

# St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish Catholic Campus Ministry

DECEMBER 10, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

603 N Leverett, Fayetteville AR 72701

Email: [ccm@uark.edu](mailto:ccm@uark.edu)

FB: [St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish](https://www.facebook.com/St.ThomasAquinasUniversityParish)

Ph.: 479-444-0223 Fax: 479-442-2633

Web: [www.catholichogs.com](http://www.catholichogs.com)

**Pastor:**

Fr. Andrew Hart.....[aphart@uark.edu](mailto:aphart@uark.edu)

**Associate Pastor:**

Fr. Jason Sharbaugh.....[jsharba@uark.edu](mailto:jsharba@uark.edu)

**Deacons:**

Norm DeBriyn.....

.....[ndebriyn@razorbackfoundation.com](mailto:ndebriyn@razorbackfoundation.com)

Bud Baldwin.....

.....[bud.baldwin@regionsinsurance.com](mailto:bud.baldwin@regionsinsurance.com)

**Campus Ministers:**

Adam Koehler.....[akoehler@uark.edu](mailto:akoehler@uark.edu)

Juliane Pierini .....[jpierini@uark.edu](mailto:jpierini@uark.edu)

**Music Minister:**

Marguerite Martinez....

.....[musicminister@catholichogs.com](mailto:musicminister@catholichogs.com)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Nora Bryant.....[nbryant@uark.edu](mailto:nbryant@uark.edu)

**Faculty Advisors**

Dc. Paul Cronan.....[cronan@uark.edu](mailto:cronan@uark.edu)

Dr. Theresa Cronan.....[thercron@uark.edu](mailto:thercron@uark.edu)

**Newman Center Hours**

Sunday—Tuesday.....8:00am—9:00pm

Friday—Saturday.....8:00am—5:00pm

**Mass Schedule**

12/11 Monday.....No Mass

12/12 Tuesday.....12:00pm

12/13 Wednesday.....7:30pm

12/14 Thursday.....5:30pm

12/15 Friday.....12:00pm

12/16 Saturday.....9:00am

Reconciliation.....9:30am-10:30am

12/17 Sun—Reconciliation.....9:00am-9:45am

Mass.....10:00am

Reconciliation.....4:00pm-4:45pm

Mass.....5:00pm

Reconciliation.....7:00pm-7:45pm

Mass.....8:00pm

**Administrative Office Hours**

Monday—Tuesday.....8:00am—5:00pm

Friday.....8:00am—12:00pm

Saturday.....Closed

Sunday.....Closed



## Today's Antiphons

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, / the Lord will come to save the nations, / and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard / in the joy of your heart.

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, / and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Religious give thanks.** A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

**Get aSpire**, a free monthly e-mail newsletter covering the Catholic faith, Pope Francis and the Diocese of Little Rock. Brief, casual and entertaining -- it's news you might have missed, simple inspirations and useful tips for achieving an exceptional Catholic life. Sign-up at <http://www.arkansas-catholic.org/publications/e-letter>

**St. Thomas** is a contributing member of Cooperative Emergency Outreach (CEO), a faith cooperative located in Fayetteville composed of volunteer workers from many local churches serving those in need in southern Washington County. CEO provides a food pantry, as well as financial assistance with utilities, gasoline, clothing, rent, and bus transportation. Thank you for your recent contributions!

If you are interested in volunteering at CEO, please contact our parish representative, Anne Marie Candi-do at 841-2673. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and our Catholic campus community to fulfill our social calling as Christians to help the poor.

## Our Mission Statement

We are a Christian faith community with a unique mission and commitment to the students, faculty and staff of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. All in the Fayetteville area are welcome in this community. We prayerfully strive to be Christ-like by providing a source of guidance, spiritual growth and awareness of our Roman Catholic identity, a challenge to service and an enthusiastic spirit of worship. We are a sacrament and proclaim God's love with the message of hope, sacrifice, reconciliation and everlasting life. We encourage each other to accept the Eucharist as the Lord's invitation and the center of our lives.



## Holiday Mass Schedule

December 23—6:00pm, 4th Advent Vigil  
December 24—10:00am and 6:00pm, Vigil  
December 25—10:00am  
December 31—10:00am and 5:00pm  
January 1—9:00am

## Additional Reconciliation Times

Thursdays during Advent: 4:30pm—5:15pm  
Friday's during Advent 11:00am to 11:45pm

**An Arkansas Catholic** subscription is a great gift for any Catholic home. With this special offer, you can buy two one-year subscriptions (46 issues), and get a third one free!

A print subscription is \$26 for one year or \$24 if recipient over age 65. Digital subscriptions are \$12.95 each. Send your order to: Arkansas Catholic Gift Subscriptions, P.O. Box 7869, Little Rock AR 72217. We'll send a card to the recipients telling them of your gift starting in December, and they'll get their first issue soon after. Please order by calling 501-664-0125 before December 15, 2017, to be sure of delivery in time for Christmas.

## NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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*Like a Shepherd*



*He feeds His Flock*

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## Emmanuel

Chorus

Come, come Emmanuel  
Son of God appear  
Heaven and earth rejoice  
Salvation is drawing near  
Salvation is drawing near

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

O come O Wisdom from on high  
Who ordered all things mightily  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And teach us in her ways to go

O come O Rod of Jesse's stem  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust Your mighty pow'r to save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

O come Desire of nations bind  
In one the hearts of humankind  
Make all our sad divisions cease  
And be for us the King of Peace

Rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

John Mason Neale | Steve Angrisano  
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**Start the New Year** with a renewed dedication to prayer with Abbot Leonard Wangler, OSB, of Subiaco Abbey at the New Year's Evening of Recollection in Coury House Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, and Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. The retreat begins with lunch on New Year's Eve and ends with lunch on New Year's Day. The evening includes conferences, four meal and overnight accommodations. A New Year's celebration with champagne at 9 pm and Eucharistic Adoration from 11:30 pm until midnight. Cost is \$140 for a private room and \$110 per person in a shared room. Commuter rate is \$75. For more information or to make reservations, call 479-934-4411 or e-mail [couryhouse@subi.org](mailto:couryhouse@subi.org).

*Prepare the way  
of the  
Lord*

On January 4-7, 2018, St. Scholastica Retreat Center will hold its 3-day Silent Directed Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Retreatants will meet with a spiritual director each day to help them discern God's invitation and offer suggestions to guide them during their silence.

Cost: \$300.00 A \$50.00 non-transferable, non-refundable deposit is required at time of registration.

To register for this retreat, or for more information, call 479.783.1135 or visit [www.stscho.org/retreat-registration/](http://www.stscho.org/retreat-registration/).

St. Scholastica Gift Shop is open 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 12:30-3:00 p.m. most Saturdays. Shop at St. Scholastica this Christmas. Remember that you can always order online at [shop.stscho.org](http://shop.stscho.org)

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.