

Father's Notes

December 15, 2024

Perhaps you're aware that when you call the parish office for either St. Thomas or St. Philomena, if no one answers (such as after hours) we have an automated menu to guide you through options and extensions. One option is for "sacramental emergencies or matters of death and dying". This is an emergency line to reach either Fr. Ben or myself. We kindly request you only use this option for sacramental emergencies or matters of death and dying. Otherwise, for all other matters, the same automated menu can direct you to leave a voicemail for either Fr. Ben or myself.

As you are likely aware, with the sad news of the death of our Pastoral Assistant for Administration, Kara Montplaisir, we have posted the position. In the website for the Archdiocese, at the bottom of the main page, you will see a link for "Careers", which will then allow a person to find our ad for St. Philomena in Des Moines. If you know anyone who would be interested, please have them reach out to me, otherwise, they can proceed through the website to apply. In the meantime, please pray that we find the right person for this important position.

Finally, on a different note, we're all familiar with the hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Each of its seven verses begin with one of the O Antiphons, which reference ancient biblical imagery borne from the messianic hopes of God's people.

Dec 17: O Sapientia (Isaiah 11:2) - O Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Dec 18: O Adonai (Exodus 6:6) - O Come, O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Dec 19: O Radix Jesse (Isaiah 11:1) - O Come, Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

Dec 20: O Clavis David (Isaiah 22:22) - O Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

Dec 21: O Oriens (Isaiah 9:1) - O Come, O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Dec 22: O Rex Gentium (Isaiah 28:16) - O Come, King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

Dec 23: O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14) - O come, Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

I encourage you to incorporate these into your own personal prayers, starting the evening of December 17th.



Father Todd O. Strange (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)