

Dear Padre,

My sister says that singing the *O Antiphons* are her favorite part of Advent. What are they?

An antiphon is a brief refrain, usually from the Bible, either sung or said during worship. An *O Antiphon* is an antiphon that starts with O, as in “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”—each verse of that song is made up of an O Antiphon.

The antiphons are most at home in the Liturgy of the Hours—the collection of psalms, hymns, prayers, and readings that make up the regular rhythm of the Church’s prayer at morning, midday, evening, and night. The O Antiphons your sister refers to are verses used during the Church’s evening prayer from December 17–23. With one verse spoken or sung before Mary’s Magnificat each evening, these antiphons call on the Lord to come to his people using titles taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

When the O Antiphons are sung in Latin, they present a sort of acrostic with a hidden message. The first letter of each title in the antiphon spells *sarcore*, which is *ero cras* (Latin for “tomorrow I come” or “tomorrow I shall be”) spelled backward.

In their original language and context, the O Antiphons have a particularly rich significance, but they remain beautiful even when sung simply in English as in the verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



JOHNSO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 6
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday
DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday
DECEMBER 8
Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Thursday
DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday
DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday
DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday
DECEMBER 12
Third Sunday
of Advent
Zep 3:14–18a
Phil 4:4–7
Lk 3:10–18

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Bar 5:1–9

Phil 1:4–6, 8–11

Lk 3:1–6



EVGENI ANANENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.
BARUCH 5:1

And the Word Was Made Flesh

Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn’t amount to much. It’s full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today’s readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life’s events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

The Gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled over by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to “prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason that this world is holy.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Incarnation means that Jesus is made of the stuff of this world, just as we are. Think about this.
- ★ Nothing is too common that it can’t be holy. What does that mean?



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us....First of all we are called to fill the “valleys” caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9, 2018



Rectory & Parish Office
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com
 Website: saintanthonylakin.org

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 4, 4:00 pm

Servers: Jason Velasco, Volunteers
 Reader: Karen Burden

Sunday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.

Servers: CCD
 Reader: CCD

Saturday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Nathan Gannett,
 Jonathan Gannett
 Readers: Tom Bachman

Sunday, December 12, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade Berning, Joce Berning, Joleigh
 Lohman Fuller

Monday, Dec. 6	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Dec. 7	8:00 a.m.	Special Int.-Thanksgiving (I.S.)
Wednesday, Dec. 8	6:00 p.m.	For the People
Thursday, Dec. 9	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention (Powers Family)
Friday, Dec. 10	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Saturday, Dec. 11	4:00p.m.	Peter Sack
Sunday, Dec. 12	9:00 a.m.	Special Intention (Bergkamp F.)

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT— DECEMBER 5, 2021



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. (Luke 3;4)

How many of us want to lose weight, but don't want to exercise and eat right? How many of us want the "A", but don't want to do our homework? Wanting something is one thing. Doing what it takes to get what we want is something different altogether.

John the Baptist invites us in today's gospel, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John is trying to get people to be ready for the imminent coming of God. He tells them to "make straight his paths" --- in other words --- "make sure that you are making it easy for God to get to you, make sure that there are no obstacles in his way."

God is coming. That much is true. As you know, that's what Advent is all about. Yet, we're not simply preparing to "remember" what God did two thousand years ago. Rather, we are getting ready for Jesus to be born once again --- in our hearts, in our lives, and in our world. God is coming. How bad do we want him? That may seem like a silly question. Who wouldn't want God? Yet, maybe the answer to the question is not as simple as we might think. Do we still want God --- if it means that we have to forgive those who have hurt us the most? Do we still want God --- if it means that we need to be incredibly generous with the poor and those in need --- and not simply once in a while, but as a way of life? Do we still want God --- if it means we need to be people of peace and not violence, mercy and not revenge? Do we still want God --- if it means that we have to be faithful to our spouses, honest and diligent in the workplace, patient with those who annoy us, understanding of those who are different from us, and compassionate to those who are hurting?

Prepare the way of the Lord. How do you intend to do that this Advent? Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for November 28, 2021: Envelopes: \$390; Loose: \$205; Online Giving: \$256.72 Total \$851.72; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 909.45.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of Linda Christine Noe. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May she rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Kevin Garcia Luis, son of Alejandro and Soledad Garcia, who was baptized on December 4th, 2021. Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Kevin and his family.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE If you would like to donate flowers in memory of A LOVED ONE FOR CHRISTMAS, please put your donation in envelope marked to whom you want them to go to, plus your name and put in with the regular collection or send it to our office.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATION We plan to decorate the church on December 17 at noon. Your help would be appreciated.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES Your Offering Envelopes for the coming year are available at the Church's Vestibule. Please pick up yours and thank you so very much for your generous and faithful contributions for supporting our Parish.

2022 CALENDARS are available at the church vestibule for you to pick it up.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION Please make an extra effort to attend our parish reconciliation this Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. to reconcile with God, the Church, and with others in order to be ready ourselves to celebrate the Birthday of the Lord.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS **Parish Advent Reconciliation/Confession Service**—Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Holy Day of Obligation**, Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. **Parish Christmas Party**—Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Mass at Lakin**—Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Day Mass at Deerfield**—December 9:00 a.m. **PLEASE KNOW THAT We will not have Saturday Evening Mass (12/25) at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. at Lakin & Deerfield.**

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING The second Altar Servers training will be held this Sunday—December 5 right after Mass.

VOCATION VIEW Is the Holy Spirit asking you to be “a shepherd he feeds his flock” in the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life?

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!”

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Opening Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent) 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 3: 1-6)

Setting the stage Other Greek writers of Luke's era also began their literary works by naming local and regional rulers. They did this in order to establish the historical context of the events they wrote about. Such introductions also lend weight and solemnity to the events that follow. Some of the prophetic literature in our Old Testament begins the same way. Luke makes other points with this introduction. • despite their positions of power, God didn't call any of these people to announce the gospel • both John the Baptist and Jesus will come into conflict with people in power • although John's ministry begins in one small pocket of the Roman Empire, it has repercussions that stretch from Jerusalem to Rome itself (all flesh shall see the salvation of God)

The desert The desert was a religiously significant place for the Jews. When God led their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt, he led them into the Sinai desert and formed a covenant with them. Centuries after the exodus, God's people were conquered by the Babylonians. Some were forced to live in Babylon. Once this time of oppression had ended, God called prophets like Isaiah to urge people to make a new exodus by journeying through the desert to rebuild their homeland.

Time of salvation John quotes the passage from Isaiah to declare that God is coming with salvation, but only for those who turn away from sin and accept this new era. He echoes other Old Testament prophets in saying that God is coming, so people must amend their ways or face condemnation.

Baptism The Jordan river marks the eastern boundary of Israel and is that nation's largest river. Many significant events in Israel's history happened at this river, making it a richly symbolic place for John to begin his ministry. Jews immersed themselves and objects in water as a way of ritually purifying them. John adapted this practice to suit his prophetic ministry. He makes baptism a sign that people want to turn away from their sins and embrace whatever is coming. John's baptism isn't the same as Christian baptism. John's baptism is only a sign of contrition, whereas Christian baptism also takes away a person's sins. Christian baptism also immerses believers into the life and death of Christ and makes them part of a new spiritual community. (www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Baruch 5: 1-9)

Who's Baruch? Baruch was a follower of the prophet Jeremiah, who lived during the Babylonian conquest of Israel in the sixth century BC. During this attack Baruch was taken into Egypt (Jeremiah 43:4-7). However, scholars estimate that this book was written in the second century BC, when Baruch would no longer have been alive. By attributing the work to Baruch, the author of this work evoked the memory of the Babylonian invasion and all that provoked it.

Sin and mercy The author invites his hearers to reflect on what caused the Babylonian invasion. Prophets like Jeremiah warned that God would punish his people for failing to uphold his laws. This book thus invites later generations to confess their own sins and seek forgiveness. As we hear in the passage for this Sunday, God protects and restores all who repent and seek his mercy.

A glorious restoration The Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem before looting the city and killing or imprisoning the surviving inhabitants. When the city was rebuilt, it was a sign that God had forgiven his people. This author personifies Jerusalem, urging her to exchange her sorrow and misery for symbols of glory and justice (vv.1-2). Everyone, including the city's enemies, will see this wondrous transformation (vv.3-4). Jerusalem will then watch as those who left during the invasion return home. These people return like royalty (vv.5-6). God will make their journey comfortable by smoothing their path (www.oursundayreadings)

From Our K of C

Greetings from your Grand Knight. Another month is upon us and another year nearly gone...Where does the time go?

This weekend the knights will be doing our Beirocks. If you haven't ordered an, by the time you read this, it's probably too late. This project is more than just our major fund-raiser, it a time when we get together to share our time with one another and just have some fun as we make those delicious goodies.

The Knights are also planning some fun things to do at the parish Christmas party on the 15th of the month. I believe we will have some drawings for prizes, for both kids and adults, and MY understanding is Santa Claus is going to make an appearance. I hope, all of you will join us.

To bring our council into the 21st century, we are going to create a FaceBook page for our Knights council. The idea is, better communication with member and parish community. More on this as we get closer.

Our annual Tootsie roll project has ended for this year with the distribution of the checks.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the little drawings the Knights have been doing after Saturday Evening and Sunday morning Masses. A little fun for those attending. We hope you have enjoyed it.

We got notice that the Supreme Council will start assessing their Per-Capita taxes on the council after the 2 year hiatus due to Covid. This means \$500 – 600 out of our bank account. It is because of these 'taxes' that we have membership dues. The dues our members pay, go primarily to pay these taxes, which is why is it important for our members to stay current. We have to pay the State and Supreme whether or not the members pay us. Please, when you receive your Dues Notice to get those paid timely.

As it is Christmas, we decided to send our adopted seminarian a card and a little Christmas gift. We all know how our diocese, and all diocese for that matter, are so short on Priests, so the Knights “adopt” and seminarian to help make those decisions they have made a little easier to live with, by supporting them by giving them moral support and small financial assistance.

Our Knight of the month is Alvin Bergkamp. Alvin is our new Financial Secretary and the learning curve is pretty steep, and he has been working on it pretty hard. Our Family of the month is the Kenny Waechter family. Kenny and Gwen work hard at doing lots around the parish grounds, and their children, all grown, are pretty active as well, in the parish and Sarah is one of our CCD teachers. Congrats to our Knights of the month.

Well, that's about it for this month.....or year for that matter. I hope and pray that you and your families have a safe, happy and blessed Christmas. Tom Bachman, GK

Question: If a rosary is broken but repaired, does it lose its blessing? — Ed Stewart

Answer: No, it does not lose its blessing. If the majority of the beads were replaced, etc., it would not be wrong to have it blessed again, but blessed objects remained blessed. In rare cases, blessed or consecrated objects can lose their blessing through association with a gravely sinful act. For example, if a murder takes place in a consecrated Church, it is the usual practice to re-consecrate the place. A related question is what to do with blessed objects that are no longer usable. Generally speaking, they should be burned or buried, but not discarded in the regular trash. Old and tattered Bibles, holy cards, scapulars, and the like can be burned and buried. If burning of them is not possible, simple burial will do. Things that cannot be burned such as ruined medals, statues, or rosaries, should be buried. If possible, before blessed or religious objects are buried it is permissible to shred, smash, or in some way render them less recognizable. This helps to avoid the possible scandal of others happening upon them and not realizing that they were buried for pious reasons as no longer usable, and not merely discarded. (Monsignor Charles Pope)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In praise of community service

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy! (Prepare the Word)

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Elogio del servicio a la comunidad

Considérenlo uno de los primeros voluntarios. Juan el Bautista predicaba y bautizaba por el campo, preparando a la comunidad para el camino, la verdad y la vida que se les iban a abrir. No se le pagaba por estos servicios, y probablemente por eso su dieta era de langostas y miel, y su ropa tosca. Hoy, en el Día Internacional del Voluntariado, damos las gracias a todos los que ayudaron a sus vecinos con las compras y los asistieron durante la larga temporada de enfermedad. Podemos continuar con este espíritu de compromiso social: donando sangre, organizando limpiezas en grupo, paleando la acera de un vecino. ¡Ser voluntario favorece la empatía!