
 10:00 am *Pro Populo*

MONDAY, December 14, Feria of Advent

7 am Dee Anna Fix

TUESDAY, December 15, Feria of Advent

7 am Maria Paula Fix
 12:10 pm Celebrant's Intention

WEDNESDAY, December 16, Ember Wednesday

7 am Giuseppe & Rosa Monteleone+

THURSDAY, December 17, Greater Feria of Advent

7 am Eden K. Daniels
 12:10 pm Celebrant's Intention

FRIDAY, December 18, Ember Friday

7 am Trevor Daniels
 5:15 pm Celebrant's intention

SATURDAY, December 19, Ember Saturday

8 am Alicia Arango

SUNDAY December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Doris H. Rowe +
 10:00 am *Pro Populo*

Regular Mass Schedule (For exceptions, see above.)

Monday through Friday	7 am
Saturday	8 am
Sunday	<i>Low Mass</i> 8:30 am
	<i>Highb Mass</i> 10:00 am

Confessions are heard one half-hour before each Mass (unless otherwise noted), and on Fridays for the first half-hour of evening devotions. Confessions will be heard at other times by a reasonable request.

The Rosary is prayed one half-hour before each Sunday Mass.

Sorrowful Mother Novena (Dolorosary):

Friday 6:30 pm

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:

First Fridays: 8 am—4:50 pm, Dolorosary at 4:30 pm, Benediction at 5:00 pm.

Other Fridays: 6pm Holy Hour, Dolorosary at 6:30 pm, Benediction at 6:50 pm.

First Saturday: Simple Exposition for fifteen minutes following Mass.

Altar Guild

As announced

Coffee Social: After the 10:00 mass on Sunday

Catechism for Children (October-May)

Monday 7 - 8 pm

Confraternity of Christian Mothers (September-May)

After Mass on the second Saturday of the month

St. John Bosco Youth Group

Not yet organized for this year.

Altar Boys' Meeting (September-May)

Second Saturday of the month 9 am

Choir

Wednesday 6 - 7:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome to Newcomers and Visitors to St. Francis Church! Please join us after the 10:00 mass for our Coffee Social
No 8:00 am Masses will be offered on Monday and Wednesday this week.

Christmas Caroling Today: Sunday, December 13th at noon, all are welcome to join in Christmas caroling at Lancaster Manor, just across the parking lot from the church. For treats at St. Francis after caroling, please bring cookies or snacks to share.

Ember Saturday Church Cleaning will be held this coming Saturday, December 19 following the 8:00 am Mass. Please come and help clean the church in anticipation of Christmas. Many hands make light work!

Mass Intentions for January are willingly accepted; at the moment, there is no backlog of masses to be offered.

2016 FSSP Liturgical Calendars and Ordos: There is a sample in the vestibule of the 2016 liturgical calendar from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. To purchase calendars or ordos, please use the order envelopes provided in the vestibule. **Please deposit orders, with payment, in the mailbox outside the church office by today, Sunday, December 13.**

Free Books: Copies of St. Alphonsus Liguori's *The Incarnation, Birth, and Infancy of Jesus Christ* are available for free in the vestibule, as a good assistance to your preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Flower Donations: The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary at Christmas will be placed for the sake of your intentions, for a donation of \$10 each. Envelopes for this purpose may be found in the vestibule. God bless you!

Christmas Cards from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter are available in sample packets in the vestibule. Each packet contains four cards, and each card tells the recipient of his remembrance in a novena of Masses to be offered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary. Information on ordering additional cards is included in the packet.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration: The next First Friday will be January 1, the Feast of the Circumcision, and a holyday of obligation. It is also, of course, New Year's Day. Rather than the usual First Friday schedule, a Holy Hour and devotions will follow after the latter of the morning's masses. More details will follow.

Please Pray for the Sick: Shirley Bauer, Michael Ostry, Barbara McMeekin (mother of Mrs. Jennifer Butcher), Rev. Mr. Philip Gerard Johnson, Br. Bernard Marie, O.S.B., and for all the sick of our congregation

FINANCES

Collection for Sunday December 6:	\$2520.00
Collection counters December 13:	Jeff Kohn and John Pepino
Collection counters December 20:	Frank Feuerborn and Dan Fix

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI DRESS CODE

To dress becomingly for God and neighbor, and in keeping with the reverence due to the Blessed Sacrament, kindly refrain from wearing shorts, tee-shirts, tank-tops, revealing blouses, sleeveless or backless dresses, or form-fitting clothing of any sort. Please do let dresses and skirts fall below the knee. With due regard to time and circumstance, all are encouraged to wear decorous attire befitting sacred and divine worship.