



O Antiphon Ornaments

Throughout the Season of Advent, invite your kids to color the O Antiphon ornaments. Cut them out and add a ribbon to create an ornament. Starting on December 17, hang one ornament on the tree each day, and as a family pray the O Antiphon for the day together. There is one extra ornament that kids can decorate with a Nativity scene and place on the tree December 24! This is a beautiful and simple way to pray with the coming of Jesus as a family!

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in
darkness and in the
shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the
Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from
the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

From usccb.org





