



# *Saint* **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**ROOTED IN CHRIST**

518-785-1351 • 347 Old Loudon Road, | Latham, New York 12110 • [www.stambroselatham.com](http://www.stambroselatham.com)

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



**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



There can be joy in waiting; Advent is all about the waiting.

If you were a Jewish person living at the beginning of the first century, there was a good chance that there were things that frustrated you. If you were living in Galilee or Judea, you were sick of Roman interference in the affairs of your people. They had occupied your land, the land promised to your ancestor Abraham, and imposed their law, their power, and their taxes on you. Moreover, if you weren't sick of it, you were most certainly tired from your toil and poverty, of barely making enough to get by or simply living with less than you actually needed. You were sick of illnesses and injuries that had no remedy. You may have also been sick of the messy, even scandalous, situation that the religious authorities had made of things.

Many Jewish people at that time hoped that God would intervene, that he would send a promised deliverer who would fix the problems (at least the political ones). For many, they weren't just anxious at what was happening, feeling hopeless at an uncertain future. Instead, they were waiting for God to intervene and make things right.

Our culture has a phobia of waiting. We don't like to wait for our food and can get frustrated waiting an extra minute in the drive-thru line for a hastily prepared meal. We don't like waiting in line and show our displeasure when things don't speed along. We hate waiting at a traffic light and slam on our horns if a car doesn't move immediately when the light turns green. And now, we stave off any hint of boredom by distracting ourselves with our phones at any given moment. I say this to my shame because I've done all of these things more times than I'd like to admit.

Waiting is an art, one that I have not yet mastered. We do well to master this art because so much of life is waiting. Waiting is an opportunity to reflect and prepare rather than an opportunity to fret needlessly. Some of the most important waiting I've ever done was waiting for the birth of my children. Once their coming was confirmed, my wife and I entered into a process that we could not control. We knew roughly when the baby was due (and even then unexpected complications might arise). But while we might want to hold the baby now, they needed time to grow. We also needed to emotionally prepare ourselves for the change to our family as well as prepare rooms, furniture, clothing, and supplies that would allow us to take care of our baby.

As we waited for something we could not control, we were forced to live in the present. When it was waiting for our first child, we'd enjoy life as a

couple for soon we'd be three. We'd come up with names and wonder about the future. We had critical conversations about how we'd raise our daughter. As more children came we'd sort of muse at how a new child would impact the dynamic that our family had settled into. Last February, I particularly enjoyed the dinner we went out to eat the night before Pia was born as family watched the rest of the kids, a calm before the joyous storm of another newborn. All we could do was live life as we waited for our lives to change.

And so we have Advent. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* which means "coming" or "arrival". In Advent we enter into a collective period of waiting. We're waiting for Jesus to come. The people at the time of Jesus had no say as to when that coming would happen. It was God's timing and God's plan. All they could do was wait expectantly, developing a strengthening sense of trust as God took control. We call to mind the way they waited for the coming of the Messiah, who would be a different sort of king than Herod of Caesar, who would proclaim good news to the poor, who would heal the suffering, and would revolutionize how we related to God.

We also remember that we still await his second coming, when he comes again in glory. This is the hope of all Christians. In our second reading, Paul give thanks to God who has gifted us in various ways *"so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor 1:7). Jesus is even more urgent: *"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come...you do not know when the lord of the house is coming...Watch!"* (Mk 13:33-37). Our waiting is not simply a memorial of Israel's waiting for the Messiah. We are actively waiting for something that's been long hoped for.

We wait also for his arrival in our everyday lives. There are countless ways that we hope that God will intervene in our everyday problems. We desire help with the bills or with the kids or we hope that he'll help someone we know who's going through a hard time. He has come to us countless times in these "little" ways and we believe he'll do it again.

Until then, we wait. How do we wait? While there's much to celebrate, we must also work to reform our lives. Just like expectant parents have to let go of any selfish or destructive behaviors they may have for the sake of their coming child, we do the same for the coming of our Lord. How do we want things to be when the Christ child arrives? Let's get our lives in order!

-Tom Acemoglu

DECEMBER 3, 2023

## Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

Sundays from  
9:50a - 10:50a  
in the Chapel  
(Dec 10 & 17, Jan 7 & 14 )

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/>



Our dedicated Media Ministry Head, Chris Cooper, is leaving us, and we are looking for someone to fill his very big shoes! If you are technologically savvy and interested in getting more involved in liturgical ministry, reach out to the office for more information. We are looking for a new Media Ministry Head, as well as Media Ministers, and Live-Stream Ministers.

## Immaculate Conception Mass



Thursday, Dec. 7th @ 5:30p

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

## Advent Reconciliation Service @ St. Ambrose Church

12/6/23  
5:00PM

Opportunities  
for  
reconciliation  
with multiple  
priests will be  
available.



## AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

The Evangelization team of Holy Trinity invites you to an Advent Afternoon of Reflection on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2 pm in church.

During this busy time, give yourself an hour of peace and join us for music, prayer and benediction.

A photograph of a buffet breakfast spread featuring bowls of cereal, scrambled eggs, omelets, french toast, and various fruits. Two logos are overlaid on the image: the Columbiettes logo (a blue circle with a white cross and the word 'COLUMBIETTES') and the K of C logo (a red and yellow shield with 'K of C' and a cross).

**The Latham-Colonie Columbiette Buffet Breakfast**  
Sunday, December 10th, 2023  
8:30 am to 11:30 am  
328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, an Omelet Station, Home Fries, Corned Beef Hash, Bacon and Sausage, Pancakes and French Toast served w/Warm syrup, A Variety of Cereals and Juices, Bananas and Hot Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate.

Adults - \$12    Children (5-10) - \$6    Under 5 - Free!



DECEMBER 3, 2023

## FRIENDS

## IN FAITH

Would you like an opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners? What about giving back to our parish family by planning future events for parishioners of all ages? Friends in Faith will meet to gather your ideas for future social and hospitality events.

FRIENDS IN FAITH meetings are scheduled every Tuesday, and are held in the parish center.

Call Mary Kay for more information  
(518-366-9741)

## ALATEEN MEETINGS

Alateen is for young people whose lives have been affected by someone's drinking. The teens learn that they are not alone and discover ways of coping with their situation. The healing begins by meeting and sharing with other young people. Meetings are held weekly, on Sunday, at St. Edward the Confessor, 569 Clifton Park Center Rd, Clifton Park at 4pm. Any questions can be directed to: [cmc.afg.123@gmail.com](mailto:cmc.afg.123@gmail.com)



## Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays  
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Mary's Circle of Love*  
We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00am-11:30am at the Northern Pass Apartment and Condo Community, 62 Santanoni Dr, Cohoes. Our mission is to grow spiritually by sharing our faith stories. We pray, laugh, and share food as we journey with each other. Please reach out to Mary Kay (518-366-9741) or Marion (518-785-1992) for details.

## Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each month from 9:50AM -10:50AM in room 307

Next Meeting: January 7th

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

**Reconciliation**  
Wednesdays 5-6 PM  
Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

A common Advent melody is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. The melody is a 15th century French tune adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) when Helmore published it in the Hymnal Noted. The volume listed the tune as being “From a French Missal in the National Library, However, Helmore provided no means by which to verify his source, leading to long-lasting doubts about its attribution. There was even speculation that Helmore might have composed the melody himself.

The lyrics were from the 9th century Latin with 5 verses adapted by John Nason Neale (1818-1866), who published the first documented English translation, beginning with "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel", in *Medieval Hymns and Sequences*. He revised this version for *The Hymnal Noted*, followed by a further revision, in 1861, for *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. This version, now with the initial line reading "O come, O come, Emmanuel", would attain hegemony in the English-speaking world (aside from minor variations from hymnal to hymnal).

[illegible]



DECEMBER 3, 2023

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 2nd — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Anne Breeyear  
John Zach  
Varkey Cyriac  
Robert S. Rys  
Paul E. Brown  
Corinne Bombard

**Sunday, December 3rd — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Matilda & Nichola Popolizio  
Roy Seipel  
Mike & Margaret Sweeney  
Donald Lebentritt, Sr.  
John Clementi

**Sunday, December 3rd — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Deceased Members of the Gallo Family  
Mary Deasy  
Martin J Killian  
Martha Romand  
Nicholas Collarelli

**Monday, December 4th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Charley Sherlock  
Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard  
Michael Hanrahan  
Intentions of Christopher Roberts

**Tuesday, December 5th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Virginia Dubuque  
The Floyd L. Jones Family

**Wednesday, December 6th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Anna & Louis Coulombe

**Thursday, December 7th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

The Coneski Family  
Regina Koemm  
Mary O'Leary  
Judy Hart

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

11/19/2023:

11/20/2022:

\$13,079.90

\$13,980.50



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting  
your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://stambroselatham.com/egiving)



**The Latham-Colonie  
Knights of Columbus  
Bob Church Memorial  
Dinner**

**Saturday December 16th, 2023  
328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110**

**"Take Out" and "Dine- In" options available!  
Serving from 4pm to 8pm.**

**Menu: Beef Entree, Dessert, Coffee and Tea  
Donation: \$25 per person. Reservations  
Requested: Call 518-783-0572.**

**Proceeds benefit Bob Church Memorial  
Fund/Community Maternity Services, Albany,  
N.Y.**

## HAILEY'S CORNER



I think it's so  
cool that being  
"hopefully  
impatient" is a  
good thing  
when waiting  
for the coming  
of the Lord.  
Impatience is in  
my  
wheelhouse!

**WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?**

**All Masses TBD**