

From the Diocese



Liturgical New Year, Advent

While the calendar year begins on January 1st, the liturgical year began on the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 30). Advent has a two-fold character. The most well-known, of course, is which we remember the First Coming of the Son of God (Christmas). But Advent is also a time when our minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Therefore, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. The Advent season will add more busyness to our lives. But it seems we are always busy, no matter what season it is. The most important thing we can do is to take time to pray. The saints taught us that the busier we are, the more we need to pray. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said, "The coming of the Lord is near. Let us await with faithful hearts, purified minds and joyful spirits."



Upcoming Events

— 12/2-5

Divine Mercy Radio Fall Care-a-Thon

— 12/6

St. Joseph Auction
Oakley

— 12/7

Tri-Parish Mass
St. Boniface, Victoria

— 12/8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception,
Chancery Closed

— 12/12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
IHM, Hays, 6p.m.



— 12/14

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Sacred Heart
Cathedral, Salina

— 12/25

Christmas Day,
Chancery Closed

— 12/26-28

Quo Vadis Retreat, '25
Wichita

— 12/31

New Year's Eve

Merry Christmas to all of you and your family! Jesus was born for you. May we receive the Christ child with hope, joy, and peace. He was born in a manger. There is no place that Jesus is afraid to go to in our lives, even the parts that are often messy. "Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all people." St. Ambrose

+ Gerald L. Koenke

NEIGHBORS NEAR & NEIGHBORS FAR:

Retired Religious

In 2024, \$28.1M was raised nationally, while annual care costs exceeded \$1B. The average annual cost to care for a senior religious is \$56,600/person. Typical Social Security benefit for a retired religious is \$9,090—less than half that of the average lay beneficiary. This gap underscores the critical importance of the national appeal.

To Give:

Anytime during the month of December, place an envelope in your Parish Collection labeled "Retired Religious"

O ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons are short songs sung or spoken during evening prayer the seven days before Christmas Eve. They help us welcome Christ into our world!

This Advent, think about adding the antiphons to your prayers during the week leading up to Christmas Eve!

12/17

O SAPIENTIA

12/17

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: **come to teach us the path of knowledge!**

12/18

O ADONAI

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: **come to rescue us with your mighty power!**

12/19

O RADIX JESSE

12/21

O ORIENS

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: **come to save us without delay!**

12/20

O CLAVIS DAVID

12/21

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: **come and free the prisoners of darkness!**

12/23

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: **come to save us, Lord our God!**

12/22

O REX GENTIUM

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: **come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!**

ISAIAH

Isaiah is a prophet from the Old Testament. A **prophet** is someone who God speaks through. Isaiah wrote a lot about the coming of the **Messiah** - the "anointed one" - coming to save us. The O Antiphons can be found throughout the Bible, and throughout the book of Isaiah!



Prophecy Candle:

1

Hope

Bethlehem Candle:

2

Peace

Shepherd's Candle:

3

Joy

Angel's Candle:

4

Love