

# The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church"

Christmas 2016



## 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](mailto:stambrosecyo@gmail.com)

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Mary Stewart / Stephen Green

## ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL

518-785-6453

Website: [www.stambroselatham.org](http://www.stambroselatham.org)

E-Mail: [principal@stambroselatham.com](mailto:principal@stambroselatham.com)

Terri McGraw, *Principal*

Kelly Sano, *Secretary*

## 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

## CHURCH OF ST. AMBROSE

347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110

518-785-1351

WEBSITE: [www.stambroselatham.com](http://www.stambroselatham.com)

E-MAIL: [parishsecretary@stambroselatham.com](mailto:parishsecretary@stambroselatham.com)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 9:00am–6:00pm

Friday: 9:00am–4:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

- Church & School offices will be closed
- There will be NO 6:30 AM Mass **but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass**

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

- Church & School offices will be closed
- There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration

## MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017

- There will be NO 6:30 AM Mass **but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass**
- Church & School offices will be closed

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND THANKS

Well, we have finally made it to Christmas Day! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every joy and many blessings as we will continue to celebrate this great season of Christmas, or "Christ's Mass" over the next few weeks. (Unlike the stores etc., we know that Christmas does not end on Christmas Day, but rather only just begins. We have a whole season of Christmas to celebrate together, ending when we come to the Baptism of Jesus in a few weeks' time.)

A warm welcome is extended to any visitors to St. Ambrose and "welcome back" to those who have returned for the holidays. On a very personal note as I celebrate my fifth Christmas here at St. Ambrose, my deepest thanks must go to so many of you for your cards, gifts and best wishes: your kindnesses, generosity and support are truly wonderful and very much appreciated. Please do continue to keep me in your prayers, so that I may serve to the very best as your pastor in the time that I have left here at Saint Ambrose! Indeed and as you know, we are in that time of transition and so we can help and support each other above all by our prayers.



There are so many people to thank for all their hard work: those who have prepared and decorated the church and parish center, our music ministry and youth ministry teams, all our sacristans, ushers, media ministry, servers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers, church decorators, all those involved in the food pantry, giving tree and so many other forms of outreach, the Religious Education team and Mrs. Terri McGraw and the children, staff, faculty and supporters of our parish school. We have also had so many volunteers who have helped again with our welcome and evangelization projects this year. I would also like to thank Deacon Helmut, Deacon Frank, the parish staff, trustees, volunteers, parish groups and committees for all that they have done. If I have forgotten to thank anyone else, please forgive me! The efforts and gifts of so many truly enhance our celebration of Christmas, as well as the life of the parish throughout the year.

This year has certainly been a busy one for our parish, and with so many wonderful people with so many talents, we can look forward to building on the strengths of our parish and school community in the year ahead. We have had all the usual activities and events, as well as special occasions such as the Parish Festival and many faith formation and evangelization projects. In fact, we hope to continue our focus on evangelization and discipleship: reaching out and inviting our friends, neighbors and family to deepen their relationship with Jesus, our Savior and to look for ways that the St. Ambrose community can help that relationship to grow. However, to do this, we also know that we need to develop our own relationship with the Lord: to open our hearts to His love and so know what He is asking of us and then to do it with courage and devotion.

We celebrate the coming of Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1: 14) or, as St. Leo says, "[that] He came down from heaven so that we might go up to heaven." In this great season of Christmas, let us renew our prayers for one another and continue to work together for the building of the Kingdom in our community. Let us also remember in our prayers those who find this time of year difficult for various reasons. We have also been reminded of the need for peace, repentance and a conversion of heart with so many struggles and incidents of violence throughout the world during 2016 and perhaps a sense of uncertainty or even fear. May the peace and joy of Christmas be with us all and flow out into the coming year. God bless you in this coming Christmas season.

With love and prayers,

*Fr. Anthony*



As we approach the New Year, I pray that we may all discover a deep sense of wonder within us! At Christmas, if we really pause to see the baby in the manger, we see the God who loved each one of us so very much that he became one of us to share our humanity. He made himself helpless because we are helpless. As we go through the ordinary (and the extraordinary!) struggles of this life we know that God understands. In His very weakness we experience the power of His great love. We recognize in this helpless baby the divine in the world. We also come to sense the divine in *us* as we understand more fully the fact that we are known and loved by God. This intimate experience of God changes us and we see ourselves and the world in a new light. It is not by our own doing but by God's grace, it is His gift. We have to be willing to surrender all that we know and all that we are and allow God to change us. This includes all our weaknesses and all our struggles as well as our goodness. God does not hold back anything from us, with Him there is no compromise. If we trust Him, He gifts us with all that we need to be who He created us to be, and to do what He created us to do. There is hope because things can change . . . we can change! There is hope because He loves us that much!

I know I have shared this story before but it remains in my heart...

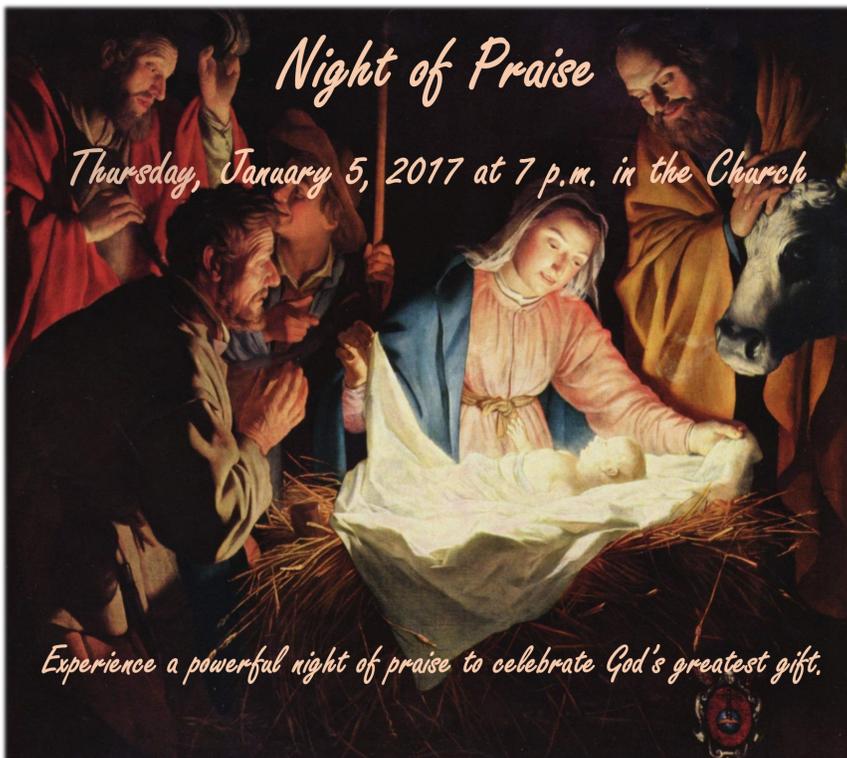
When my Father moved our family to Latham 45 years ago, I was going into 5th grade. He and my mother made several trips to the area to look for our new house. Of course many things were considered but for my parents, finding the right church was very important. I remember they came to the area one weekend and attended Mass at several churches. There was no question in my Father's mind or his heart, St. Ambrose was to be our new parish. I remember asking my Dad what the big deal was...and he replied, "There is something very special about St. Ambrose...you'll see"! I can't say that I saw it right away...it took me a few years but I have to say that my dad was correct! It is a privilege for me to have this opportunity to extend to my parish family wishes and heartfelt prayers for a joyful Christmas and a New Year graced with all God's blessings.

Wishing you all His Hope and His Joy in 2017!

Erin Muir  
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Life

# Would you like to make St. Ambrose your spiritual home?

- Visit  
[www.StAmbroseLatham.com/Join-Our-Parish](http://www.StAmbroseLatham.com/Join-Our-Parish)
- Text  
the word "AMBROSE" to 84576
- Sign up  
for FlockNote at [StAmbroseLatham.com](http://StAmbroseLatham.com)  
for e-mail updates
- Help us get to know you  
785-1351  
[pastor@StAmbroseLatham.com](mailto:pastor@StAmbroseLatham.com)



## ***A Special Invitation...***

***With gratitude in our hearts for God's great love and mercy, let us come together for a night of praise and worship. We will sing songs of Christmas praise and adoration and listen to some scripture reflections on the Nativity. We pray it will be a night of community, gratitude, joy and worship!***

***Please join us from  
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Church  
on  
Thursday, January 5, 2017.***



Committed to serve

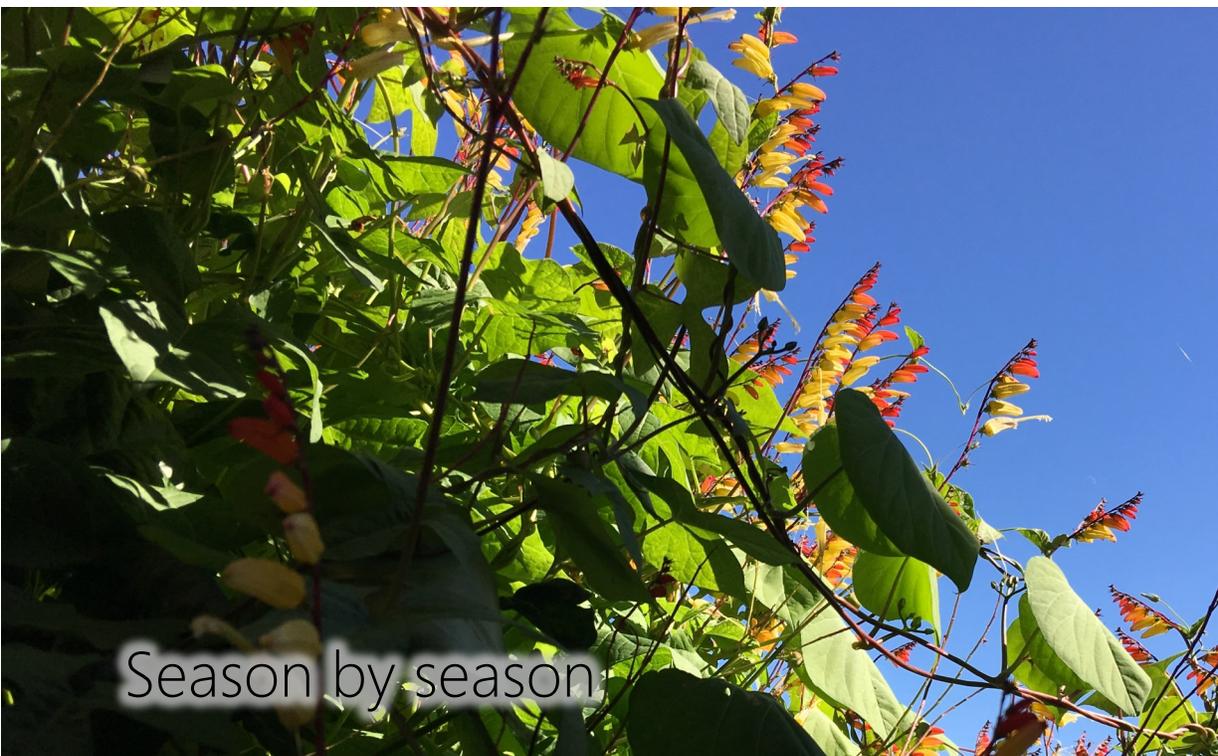


Committed to Catholic education

For families...



...for our youth



Season by season



Year after year



Through all of life's changes



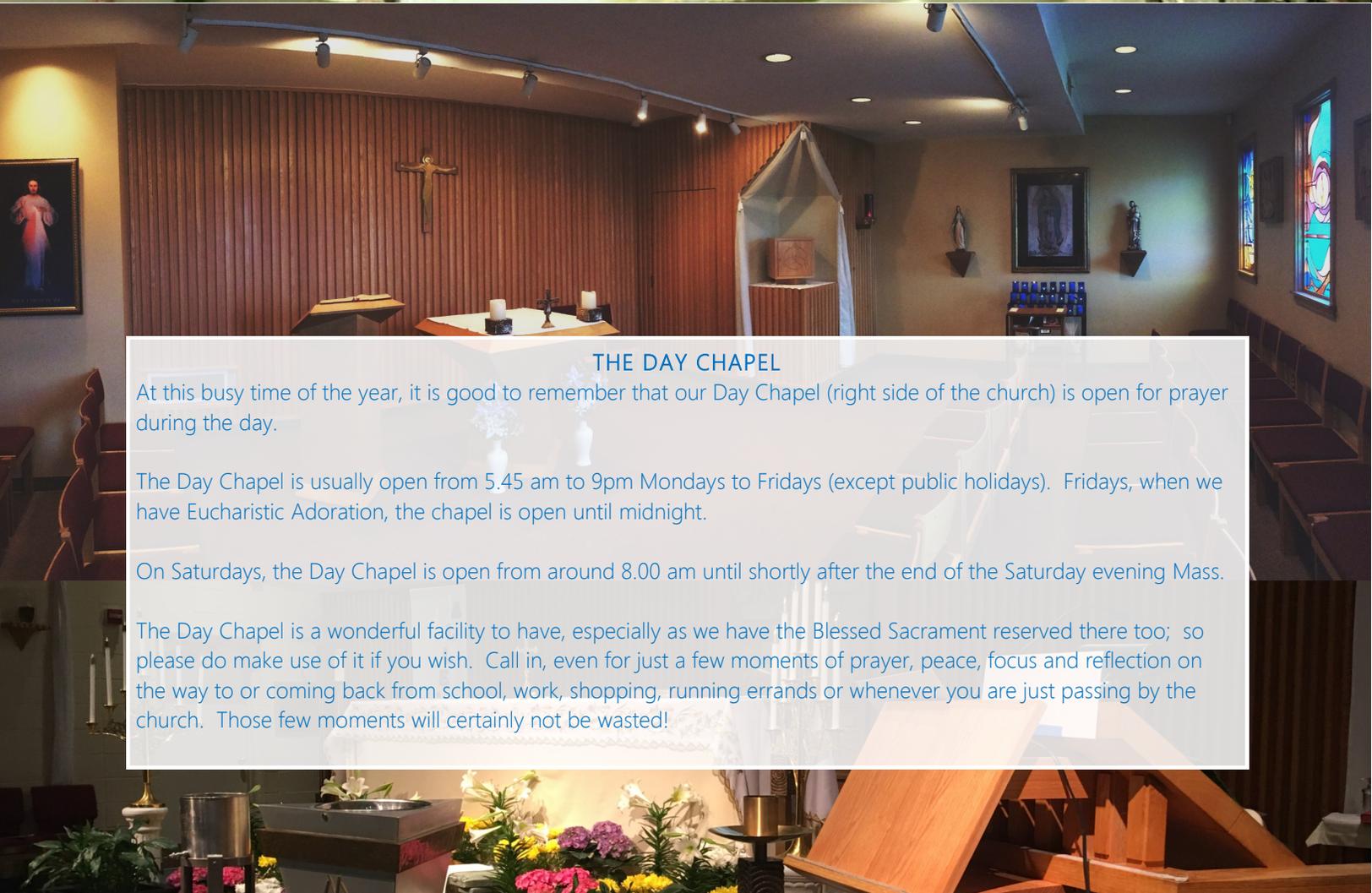
We remember everything that He has done for us



We are called to be lights in the darkness



The Church exists to serve...and we're here to serve you



#### THE DAY CHAPEL

At this busy time of the year, it is good to remember that our Day Chapel (right side of the church) is open for prayer during the day.

The Day Chapel is usually open from 5.45 am to 9pm Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays). Fridays, when we have Eucharistic Adoration, the chapel is open until midnight.

On Saturdays, the Day Chapel is open from around 8.00 am until shortly after the end of the Saturday evening Mass.

The Day Chapel is a wonderful facility to have, especially as we have the Blessed Sacrament reserved there too; so please do make use of it if you wish. Call in, even for just a few moments of prayer, peace, focus and reflection on the way to or coming back from school, work, shopping, running errands or whenever you are just passing by the church. Those few moments will certainly not be wasted!



CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

**Sunday – December 25**

**Monday – December 26**

School Christmas Recess  
Church & School offices closed

**Tuesday – December 27**

School Christmas Recess

**Wednesday – December 28**

School Christmas Recess

**Thursday – December 29**

9:30 AM Mary's Circle of Love-Lounge  
6:00-8:30 PM AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Meeting Rms  
7:00-9:00 PM Prayer Group-Chapel

**Friday – December 30**

Church & School offices closed  
School Christmas Recess  
**NO** Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

**Saturday – December 31**

3:00-4:00 PM Confessions-Chapel

**Sunday – January 1, 2017**

10:15-11:15 AM **NO** Faith Formation  
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen—Parish Ctr

**Monday – December 26—St. Stephen**

9:00 AM *Parish Intention*  
9:00 AM *Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption*

**Tuesday – December 27—St. John**

6:30 AM *Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption*  
9:00 AM *Stella Bartos by Don & Susan O'Brien*  
*Andrew M. Ortiz by Sissman Family*

**Wednesday – December 28—The Holy Innocents**

6:30 AM *For the Richard Family by Madeleine*  
9:00 AM *Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption*

**Thursday – December 29—5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

6:30 AM *Communion Svc at Our Lady of the Assumption*  
9:00 AM *John Mizwa by Diane Perkins*  
*Joanne Britton-Bergin by Thomas Bergin*

**Friday – December 30—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

6:30 AM *Communion Service*  
9:00 AM *Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption*

**Saturday – December 31—7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

4:30 PM *Sharp & Bell Families by Laureen E. Sharp*  
*Bernard Weinraub by Claire & Jerry Boeck*  
*Savina DeSantis by the Family*  
*Edward R. Lupian by Wife Ann*

**Sunday – January 1, 2017—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

7:30 AM *James J. Pender by Son*  
9:00 AM *Theresa Robinson*  
11:30 AM *Jozef Chilinski by Maria Chilinski*  
*Nicholas Casale by Eileen Johnson*  
*Nancy LaRow by Barbara & Ed Smith*  
5:30 PM *Life Teen – People of St. Ambrose*



LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 1ST, 2017

MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

TEAM #9 & 10 — J. DAGGS, V. GYURKO, B. MAHONEY, C. CHABOT, C. ALIBERTI, R. COMTOIS, R. HAGGERTY, S. TRZCINSKI

MONEY COUNTERS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

TEAM #1—Tina Zandri & Marian Davis

| 4:30PM  | 7:30AM  | 9:00AM  | 11:30AM   | 5:30PM   |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>SACRISTAN:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                           | <b>SACRISTAN:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                           | <b>SACRISTAN:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                           | <b>SACRISTAN:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                           | <b>SACRISTAN:</b><br>See sign-up sheets              |
| <b>LECTORS:</b><br>#1-See sign-up sheets<br>#2-See sign-up sheets | <b>LECTORS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                |
| <b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                       | <b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets          |
| <b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets              | <b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets |
| <b>USHERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                              | <b>USHERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                              | <b>USHERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                              | <b>USHERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                              | <b>USHERS:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                 |
| <b>MEDIA MINISTRY:</b><br>See sign-up sheets                      | <b>MEDIA MINISTRY:</b><br>See sign-up sheets         |