

PAST STILL PRESENT

CPPS Archives Bulletin Issue 31 December 2017

ADVENT MEDITATION

One of the sisters' most treasured traditions is the celebration of the *Prayer of Preparation for Christmas*, a.k.a., the *Christmas Novena*, although presently it consists of seven days, not nine, to correspond with the seven prophecies and seven O antiphons.

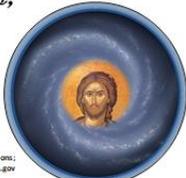
The *Prayer* begins with a candlelight procession during which a hymn is sung. The first of those hymns, "Drop Down Dew, O Gracious Heaven" is illustrated on the following pages.

On this first page are the seven O Antiphons. The wording captures the heart of the longer text. The antiphons, sung one each night, bracket the *Magnificat* [Canticle of Mary].

The editor hopes that this newsletter may serve to help the reader prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord.

December 17

Wisdom, O Holy
Word of God,
Come, and teach us
the way of prudence.



Composite: Christ, [Ezra](#) [Bible](#) [scripture](#), Public domain, [Wikimedia Commons](#); Milky Way spiral, [NASA.gov](#)

December 18

Lord and ruler,
Siver of the
Law. Come, and
with outstretched
arm redeem us.



St. Joseph Chapel window [detail], OFallon, MO

December 19

Root of Jesse,
Sign for
the peoples,
Come, save us,
and do not delay.



St. Joseph Chapel window [detail], OFallon, MO

December 20

Key of David,
Come,
and deliver
those who sit in the
shadow of death.



Graphic created by SBP, OFallon, MO

December 21

Rising Dawn,
Radiance of
Light eternal, Come
and enlighten those
who sit in darkness.



[carthobsvat.org/nasa.gov/Features/Chemistry5/unlight/image4/sunrise](#)

December 22

King and Cornerstone,
Come and
save us whom you
fashioned from
clay.



[wikimedia.org/wiki/pedia/commons/St_Johns_Achfield_StainedGlass_King](#)

December 23

Emmanuel, Desire of
the nations,
Come and save us,
O Lord our God.



St. Joseph Chapel window [detail], OFallon, MO



**“DROP DOWN DEW,
O GRACIOUS HEAVEN,
LET THE CLOUDS
RAIN DOWN THE JUST.”**



**LET THE EARTH BUD
FORTH A SAVIOR
IN THY PROMISE
LORD WE TRUST.”**



**THUS THE PATRIARCHS WERE CRYING
WHEN THE EARTH IN BONDAGE SIGHING**



**SOUGHT IN VAIN
FOR HEAVEN'S GATE
CLOSED BY SIN
AND SATAN'S HATE.**

Credits, Stanza 1

Water, photo by Ishikay9, 30 May 2016, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Plowed field, photo by Matanya, 15 April 2011, co <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Seedling, photo by Ramjchandran, 6 December 2016, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> altered

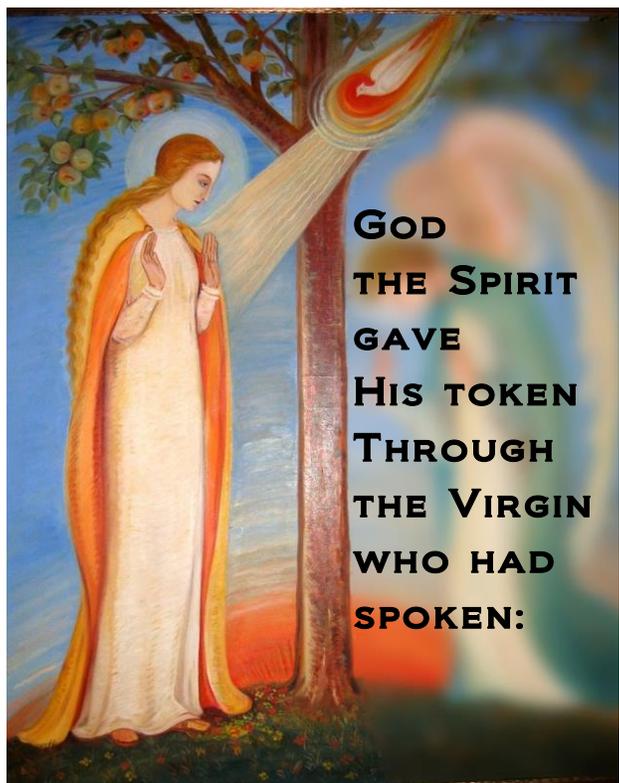
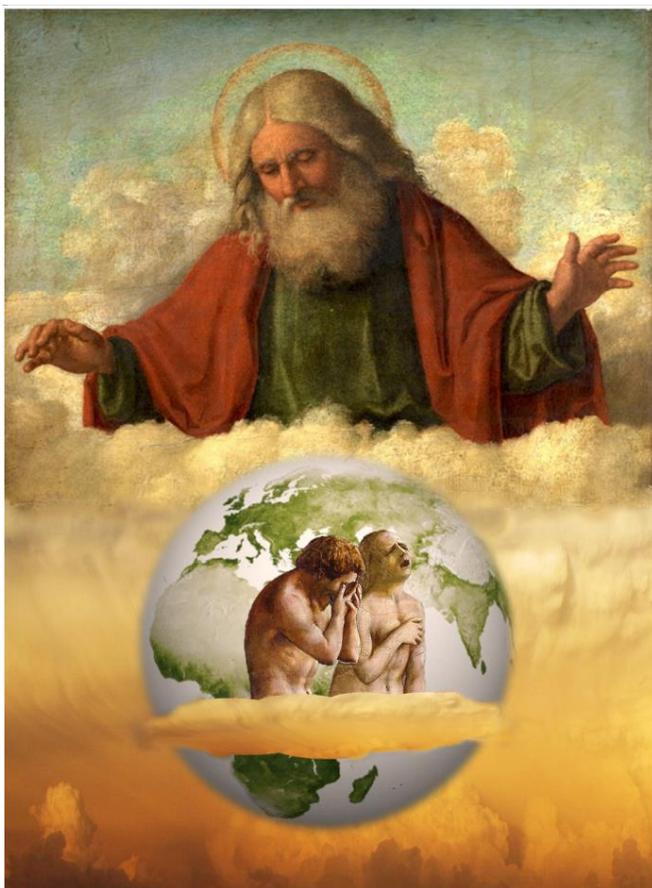
Earth, photo from <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov> chain from anchor and chain, photo, <https://pixabay.com>

gold gate, photo, <https://pixabay.com> crossed gladi, photo by F l a n k e r, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Ramparts in Menen, West Flanders, Belgium photo by LimoWreck, 3 August 2008 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

**GOD THE FATHER IN HIS MERCY
PLANNED TO SAVE OUR FALLEN RACE,**

**WHILE THE BURDEN OF OUR SINNING
GOD THE SON DEIGNED TO EMBRACE.**



**GOD
THE SPIRIT
GAVE
HIS TOKEN
THROUGH
THE VIRGIN
WHO HAD
SPOKEN:**

**“LO, THY HANDMAID, LORD, HAS HEARD;
WORK IN ME THY WOND’ROUS WORD.”**



Credits, stanza 2

God the Father by Cima da Conegliano, wikipedia/commons

Earth, <https://jointmission.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Expulsion of Adam & Eve by Masaccio, wikipedia/commons

The Seven Deadly Sins and the Four Last Things by Hieronymus Bosch,

wikipedia/commons altered

Cross cropped from Altar do Senhor Morto, photo by Regianna, 11 June 2011,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Annunciation & Mary with Jesus, CPPS own collection



**THEN THE SON TOOK
OUR FRAIL NATURE
WAS MADE FLESH AND
DWELLED ON EARTH.**



**LIFE AND LIGHT WITH GRACE ABUNDANT
HE BESTOWED OF PRICELESS WORTH.**



**EARTH, REJOICE,
EXULT WITH GLADNESS,
A NEW SUN DISPELS OUR SADNESS.**

**LET US THEN OUR
VOICES RAISE.
LET US SING OUR
SAVIOR'S PRAISE.**



Credits, stanza 3
Nativity scene, congregation in chapel – CPPS own collection
All Saints, photo, <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
NASA Looks to Solar Eclipse, photo, <https://www.nasa.gov/> [altered]
infant superimposed on sun – CPPS own collection