

St. Peter's Church



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018**

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann
stpored@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshipping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706

Pat Gorda 570-724-3035

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371

Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371

Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/17	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/18	7:30am	In Memory of Donald Domineske (Mike & Gloria)
Wednesday 12/19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Kathryn Germino (Mark & Margo Germino)
Thursday 12/20	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Robbie Butler (B.J. Butler & Family)
Friday 12/21	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of George & Priscilla Young (Den & Adele Young)
Saturday 12/22	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions Parents of Frank & Ida Dziengowski (Family)
Sunday 12/23	8:30am	In Memory of Anne Donovan (Grab Family)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Parishioners of St. Peter's

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 16, 2018

Religious Ed-Pre-School:8:30-9:30am;K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center
Lessons & Carols – 5:00pm, Church

TUESDAY, December 18, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction 6:30pm
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, December 20, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center
Advent Penance Service – 7:00pm, Holy Child

FRIDAY, December 21, 2018

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, December 23, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:
chicken noodle or tomato soup (10-11oz). A donation box
can be found at the entrance of the church.

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *foot aids*
(*insoles, powder, cream*), *eye drops, lip balms*,
1# coffee, coffee singles, candy bars, M&M's & Reece's,
microwave popcorn & personal notes (*cards, letters, drawings*
from children.) A donation box can be found at the entrance of

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening – 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield
Sunday Morning – 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

December 22nd/23rd

5:00pm

Servers: H.Campbell, J. Poirier, A.Tokarz
Lectors: C.Evert, T.Sampson
E. Min.: T.Straniere, B.Chiamonte, G.Poirier, K.Wilcox

8:30am

Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, J.Grab
Lectors: T.Reindl, M.Ostapowicz
E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, A.Singer, N.Josten

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child
are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the
birth of their child, if possible. Note: Baptisms cannot be
scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed.
Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to
all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education
program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be
enrolled and participating in the program for two years
before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages- In order to complete the necessary paperwork,
couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full
year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory if a
member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound
and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is
asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The
R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the
Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of
each person and prepares them for full initiation into the
faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Zephaniah begins with imperatives commanding hearts to sing! On this day of rejoicing as the celebration of the Incarnation draws near, Zephaniah announces hope and declared the people must rejoice because God comes not with judgment, but with merciful deliverance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 12

The Responsorial Psalm is a hymn taken from the first part of the book of the Prophet Isaiah and speaks of the salvation the Lord would deliver to the city of Jerusalem, the city of Zion. The Response speaks of the joy that the people of God would experience because the Lord was present in their city. This continues the theme found in the First Reading that speaks of the fact that God is no longer far off, but has deigned to come into our midst. We understand both of these passages to be fulfilled with the birth of Jesus into our world.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Contrary to those who might anticipate the coming of the Lord with trepidation, Philippians exhorts us to abandon fear and worry and surrender instead to joyful prayer. And we are not to shy away from making our needs known to God. Peace should characterize our anticipation of Christ's coming – whether at the end of time, at Christmas, or in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. When we know that, we will have —no anxiety at all because our hearts will be linked to Christ's.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

The Gospel presents the preaching of John the Baptist to the people of Israel. Luke speaks of the coming of the Day of the Lord. This would be the day of judgment upon Israel and upon the world.



John invites his listeners to turn away from their sins. John's responses are blunt and sparse to those who come asking advice: —Do this. Don't do that. His confidence is clear and he demonstrates a boldness that's born of his ability to see as God sees. His obvious authority prompts his questioners to ask if he is the Messiah, which he roundly denies by pointing away from himself to one who is more powerful. There is no false humility in his words, and we sense his own longing for the one who will be the Good News he proclaims. The Third Sunday of Advent is a time to make some serious decisions concerning how we live, work, play, etc. Like the tax collectors and soldiers who spoke to the Baptist, we are called to conform our ways to the Good News.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the



birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation— especially prayer and fasting—for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored. Gaudete Sunday has a counterpart in Lent: Laetare Sunday. God is at work turning sorrow to joy!

Parish News and Activities

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S

You are invited to share a meal and spend time with others on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00noon in the Parish Center. Meat and beverage will be provided.



Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, December 19th by calling Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570-439-5790 or email danbg77@gmail.com. **Reservations should include NAME, # ATTENDING, and the DISH YOU ARE BRINGING.**

2019 CALENDARS ARE HERE

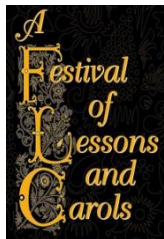
The 2019 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance to the church and on the handout table. Special thanks to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their full sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.

**2019
Calendars
Are
Here!**

YEAR END DONATIONS

2018 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2018 statement. If you would like a 2018 statement, please call the rectory or write "send statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Please join us **today**, Sunday, December 16th at 5:00pm for The Festival of Lessons and Carols. This festival is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season, memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

GIVING TREE REMINDER

Gifts for children should be placed UNWRAPPED, in a gift bag, with the tag attached, back under the tree by December 14th. Gifts for families should also be placed under the tree by December 14th. Please deliver gifts for nursing home residents in person, by December 24th, as your visit is just as important as the gift. Questions? Call Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.

SANCTUARY CANDLES



A candle is kept burning day and night whenever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches. It is an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with loving adoration in return.

Sanctuary candles are available to remember or honor your loved ones. Please call the rectory to reserve a week.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful shawls to help comfort those who are sick, bereaved, shut-in, nursing home resident, or those experiencing loneliness or stress. The shawls are like

being wrapped in prayers and love. Our hope is that those who receive them will feel the hands of God around them, giving them healing and comfort. If you know of someone in need of a shawl, please contact Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.

Religious Ed & Youth Group News

ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP EVENT

An Ecumenical Youth Group Event for students in grades 7th through 12th will be held **today**, Sunday, December 16th from 2:00-4:00pm in the parish center. Students from local church youth groups will come together for food, music, fun, and fellowship. This event will be held in place of the morning religious education classes for grades 7th through 12th, so all students in those grades should plan to attend this event

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on today's readings - As Christmas draws closer, the Church's liturgy today emphasizes the theme of joy, which is not simply a happiness based on good circumstances, but a profound exultation of spirit based on the salvation that comes from God himself. Every human spirit longs for joy, but often does not know how to find it. Instead, we are all too aware of the things that rob us of joy and peace, and the evils, both in our own lives and in the world, from which we need to be saved.

Advent is about the expectation of complete salvation. It is not a time that we pretend that Christ has not come and try to imagine welcoming him for the first time; rather, it is a time when, acknowledging that Christ has already come, we await the full unfolding of the effects of the salvation he brings. That's what the first and second readings today refer to. "He has turned away your enemies...you have no further misfortune to fear...Have no anxiety at all..." People may find these assurances unrealistic, but they are not. For one thing, the coming of Christ has destroyed the power of sin and death at its roots. No matter what misfortunes may still happen, or what causes of anxiety may still torment us, the fact is that we always have access to God. That is why we dismiss anxiety from our minds. He has baptized us in the Holy Spirit, as John the Baptizer promised (today's Gospel). That Holy Spirit gives us total access to God, to an understanding of his word, and to the grace of salvation. The total salvation Christ brings, which is unfolding each day, is physical as well as spiritual. The whole universe will be transformed. All physical violence, such as abortion, will be overcome. Therefore, we rejoice now, as we embrace the Christ who has already come, and as we wait in joyful hope for him to come again. www.priestsforlife.org



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary ~ 5:00pm (Vigil) & 10:00am

Advent Penance Services

December 19th – 7:00pm, St. Thomas
December 20th – 7:00pm, Holy Child

Diocese of Scranton News

ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,500

Current Pledged Amount: \$ 29,128

If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or
- Give online at www.DiocesefofScranton.org.

Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.

DID YOU KNOW...



**YOU MAY MAKE A GIFT
TO YOUR PARISH
OR TO THE DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL
DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA**

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

**For more information,
please contact Jim Bebla,
Diocesan Secretary of Development, at
Jim-Bebla@DiocesefofScranton.org
or 570-207-2250.**

News From the Vatican

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH THE COURAGE OF FAITH'

Pope Francis invited Christians to live the Advent season preparing for Christmas by asking for the grace of keeping the faith. Speaking during the homily at Mass at the Casa Santa Marta, the Pope said "it's not easy to keep the faith, to defend the faith." Reflecting on the Gospel reading of the day that tells the story of a paralyzed man healed by Jesus, the Pope said faith gives us courage and shows us the way to touch the heart of the Lord. He noted how, in the parable, the Lord "saw the faith" of those who brought the man and set him in His presence. "It took courage," he said, to go up on the roof and lower him on the stretcher through the tiles.... "Those people had faith: They knew that if the sick man was put in front of Jesus, he would be healed."

The Pope also recalled other episodes in which Jesus expressed admiration for people's faith. Like in the case of the centurion who asked for the healing of his servant, of the Syrophoenician woman who interceded for her daughter who was possessed by the devil, and of the woman afflicted with hemorrhages who was healed after having touched the hem of Jesus' cloak. "Jesus," the Pope said, "reproaches people of little faith," like Peter who doubts, but he said; "with faith everything is possible."

In this second week of Advent, Pope Francis continued, "we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas." He noted that Christmas is often marked in a worldly or pagan fashion, but reiterating the Lord's request that we do so with faith, the Pope said "it's not easy to keep the faith, it's not easy to defend the faith... it's not easy!"

Pope Francis wrapped up his reflection commenting on the episode narrated in the Gospel of John in which a boy who was blind is healed: "It will do us good today, and also tomorrow, during the week, to take chapter 9 of the Gospel of John and read this beautiful story of the boy who was blind from birth.

"From the bottom of our hearts," he concluded "utter an act of faith and say: I believe Lord. Help me in my faith. Defend my faith from worldliness, from superstitions, from all that is not faith. Keep it from being reduced to theory, be it theological or moral... Faith in You, Lord."

*"Advent is a time to recognize the emptiness needs to be filled in our lives,
a time to smooth the rough edges of pride,
and to make room for Jesus who comes." Pope Francis*

That's The Way It Is!



There has been a lot in the news lately about immigration. Recently a caravan of people arrived at the border between the US and Mexico. The US is not allowing the caravan entry into the country. The question of how the US should deal with this caravan has been the source of a lot of controversy.

As I have come to understand things, I see two main sides to the debate. On one side of the debate you have those who believe that the people in the caravan have the right to enter the US. They believe that the US should not be stopping them from entering the country. They believe the US has the duty to offer aid and assistance to the people in the caravan because they are seeking asylum in the US. The people who believe this assert that the US is legally bound by treaties it has signed giving certain rights to people from other nations who seek asylum. The people who assert this also would seem to believe that the people in the caravan have the right to enter the US even apart from any treaties due to the fact that they are fellow human beings who need help. They seem to believe that offering aid and assistance to fellow human beings is more important than concerns about national security, immigration law or other practical considerations.

On the other side of the debate you have those who believe the US should take a more cautious approach. This group of people is not against immigration. They are not against asylum seekers. At the same time they believe throwing open the border and letting thousands of people into the country without concerns for national security or the broader implications of an unsecured border to be foolish and impractical. This group also believes that we are a nation of laws. Because of this, they support legal immigration but not illegal immigration. They believe that those who wish to immigrate to the US have the duty to respect the laws of the US if they wish to come here. Those who wish to immigrate to the US should follow the process the country has in place for immigration just like thousands before have done. This group believes that while people from other nations may have a right to seek asylum; that does not give them the right to cross the border illegally. The US has a process in place for those who are seeking asylum. That process needs to be followed.

I grant that the above is an oversimplification of some very complex issues. Both sides raise good points. What does our Catholic Faith tell us? Pope Francis and the bishops have made many statements over the years about immigration. Based on their statements, the pope and bishops appear to me to be more sympathetic to

migrants than they are the rights of a sovereign nation or national security concerns. You can Google their statements and draw your own conclusions. It is important to note that the statements of the pope and bishops on this subject fall in the area of Prudential Judgments. What that means is that Catholics can respectfully disagree with the bishops and pope and still remain Catholics in good standing.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives principles on how the issue of immigration should be approached by Catholics. From the CCC 2241: "The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him. Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens."

So what does all this amount to? At the risk of oversimplification I would say this: it seems that Catholic teaching is that people have an absolute right to migrate and seek a better life for themselves. This absolute right of people to migrate and seek a better life for themselves does not entail that migrants have the right to take the law into their own hands when it comes to entering a sovereign nation. The rights of migrants are never exercised in a vacuum. The rights of migrants are always exercised in the context of and held in tension with the right of a sovereign nation to regulate entry into the nation, and, to set the legal parameters around which people may seek asylum, seek a better life or otherwise seek entry into the nation.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Stewardship

Sunday Collection December 9th: \$ 8,530.00

(Includes \$1,354 Immaculate Conception collection)

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,800.00

Difference: \$ 2,730.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 7,589.83)

Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious: \$700.00

We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.

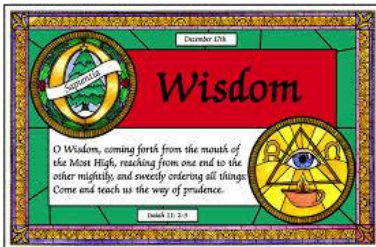
ADVENT SEASON

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).



The "O Antiphons" Of Advent

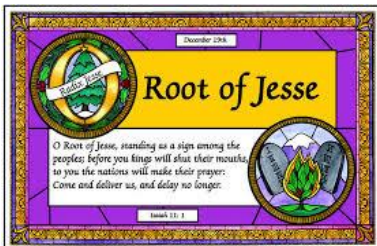
The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



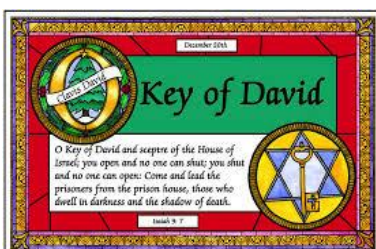
December 17 - O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!



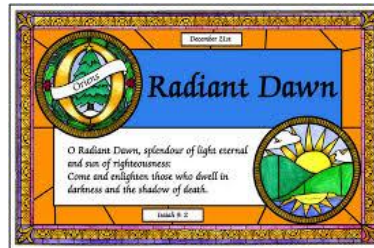
December 18 - O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!



December 19 - O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!



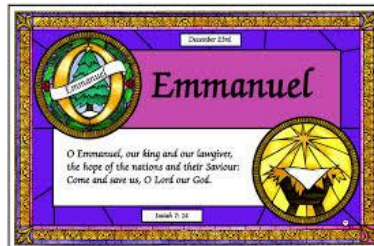
December 20 - O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!



December 21 - 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.



December 22 - O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!



December 23 - O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

BLESSING OF NATIVITY SCENE

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.



The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the **leader** says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.










Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

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Parish Prayer List



Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniow, Ruth Russell, Edward "Turk" Cruttenden, Agnes Worden, Larry Mommicco, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Jim Honeywell, Beverly Willsea, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, and Doris Coumbe.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Teagan Kohler

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.