Special Advent Prayers: *"O" Antiphons* (used with permission: Catholic Culture.org)

December 17 marks the beginning of the ***"O" Antiphons*** an ancient part of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies. The Church recalls the variety of the ills of man before the coming of the Redeemer. Pray them with your class or family.

O Sapientia or O Wisdom (December 17)
O wisdom (Sirach 24:3), you came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sirach 24:3), and reaching from beginning to end You ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wisdom 8:1). * Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Isaiah 40:14).

O Adonai or O Lord and Ruler (December 18)
O Adonai (Exod. 3:14) and Ruler of the house of Israel (Matt 2:6; Micah 5:1; 2 Sam 5:2), You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Exod. 3:2) and on Mount Sinai gave him Your Law (Exod. 20). * Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jeremiah 32:21).

O Radix Jesse or O Root of Jesse (December 19)
O root of Jesse, you stand for the ensign of mankind (Isaiah 11:10); before You kings shall keep silence and to You all nations shall have recourse (Isaiah 52:15). * Come, save us, and do not delay (Habakkuk 2:3).

O Clavis David or O Key of David (December 20)
O key of David (Isaiah 22:22, Rev 3:7) and Scepter of the house of Israel (Numbers 24:17): You open and no man closes; you close and no man opens (Isaiah 22:22). * Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10).

O Oriens or O Rising Dawn or Morning Star (December 21)
O Rising Dawn, (Jer. 23:5; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12), Radiance of the Light eternal (Habakkuk 3:4; Wisdom 7:26; Hebrews 1:3) and Sun of Justice (Malachi 3:20): * come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10; Lk 1:78).

O Rex Gentium or O King of the Nations (December 22)
O King of the Gentiles (Jeremiah 10:7; Haggai 2:7), and the Desired of all, You are the Cornerstone that binds two into one (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:20). * Come, and save man whom You fashioned out of clay (Genesis 2:7).

O Emmanuel (December 23)
O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Luke 1:31-33), our King and Lawgiver (Genesis 49:10; cf. Ezekiel 21:32), the Expected of the nations and their Savior (Isa 33:22): Come, and save us, O Lord our God.

Design and make images of the individual antiphons to post around your school. They can be beside posters with the prayers printed.