Second Year Seminarian Nathaniel Brown's Journey

December 2018

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our LORD Jesus Christ! December has been full, but also relaxing as well.

Normally my newsletters distinctly follow the liturgical color of the Church Year, but this month, my newsletter seems to break the rules. That is because the third week in Advent is

Gaudete, or the week in Advent in which we rejoice. This week in Advent breaks the rules, because Advent is a time to be told by John the Baptist that all of us are part of the brood of vipers that need to repent and turn back to the Messiah. Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice, and as the Church, we do rejoice, not only because the liturgy lightens up and focuses on joy, but also because the Messiah has come, and we are part of His family now.

Classes for the first Semester are done! My classes need to turn in grades by the end of the month, so I don't know for sure that I passed, but I am confident that I did. Looking back on the Semester,

my favorite class would have to be the Prophets. In it, we got to read all twelve Minor Prophet books in English, and read a major section in Hebrew. It really strengthened my understanding of these books, how to find Jesus in the books without dismissing the immediate prophesy that the Prophets are also warning against, and it strengthened my Hebrew learning.
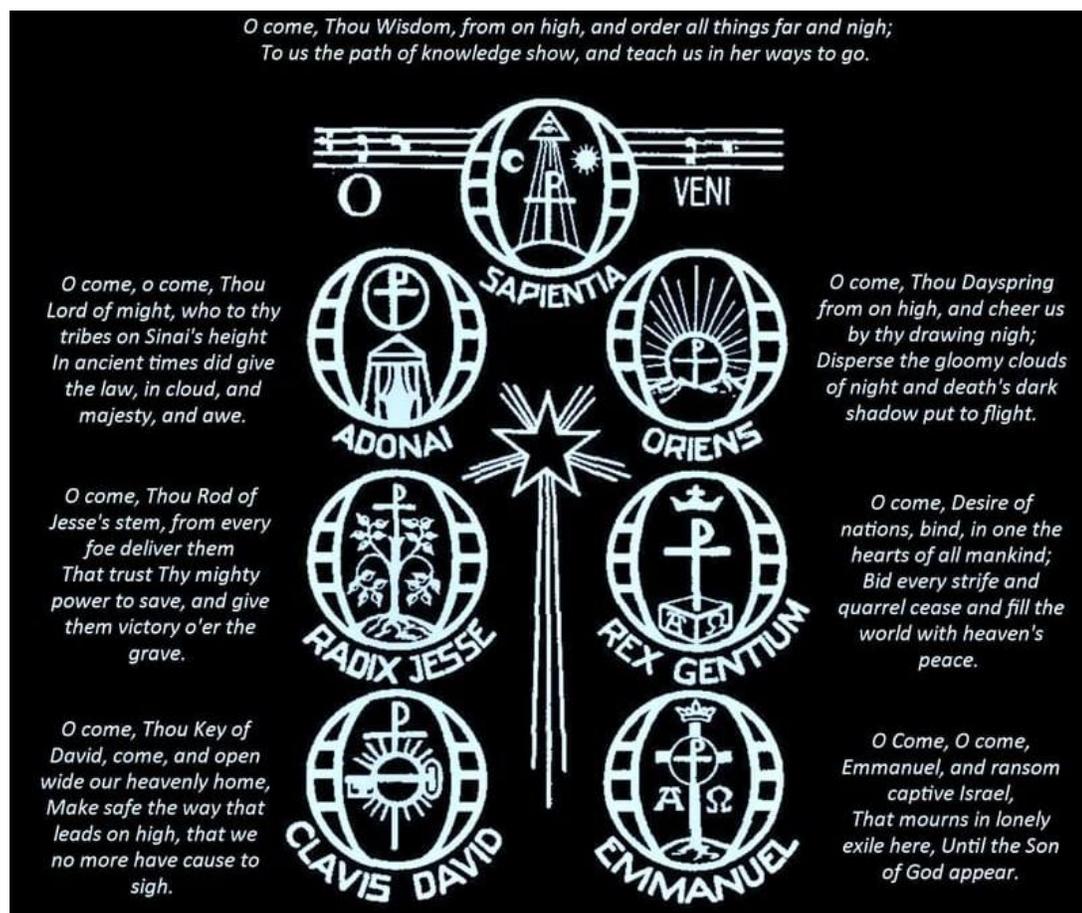
Prayer List:

- For all people, that they may come to the knowledge of Christ and so be saved.

- For all our leaders, that the rules they enact may lead us to quiet and dignified lives.

- That the Church may be strengthened.

- For the Seminary students in St. Louis and in Ft. Wayne, that they may be able to serve His people faithfully.

- That the second years going on vicarage and fourth years receiving their first calls may be strengthened.

- For all pastors and professors that they may be faithful in their service to the Church and to the Scripture

- For all people inside and outside the Church who struggle with finding happiness this holiday season.

If you have prayer requests, or want to talk, please send them to me! My email is brownn@csl.edu, and my address is:
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105

My vicarage assignment is less than five months away, and with each month that passes, it feels more tangible. I think this is partially because there is something related to vicarage every month until then. My vicarage interview went really well. The main topic that Dr. Nielsen and I talked about was a supervisor, since there are some weaknesses that I have that I want to address over vicarage. There have been a number of people who have asked, so to answer them, the service is on May 1st, 2019, and the vicarage service will start at 3:00 Central Time, 2:00 Mountain Time. I will tell you all in a couple months what the site is that you can find the live stream service. I would appreciate if all of you could watch to see where I am going for the next year, but if it isn't possible, I totally understand.

Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the Church Year, and not only because we prepare for Christmas. As I mentioned earlier, I love the penetential time of Advent with the surprise of joy in the middle of it with Gaudete Sunday. One additional reason that I love Advent is because of the Last week of Advent. Historically, the entire Church would do Evening Prayer together, and for the last week of Advent, the prayer of the day would speak about the coming Christ with different names used for each day. You have probably seen these prayers, because they are the O Antiphons, which is the basis for our hymn, O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Each of the O Antiphons shows a different aspect of our Messiah, Christ, and King who has come, and yes, is coming again. John warns us to repent before Jesus comes, and we still do, by daily drowning our old Adam. Yet, with each of the O Antiphons, we see more clearly of who Jesus also is,

O come, Thou Wisdom, from on high, and order all things far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

O VENI SAPIENTIA

O come, o come, Thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times did give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

ADONAI

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them That trust Thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

RADIX JESSE

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home, Make safe the way that leads on high, that we no more have cause to sigh.

CLAVIS DAVID

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight.

ORIENS

O come, Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind; Bid every strife and quarrel cease and fill the world with heaven's peace.

REX GENTIUM

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

EMMANUEL

culminating with Emmanuel, God with US. God's richest blessings to all of you this month!✝