2nd Sunday of Advent

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

—Mt 3:5-6

“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

PARISH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Anthony M. Barratt, Pastor
Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
Ann McCauley, Business Manager
Erin Muir, P.A. for Liturgy & Pastoral Life
Tom Acemoglu, P.A. for Evangelization & Catechesis
Justina Treventi, Faith Formation Admin. Asst.
Mark Trudeau, Life Teen for High School and Jr. High
Tracey Penk-Masucci, Youth Ministry Asst.
Joan Welch, Parish Secretary
Thomas Green, Parish Music Director
Nancy Acemoglu, RN, Parish Nurse
David Dobkowski, PhD-Counselor, 859-4015
Jim LaBombard, Athletic Director
371-1996 • email stambrosecyo@gmail.com

PARISH TRUSTEES
Mary Stewart / Stephen Green

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm-Life Teen
Daily: Monday & Wednesday 6:30am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am
Communion Service: Friday 6:30am
Holydays and Holidays subject to change
(see bulletin)

CHURCH OF ST. AMBROSE
347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110
518-785-1351

WEBSITE: www.stambroselatham.com
E-MAIL: parishsecretary@stambroselatham.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Thursday 9:00am–6:00pm
Friday 9:00am–4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
E-Mail: principal@stambroselatham.com
Terri McGraw, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary
ADVENT AS A TIME TO PREPARE AND SO…
OUR PARISH RETREAT IS HERE!

This time of the year is such a busy one in so many ways. Thanksgiving has come and gone and now many of us may be in a frenzy of activity getting ready for Christmas. With all this pressure, the Church wisely gives us this season of Advent when we can focus on our faith and on how we prepare a way for Jesus in our hearts. In other words, to deepen our sense of being Jesus’ disciples. We have many things to help us with this. On Monday, we have the “Lights are on for You” reconciliation service with a number of priests with us to celebrate the great sacrament of reconciliation. We also have the usual Advent booklets such as “the Word Among Us”.

It is also very timely that we will soon begin our parish retreat as we welcome Rich Curran who will be leading the retreat for us this year. The focus of our retreat will be about how we can live as Jesus’ disciples with renewed love and zeal, or, to quote Rich’s website, our retreat will be about “life, faith, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.” Rich Curran is a wonderful speaker and guide, and so I do urge you to come to as many of the events as you can. There are lots of different activities available and please do check the bulletin or parish website for more details.

Retreats are special times that can help us to focus on our relationship with the Lord and to refresh and renew that relationship. In this sense, perhaps the word “retreat” is a bit misleading, or not quite the right word! It is not that we are retreating or running away from things or people, nor indeed are we avoiding reality, but quite the opposite. Instead we are going to take time to stop, reflect and to pray together so that we can live fuller and deeper lives and so that our relationship with God can also grow and deepen. We can be true disciples!

We see a model or a pattern of exactly this in the Gospels. Jesus sometimes goes away to a quiet or a deserted place (and he often takes the disciples with him). As we read in the Gospels, oftentimes things were so busy and there were so many demands that he and the disciples had no time even to eat! Jesus and his disciples “retreat” to those quiet places so that they can renew their focus and their strength through spending time in prayer. Then they return to the fray and all the “busy-ness” with renewed strength and perspective.

This can also be our model or pattern for our parish retreat. We will spend some time together over the weekend and then each evening as the week unfolds: just an hour or so each day away from all the usual activities and even distractions (the TV, the computer, the cell phone, events or whatever). Why should we do this? Not to escape from reality but rather to face reality with a renewed spirit and with a refreshed spirit. Retreats almost always can bring us many gifts and benefits. We might also pick up some new skills to help us with the daily routine, stresses and strains, or we might make some new friends.

With all this in mind, once again I do encourage you to feel very welcome and to take part in the parish retreat: please consider this short article a personal invitation to come! Also, please do invite any friends or family to come with you as the retreat is open to all. Although each evening does, to some degree, build on the others, each evening is also self-contained so that if we cannot make one or several of the evenings that does not matter. Hopefully, our parish retreat might be just the right time to have that “spiritual breather” or shot in the arm; to give us the gifts that we need.

Fr. Anthony
Advent Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:
"The Light is On For You!"

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Monday night, December 5th from 7-8:30 PM in the Parish Center we will have several priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a great opportunity to receive healing and forgiveness. To remind you about the parts of confession and the Act of Contrition, a brochure will be available to guide you. The Church will be open for prayer and adoration during this time as well...

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Thanksgiving Thanks and Christmas Dinner Needs

We give many heartfelt thanks to St. Ambrose parishioners and community for their most-appreciated donations which supplied 954 persons with bountiful Thanksgiving baskets. The request for Christmas dinner assistance may surpass this number; pantries in Cohoes provide for Thanksgiving but not Christmas baskets. Through the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners, the pantry volunteers hope to again provide families this year with 5 lbs. of potatoes and gift certificates for the remainder of vegetables, meat, rolls, fruit, etc. for their Christmas dinner needs.

If you are able to help “these least of my children”, please bring potatoes and gift certificates ASAP or by December 10-11 and no later than December 18.

Thank You for Your Continued Generosity!
Prepare the Way!
Welcome to the 2nd Sunday of Advent!
Here’s a couple of ways to enjoy the season!

- **STARTING NEXT WEEKEND!**
  (December 11th, 12th, and 13th)
  we welcome Rich Curran, who is leading this year’s parish retreat! Rich wowed our diocese at this year’s Spring Enrichment and we’re really blessed to have him here at St. Ambrose!

- **Do you have an Advent Wreath?**
  It’s a great way to keep the spirit of the season in our homes! Remember: Advent is NOT Christmas...our hearts are getting prepared to invite Jesus into our hearts in a special way at Christmas. Looking for some Advent prayers? Check out: [http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-prayers/](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-prayers/)

- **Pick up your copy of the Word Among Us at the back of the Church!**
The parish wants to help YOU make Advent and Christmas spiritual and meaningful. Let’s make the most of this special time and let’s do it together!

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**Nativity Play**
Our annual Nativity Play is happening during the 4:30pm Christmas Mass and we need YOUR help!
Open to all kids from Kindergarten to 6th Grade!

If you’re interested, please contact the faith formation office at 785-1351 x322!

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On December 18th, at the 9am Family Mass please bring your infant Jesus statues from your home Nativity Scenes.

We will have a special blessing of the infant Jesus at all the Masses!

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“Rich is the best, most dynamic Catholic speaker to youth and adults in our country today.”

**LIZ TINGQUIST**
Director of Youth Ministry
Parish Family Breakfast this weekend!

Please come and enjoy a great meal that includes a huge variety of breakfast delights. Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Waffles, Fruit, Danish, English Muffins and of course a made to order Omelet station that is out-of-this-world tasty!

Please feel invited and encourage to come and spend some time enjoying our Parish Family over a great meal for an even greater purpose. All proceeds go towards the Lifeteen Mission trip. This coming Spring we will be traveling to Abbeville, LA and working with the family mission company. Thank you so much for your support of our great Parish and the work we do to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Advent is a time to reflect on the impossible ...

Do the incredible. Challenge the impossible. Find the greatness inside of you that was always there, from the beginning. We always say what a miracle it is when someone is born. Everyone who sees new life, a child just born, is in awe of the wonder, beauty, miracle of life. That very moment is not an emotion from within us but our reaction to the reality that will always exist within that new life, forever. We are all brought into this life by an act of God and He only does miracles. That is His normal. And so when we see His work we can only react with amazement and awe.

Somewhere along the way, days and years that follow, we lose track of that reality and for some of us it becomes invisible and even unbelievable.

But Jesus says something totally different. Jesus calls us to faith; to believe in things not seen. Could it be because they are still a reality that He knows and we have grown blind to? His work never changes. He is always calling to us and asking us to trust Him and believe in the impossible. Read scripture and find things everywhere like:

I can do all things through Him who empowers me. Philippians 4:13

Nothing is impossible for God. Luke 1:37

He said to them, “... For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice. Isaiah 41:10

Life your life knowing there is no challenge too big; no obstacle that cannot be overcome; no limit to the miraculous life you have been given. Always remember the words God gave Isaiah;

Fear not, I am with you ...; I am your God!
At St. Ambrose School, we are “Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

Thank you!

St. Ambrose School is a mission of St. Ambrose Church but from my perspective it feels more like part of a big family. The parish-school bond is uniquely strong here. On behalf of the school community, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to you, the parishioners, Fr. Anthoy, the parish staff and the many volunteers who support our school in so many ways. God Bless!

Nurses’ notes...
Nancy Acemoglu, RN

Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30pm in the Resource Room

Our Grief Group will be gathering to remember Christmas with good company and food. If you have had a loss either recently or in the past, please come, you are so welcome. Your presence may also be support to someone else. Please feel free to bring someone else.

The Angel requests have been placed on the Christmas tree in the Parish Center Lobby. All gifts will benefit those in need.

Please tape original Angel to wrapped Christmas gift and return them by December 8th so that they can be delivered.

As always we need helpers to sort and deliver. For questions about these events and projects call me directly at 785-1351 x304. Thank you for all you continue to do to help those in need.
MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of St. Ambrose Parish, Latham, New York believe that, through our faith and baptism, we have been called to give witness to the values of Jesus as expressed in the gospel and teachings of our Church. As individuals and as a Parish Family we strive to:

- Develop our spiritual life, Spread the Gospel message,
- Respect the human dignity and rights of all persons
- Support family life: the role of married couples, singles, youth and children
- Share our time, energy, talent and resources

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to make choices and decisions that will reflect and give evidence of what we say we believe and value as a Catholic Christian Faith Community.

PARISHIONER
REGISTRATION/UPDATE REQUEST

Name: ________________________________
Street: ______________________________
City: ________________________________
Zip: _________________________________
Phone No: ___________________________

Please Check
☐ New Registration
☐ Change of Address
☐ Moving out of Parish
☐ Want Envelopes
☐ Name Change (Please contact Parish Secretary)

Please cut out and drop it in the Collection Basket or mail to the Parish Office.

THE EVANGELIST SUBSCRIPTION

Name: __________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ________________________________ State: ________
Zip: _________________________________
Phone No: ___________________________

Please check:
☐ Continue my subscription to the Evangelist, here is my $18.00/yr.
☐ Add my name to the subscription list, here is my $18.00/yr.

Please cut out, make check payable to St. Ambrose Church, drop it in the Collection Box or mail to the Parish Office.

HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
CALL NOW!
1-888-862-6429
HOME SECURITY TEAM

We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
“We Are A Tithing Parish
Following “God’s Plan for Giving”

November 20, 2016  $14,081.37
November 22, 2015  $14,870.58
November 27, 2016  $16,447.69
November 29, 2015  $18,149.34

Deepest thanks for your continued and generous support for our parish. Your gifts enable so much to be done in so many ways.

Compassion is a gift we can all give this Holiday Season. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance to those families in need of help. Please help us to make a difference in their lives by contributing to the Poor Box.

Thank you for your generous response to the 2016 Bishop’s Appeal.
The amount raised thus far is $154,376 with a total of 426 parish donations and 53 online donations. The vital ministries supported by this annual appeal depend on you and your generosity. Your gift helps St. Ambrose Parish pay its diocesan assessment of $172,616.
Pledge envelopes are available in the church and donations can also be made online at: www.thebishopsappeal.org

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to St. Ambrose Church or School. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to St. Ambrose Church or School, please contact the Business Manager, Ann McCauley at 785-1351 x303.
Many thanks for your support!

The Altar Rosary society will hold their annual TRIM-A-TREE PARTY on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 pm in the Rectory. Please bring a small appetizer or dessert to share. If you wish to participated in the Gift Game, you are asked to bring a wrapped gift valued at $15. Light hearted gifts are always fun! As always, new members are welcome.

Suddenly, A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and singing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Anyone who would like to sing for the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass, there will be two rehearsals, Thursday, 12/15 and Wednesday, 12/21 at 7:00 PM in the choir loft. All are welcome. Any questions please email Mark at mlangevi94@gmail.com or see Tom after any Mass.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations, best wishes and prayers from the St. Ambrose Parish Community to Benjamin Reynolds Widder and Samantha Gail LeMay who were recently joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony.
Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the souls of Nancy L. LaRow, Genevieve L. Coghill, Alfred Muller and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.

Are you struggling with your emotions, a loss, an addiction, a relationship or family issues? Counseling is available in the evenings at St. Ambrose. A $25 donation is appreciated. Contact Dave Dobkowski, Ph.D. at 859-4015 to make an appointment.

Baptisms
We joyfully announce the following that were brought to the Baptismal Font during November and are now members of the Church. The newly baptized are: Jackson James Edwards, Scarlett Karin Morgan, Jaxson James Higgins, Kepler Robert Muth, Siena Rosalie Tessarzik and Anthony Michael Lozano.
Parish Ministries & Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</td>
<td>Cathy Boudreau</td>
<td>785-3460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>Walter Ewing / Deacon Frank Gareau</td>
<td>785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombard</td>
<td>371-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
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<tr>
<td>BISHOP'S APPEAL (DDP)</td>
<td>Renee Hallock</td>
<td>785-3180</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</td>
<td>Rich Zmijewski</td>
<td>785-3142</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP</td>
<td>Mary Beth Pallack</td>
<td>221-1357</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (Training)</td>
<td>Nancy Hooley</td>
<td>785-3411</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Helmut Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE</td>
<td>Mary Stewart</td>
<td>785-6727</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
<td>Connie Strassburg</td>
<td>783-3342</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
<td>Pauline Kubizne</td>
<td>785-7816</td>
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<tr>
<td>GARDEN CLUB</td>
<td>Patricia Ostiguy</td>
<td>783-5175</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRIEF LOSS GROUP</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTORS</td>
<td>Joe Leombruno</td>
<td>518-729-0895</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE</td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
<td>785-1351 x309</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRY</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
<td>785-1351 x302</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARTHA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Donna Sabatino</td>
<td>782-1470</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Mary Kay Frederick</td>
<td>783-5186</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC GROUPS</td>
<td>Mary Alice Hunt</td>
<td>859-6743</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARISH SECRETARY</td>
<td>Thomas Green</td>
<td>785-1351 x306</td>
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<td>P. A. EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS</td>
<td>Parish Office</td>
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<td>PASTORAL CARE</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRAYER &amp; WORSHIP</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
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<td>RESPECT LIFE</td>
<td>Richard Ostiguy</td>
<td>783-5175</td>
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<td>RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
<td>785-1351 x302</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACRISTANS</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Pat Rayball</td>
<td>708-9615</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Terri McGraw</td>
<td>785-6453</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Kelly Sano</td>
<td>785-6453 x320</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Cary Lombardo</td>
<td>785-6453</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL BOARD</td>
<td>William Miller</td>
<td>785-6453 x320</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Paul Wilkes</td>
<td>785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRUSTEES</td>
<td>Mary Stewart / Stephen Green</td>
<td>785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>USHERS</td>
<td>John Estep</td>
<td>783-9266</td>
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<tr>
<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-6453 x320</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOUNG AT HEART</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
<td>785-6315</td>
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</table>

THANK YOU to everyone who made our community Thanksgiving dinner a special occasion for our guests. About 130 people were served and were able to take home an extra dinner. We appreciate everyone who volunteered to peel potatoes, chop vegetables, make favors, cook, bake, prepare the room, and clean up. We are grateful for the drivers, greeters, waiters and waitresses, buffet servers, Girl Scouts, teens, and people who donated money to purchase the food and supplies. Thank you to Bella Napoli Bakery and Latham Price Chopper who helped provide the rolls and bread for stuffing, and to the Food Bank for providing vegetables and baked goods. We couldn’t have done it without you! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity to those in need in our community! 

Fran and Rose Anne