

# Sharing the Good News

## December, 2024

St. Mary's Anglican Mission  
122 W. Walnut  
Chatham, IL 62629

From Luke 3:4-6 (Isaiah 40:3)

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

**5** Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

**6** and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

**Birthdays and Anniversaries** for December:

**Birthdays:**

December 4 – Fr. Tom  
December 16 – Kathy Hahn  
December 23 – Dan Hahn

**Anniversary:**

December 16 – David and Tressie Kemp #6

**Readers and Coffee Hour Schedule for December**

...December 1 Reader Jess  
Coffee Hour Graham  
December 8 Reader Elisabeth  
Coffee Hour Langfords  
December 15 Reader David  
Coffee Hour Kemps  
December 22 Reader Braden  
Coffee Hour Bispings  
December 24 Reader Sylvia (no coffee hour)  
December 29 Readers TBD (Bishop's Visit)  
Potluck to follow at Langfords

**Please join us** at 7PM on **Christmas Eve** Christmas Mass.

*Thoughts from the Vicar*

In 2012, Sylvia and I moved from the Quad-Cities area to Springfield because of the approaching birth of our granddaughter Blair. One of the biggest differences I have noticed is the weather – Springfield's is much better, especially in the winter. Back there we would have to endure several heavy snowstorms every winter, much worse than we have seen here. And our garage was located a half block from our back door. Every time it would snow, we would have to wade through deep drifts to get to our cars.

We had a choice of wading through those drifts or walking down the street in the tire tracks or the cars that had driven by earlier. It didn't take long to figure out that walking in the tire tracks was much more dangerous because those tracks were slippery. Indeed, not once, but twice, I broke my ankle two separate times by slipping on the ice. Wading through the drifts would have been slower, but safer.

The life to which we are called by Jesus Christ can be like the path to our garage in Sherrard. Many times, the path that seems right and honors God is not easy, and the journey may be slow. Doing what is easier and faster is not always God's will for us. But we honor God when we do what is right.

### **Advent Pastoral Letter**

**(to be read in all the congregations of the Diocese on Sunday, Dec 1, 2024 Advent I)**

My dear brothers and sisters:

PAX!

We are in the liturgical season of Advent, in which the Church invites us to take an emotional and spiritual break from everything that usually takes up most of our time in our lives, so that we can think about that liturgical acclamation that we say practically every week: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." With this liturgical expression, I want to connect Advent with the one that concerns us now: "Christ will come again." Theoretically, we all know that Christ will come again. Theologically, we are taught that Christ will come again.

Liturgically, the Church nourishes us spiritually with hymns, antiphons, readings and symbols that clearly make us reflect on the fact that Christ will come again. How aware are we that Advent is not only a liturgical season but a reality in which the Church entralls us and practically forces us to think that it is as real as the air we breathe?

I don't remember when I first heard about Advent, but I am sure that I heard about Advent in my childhood, in my youth and in my adolescence. Maybe I didn't understand what they were talking about. Maybe I knew that it was celebrated because I had to go to Church, but it was at a youth retreat during

Advent, led by the Jesuit Fathers, after having heard the explanation of Advent and the following song, that I can say I understood not only the celebration of Advent, but what Advent is. The song is called: "And He Will Come", composed by Carmelo Erdozaín. The music of that song was one of journey, of march, of mission, of invitation and the lyrics say:

Arise, Jerusalem, shine with joy  
for your light has come  
and the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, my people,  
for darkness covers the earth,  
the Savior will come upon you.

Awake, stand up, look up  
from now on your sun will not set,  
nor will its light fail.

The Lord will be your light  
the days of your struggles will end and in the midst of His people, the Lord will come.

And the Lord will come (will come). (the Lord), the Lord will come.

The light will shine in our land, it will shine in the midst of the people, The Lord will come.

He will use your same tools

He will also wear His vestments, The Lord will come.

And the Lord will come (will come). (the Lord), the Lord will come.  
From heaven to earth He will come when you call Him.

And the Lord will come (will come).

The Lord, the Lord will come.

My people, the Lord is near  
and He will come.

A thousand times He has told us  
that He will come.

He will sit at our tables.  
Spread the news, friends,  
Invite everyone to the feast  
when He calls and enters our homes.

Because it is true, the Lord will come among His people.  
In the intimacy of your life, when you call Him,  
The Lord will come.

And the Lord will come (and come). (The Lord), The Lord will come.  
From heaven to earth He will come, when you call Him.

Perhaps this song does not mean anything to many. This song, in my youth, transformed my heart, my offering to the Lord, because I understood that Advent does not just imply waiting, it is the injection of joy, strength and commitment that sends us, as the theme of our Synod says: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, to invite others to know Him, accept Him, love Him, serve Him so that when

the Lord comes, He will find a people well-disposed and prepared.

May Advent push us to the mission and help us prepare our congregations and our Christian communities to receive this new generation of believers to whom we will entrust the mission of continuing evangelization in our society. Amen.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Bp. A. Morales, OSB, DD". The signature is cursive and includes a small circular mark with a cross inside.

Bp. A. Morales, OSB, DD  
tQuincy 9

Parish Prayer List:

**For Steven our Archbishop, for Alberto, our Bishop, for Tom, our Priest, and for Deacon Tom**

**For those fighting cancer:** Sandy, Cindy, Karen, Carol, Richard, Barb, Mark, Eric, Judy, Bishop Wenceslas, Danielle, Gary, Charles, Kate

**For those in need of uplifting prayer:** Deacon Tom, Jess, Tressie, David, Kathy, Dan, Sylvia, Fiona, Jon, Jerry, Phyllis, Stuart, Nancy, Madeleine, Daniel, William, Terry, Jennifer, Rob, Bill, Chuck, Brandt, Joan, Richard, Ed, Prakash, Maya Rai, Penny, Karen, Marie, Helen Clements, Harold

**For those in long term care:** Gabriel, Grace, Danielle, the residents at Holly Brook, Reflections and South Park

**For the Church's ministry in Nepal:** Purna, Bishop Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Prakash; the Transformation Spiritual Church

**For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission**

**For those affected by the war in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine**