

Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

One of the greatest mysteries to emerge from the ancient world was how a local deity in ancient Palestine for a very specific group of people somehow became the God of everyone. Throughout history, people had their gods and, with the exception of Israel, they had many of them. Some of these gods corresponded to the gods of different territories. For example, the Mesopotamian god Ishtar was equivalent to the Greek god Aphrodite, the Roman Venus, or the Canaanite Astarte. These gods were often gods of some natural or human phenomenon. For example, the Canaanite Baal was a storm god and the Egyptian Isis was lord of the dead.

The God of Israel was a bit different. While earlier on in the tradition of Israel, God would take on qualities of the gods that surrounded him, he was different in some very key ways that we may take for granted as inheritors of our parent tradition. For one, Israel developed a tradition of aniconism which meant that, like the first of the Ten Commandments said, Israel could make no image of their God. This was unheard of in the Ancient Near East, where cult statues were housed in the holiest place of their temples and venerated as gods. Without an image, God's qualities were ineffable, or too great to express through usual experiences. Two ways that God was expressed to the people were through the ideas of glory (in Hebrew *kavod*) and name (in Hebrew *shem*). Reading through the Old Testament we can see how God is often described in these terms. Glory is not exactly a tangible thing but a sort of brightness or magnificence that, in this case, was emitting from someone unseen. It simply meant that we see God not in himself but through that which tells of his greatness to our senses. For example, brightness might reflect his glory. Brightness isn't something you can put in your pocket or place on your shelf but we know it when we experience it. The tradition of referring to God's presence through his name (*Yahweh*, which is often translated "I am who I am") is also intangible, available to us only through speech. In this way, God is expressed not through a statue made of human hands that can be observed but through sacred speech.

There was another quality of Israel's God that must have seemed very curious to its neighbors, accustomed as they were to provincial gods overseeing their own people and territories. Israel had a tradition that one day all people would come to recognize their God as God. By the time the prophet Isaiah wrote, he was no longer even seen as Israel's solitary God among the many gods of their neighbors. Israel's God was simply the only God that there was. This might not seem like a very big deal to us because this is our God. But imagine for a second that a relatively small territory embedded in a cycle

of much greater and much more powerful empires somehow transformed their worldview so radically that they exchanged their gods for this one. Often, when I reflect on this historical turn I just can't get my head around it. On paper, none of this should be possible. It's the long shot that surpasses all long shots.

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany and on this day we celebrate how the God of Israel revealed himself as the God of everyone through the coming of Jesus. Our first reading from Isaiah describes the period before this coming as a thick cloud covering all of the people but now "*upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance*" (Isa 60:2-3). The cloud has passed and now we can see clearly.

And what is it that we see? For Israel, God could not be seen in light of all intangibilities...of his light, his magnificence, and his glory. What if all of that receded? Would we see a powerful king on his throne? Would we see fearful angels who dwarfed our position in the universe? Would we be scared by what we see?

We know how this story ends up but we should never take it for granted. When the cloud is lifted, God is revealed in a child. There is a story of St. Francis, that one day he began to tell townspeople of a great event that would be happening. As expectations grew, people came to a cave that Francis designated as the manifestation of this great event. In this cave was an empty feeding trough (which is what a manger is) accompanied by an ox and a donkey. Francis told a friend "*I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by.*" This was the first nativity scene, a tradition that many of us still carry on. In our Gospel reading today, we hear the story of the magi from the east, these first pilgrims from other nations who have come to recognize this child as the true king of the world.

I encourage you to reflect on this often because I still can't get over it. When the holy, transcendent, majestic and magnificent, invisible God of the universe decided to make himself known to all of the nations of the world, he did it as a child born in poverty. In the Old Testament he showed himself in fire, clouds, earthquakes, and unapproachable glory. And yet somehow the greatest display of his greatness is in this great humility. This is how he shows his greatness and we proudly proclaim this paradox on this holy solemnity.

-Tom Acemoglu

JANUARY 8, 2023

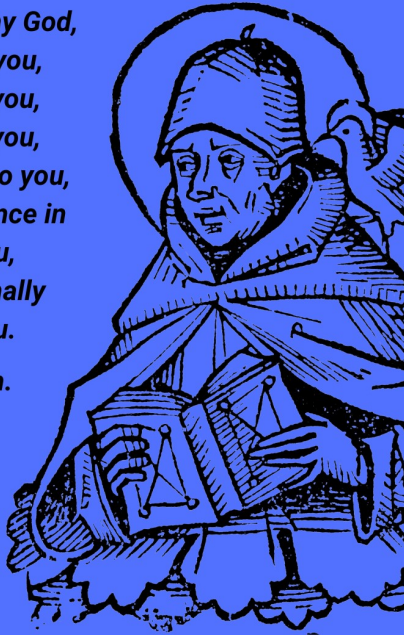
WE INVITE YOU TO CUT OUT THIS PRAYER & PUT IN A PLACE
OF PROMINENCE SO YOU CAN PRAY IT DAILY

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in
waiting for you,
and a hope of finally
embracing you.

Amen.

St Thomas
Aquinas

Feast Day Jan 28th



**PRAY FOR
UKRAINE**

**Join Mary's Circle
of Love in
praying the Rosary!**

**Mondays of
December & January
after 12:10p Daily
Mass in the Chapel.**



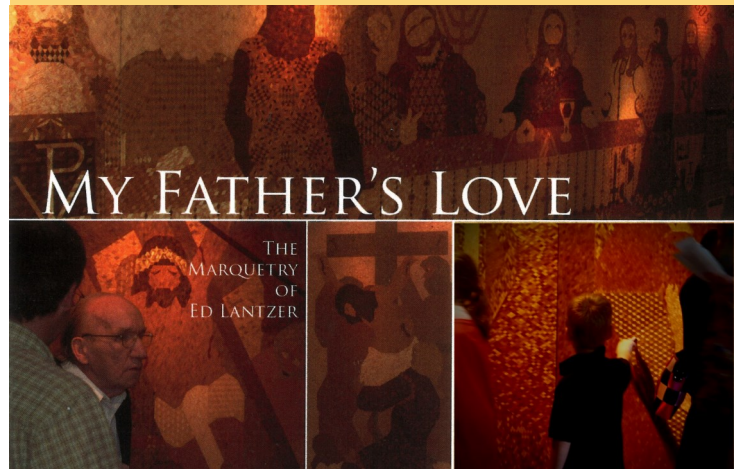
St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Praying Like There's No Tomorrow: New Perspectives on Our Ancient Prayers

Sundays from 9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(1/8, 1/22 - 2/12, 2/26)

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/>

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.

**Due to the high cost of postage, we'll
now 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.**

JANUARY 8, 2023

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.

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.



STUDENTS AT CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE VITA PROGRAM FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Mr. Hannah's Accounting Students work with an alumni to become IRS certified to complete tax returns for people at need in the community. Students in the past have been able to get clients up to \$18,000 in tax refunds. Each year students average around 300 tax returns that get sent to the IRS. This year for the 2022/2023 Tax season we will have about 30 Students participating. If you or someone you know is interested in having their taxes done for free by the VITA program, visit the VITA IRS website, or reach out to the local VITA operator to schedule an appointment: 800-906-9887.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PUBLICATION REQUEST



Do you have an event you want us to advertise, or an announcement you want us to share? We can help you get the word out through multiple platforms! Go to stambroselatham.com and click on the button of this guy with the megaphone in the middle of the page. Then fill out a short form, and we do the rest.

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!



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





**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

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Psalm 72

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, the designated psalm for this weekend is Psalm 72 (vs. 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13) which is a royal psalm. The psalmist is asking for a blessing on the new king, who is to be a defender of the poor (vs. 4, 12-14) and prays that he has dominion over all the nations (vs. 8-11).

John Hopkins Jr. was the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, PA when he wrote the lyrics and melody for "We Three Kings" in 1857 for a Christmas pageant. I have set this psalm with alternative lyrics to fit the melody of "We Three Kings". The free piano sheet music and mp3 recording of Psalm 72 may be downloaded from www.HayesMusicPublishing.com until Jan. 14th.

Ps.72 Lord The Nations Of The Earth

Melody: John Hopkins, Jr. 1857

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Arranged by Bill Hayes 2020

(Sung to the tune of "We Three Kings" with adapted psalm lyrics)

Fine

Refrain

Lord, the na - tions of the earth, will a - dore and wor - ship you.

Verses

1. With your judge - ment, praise the King. With your jus - tice, praise the Son.
 2. Jus - tice flow - ers all the days. Ho - ly peace will co - ver the land.
 3. Kings of Tar - shish of - fer their gifts. Kings of Se - ba bring him their praise.
 4. He shall res - cue all of the poor, when no one gives help to the poor.

17

1. He shall gov - ern from all sea your pro - ple and
 2. May he rule from all sea to sea and
 3. All the kings will pay him hom - age
 4. He shall help the poor and low - ly

21

1. jus - tice shall rule all the land. Oh
 2. to _____ tice shall the ends of the earth.
 3. na - tions will serve him well.
 4. Lives of the poor he shall save.

D.C. al Fine

JANUARY 8, 2023

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Sunday Before & After the Masses
in the Parish Center Lobby.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 7th — 4pm
Fr. Bellafigliore

Gregory Sorrentino
Lauretta Dybas
Dominic Crupi, Jr.

Sunday, January 8th — 9am
Fr. Kelly

Sam Aliberti
Tonino Ferracane
Joe Arcuri, Sr.
Lois Ahl

Sunday, January 8th — 11am
Fr. Kelly

The Grenchus Family
David Placido
Intentions of Mike & Mary Ann Deyro

Monday, January 9th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Tuesday, January 10th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

Ronald Day
Frances M. Spychalski

Wednesday, January 11th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Thursday, January 12th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, January 14th — 4pm
Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, January 15th — 9am
Fr. Bellafigliore

Sunday, January 15th — 11am
Fr. Bellafigliore

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

12/25/2022:

12/26/2021:

\$24,349.76

\$30,968.35



ONLINE GIVING

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



All are invited to this privately arranged tour, designed by Deacon Gerry Matthews with Journeys by Julie through Journeys Connect. If you're unable to attend this presentation but would like more information about the tour, please contact Journeys By Julie at journeysbyjulie@gmail.com or 518-326-2187. Reservations and deposits will be accepted after 1/27.

THERE WILL BE
AN HOUR
PRESENTATION
ON SATURDAY
1/27, AT
10:30AM IN THE
PARISH CENTER,
FOR AN
OCTOBER 2023,
10 NIGHT
IRELAND
GETAWAY.

HAILEY'S CORNER



You don't need
to give our
Lord gold,
frankincense,
or myrrh.

All He asks for
is your faith,
love, and hope!