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THE LANTERIAN

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
 STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. James Doran, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Pastoral Associate:

Isabelle Maria, CFP, CKA

Music: Steven Angelucci -
Director,
Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia,
Stacey Ibe

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for December:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



Cover Art:

The Dream of St. Joseph. Public Domain.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 -11:50AM, 12:45-4:15PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:45-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 5:30PM*;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:30PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:30PM*
(*Closed during Masses)

CONTACT US

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SFChapel



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Reflection by Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

The first thing we learn about St. Joseph in the holy Gospel is that he is the husband of Mary. Joseph is a man *for* others; he is only known by his relationship to Mary and Jesus. Joseph was a champion of responsibility, not of rights. He had the *right* to expose Mary to public shame because she was not pregnant by him. He had the right to walk away from a situation he had not *planned*. Joseph did not see himself as a man of rights but as a man with a vocation to be at the service of righteousness. When confronted with the mystery of Mary's pregnancy he dismissed his rights and considered only what was righteous and in accord with what God planned.

St. Joseph was a "son of David" according to the angel of the Lord. As such, Joseph knew himself to be a man from tradition. When he considered things, when he had to make decisions, he did so by looking at the traditions he learned from his father and his faith. Joseph always asked first, "What does my faith have to say about this? What does God call me to today?" He was a true Israelite who saw it as the greatest privilege to be born into a faith tradition preserved, defended and deepened throughout many generations. God called Abraham. God called Moses. God called David and God may enlist anyone in the mission of salvation.

Freedom is a desire of every heart. Is it a desire to be free *from* or a desire to be free *for*? Those who desire to be free *from* something are those who do not want obligations or duties placed on them. They want to be free *from* these things. As a child may wish to be free from chores in order to have other choices to fulfil his or her pleasure, so freedom *from* is about having as many options available so that one may satisfy temporary personal comfort. The deepest freedom is freedom *for* something. To be truly free is to have the capacity to do the right thing and experience things in the right way when the right time comes; to be capable of creativity and service and to rise above temporary material comfort. St. Joseph learned the traditions of his faith and family, so he was prepared and capable of rising to the challenge of service. Joseph was free *for* Mary, for Jesus, for Israel, for us. He understood that with true freedom always comes responsibility. Joseph lived under Roman occupation. He never voted; yet, he was free because he was able to do good at any time, and because he served.

The “O” Antiphons and the Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

By Steven T. Angelucci

Gaudete (Joyful) Sunday commences the fourth week of Advent this year with a theme of heightened joy as we anticipate both the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus and the message of hope this brings for the second coming of the Lord. To create further spiritual tension as that “great day” both imminent and far draws nearer, the church incorporates the use of the following expressions of joy, extracted from scripture and introduced into the church’s daily liturgy - one each day - from the seventeenth through the twenty-third of December. In Latin each thought begins with a simple expression of wonderment - the vocative, “O”, and hence their nomenclature: the “O” Antiphons.

- Come, Wisdom of our God Most High (O Sapientia) December 17
- Come, Leader of ancient Israel (O Adonai) December 18
- Come, Flower of Jesse’s Stem (O Radix Jesse) December 19
- Come, Key of David (O Clavis David) December 20
- Come, Radiant Dawn (O Oriens) December 21
- Come, King of all nations (O Rex Gentium) December 22
- Come, Emmanuel (O Emmanuel) December 23

Each day one verse is used as the antiphon for the Magnificat during daily vespers or Evening Prayer.

Along the path of former centuries someone combined these colorful expressions which seem to encompass the broad spectrum of salvation history, and composed the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.

This hymn with its refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel.... or in the Latin: Gaude, gaude, O Israel.... together with the set of “O” Antiphons used as its verses, flows so exquisitely from Gaudete Sunday that we reserve its use this year until seven days before First Vespers of Christmas.

An very interesting phenomenon presents itself with each of the titles of the Messiah listed above: Sapientia (Wisdom), Adonai (Lord), Radix (Root), Clavis (Key), Oriens (Dawn), Rex (King), and Emmanuel (Emmanuel). Take the first letters of each of the titles, starting with the last and working back to the first. They spell: EROCRAS or "ero cras... I will be (there or the) tomorrow".

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 18

8:00 AM Fernanda Meloncourt & Children

9:15 AM Peter Doran—health

10:30 AM +Robert Malloy

11:45 AM Olive Anyoha

1:15 PM Caroline’s intentions

4:00 PM +Bernard Marion

5:30 PM Anis Nancy Blemur—intentions

Monday, Dec. 19

8:00 AM In Honor of the Archangels

12:05 PM Jack & Jill Cummings—health

4:45 PM Ruo Chen

Tuesday, Dec. 20

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving

12:05 PM +Rui Varela

4:45 PM +Ronald Wesley Nelson, Jr.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

8:00 AM In Gratitude

12:05 PM Roselande & Family

4:45 PM +Aleyda Gallagos—5 year

Thursday, Dec. 22

8:00 AM +Salauge Blemur

12:05 PM +Juan Madariaga

4:45 PM +Joseph Timilty

Friday, Dec. 23

8:00 AM Special Intention

12:05 PM +Maria Lopez Lavit

4:45 PM +Dr. W. Gerald Austen

Saturday, Dec. 24

9:00 AM +Giovanni Aceto

12:00 PM +Frances Pouzar

4:00 PM Cunniffe Family, +Roger Lee,

+George Diamondopolous

5:30 PM Nunez Family

7:00 PM Castiblanco Family

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

The Jesse Tree: Advent Tradition

Day 22: Scripture: Matthew 1: 19-20 **Theme:** St. Joseph **Symbol:** Tools
Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit."

Reflection: Family life can be complicated. There seems to always be something to worry about. For a family to be holy requires attending to every issue that may arise with prayerful dialogue and seeking for divine assistance. Joseph was not spared his share of trial. In his humility, the pregnancy of Mary took him by surprise. He even contemplated quiet divorce out of the respect he had for her and for the designs of God. Before acting though, Joseph kept his heart opened to the Lord who then shed light on his contemplation. Consequently, Joseph gained wisdom and understanding. We must learn from his receptivity to divine illumination. If every action considered in the midst of daily difficulties is subjected to divine light, there is no limit to where the Holy Spirit may lead us.

Day 23: Scripture: Luke 1: 46-49 **Theme:** The Virgin Mary **Symbol:** White Lilly
And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Reflection: Mary, the New Eve, has every reason to rejoice. God has accomplished much in her. Cooperation with the abundant grace of God brings about fulfilment and great joy. When God uplifts you, you are uplifted indeed. The Father has raised Mary up, for she acknowledged that all she has comes from him. She was able to put herself at God's service, especially in her glorious assent to the divine indwelling that brought about the Incarnation. Every good mother desires the best for her children. All generations must call her blessed. It is her wish to share her blessedness with all her children during this season and beyond.

Day 24: Scripture: Luke 2:12-14 **Theme:** The Holy Family **Symbol:** The Manger
"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Reflection: Soon we shall behold the infant king lying not on an ivory bed but on a manger filled with hay, with beasts as his companions. Kings usually put on the choicest clothes, but this king is wrapped in swaddling clothes. This king and the circumstances of his birth are not very appealing from a worldly perspective. God's ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts. Let us then go out of our way to follow him, so that we will be able to rise above the discomforts surrounding his birth—and the ones we experience in our own lives celebrating with him— and pay him homage. He was rejected by some of his people at the inn, and he rested with beasts. Is there room within you for the poor and lowly in this busy season?

Day 25: Scripture: Luke 2:15-20 **Theme:** Jesus **Symbol:** Angels

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

Reflection: Think frequently of the Lord and thank him for the goods that we possess and hope to possess, for example, for the great good of the grace of God that we possess and for the paradise for which we hope. Let us go often to take from the angels and Blessed above an air of joyfulness, thinking that from now on we are citizens of heaven and fortifying ourselves in Christian hope. Consider the merits connected with each good action and the communion of saints to which we belong.

Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight,
in Bethlehem,
in the piercing cold.
In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee,
O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my
desires,

[State your intention(s) here...]

through the merits of Our Savior Jesus
Christ,
and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

