“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

3rd Sunday of Advent
“Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” —Mt 11:11

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

MSS 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
THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Our continuing journey of Advent can seem so brief and it is hard to imagine in two weeks’ time we will be celebrating the great feast of Christmas together. As we have seen over the first two weeks of our season, with each week of Advent we are given markers or signs to guide us through this season and so to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus. So far we have had the two spiritual guides of “watching and waiting” and of “preparing a way for the Lord”.

Our sign post or guide for this third week is a simple and yet potentially quite difficult message: rejoice, for the Lord is near! Today we celebrate what is sometimes called “Gaudete” or “rejoicing” Sunday, echoing the first words of the entrance antiphon for the Mass. We are asked to rejoice because the coming of our Lord and Saviour is near. This theme of rejoicing is marked in our readings, our prayers and in the option of having rose coloured vestments and Advent Wreath candle (rose being a mix of the purple of Advent and the white of Christmas).

The word “joy” occurs so many times in the Sacred Scriptures in both the Old and the New Testaments and yet it is not always an easy word to understand, yet alone to live. It can be hard to be joyful if we are experiencing loss, or hurt, or a crisis in our lives. We can think of all the world events and situations that worry us or leave us feeling fearful. Joy can also seem to be something fleeting or even superficial, or frustratingly elusive. So, when as Christians, we speak of joy (rather like other everyday words such as “love”, or “peace”, or “freedom”) we need to recall that the word has a very particular meaning.

Despite all this, our readings at Mass today are all about joy. So, for example, the word “joy” occurs twenty two times in the letters of St. Paul. He does not say this lightly or as a tired cliché and we can remember that St. Paul suffered much, both personally and also for preaching and living the Gospel. He asks us to rejoice in hope, in repentance, in salvation and even in suffering. Fast forwarding to our own time, Pope Francis has written an encyclical about “the Joy of the Gospel.” So, what do they mean and what exactly is Christian joy…?

Well, the Christian understanding of joy certainly does not mean pretending all is fine, or of putting on a happy face or fixed smile when all is not good. The word used for “joy” in the New Testament is chairete and it is actually a word with many meanings and levels. To name a few of these, it first means a profound and real sense of God’s love for us, a great feeling of trust and confidence in God so that whatever happens, we have His love and care. Christian joy then is not something superficial, nor as Bernard Bassett remarked is it “contingent” (that is depending on things going well, or on circumstances, or on others), but rather it is a gift and an inner peace and strength that is there regardless of life and its ups and downs. We might also say then that joy is also not so much a feeling, but rather a choice or a decision: to be joyful.

Christian joy is also a spiritual way of living and seeing ourselves, others and the world so that we are tuned into God’s will. As Abbot Marmion wrote, “joy is the very echo of God’s life within us.” In this sense, joy is certainly an attitude to life and a spiritual gift. It is also eminently practical, especially when, with God’s help, we try to develop spiritual values and a way of everyday living that are what we might call joy-giving, rather than joy-killing. A great exercise during this third week of our Advent journey might be to strengthen all those things that, spiritually speaking, bring us joy and also root out those attitudes or values in our life that we know are joy-killers. Our parish retreat that begins this weekend will be a wonderful way to do this. Once again, I do urge you to come to as many of the events as you can.

St. John the Baptist proclaims that he is not the Christ and that one is coming after him who is so much greater than him. We can rejoice because that “greater one”, Jesus Christ, comes to us. So, as we begin what is probably a crazy and busy week ahead whether at work or school or with all those Christmas preparations at home, let us live the words prayed at Mass today and our Advent theme: “we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

Fr. Anthony
Blessing of the Bambinelli – December 18th at 9:00 AM Mass

Each year children gather with their families in St. Peter’s Square for “Bambinelli Sunday.” The children bring with them figures of the Christ Child — the “Bambinelli” — from their family’s Nativity scene. The Pope blesses the children and the figurines they have brought.

Fr. Anthony will bless the babies from our manger scenes at our Family Mass on December 18th at 9:00 AM.

Please plan to join us and bring your babies!

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!

Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the souls of Mary Helen Jurusik and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.
Prepare the Way!
Welcome to the 3rd Sunday of Advent!
STARTING THIS 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!

We Need Your Help!

Please sign up to help distribute the parish gift on Christmas!
(Sign up sheets can be found in the back of the Church)

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!
E-mail dawn.giroux@gmail.com with your name, e-mail address, and phone number so we can contact you!

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!

“Rich is the best, most dynamic Catholic speaker to youth and adults in our country today.”
Liz Tinguist
Director of Youth Ministry
December 18th, Immediately following the 5:30pm Mass there will be a presentation
To our Parish Family from
The Lifeteen Youth Group.
It is an Advent
Reflection, looking at
And praying through
The many gifts our—
Father in Heaven
Has given us
Culminating at the Birth of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. Please come and bring the family
as we celebrate the best of Christmas.

Prepare Ye the Way ...
Mother Teresa’s 15 tips to help you become more humble.

Good Advice ...
1. Speak as little as possible about yourself. 2. Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others. 3. Avoid curiosity of things that do not concern you. 4. Do not interfere in the affairs of others. 5. Accept small irritations with good humor. 6. Do not dwell on the faults of others. 7. Accept censures even if unmerited. 8. Give in to the will of others. 9. Accept insults and injuries. 10. Accept contempt, being forgotten and disregarded. 11. Be courteous and delicate even when provoked by someone. 12. Do not seek to be admired and loved. 13. Do not protect yourself behind your own dignity. 14. Give in, in discussions, even when you are right.
15. Choose always the more difficult task.
The world does not value or understand humility, but it is what Jesus used to save us.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him and without Him nothing came to be.

What came to be through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Gospel of John
1:1-5
At St. Ambrose School, we are “Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

The Christmas Message

Jesus, here is our gift to you!

A child has been born for us
A son given to us
Authority rests upon him and he is named Jesus

The world needs a stable influence

Remembering our Beloved Nancy LaRow

Nancy was our Pastoral Manager. She believed in God, loved the Blessed Mother unceasingly, prayed for many and lived her life with love, simplicity, opulence when needed and generosity. She had deep love and compassion for the marginalized. She was pretty, crisp and smart, and had a magnetic way with people; walking with them, not in front of them. She was impeccable, organized, and had the right words to make anyone feel better. She contributed so much, that it would be an understatement to attempt to list all she did, and honestly, she would prefer to be in the background, as a person of humility and deep justice. She loved St. Ambrose, and Siena was always in her heart. Her family was her world, and if you were her friend it was for life. Oh, yes, she loved being Polish. May she always and forever be cherished in our hearts.

NURSES’ NOTES...

NANCY ACEMOGLU, RN

December 11, 2016
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.

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SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION
Saturday, 3:00 PM or any time by appointment.

MARRIAGE
Congratulations! So that proper preparation may be made, please make an appointment with Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date. Either the bride or groom should be a registered parishioner of St. Ambrose parish.

BAPTISM
Congratulations! If you wish to arrange preparation for baptism, please call the Parish Office. Parents should be registered members of St. Ambrose parish.

RCIA
(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
For those inquiring about the Catholic Faith. Welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for program details.

VOCATION
If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony.

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.

PARISHES OF OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLONIE</th>
<th>LATHAM</th>
<th>LOUDONVILLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clare’s</td>
<td>Our Lady of the</td>
<td>Christ Our Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>456-3112</td>
<td>Assumption</td>
<td>St. Pius X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am</td>
<td>785-0234</td>
<td>459-6635</td>
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<td>Sun: 7:30am,</td>
<td>Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 &amp; 12 noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00am St. Joseph Prov. House 10:30am</td>
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</table>

We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.

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We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
**December 11, 2016**

**Stewardship**

sharing the gifts we have been given

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**"We Are A Tithing Parish**

**Following "God’s Plan for Giving"**

December 4, 2016          $21,030.03
December 6, 2015          $23,340.24

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

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**Food Pantry Stats**

The Food Pantry served 98 households in November. This included 206 adults and 185 children. As always, the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners is deeply appreciated and helpful. The ongoing need is great and all food and monetary contributions are much appreciated as we strive to feed the hungry in our community.

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**The Altar Rosary Society**

will be preparing the Church for the Advent/Christmas season and we would like to invite the parish family to participate. We will be decorating the altars in the church, chapel and McCormick Center with beautiful live poinsettia plants. If you wish to help us with this endeavor, for a small donation, you may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in your family's name. Information on this project can be found on the handouts located at the Church entrances. Thank you and God Bless.

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**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](http://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!

Fr. Anthony

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**Prayer To Know One’s Vocation**

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end.

Jesus, I trust in you.

Amen
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.

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2016

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49-2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Liturgical Roles for Week Ending December 18th, 2016

Money Counters, Sunday, December 18th
Team #6 — Steve Green, Richard Ostiguy & Tom Dame

Money Counters, Monday, December 19th
Team #2—Jan, Mike & Pat Rayball
**Parish Ministries & Contacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</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 Garceau</td>
<td>785-1351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombard</td>
<td>371-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISHOP’S APPEAL (DDP)</td>
<td>Renee Hallock</td>
<td>785-3180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</td>
<td>Rich Zmijewski</td>
<td>785-3142</td>
</tr>
<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</td>
<td>Nancy Holley</td>
<td>785-4311</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Training)</td>
<td>Helmut Neurohr</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Mary Stewart</td>
<td>785-6727</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
<td>Connie Strassburg</td>
<td>785-3342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
<td>Pauline Kubizne</td>
<td>785-7816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARDEN CLUB</td>
<td>Patricia Ostiguy</td>
<td>785-5175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRIEF LOSS GROUP</td>
<td>Mary Sue Ray</td>
<td>469-1329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECTORS</td>
<td>Joe Lombruno</td>
<td>518-729-0895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE</td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
<td>785-1351 x309</td>
</tr>
<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>785-1470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY</td>
<td>Mary Kay Frederick</td>
<td>785-5186</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Mary Alice Hunt</td>
<td>859-6743</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC GROUPS</td>
<td>Thomas Green</td>
<td>785-1351 x306</td>
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<td>PARISH SECRETARY</td>
<td>Parish Office</td>
<td>785-1351 x321</td>
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<td>P. A. EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<td>PASTORAL CARE</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
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<td>PRAYER &amp; WORSHIP</td>
<td>Richard Ostiguy</td>
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<td>RESPECT LIFE</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
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<td>RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACRISTANS</td>
<td>Pat Rayball</td>
<td>708-9615</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Terri McGraw</td>
<td>785-6453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Kelly Sano</td>
<td>785-6453 x320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Cary Lombardo</td>
<td>785-6453</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>785-9266</td>
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<tr>
<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUNG AT HEART</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
<td>785-6315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

“Be generous, sharing what you have.”
(I Timothy 6:18)

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.