

Thursday, December 17, 2020
 Thursday of the Third Week of Advent

Today begins our novena to Christmas. During Vespers (Evening Prayer) throughout the novena, we find in the antiphon to the Canticle of Mary the great O Antiphons. We know these “O” Antiphons from the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, in which a part of the antiphons is expressed in this hymn. Today we hear, “O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.”

Do you know your family tree or genealogy? We hear Jesus’ genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew. Strange names and mostly men, with a few women, are presented in this list. The women are Tamar, who played the prostitute and conceived twins by her father-in-law Judah; Rahab was the prostitute who saved the two spies as we read in the book of Joshua; Ruth was a Moabite who married a Hebrew and was widowed, remarrying another Hebrew; Bathsheba, “the wife of Uriah”, became King David’s wife after David’s grave sins of adultery and murder; and lastly, Mary. “Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.” All life is sacred and sin does defile us but God restores us, through mercy. Our heavenly Father preserves as well, as He did for Mary. “May His name be blessed forever!”

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Staravich

