



Saint **AMBROSE**
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
ROOTED IN CHRIST

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MASS TIMES: SATURDAY 4PM, SUNDAY 9AM & 11AM, MONDAY-THURSDAY 12:10PM

IN JOY,
WE WAIT



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When I was younger, I used to imagine what it would be like to be a dad. I idealized it the way you find in shows, movies, and books. Those images of family life are often far off from reality. I began to call this effect the “Danny Tanner Syndrome”. Danny Tanner was the dad in the 80’s/90’s show *Full House*. Danny wasn’t perfect, but any dilemma that his kids would face would be solved within that half-hour episode. He could get his daughters to realize some essential life lesson in a well-placed conversation that happened towards the end of the episode. After a while, I began to expect that this was the way it was supposed to be and would get frustrated that not everything in life tied up in a neat bow by the end of the day. The reality of, say, imparting life lessons to your kids, doesn’t happen in a quick conversation at the end of the day. They don’t automatically get it, allowing everyone to move on. Instead, you have to be persistent (which is why we are often seen as nagging) and patient. There’s going to be mistakes and repeat offenses; the pay off might take years (if it ever happens at all). We shouldn’t expect life to be like a sitcom.

Expectations failed and expectations met are a big part of our readings today. Once again, we’ll see things through the lens of John the Baptist. John the Baptist is considered to be the last great prophet in the line of the Old Testament prophets. Last Sunday, while filled with the Holy Spirit, John warns his listeners about what they should expect about the one who was to come. John prepares “*the way of the Lord*” (Mat 3:3) and talks about a coming wrath (3:7). “*The ax lies at the root of the trees*”, indicating that the one coming would come in judgment on the people. Those who did not “*bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire*” (3:10). He will sift out the wheat (the good people) from the chaff (the wicked people) and burn the refuse (3:12), in a baptism of “*the Holy Spirit and fire*” (3:11). I’m certain John’s listeners would’ve been freaked out by this image. When we let this reading simmer a week-and-a-half ago in Bible study, one of us joked that it left us unsure if we were to celebrate the coming of Jesus or to get a life preserver.

In Bible study, I tried to compare the expectation that John set up with what we know about Jesus. Most of us don’t see Jesus as a figure of fiery judgment; this time of year our governing image is of a helpless baby in his mother’s arms. He is disarming and he strikes us in our Gospel portraits as charismatic and compassionate. These two images aren’t contradictory, however. They just invite further reflection.

Our Gospel reading this week shows us that the reality of Jesus confounded John the Baptist too. John is a prophet, inspired by the Holy Spirit. John’s message was true. John’s words came from God. But

here’s what I think is fascinating...the image impressed upon John from his own words did not match what he was seeing in Jesus. How do we know this? Because he sends a delegation of his disciples to Jesus while in prison, asking Jesus outright “*are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*” (11:3). John is currently sitting in his cell and his stay there will culminate in his execution. He has devoted everything to proclaim the one who was to come an end time figure of judgment. He will pay for this witness with his life, but if Jesus is this person, Jesus is not exactly matching the figure that John proclaimed.

Jesus’ moves to reassure John with words adapted from the prophet Isaiah in the first reading: “*Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them*” (11:4-5). This does not correct John or his image of Jesus. In fact Jesus goes on to praise John the Baptist as the greatest person ever born (11:11). What Jesus is saying to John is that he is indeed fulfilling his prophesy just in an unexpected way. It’s also congruent with what God revealed through the prophets: just a fuller vision than what even John expected. Yes, the promised one comes in judgment, but he does so with the healing hand of mercy. He does not come to take away, but to restore. The reality of God’s judgment and God’s mercy are not contradictions at war with one another. They are one.

I think that as modern people, we can lose the ability to hear the voice of prophets in our midst. Our tradition carries many messages of hope for a future we can’t see. If we try to fill in the gap between what is happening and what we expect (be it what happens when we die, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, the creation of the new heaven and new earth...all topics that have encountered in the last few weeks of readings), we might expect any number of scenarios of how things may or may not play out. But if the witness of John is an indicator, what we hope for may come about in ways we do not expect. “*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, no the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him*” (1 Cor 2:9). Many of us may have the experience of having “visions” of our future when we were younger, expressed in hopes and dreams. I’ve noticed often God fulfills those hopes in ways that we didn’t expect. Keep an ear out for the prophets in our midst. Embrace the hope we share as a believing community. Believe in those God-given visions you have for your future. Just don’t box in God when it comes to their fulfillment. His ways are greater than ours.

Tom Acemoglu

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Due to the high cost of postage, starting in January, we'll be sending large receipt donations via email. Please call the office to make sure our records are up to date. If there is no email on file you will receive your receipt in the mail as always.

ART EXHIBIT AT ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR



St Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park is now offering tours of the **My Father's Love** exhibit every Thursday! The exhibit consists of thirty, 4' x 8' wooden mosaic panels. Tours are held at 11:30 AM, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, & 6:30 PM. Tours can also be scheduled at separate times for large groups or organizations by contacting Andrew Sutton at 518-371-7372 x229.

**Endings & Beginnings:
Understanding Catholic
Teaching on Death,
Judgement, the Afterlife,
and the End of Time.**

**Sundays from 9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(11/20, 12/4 - 12/18)**

**WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ADULT LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES? Contact Tom at
thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org or join at
<https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>**

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Sunday Before & After the Masses
in the Parish Center Lobby.

**WE INVITE YOU TO CUT OUT THIS PRAYER & PUT IN A PLACE
OF PROMINENCE SO YOU CAN PRAY IT DAILY**



*O Lord, who has mercy
upon all, take away from me
my sins, and mercifully
kindle in me the fire of your
Holy Spirit.*

*Take away from me the
heart of stone, and give me
a heart of flesh, a heart to
love and adore You, a heart
to delight in You, to follow
and enjoy You,*

Amen.

**Oh Lord
by St. Ambrose
of Milan**

Help Can't Wait



**Can't give blood? No problem!
Donate time.**

**Support morning & afternoon
blood drives **NOW** in:**

♦ **Downtown Albany**
♦ **Cohoes** ♦ **Coeymans**
♦ **Latham** ♦ **Delmar**



American Red Cross
Eastern New York Region

Contact: joineny@redcross.org

Volunteer With Us!

The Red Cross needs:

- Caseworkers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Greeters at Blood Drives
- Drivers for Regional Deliveries
- Disaster Action Team Members

Questions?

(518) 387-9441

joineny@redcross.org



American Red Cross
Eastern New York Region

Apply!!



What if the greatest gift we could give was peace of mind for somebody else?

Help us assist every parishioner who calls our parish in need by participating in our advent coin drive, "Be the Gift".

Look for the flyer at the church entrances, or call the parish office for more details.

Be the Gift

Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each month from 9:50AM -10:50AM

Contact Darlene at 518-496-1886 for more information.

St. Ambrose Bible Study

Thursdays @ 7pm
via ZOOM

We cover all parts of the Bible in an approachable way even for first time attendees. E-mail your contact information to thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org to join!



Blue CHRISTMAS Prayer Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ 3:00PM
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH
55 NORTH LAKE AVENUE
TROY, NY 12180

This candlelight service of hope and comfort acknowledges the difficulties many of us face... a loss or hardship, such as death, an illness, a financial concern, loss of a job, an addiction, depression...or other reasons that makes celebrating Christmas a struggle. In the midst of our pain and sadness, there is the promise and comfort of the Lord. Adoration Holy Hour immediately following the service.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: stambroselatham.com

Facebook: [@stambrosechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stambrosechurch)

Email: salatham@rcda.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose? Text the word **ambrose** to 84576 to opt in.



SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING A SNOWBLOWER AND REMOVING SNOW?

JOIN OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY AND HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH READY FOR WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS!

PLEASE CONTACT TOM HEALY AT THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM, OR CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE: 518-785-1351

Giving Tree 2022

This year, Holy Trinity, St. Ambrose, and St. Michael's are working together to better serve our community for Christmas. Starting November 26, there will be tags on the tree for people in need, with new tags added each week until December 10. Please take a tag or two! Gifts should be wrapped and returned with the tag attached no later than December 14.

We are looking for volunteers to help with intake calls, tag making, sorting, and transporting gifts from each parish to Holy Trinity, where they will be for families to pick up. If you'd like to volunteer to help with any part of the process, contact Robyn at 518-785-1351 or robyn.spateholts@rcda.org.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (Lyrics) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (Music)

Lyrics by John Brownlie 1907 Public Domain; Music: Traditional English 16th century Public Domain

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1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and light tri - um - phant
 2. O bright - er than comes when ris - ing morn when he vic - to - rious
 3. The king shall comes when morn - ing dawns and light and beau - ty

breaks, when beau - ty guilds the east - ern place of hills and de - spite the joy a -
 rose and left the lone - some Thy peo - ple pray: "Come quick - ly King of
 brings. Hail Christ, the Lord! Thy

wakes Not as of old, a lit - tle child, to hear, and fight, and
 foes. O Not as of old, a lit - tle child, to hear, and fight, and
 Kings." Not as of old, a lit - tle child, to hear, and fight, and

die. But crowned with glo - ry like the sun, like the
 die. Bit crowned with glo - ry like the sun, like the

sun, that lights the morn - ing, lights the morn - ing sky;
 comes, and we his face, his face that we shall see.
 sun, that lights the morn - ing, lights the morn - ing sky.

Advent Lyrics Set to Christmas Melodies

Over the last couple weeks, I introduced the concept of Advent lyrics set to Christmas melodies to preserve the Advent season in church while outside the church, the rest of the world celebrates Christmas the month of December. This week, the lyrics of the Advent hymn The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns fits the Christmas melody: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. The free piano sheet music and mp3 recording may be downloaded from

www.HayesMusicPublishing.com until Dec. 17th.

KIERAN'S LIGHT

CATHOLIC LGBTQIA+
MINISTRY

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:
robyn.spateholts@rcda.org

Kieran's Light is a ministry rooted in love, welcome, and respect for the LGBTQIA+ community, their family, friends, and loved ones. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves and it is in that spirit that this ministry is founded.

Meetings every other
Sunday @ Noon



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM



DECEMBER 11, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Lucille Lonczak
Ronald Brand
Rose Olsey
Frederick Shellard

Sunday, December 11th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

John J. Kardas
Angeline Sabatino
Annette Dawkins
Thomas Paolucci

Sunday, December 11th — 11am

Fr. Bellafore

Margaret H. Maher
Dominick Penesso
David Placido
John Anthus
Nenzi Russomanno

Monday, December 12th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Ronald (Ron) Day
Intentions of the Borghetti Family

Tuesday, December 13th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Sister Joan Harrington CSJ

Wednesday, December 14th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Gregory Sorrentino

Thursday, December 15th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Patricia Murphy

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, December 17th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, December 18th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, December 18th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

11/27/2022:

11/28/2021:

\$13,900.50

\$16,598.30



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting
your envelopes?
Switch to online giving:
stambroselatham.com/egiving

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

**Christmas Eve Mass
4pm**

**Christmas Day
Masses
9am & 11am**

With the anticipated large
crowds for these masses,
we will be streaming them
into the Parish Center,
allowing for everyone who
comes to participate in the
Eucharist.



HAILEY'S CORNER



Carry the JOY
that comes
from God's
many blessings
with you at all
times, and give
it freely to
everyone that
you come into
contact with!