



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Veritatem Facientes in Caritate

www.institute-christ-king.org



Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

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Clergy & Staff

Institute of Christ the King

Reverend Canon Matthew Talarico
Provincial Superior

Church Staff

Reverend Canon Francis X. Altieri IV
Pastor & Rector

Abbé Luke Ball
Clerical Oblate

Dr. Samuel Schmitt
Director of Sacred Music & Organist
samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org

Mrs. Laurie Furey
Office Manager
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Monday to Friday (except Wednesday)

Mass Times

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Low Mass
10:15 a.m. High Mass

Monday-Friday: 7:45 a.m. Low Mass

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. Low Mass

Holy Days: *please consult the bulletin*

Confessions

30 minutes before Mass every day

Regular Devotions

Every Thursday: Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

First Friday: Additional Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

First Saturday: After Mass, Adoration with Holy Rosary, 15-minute meditation & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Masses this Week

Sunday, December 15th

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{called, GAUDETE}

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks
requested by Grace Monks

Monday, December 16th

Saint Eusebius

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Al Falcioni

requested by George & Nancy Whitmore

Tuesday, December 17th

Greater Feria of Advent

{O Sapientia}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Maria Guadalupe Doroteo Sumulong
requested by Neo Neal Bernardo Natividad

Wednesday, December 18th

Ember Wednesday

{O Adonai}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Mary Tkacik

requested by John Tkacik

Thursday, December 19th

Greater Feria of Advent

{O Radix Jesse}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Jeffrey Monks

requested by Gregory Mikulka

Friday, December 20th

Ember Friday

{O Clavis David}

7:45 a.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Louis Alanz & family

requested by Sara Kinani & Louis Alanz

Saturday, December 21st

Saint Thomas the Apostle

{Ember Saturday - O Oriens}

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Mario Difazio

requested by Gregory Mikulka

Sunday, December 22nd

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{O Rex gentium}

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ John & Ethel Kashulon
requested by the Kashulon Foundation



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 15th

Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 16th

Setting up the Crèche in church

Volunteers needed this week to decorate church

December 17th to 23rd

"Wisdomtide": Week of the O Antiphons

The Christmas Novena begins on the 17th

December 18th, 20th and 21st

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Traditionally days of fast & abstinence

Thursday, December 19th

Holy Hour & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22nd

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Solemn "O Antiphon" Vespers & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m., followed by reception with seasonal treats in the church hall

Tuesday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Office of Prime with Christmas Martyrology at 8:30 a.m. (* servers needed *)

Christmas Carols & Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m. & High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

December 26th to 28th

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. (confessions at 8:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 31st

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Holy Hour & Te Deum at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 11th

First Holy Communion catechism class

Sunday, January 12th

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Blessing of children after both Masses

Annual young adults Epiphanytide brunch hosted by Canon Altieri in the rectory

✠ LITURGY CORNER: Advent Embertide and the O Antiphons ✠

From a liturgical point of view, the season of Advent can be divided into four unequal parts. (1) The first two weeks of Advent introduce the standard elements of the season: the violet vestments; the suppression of the *Gloria* at all Masses of the season and of the *Alleluia* on Advent ferias during the week; the proper liturgical texts, such as the hymn *Creator alme siderum* at Vespers. (2) Gaudete Sunday, the third of the four Sundays of Advent, introduces the second half of the season, and from now on at Matins we hear *Prope est jam Dominus*, “the Lord is now near,” instead of *Adoremus venturum Dominum*, “Let us adore the Lord who is to come,” which we hear in the first two weeks. This second phase of Advent is also called Embertide, because the winter Ember Days always fall on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this third week. (3) From December 17th to 23rd we have a “mini-season” unofficially known as “Wisdomtide,” about which we shall say more in a moment. Because of the fluctuating length of Advent from year to year (barely three weeks or four full weeks), Embertide and Wisdomtide can overlap or even coincide. (4) Christmas Eve, or the Vigil of Christmas, on December 24th forms the capstone of the Advent season, and although it is barely a day long (because already with Vespers that afternoon the feast of Christmas begins), it has its own unique liturgy. This Vigil is so important that if it falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy of the Vigil outranks that of the Sunday, whereas normally Vigils cannot be observed on a Sunday.

The Ember days are traditionally penitential days of fast and abstinence, although since the reform of the fasting regulations in 1966 (after Vatican II), fasting on these days is no longer *obligatory*; nonetheless, it is still a pious and praiseworthy custom to fast and/or abstain on these days, for those whose constitution and daily duties enable them to do so. Especially during Advent, the observance of Embertide gives us a good way to strike the right penitential balance proper to this season. In the missal, the Ember days all have their own special Mass formula, with an additional reading prescribed before the epistle for each Ember Wednesday and five additional readings prescribed for each Ember Saturday. For many centuries, it was the custom of the Roman Church to confer holy orders on Ember Saturdays, with one of the seven orders, minor (porter, lector, exorcist, acolyte) and major (subdeacon, deacon, priest), being conferred after each reading. The Advent Embertide has a distinctly Marian tone, which is very fitting: in the Gospel of Ember Wednesday we hear of the Annunciation to Our Lady by Saint Gabriel, and in the Gospel of Ember Friday we hear of Our Lady’s Visitation to Saint Elizabeth.

Wisdomtide, or Sapientiatide, is famous for the “O Antiphons” which are sung every evening at Vespers before and after the Magnificat (the Magnificat, Our Lady’s canticle of thanksgiving, is the high point of Vespers, during which the altar is incensed, if the ceremony is celebrated solemnly). According to Dom Guéranger, these antiphons “contain the whole pith of the Advent Liturgy,” and Cardinal Newman calls them the “heralds of Christmas.” An *antiphon* is a short text sung before and after the psalms of the Divine Office. Each of the great antiphons of Advent begins with the exclamation “O,” followed by a title of Our Lord taken from the Old Testament, then an appeal for Him to come – *Veni!* The first antiphon, *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), gives this week its special name: Sapientiatide, which almost makes it a “season within a season” at the end of Advent. Even on ferial days during Sapientiatide, the Magnificat is sung in the solemn tone; and, unlike the usual practice, everyone remains standing while the antiphon is sung.

Looking backwards from the end of the series, the first letters of the invocations spell out the acrostic ERO CRAS—“tomorrow, I shall be.” The verses of the popular Advent hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* are inspired by the invocations of the O Antiphons. In the Middle Ages, this last week of Advent (especially the first day of the Antiphons on December 17th) was a time of mirth: even in monasteries the Advent fast was lightened, and the monks were treated to a special celebration that might include wine, pears, almonds, and other treats. Although it was always the abbot who intoned the first antiphon in the series, *O Sapientia*, it was sometimes a sense of humour rather than a strict sense of hierarchy that decided who would intone the antiphons on the other days. For example, more often than not that it was the monastery gardener who was given the privilege of intoning the antiphon *O Radix Jesse*, “O Root of Jesse.”

We welcome you today to Saints Cyril and Methodius Oratory!

If this is your first time here, we look forward to meeting you. We hope you will be able to join us for our next coffee hour! If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at Saints Cyril & Methodius Oratory are celebrated in the traditional Latin Rite. This form of worship, which developed many centuries ago, is a priceless treasure of our Catholic faith. On Sundays and feasts, there are handouts containing English translations of the Propers (the prayers and readings proper to the day). If you are unfamiliar with the traditional Latin Mass, please do not hesitate to approach the clergy of the Oratory with any questions you may have. The pastoral care of the Oratory has been entrusted by the Bishop of Bridgeport to the clergy of the Institute of Christ the King, a Catholic priestly society founded in 1990 and currently ministering in dioceses across the United States, Europe and Africa.

Holy communion may be received by practicing Catholics in the state of grace. In the traditional Roman Rite, holy communion is received kneeling at the communion rail (unless you are impaired from doing so) and directly on the tongue. The mouth should be open with the tongue slightly extended. You do not reply when the priest places the host in your mouth. The sacrament of confession is available every day 30 minutes before the start of Mass (ending approximately 7 minutes before Mass begins).

The church narthex (vestibule) functions as a cry room during Mass. As a courtesy to others, please feel free to make use of it when you have a crying child by exiting quietly down one of the side aisles. Everyone is kindly reminded that all conversations should be held outside.

Out of respect for God's house, please bear in mind the importance of modest and decent attire. Ladies who wish to do so may borrow a veil to wear at Mass (available in baskets by the entrances).

If you are not a Catholic, you are warmly invited to learn more about our faith. The Catholic Church was founded 2000 years ago by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to carry on His work for the salvation of souls. If you are interested in becoming Catholic or simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Oratory offers individual instruction. We look forward to hearing from you.

SOLEMN VESPERS & ADVENT PARTY

Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Singing of the O Antiphon at Vespers, followed by
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please bring seasonal treats to share at the festive reception afterwards and invite friends! Suggestions include mince pies and brandy butter, gingerbread cookies, sugar plums, hot cocoa, wassail and mulled wine.

Institute Christmas Cards

\$20 per pack

Institute Calendars

\$10 each or 3 for \$20

Please make out checks to:

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet for the Bishop

If you wish to participate in a spiritual bouquet for His Excellency Bishop Caggiano, please fill out a sheet at one of the church entrances or e-mail the office, indicating the number and nature of the devotions you wish to offer for our bishop. Please make sure to hand it in by Wednesday, December 18th!



December 15th 2024

Third Sunday of Advent