

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## December 13, 2020



St. John the Baptist Preaching Alessandro Allori (1535-1607)



### *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606

[www.ststanserie.org](http://www.ststanserie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto:ststaner@outlook.com)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary  
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday - Friday at 8:00AM  
**Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM**

\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary  
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:00AM  
**Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM**

\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



December 13, 2020  
3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Is 61:1-2, 10-11/Lk 1:46-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-7, 17-23/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45:6-8, 18-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18-23  
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 /Mt 1:18-25  
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-16/Ps 89:2-5, 27-29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

**Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation** programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint John's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Michael Polenik, at 1.800.374.3723.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

**Leave A Legacy:** Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

**Bulletin Information Deadline:** Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity  
Partners in Faith & Mission*

**"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY**

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Rose Marie at 814.923.4438.

**"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY**

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452-3395) from Saint Stanislaus, or Kathy Benes (898-1091) or Kathy Smith (392-8974) from Holy Trinity.

**PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)**

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

**"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY**

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Linda at 814.864.8476.

**THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"**

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray Luniewski at 882-1032.

**PROLIFE COMMUNITY**

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

**ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  New Registration  Change of Address  Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail  Moving out of Parish  Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.  
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

*A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome*

# Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 14th - Frank Wasielewski (Parish Care & Concern)  
 Tues., Dec. 15th - Pat Bruno III (Val & Carrie Jaskiewicz)  
 Wed., Dec. 16th - Dorothy Kinecki (Family)  
 Thurs., Dec. 17th - Theresa Ignasiak (Mike & Ellie Wozniak)  
 Fri., Dec. 18th - Ed Czulewicz (Bea Pruzenski)  
 Sat., Dec. 19th, 4:00PM - Gerrie & Charles Bakera (Family)  
 Sun., Dec. 20th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)



## DECK THE HALLS!

Volunteers will be needed to help decorate our church for Christmas following the 9:00AM Mass next weekend, on December 20th. Feel free to stick around and spread some Christmas cheer!



Our sanctuary candle burns for **VIOLA ANDREWS** as gifted by the Zill Family.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Keeping in mind the uncertain nature of the pandemic, we intend to observe our traditional Christmas Mass schedule:

**CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:00PM**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:30AM**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE: 4:00PM**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY: 9:00AM**



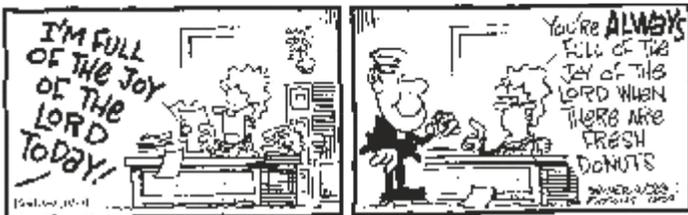
## CHRISTMAS PIEROGI AND CZARNINA SALE

Those who placed an order for our "Christmas Pierogi & Czarnina Sale" can pick up your items in the Social Hall the weekend of **December 19th-20th, from Noon until 2PM**. Please use the 13th Street entrance into the Hall.

## MONTHLY SCRIP ORDER SCHEDULE

Christmas is fast approaching. Consider the gift of Scrip cards! They work just like gift cards, except that the parish receives a "kick back" for each one purchased. Order forms are available in the Parish Office or in the back of the church. The following is the order/pick up schedule:

**ORDER ON..... AVAILABLE BY**  
 December 12-13.....December 19-20  
 December 26-27.....January 2-3



## OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Due to the ongoing pandemic, and the understandable and anticipated decline in Mass attendance, we have opted to have our offertory mailed from our supplier directly to your homes. This will provide a significant savings in the cost of postage for the increased number of envelope boxes that we would have to mail to our "staying-at-home" parishioners.

## OPLATKI...

... will be available for a monetary donation in the vestibule following weekend Masses. They can also be picked up in the Parish Office M-F, 9AM-3PM.

## 2021 CALENDARS

... are available in the vestibule of the church, compliments of Mark Davis and the Garr Funeral Home. Feel free to take one for yourself and, perhaps, a parishioner who has not yet returned to Mass.

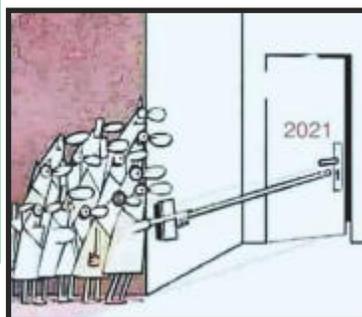
## SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen for **DECEMBER 21st**. They are asking for individually wrapped treats like "Hostess Twinkies" or "Little Debbie's" snack cakes. All donated goods can be dropped off at the church vestibule Sunday, December 20th, between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, December 21st, between 2:00-3:00PM.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 6, 2020)

Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$95,588.00
Amount Received	\$3,700.00	\$60,495.00
Net over/under	(\$456.00)	(\$35,093.00)

Mass Attendance: 37 at 4:00PM  
 31 at 9:00AM



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



12/14 – Julie Brieger & Sarah Nitzczynski  
 12/15 – Nathan Nitzczynski  
 12/16 – Irene Brasington  
 12/18 – Bobbie Colburn  
 12/20 – Hannah Vlahos

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 14th - Albert DiMattio (Bill & Corrine Dyakon)  
 Tues., Dec. 15th - Living & Deceased Mothers of Holy Trinity  
 Wed., Dec. 16th - The Souls in Purgatory (Magraw Family)  
 Thurs., Dec. 17th - Edith Magraw (Family) - Anniversary  
 Fri., Dec. 18th - Living & Deceased Fathers  
 Sat., Dec. 19th, 5:15PM - Anna Kaminski (Family) - Anniversary  
 Sun., Dec. 20th, 10:30AM - Aggie Krawiec (Bill & Corrine Dyakon)



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **ANNA KAMINSKI** as gifted by her Family.

### Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Market

Orders can be picked up in the Social Hall on December 18th from 4-7PM, and December 19th from 9AM-Noon. Thanks for placing your order with us!

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for **ZDZISLAW (JOHN) RACLAWSKI** on December 4th. Please keep John and his family and loved ones in your prayers.

Every day around midnight, I'm shocked to find out it's only 6pm



We are accepting monetary donations for decorations and flowers for our Church during the Christmas Season. The donation can be placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Flower Donations". Place the envelope in the collection basket or Mass or drop off at the Parish Office, no later than 12/20/2020. Please print the names of those you wish to be remembered on the Christmas Flower Flyer.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Keeping in mind the uncertain nature of the pandemic, we intend to observe our traditional Christmas Mass schedule:

**Christmas Eve: 4:30PM**  
**Christmas Day: 10:00AM**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE: 5:00PM**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY: 10:00AM**

### WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020

Regular Offering: \$3,186.00 (37/144)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$69,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$54,395.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,186.00	\$46,137.00
Net (over/under):	\$821.00	(\$8,258.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = N/A; 10:30AM = 45

### CSA UPDATE

Assessment: \$12,425.00  
 Pledges: \$25,232.00  
 Paid: \$24,452.00  
 Families Contributing: 70

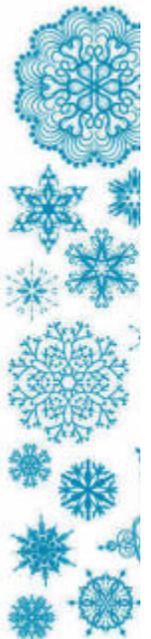
### Advent Word Search

W	E	S	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



*"...make straight the way of the Lord."*

- John 1:23

## News for Our Partnership

### **#IGiveCatholic: UPDATE**

Many thanks to those who contributed to this year's #IGiveCatholic campaign! To date our parishes raised:

Holy Trinity: **\$2,250.00**

St. Stan's: **\$3,125.00**

For only our second year participating, this was a great success. Again, much appreciation and gratitude for your generosity!



"Amazon Smile" is a website operated by Amazon that let's you

enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping as is found on "amazon.com." The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the "Amazon Smile Foundation" will donate a percentage of the purchase price directly to our respective parishes. To start, simply follow the link:

**Saint Stan's:** <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0967487>

**Holy Trinity:** <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1091810>

### *Congratulations!*

Proudest congratulations to **CHRISTOPHER BERES** for having earned a \$1,000 renewable tuition scholarship from Cathedral Prep because he was ranked among the top 10 students on his entrance examination! Excellent work, Chris!

### **CHRISTMAS AT HOME**

The Diocese of Erie recently launched an addition to their website in order to provide spiritual support through the remainder of Advent and into Christmas, especially for those still uncomfortable being in public or attending Mass. You can find these spiritual resources at:

<https://www.eriecd.org/christmas.html>

### **GAUDETE SUNDAY**

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, or the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these days. Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return in three ways. Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The date usually falls between December 11 to 17 each year. 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 worshippers with encouragement to continue their spiritual preparation — especially prayer and fasting — for Christmas. For the same reason of lightening the mood, the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

### **A CONSTANT COMPANION**

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory. During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

### **THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

12/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak & Shirley Widomski; 12/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 12/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; 12/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 12/17) Dave Slubowski; 12/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 12/19) Bill Dyakon; 12/20) Ed Korytowski

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

12/13) Fr. Johnathan Schmolt; 12/14) Fr. Thomas Trocchio; 12/15) Fr. Rocco Tito; 12/16) PRAY FOR VOCATIONS; 12/17) Fr. Thomas Whitman; 12/18) Fr. Marc Stockton; 12/19) Msgr. Joseph Riccardo; 12/20) Msgr. Gerald Ritchie

## Sunday, Dec 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Discern the spirit

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28  
*"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances."*

Often we get an intuition, a burning in the heart that feels motivating. It may tell us to speak up or shut up; to reach out or keep our hands off a situation; to admit we need help or to stop leaning on others. Do we obey the prompt, or ignore it? The problem with following what may be a divine nudge is that we can't always discern the Holy Spirit from a lesser kind. Discernment involves prayer, familiarity with scripture, consultation with faithful others, and sometimes spiritual direction. Above all, it needs to be practiced. Befriend the Spirit

## Monday, Dec 14, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Be a light in the darkness

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27  
*"By what authority are you doing these things?"*

We have so many options in our modern world that it's easy to walk away from any organization or community that we struggle with and simply join ones that are more agreeable to us. But what if we stayed and worked to make them better instead? Saint John of the Cross did exactly that and reformed his Carmelite order, despite imprisonment for his efforts. When you feel disillusioned with institutions you love, be guided by John's writing—considered among the greatest in all of Spanish literature—about darkness leading to the light.

## Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### The darkness before dawn

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32  
*"Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God."*

Two days from now, we'll begin to pray the O Antiphons—seven days to laud the fast-approaching Messiah. What to make of this in-between time, when scripture shows Jesus chiding religious leaders and Old Testament prophets preach fire and brimstone? "The day in which we now find ourselves is still night," wrote Saint Augustine. But the promise of salvation is sure. "Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear."

## Wednesday, Dec 16, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Usher in a renewed Advent

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23  
*"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

This Advent season is so different from any other in our lifetimes, and the holidays may not allow for worship in person with our faith communities or celebrations with beloved families. For many of us, this brings sadness to these Advent days as we mourn the loss of familiar rituals. The poetic words of theologian, educator, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman remind us that the work of Christmas is to "find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry ...rebuild the nations and bring peace among others." Let us pray for the grace to overcome any disappointment we feel and focus on feeding the hungry, having compassion for the broken, and rebuilding the relationships around us. In such practices, we will find Advent hope and peace.

## Thursday, Dec 17, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

### Heavenly sounds

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17  
*"Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations."*

Today is the first of the O Antiphons, an Advent tradition from the seventh century whereby for a week the church's evening prayer salutes the coming Messiah by different names each evening. Tonight monasteries, parishes, and ordinary Christians will sing or recite "O Sapientia" (Wisdom). Reading about the loveliness of this prayer is no substitute for hearing it. Let the ethereal sound of this ancient tradition uplift your prayer today. Here is "O Sapientia" sung by Dominican friars in Oxford, England.

## Friday, Dec 18, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

### A call to rescue and restore

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25  
*"O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."*

The calamities that piled up in 2020 point surely to the longing of today's O Antiphon. A wave of global pandemic, quarantine, massive unemployment, fires, floods, and protest for racial justice crests, resonating with the yearning for freedom. More than ever, we yearn for the Leader who will restore justice and rescue us with mighty power. And at a time when more people are exiled from their homes than ever before in human history, we commemorate Migrants Day with a plaintive call: *Come, Lord Jesus to our human mess. We need you as we have throughout the centuries.*

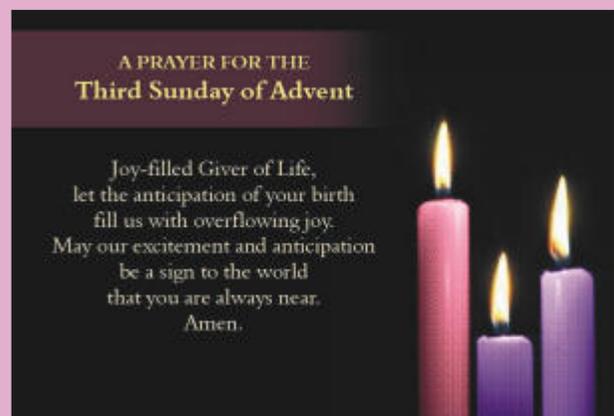
## Saturday, Dec 19, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

### Creation is full of surprises

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25  
*"You have been raised up as a sign for all peoples."*

The image of "Jesse's Stem" in today's O Antiphon comes from the Book of Isaiah. Using the image of a tree much like we use a family tree to trace our lineage, Isaiah traces the lineage of the kings of Judah forward from Jesse, the father of King David, to the hoped-for Christ, the new king who might restore the monarchy to its former greatness. But like the birth of John the Baptist, the actual coming of the Christ would be a surprise, a new revelation of a heavenly Kingdom. Reflect on the various ways God has surprised you in your life.



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