



## Catholic Q&A

What are the "O Antiphons"?

An **antiphon** is a short verse from a psalm or other usually biblical source that is chanted (or at least recited) before and/or after a psalm. The **O Antiphons** are the antiphons chanted during the **Octave of Christmas**, the seven days before Christmas Eve, Dec. 17-23. On each day, a different O Antiphon is sung during **Evening Prayer**, which is the portion of the Liturgy of the Hours that is prayed at sunset. They are called "O" antiphons because each one starts with the exclamation "O", followed by a title of the Savior. They are meant to heighten our awareness of the coming of the Lord as we approach those precious few days before Christmas.

The seven O Antiphons are: *O Sapientia* (Oh Wisdom), *O Adonai* (Oh Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (Oh Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (Oh Key of David), *O Oriens* (Oh Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (Oh King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." Each one is named after the title of the Savior that begins the antiphon. Here are the antiphons for each day, in full, followed by the passages from Isaiah that inspire them:

**Dec. 17 - O Sapientia:** "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation." (cf. Isa 11:2-3; 28:29)

**Dec. 18 - O Adonai:** "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." (cf. Isa 11:4-5; 33:22)

**Dec. 19 - O Radix Jesse:** "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid." (cf. Isa 11:1, 10)

**Dec. 20 - O Clavis David:** "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom." (cf. Isa 9:6; 22:22)

**Dec. 21 - O Oriens:** "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." (cf. Isa 9:2)

**Dec. 22 - O Rex Gentium:** "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust." (cf. Isa 2:4; 9:7)

**Dec. 23 - O Emmanuel:** "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God." (cf. Isa 7:14)

Besides praying these during the Liturgy of the Hours, families can also make up their own prayer services using the O Antiphons. For example, everyone could recite the Antiphon for the day together, then the father could read the appropriate passage from Isaiah, and then end with everyone singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." During Advent, it is always good to set aside some time to pray as a family.

Peace of Christ to you,  
Nicholas Hardesty, Director of Religious Education

## The Giving Tree

**Please return the gift with the tag no later than Dec. 20th. The gifts will be delivered on Tuesday, Dec. 22nd. Anyone wishing to help deliver please contact Jan at the Parish Office, Thank you all for your generous spirit and for spreading the love of the Christ Child this Christmas!**

## Forming Good Stewards

December 20, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb . . ."

Luke 1:39-45

As we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus we are treated to the story of the encounter between the Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus the Christ. Both were excited about their unborn child. Both were happy that the other would soon give birth. Life is a gift from God and, like Elizabeth and Mary, we should celebrate every new human life. We have an elaborate celebration of the birth of Jesus but we do not celebrate the birth of John, but we do celebrate his life and his role as "a voice in the wilderness making straight the way of the Lord." That is really what John would have us do. So, how do we celebrate the birth of Jesus? Or, are we too excited about the prospect of the presents we will receive (or too worried about how we are going to pay for all the presents we bought) to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus? Even more important, do we have a present for Jesus? Did we give Jesus anything last year? What part of ourselves will we give to Jesus by giving to others this year? Its not too late. John wants us to remember that:

**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!!!!**

Collection	Budget	MDT	YDT
\$25,787.	\$21,057.	\$26,461.	\$21,403.

## End of the Year Giving

*We are all busy finding that perfect gift for everyone on our list during this season of joy. Please remember to put your Church on your giving list. Not only is your gift tax deductible, but most important you are helping to spread The Kingdom of God on earth. Parish Christmas Envelopes are in your packets*

## Advent Communal Penance Services

**Sun., Dec. 20 Blessed Mother, 2pm**  
**Mon., Dec. 21 St. Lawrence, Knottsville, 6pm**

**New Bishop Announced!  
Rev. William Francis Medley  
Ordination will take place Feb. 10,  
2010, 2pm, at the Owensboro  
Sportscenter!**

Bishop-elect Medley was born on Sept. 17, 1952 in Marion County and was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1982 at the Cathedral of the Assumption by the Most Rev. Thomas Kelly, Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville. We praise God for our new Bishop!

**Young Disciples  
(Grades 7-12)**

Coming Soon...

There will be NO YOUTH GROUP the next 2 weekends (Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>)! Have a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!!

Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>~ 6:00-7:00 pm in the youth room. Help needed to get some decorating done for the Christmas masses! Please come!!

Parents, if you have not been able to fill out forms, please contact me at the office or catch me Sunday night!

Questions, concerns, comments: come by, call, or e-mail me @: Christina Best: [bmcyouth@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmcyouth@bellsouth.net) or 683-8444 Ext. 28

Cooking Teams up to bat: THANK YOU!!  
Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>~ NO TEAM NEEDED!!  
Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>~ NOT TEAM NEEDED!!

**Laugh for the Week**

*The Lost Purse*

A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills." The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have nay change for a reward."

*The Three Wise Women*

You do know what would have happened if ti had been three wise women instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts.



**Wishing You a Blessed Christmas!  
Fr. John, Jan, Darlene, Brett, Nicholas,  
Christina, Romie, and Will**

**Christmas Schedule  
Liturgical Ministers**

**Christmas Eve**

**5:00 PM EM:** Jenny Glaser, David, Jennifer Jones, Sandy Henry, Chris Ford, Mark, Darlene Church, Lisa, Jessica Carmon

**Reader:** Doug Dunn **Gifts:** Dennis Fulkerson

**Servers:** CJ Glaser, Daniel Fulkerson

**Music:** Choristers (Music begins at 4:40)

**Ushers:** Tony Fiorella, Jackee Russell, Bill Wathen, Jack Hamilton

**8:00 PM EM:** Dan, Sandra, Rachel Thomas, Christina, Jeanne Best, Sam Lilly, Pat, Susan Hale, Katie Mattingly

**Reader:** Denny Mann **Gifts:** Tom Lilly

**Servers:** Jacob Linn, Daniel Best

**Music:** Youth (Music begins at 7:40)

**Ushers:** Luke Robertson, Alex Vaughan, Mason, Ben Miller

**Midnight EM:** Jay, Susie Fillman, Drew, Jeannette Ward, Kim Barnett, 2 Volunteers Needed

**Reader:** Charlie Castlen **Gifts:** Denny Barnett

**Servers:** Gabe Fillman, Daniel Castlen

**Music:** Chancel (Music begins at 11:30)

**Ushers:** Jordon, Jolene White, Ken, Matt Terry

**Christmas Day, 9:00 AM**

**EM:** John, Raymunda Calhoun, Mary Howard, Brenda Hagan, Jim Hagan, Dennis Sandefur, Pauline Wigginton, Carol, Darryl Murphy

**Reader:** Mary Howard **Gifts:** Shelby Thompson

**Servers:** Sam Thompson, Will Sandefur

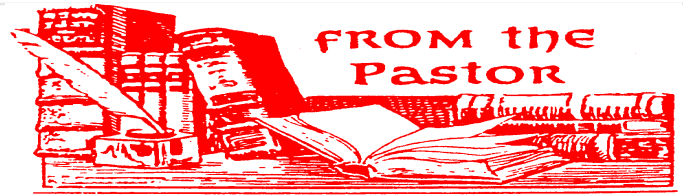
**Music:** Cantor, Teresa Henry (music begins 8:45)

**Ushers:** Jeff, Mary Fenwick, Jack Murphy, Paul Garner

## Christmas Flower Memorial

This Christmas Season we remember our loved ones and we pray for them!

Chris Redd, Stewart Schrecker, Betty Johnson Family, Bernard and Dorothy Clark Family, Charles M. Wedding, Jerry Blandford Sr., Jerry Blandford Jr., Robert May, Joe Carr, McIntyre-Hagan Family, Joyce Ramos, Paul Edge Family, Matt, Alice Settles, Paul and Carol Hodskins Family, Clara Alvey, Louis and Lloyd Clements, Johnnie Payne, Lloyd & Anita Travis Family, Sandra Henry Family, John McCarthy, Joey Aull, Charles H. Clark, Remuis Clark, Mary McDaniel, Joanna Allen, Winifred & Parker Fulton and Family, Robert Gratzer, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Gratzer, Deceased Infants, Mitchell Long Sr., Adeline Mehlbauer, Richard & Mary Frances Murphy, Drusic & Herman Coomes, Charles, Marguerite Settles, Frank, Alice Murphy, Ebelhar Family, Glenn Woodward Family, Frances Feldpausch Meunier, Jack Feldpausch Sr. Family, Gene Frey Sr. Family, Estil Wooldridge, Glenn Wooldridge, David Hall, Nick Elder, Larry Taylor Family, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Millay Family, Charles Hamilton Family, Agnes & Robert Luckett, Robert & Lynn Pope Family, Coy Howard, Mary Ellen Howard, Wallace Johnson, David Boarman, Gertrude Cravens, Robert, Audrey and Bernard Fischer, Philip & Ada Hodgkins, Mary & Le Roy Hayden, Bob and Patt Hayden, Jim Screiner, Grandparents of Mark & Sandi Rafferty, Robert Lee, Louis, Evelyn Payne, Vincent Cecil & Family, Roger & Dodie Conder Family, Bessie Fogle, Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Payne, Bruni Gerdes, David Finley, Reesie Hill, Diddy Hagman Family, Early-Clements Families, Otto Hayden, Letha Watrous, Aloysius & Eliza Lee Smith, Elbert & Mary R. (Smith) McDaniel, Debbie (Ward) Terry, Leo & Marie Payne, Maddi Cash Family, Helen Bowman, Stacy Bellwood, Osowiicz Family, Mom & Dad Hester, Joseph Fendel Jr. Family, Florence Roby Family, Marvin Reynolds Jr, Leona Wright, Aggie Thomas, Lucy Schell, Mary Gratzer, Mark & Laurie Elliott, Raphael Hagan, Paul Thompson Family, Pat Glenn, Pauline Woods, Stinnett-Arnold Families, Cletus & Mildred Bittel, Bittel-Wedding Family, Nunex-Solis Family, Hurm-Leibfried Family, Megan Clark, Tom & Dolores Hartz, Brenda Jones, Debbie Conder Family, Larry & Becky Franey Family, Rita Fillman, Urban Wooldridge, Vincent Wooldridge, John Medley Family, Howard-Wooldridge Family, David Hall, Larry O'Bryan, Shirley Hurter, Raymond M. Smith, Opal Smith, Kevin Rhodes, Bill Hamilton, Elizabeth Dorth, Robert Dunbar Family, Jessie Mattingly, Jane Mitchell, Robert Hurm & Family, Bernard Church & Family, Jim Jackson, Millard, Louise Haynes, J.M. Haynes, Jack & Catherine Hagan, Joy Martin, Cyrille & Marguerite Howard, Darrell Howard, Ida Mae Allen, Bill, Curtis Ratliff, David & Margaret Peugeason, Nonnie Owens, Ward & Mildred Pedley Family, Virginia Arnold Family, Frank & Lola Spurrier, Jess & Essis Caysinger, Charlie Speaks Family, Joe O'Bryan Family



I hope you had a good week. Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Time is short. He is almost here. May I continue to prepare for His coming right up until the day He arrives. May you have a blessed Christmas filled with happiness and holiness.

Don't forget your Giving Tree gifts due back the 20<sup>th</sup> of December.

Our Advent Penance Service is this Sunday afternoon December 20 at 2pm.

Please note the Mass schedule for Christmas. There will be overflow seating in the parish hall for the 5pm and the 8pm on Christmas Eve.

There will be no confessions the Saturday after Christmas.

As we come to the end of a calendar year many people need ideas for year-end contributions. There are a lot of worthy causes. Personally, I would ask you to remember the TV Mass – Gideon Productions in your charitable giving.

Some of our neighbors on 22<sup>nd</sup> street have asked for a consideration. When attending an event at the church or gym or school, please fill up the church parking lot before parking in front of the houses on the street that have no front entrance. Sometimes the residents have trouble finding a place to park in those instances when an event is going on.

We continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the choice of our next bishop.

Have a great week.

**Calendar for the Week**

**Rosary is prayed Mon.—Thurs, 4 PM**

**Mon. Mass 6:30 AM  
Bunko, 1:00 PM**

**Tues. Mass at 6 PM  
Deliver Giving Tree, 9 AM**

**Wed. Mass at 6:30 AM**

**Thurs. Christmas Eve Masses  
5, 8 PM, Midnight  
Offices Closed**

**Fri. Christmas Day Mass, 9 AM  
No Eucharistic Adoration**

**Sat. NO Confessions, 12:30 –2:00 PM  
4 PM Mass**

**Sun. Feast of the Holy Family  
Mass at 7, 10 AM, 5:30 PM  
NO Religious Ed Classes 11 AM  
NO Coffee and Donuts, 11 AM  
NO Youth Group, 6:30-8 PM  
AA Meeting, 7:30pm, school cafeteria**

**Readings for Dec. 21-27**

- Mon. Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45
- Tues. 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
- Wed. Mal 3:1-4,23-24 LK 1:57-66
- Thurs. Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:1-25
- Fri. Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
- Sat. Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22
- Sun. Sir 3:2-7,12-14 1 Sm 1L20-22,24-28  
Lk 2:41-52

**May the Christ Child Remain in Your Hearts this  
Christmas Day and Throughout the Year!**

**Parish Council Members**

Charlie Castlen	683-3426
Charlotte Cecil	683-0499
Tim Goetz	684-8275
David Graham	683-4665
Troy Haleman	691-0633
David Jarboe	683-5108
Rick Moman	683-6555
Darryl Murphy	683-8437
Phil Riney	926-8945
Darlene Kazlauskas	684-3891
Tony Powers	926-1803
Nancy Byrum	729-4362

**Safe Environment**

Copies of the Diocese of Owensboro’s policy dealing with sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable person is available in the Parish Office and on the Diocesan web site (www.Owensborodio.org) The Bishop and Diocesan Review Board want to help anyone who has been abused in the past or is currently suffering from abuse. You may phone the Pastoral Center, 683 -1545, to report an allegation of abuse. **If you need to attend a Safe Environment Workshop, contact Jan at the Parish Office. You may now take the training online at www.shieldthevulnerable.org Background checks must also be done before you are eligible to work with the youth of our parish.**

**TV Mass**

Mass will now air on Channel 72 at 10:30 am. If you have Time Warner’s digital cable the Mass can also be seen at 11am on Channel 311. It also broadcasts from News 25 (cable chaneel11) at 6am. All those with satellite can get the Mass on local Channel 25 at 6am. **Donations may be made to Gideon Productions., 515 East 22nd St. Owensboro, Ky. 42303**

**Scrap-a-thon**

Put on my Owensboro Mothers of Multiples is Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010 frin 8 am-6pm at Immaculate Parish Hall. Cost is \$30. come create and reflect on your memories while supporting OMOM’s! Food and drinks included! Door prizes drawn every hour. Call Mary Katherine Wathen for more info: 859-321-0248 or Christy Hayden: 684-2537

**Visit Our Web Site**

**www.blessedmotherchurch.com  
All Q&A’s Now online!**

**Blessed Mother Social Justice Committee**

*Christmas is not just a time for giving gifts; let us remember the poor and lonely—give of yourselves. Pray for us St. Francis of Assisi.*

**Pro-Life Corner**

As we see in the first reading and the Gospel, the details of his birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth, and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires.

**Rest In Peace**

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Tom Wedding on the death of his sister. May she rest in the love and the peace of the Lord.