

Tridentine Community News

December 13, 2020 - Third Sunday of Advent

The O Antiphons

The resurgence of interest in the Extraordinary Form of Holy Mass has brought with it an interest in other aspects of the Church's liturgy which had received little attention in recent decades. One example is the so-called "O Antiphons":

With the exception of the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle on December 21, the week prior to the Vigil of Christmas, December 17-23, is comprised of the Ember Days and Greater Ferias of Advent. The latter are Second Class Ferias on which the Mass Propers of the preceding Sunday are used. Most Votive Masses are prohibited on these days. The Church wants us to focus on Advent, not on other Feasts, during this week of anticipation. The Antiphons for Vespers of this week are correspondingly known as the Greater Antiphons, but more commonly known as the O Antiphons because of their wording.

Each Antiphon addresses Jesus with a title which comes from the prophecies of Isaiah that anticipate the coming of the Messiah. The first letters of the titles in the original Latin in reverse order spell "Ero Cras", which means "Tomorrow, I will come". The verses of the hymn *Veni, Veni, Emmánuël* (and its English translation, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*) are reworded versions of the O Antiphons, with the last being the first verse.

December 17 - O Sapiéntia: O Wisdom Who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18 - O Adonái: O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, Who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the law on Sinai: come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

December 19 - O Radix Jesse: O Root of Jesse, Who standest for an ensign of the people, before Whom kings shall keep silence, and unto Whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us, and tarry not.

December 20 - O Clavis David: O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, Who openest and no man shutteth, Who shuttest and no man openeth: come and bring forth from his prison-house, the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

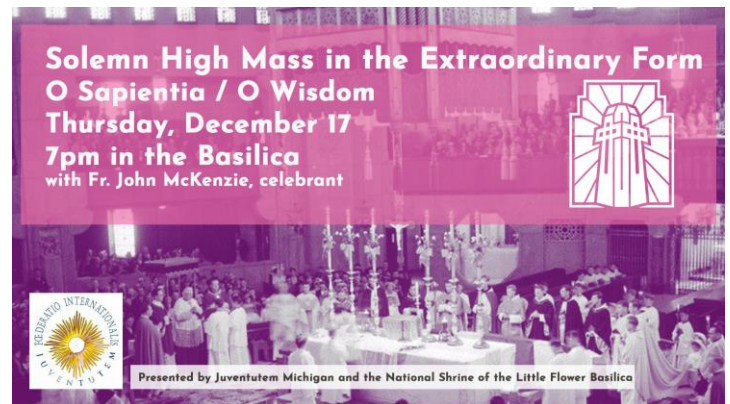
December 21 - O Óriens: O Dawn of the East, Brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of justice: come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22 - O Rex Géntium: O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of them, Thou Corner-stone that makest both one: come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

December 23 - O Emmánuël: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior: come to save us, O Lord our God.

Shrine Mass This Thursday, December 17

A reminder that this Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 PM, Royal Oak, Michigan's historic National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica will host its first Traditional Latin Mass in several years, a Solemn High Mass for the Feria of Advent. The celebrant will be Fr. John McKenzie, Assistant Pastor at Shrine; the deacon will be Fr. Derik Peterman; and the subdeacon will be Fr. Louis Madey. The Oakland County Latin Mass Association choir will sing *Missa Secúnda* by Hans Leo Hassler, and the Communion Motet will be *Alma Redemptóris Mater* by Palestrina. If Michigan regulations permit such an event, a gathering for young adults age 18-35 will follow the Mass, organized by Juventútem Michigan.



Prayer Pilgrimages Chicago Bus Tour Postponed

The pandemic has claimed another victim, unsurprisingly: Prayer Pilgrimages director Mike Semaan has announced that there will be no Christmas week bus tour of historic churches in Chicago in 2020. The ever-popular annual tour will resume during Christmas week, 2021, presuming the pandemic subsides. Mike also reports that his other bus tours are tentatively planned to resume in the summer of 2021.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Consult this column next Sunday, December 20, for a list of Christmas week Tridentine Masses in our region.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 12/15 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Feria)

Thu. 12/17 7:00 PM: Solemn High Mass at *National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak* (Feria) – Celebrant: Fr. John McKenzie, Deacon: Fr. Derik Peterman, Subdeacon: Fr. Louis Madey.

Sat. 12/19 8:00 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Ember Saturday of Advent)