

O Antiphons

Each evening, in the Church's Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, we sing the magnificat, the canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55). In this great song of praise, Mary sings of God's blessings and his great, saving presence and action in her life.

An antiphon is sung before the canticle. This is a short verse which, unique to each day, is meant to provide focus for this sung prayer. During the last week of Advent, these verses are taken from the collection of prayers that date back to the seventh century. They are known as the O Antiphons because each one begins with that most simple of exclamations, "O!"

Most of us know these antiphons because they comprise the verses of the well-known song, "O Come O Come Emmanuel." Each verse - or antiphon - is a prayer unto itself. Each one first addresses Christ, using an ancient title from scripture. The prayer continues with the request that Christ will come and save us. In each of these prayers, the Church expresses the very heart of our Advent Prayer: Lord Jesus, come! Save us! Redeem us, again!

The O Antiphons begin on December 17th. Perhaps families might pray them together as they gather for their evening supper. Parish groups can use them as a gathering prayer if they have reason to meet this week. Anyone can use them throughout the week to help prepare themselves in this final week before celebrating Christmas. Find a copy of "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and each night pray a different verse. In these last days of Advent, call upon the one for whom we wait and pray, in faith and in hope, to come!

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17 December 2014

"O Wisdom" (*O Sapientia*)

The blessing of Judah is fulfilled in Jesus, born of the line of David. In Christ all shall be blessed.

18 December 2014

"O sacred Lord" (*O Adonai*)

A descendant of David, born to Mary and Joseph, will govern with justice and pity the lowly and the poor.

19 December 2014

"O Flower of Jesse's stem" (*O radix Jesse*)

What mighty deeds! As an angel announces the birth of Samson, so, too, Gabriel heralds the birth of John.

20 December 2014

"O Key of David" (*O clavis David*)

The Immanuel is a blessing and a sign for David's house; his role is accomplished perfectly in Jesus.

21 December 2014

"O Radiant Dawn" (*O Oriens*)

Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting and is glad and exults. With the advent of the Savior, born of Mary, the winter is past and new life is upon us.

22 December 2014

"O king of all the nations" (*O Rex gentium*)

Hanna's thanksgiving for her son is echoed in the great hymn of Mary, the Magnificat.

23 December 2014

"O Emmanuel"

Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us", risen from the dead. He is the King of glory.

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Volunteer Drivers

Ursuline Sisters living at Regina Health Center need volunteer drivers! **Volunteers drive sisters to doctor appointments.** The time required is about 3 hours per assignment. **Volunteers help at least 1x/month.** Sisters' appointment times vary. Volunteers choose when to sign up. **We provide the car and gas! Background check, motor vehicle records check and TB test.** (All free; TB test done at Regina Health Center at a convenient time.) To learn more, Maggie Gibson, 440-449-1200 x 409 or mgibson@ursulinesisters.org.

Retrouvaille Weekend

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressures that you have neglected your spouse? Retrouvaille can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. A **Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend** will be held **January 9-11, 2015. Registration is \$150.** For more info or to register, call Diane or Al Miskinis in complete confidence at 330-665-3506 or (from a 216 or 440 area code), 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

CELEBRATE LIFE CONCERT

Amanda Vernon, recording artist, singer, pianist and composer will be performing at a **free concert at Holy Family Church (3450 Sycamore Dr., Stow, OH 44224) Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 7pm.** Her performance is a mixture of interactive songs, scripture stories, personal testimony and a call to action. Amanda, a practicing Catholic, has brought her message to many people of all ages, in the U.S. and around the world. Immediately following the concert there will be an informal reception in the Lower Church Hall. Her performance is funded through the joint efforts of the Culture of Life Ministry at Holy Family and the Knights of Columbus, Council #10936 of Stow-Hudson; Holy Family and Saint Mary.

Akron First Friday Club

The **First Friday Club of Akron** will meet **Friday, January 9, 2015 at Quaker Station, 135 South Broadway, Akron, 44304.** Brian Sinchak, will speak on the topic "Stories of Faith in Young Adults." Luncheon program is \$15. **Doors open at 11:15am; the program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1:00pm.** Reservations can be made (no later than the Monday prior to the program) by **sending a check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Avenue, Akron, OH 44307, by calling 330-535-7668 or at www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org.**

Education Program

Do you know an adult, age 21 and over, with a cognitive disability who is looking to further their education, meet new friends, go on fun field trips and more?! Maybe the Saturday Program is what you are looking for? **For over 25 years, the CAEP has provided educational and social skill building for adults with developmental disabilities.** Participants enhance their skills in math, reading and history. They also work on the computer, make arts & crafts and have fun making friends, watching movies and having holiday parties! Participants also learn about their local community by going on field trips. **Classes meet at OLA/St. Joseph Center (2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland, OH).** Students provide their own transportation. **Tuition is \$88/month with an additional one time material fee of \$60;** Medicaid Waivers are accepted and financial assistance may be available. **Call 216-334-2963 or email Marilyn Scott at mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org to set up an appointment to see if it is the right fit for you!**

"Living with Benedict" Retreat

The **Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, OH (near University Circle) invite single men between the ages of 19-45** to experience Benedictine monastic life during a **"Living with Benedict" retreat weekend, February 13-15, 2015.** For more information, please contact **Fr. Finbar** at finbar@cbhs.edu or at 216-721-5300 x273.

1060 AM

WILB at 1060 AM – Living Bread Radio, is available to be heard in most parts of the Diocese. Broadcasting each day from sunrise to sunset...1060 broadcasts **Catholic teaching and preaching** along with the **Mass and many devotions.** **Tune in to 1060 AM...WILB!**

YCN

"Your Community News" is where residents of Township and Peninsula have shared information for over 25 years. **Visit www.ycn-online.net.**

Mark Your Calendars!

Dreading winter? Think Spring by saving **Thursday, March 5, 2015** for the Women's Board of Catholic Charities Community Services of Summit County's annual **Spring Style Show, Raffle, Auction, and Luncheon.** Tickets and more information will be available in **January 2015.**

Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.