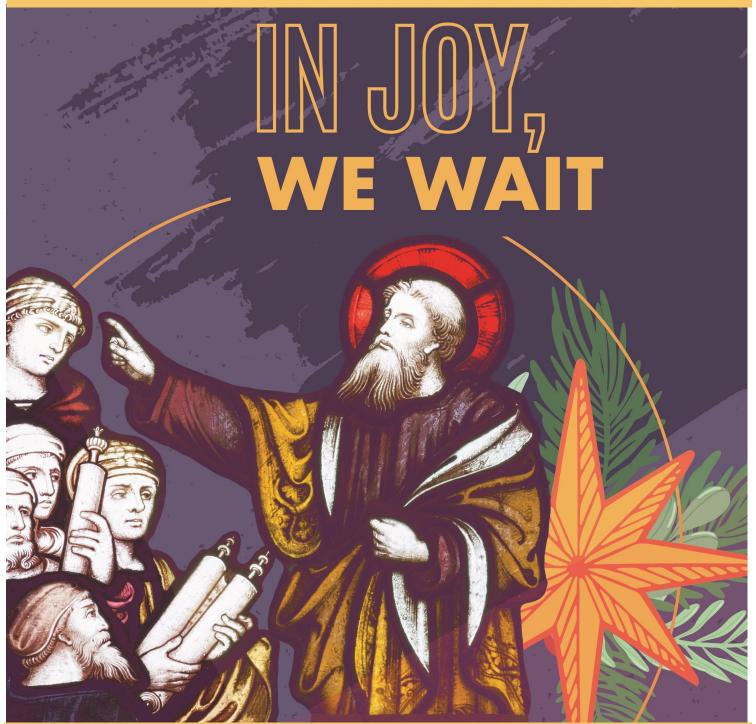


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MASS TIMES: SATURDAY 4PM, SUNDAY 9AM & 11AM, MONDAY-THURSDAY 12:10PM



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 

DECEMBER 11, 2022 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 halfhour 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-anda-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.

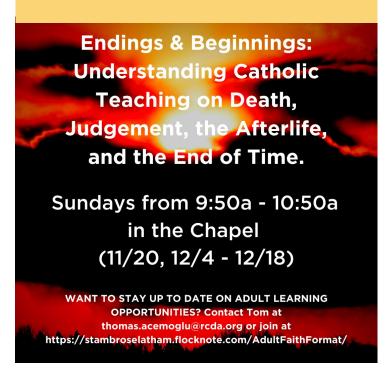
Jesus' moves to reassure John with words adapted from the prophet Isaiah in the first reading: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (11:4-5). This 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.

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 MY FATHER'S LOVE THE MARQUETRY OF ED LANTZER

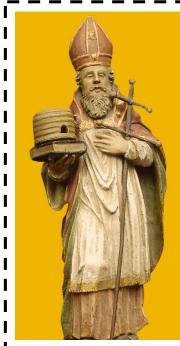
St Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park is now offering tours of the **My Father's Love** exhibit every Thursday! The exhibit consists of thirty, 4' x 8' wooden mosaic panels. Tours are held at 11:30 AM, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, & 6:30 PM. Tours can also be scheduled at separate times for large groups or organizations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



### **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!

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Support morning & afternoon blood drives NOW in: Downtown Albany Cohoes Coeymans Latham Delmar



**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

**Ouestions?** 

(\$\)(518) 387-9441

joineny@redcross.org

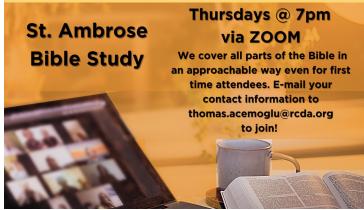


Apply!!











### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Website: stambroselatham.com Facebook: @stambrosechurch Email: salatham@rcda.org

YouTube: youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia

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



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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.

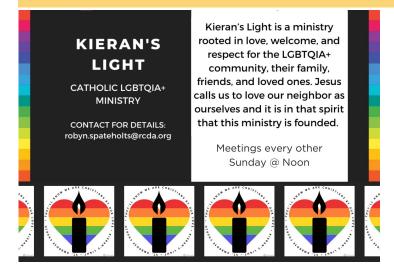
### MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

# 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 This arrangement copyright 2020 Bill Hayes; published by www.HayesMusicPublishing.com; all rights reserved 1. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um - phant is - ing morn when he vic - to - rious and left tile light and beau - ty 1. The king shall comes when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty 1. The king shall comes when morn-ing dawns and light is - to - rious morn when he vic - to - rious morn light and light and beau - ty 1. The king shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um - phant he vic - to - rious morn when he vic - to - rious morn light and light and beau - ty 1. The king shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um - phant he vic - to - rious morn when he vic -

### **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.





### **MASS INTENTIONS**

### <u>Saturday, December 10th — 4pm</u> Fr. Kelly

Lucille Lonczak Ronald Brand Rose Olsey Frederick Shellard

### <u>Sunday, December 11th — 9am</u> Fr. Kelly

John J. Kardas Angeline Sabatino Annette Dawkins Thomas Paolucci

### <u>Sunday, December 11th — 11am</u> Fr. Bellafiore

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

### <u>Monday, December 12th — 12:10pm</u> Fr. Kelly

Ronald (Ron) Day Intentions of the Borghetti Family

### <u>Tuesday, December 13th — 12:10pm</u> Fr. Kelly

Sister Joan Harrington CSJ

### <u>Wednesday, December 14th — 12:10pm</u> Fr. Kelly

**Gregory Sorrentino** 

### <u>Thursday, December 15th — 12:10pm</u> <u>Fr. Kelly</u>

Patricia Murphy

### WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

<u>Saturday, December 17th — 4pm</u> <u>Fr. Deimeke</u>

<u>Sunday, December 18th — 9am</u> Fr. Kelly

<u>Sunday, December 18th — 11am</u> Fr. Kelly

### **OFFERTORY**

Current Year

Previous Year

11/27/2022:

11/28/2021:

\$13,900.50

\$16,598.30



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everyone that
you come into
contact with!