



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

1101 AMSTERDAM ROAD ✦ PARK HILLS ✦ KENTUCKY ✦ 41011

Venite Adoremus — O Come Let us Adore Him



THE ROMAN EMPEROR, CAESAR AUGUSTUS, established a period of peace, called the *Pax Romana*. It was a world peace brought about by various military conquests. In his eagerness to know the number of his subjects, Caesar Augustus ordered that a general census be taken. Caesar gave this order out of human pride, but the good Lord would nonetheless work out His wondrous plan even through the hubris of an emperor. While Caesar thought only of gratifying his ambition and pride, he is, in spite of himself, preparing the way of the Lord and the proof of His divine mission. By this very command of a census, Caesar Augustus would be an instrument in fulfilling prophecy.

At the same time that these decisions are being made in Rome, our Lady was present in the town of Nazareth. The days of her delivery are near at hand, and yet she did not leave the town of Nazareth through her own choice and direction. In other words, the Virgin Mary was well aware that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, for the prophets had made that very clear; but she waits on the Lord to act. The Virgin remained in Nazareth with good St. Joseph awaiting the wonders of Divine Providence and the Predestined Plan of God to play out. All the prophecies concerning the Christ would have to be fulfilled. The Divine Unborn Child soon to be born must be a member of the royal family of David. It was essential that the Holy Name of the Child somehow be recorded, so that the documents would show, in an authentic and official manner, the date and place of His birth, that the whole world might be aware of the perfect accomplishment of Messianic prophecy. Again, everything was arranged perfectly by the hand of God. Obedient to the edict of Caesar, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be registered. Whether through the

pride of Caesar Augustus or the obedience of the Virgin Mary, the Divine Will is always accomplished.

During the Season of Advent, we ask the good Lord to come. Come Lord Jesus, come and do not delay. At the beginning of the Holy Season of Advent, we focus on our Lord's Second Coming. How we should long for this Second Advent when the Lord will make all things right. As we pass into the second half of Advent, however, we consider the First Coming of Christ, as a Divine and Saving Infant. By remembering and recounting the Nativity of Christ, we make it present in our lives. Joining with the Jews

of old, we beg Him to come liturgically through the Mystery of a Mystical Incarnation and a Mystical Birth in us. We beg that He would come to save us from our sins and to deliver us from Satan's power and any and all demonic influence in our lives. The famous "O" Antiphons in the Church's Holy Liturgy give official voice to our pleadings that He come to us. *Come O Wisdom From On High...O Come Emmanuel...Come O Key of David...Come O Radiant Dawn...Come O King of the Nations.*

But having called upon the Lord to come to us, we note that He arrives at Midnight Mass. The focus now changes at Christmas. We who called upon the Lord to come quickly are now told by our Lord to come to Him. *Venite Adoremus - O Come Let us Adore Him.* Come to the manger.

Come near to Mary and Joseph and worship the Son of God and Son of Mary. Come with the shepherds and the kings and fall prostrate before the Word made flesh. Our Lord is now pleading with us to come to Him. *Come to Him all you who labor and find life wearisome.* Come and follow Him for He knows the way to true happiness. The Infant King is holding court. He is receiving visitors. He will not turn any of us away. So come to Bethlehem and do not delay. Come quickly for angels are calling us to the stable.



And when we come to Him, know that He is infinitely approachable. He is immeasurably kind, friendly, amiable, and affable. One of the reasons He became a Little Child is that no one would be afraid of Him. Children do not engender fear or terror. No one would run and hide from a little baby. The Christ Child will not glare at us in anger, though He might stare at us with great interest, for He has full use of His human reason, though He has just come forth from the Virginal Womb of Mary leaving her fully intact. Being a Divine Infant, our dearest Lord chose to be born as one unable to speak. The very Word of God is silent outside of a few cries for His Mother's Milk. But in this wondrous, silent Infancy, the Little Lord will not utter words of condemnation aimed towards us. He will not bring up in conversations all our past infidelities. He will not list and recount all past offenses. His Infancy also means that He will not strike us. His Little Arms and Feet will not be used as weapons against us. He is but a Baby. This is the time to come to Him, for you will never hear *Depart from Me you accursed*. Come to Bethlehem. Come to the stable. Come to the manger, for our Lord has arrived. 🌟

Patience Gains All Things

Although we have everything in place for a proper public permit to build our Grotto, including a favorable zoning adjustment, our case was appealed by a neighbor. We are close to resolving the matter and are hoping to break ground soon, establishing a welcoming niche or "hollow place" in the rock for Our Lady (cf. Canticle 2:14). Thank you for your support.



Our gift to our benefactors is this: daily prayer and the offering of Holy Mass for them all on Christmas Day through its Octave.



NOVENA is nine days' of prayer said as a preparation for some particular feast, or in order to obtain some special favor. The model and the first of all novenas was that made in the Cenacle, after Our Lord's Ascension into heaven, by the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles in preparation for the coming of the Holy Ghost. The earliest ecclesiastical novena of which we have record is the Christmas Novena, which commemorates the nine months during which the Christ Child was carried in the womb of His Mother.



Novena for Christmas

December 16

O SHEPHERD that rulest Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, come to guide and comfort us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 17

O WISDOM that comest out of the Mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 18

O ADONAI, and Ruler of the House of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 19

O ROOT of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 20

O KEY of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 21

O DAYSPRING, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 22

O KING of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Cornerstone, that makest of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 23

O EMMANUEL, our King and our Law-Giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 24

O THOU that sittest upon the cherubim, God of hosts, come, show Thy face, and we shall be saved. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

Please consider contributing to this work, making checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or just MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)

