



Saint AMBROSE

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

518-785-1351 • 347 Old Loudon Road, | Latham, New York 12110 • www.stambroselatham.com

FROM THE PASTOR

So many moments in our lives test our faith. The loss of a loved one, unexpected changes in our lives, moments that leave us asking the question “why?” with no answer to make sense of the situation we find ourselves in. I’ll never forget the day that my Godfather’s nephew, Spencer, passed away in 1995. He was a 2nd lieutenant in the Army who died in a Ranger “training accident” down in Florida along with four others who served our country in the same unit. We were shocked, heartbroken and of course wanted answers to questions that we had as a family that we just couldn’t make sense of and felt we needed for some sense of closure to begin the healing process. We wanted to know the answer to the question “why?” What we received was a heavily redacted response that only reported the same little information we found across the news networks. That a tragedy occurred, but no answers to the “how,” “what” and “why” this could have happened. I’ll never forget this day because it was the day I lost the person I looked up to the most, for he was everything I wanted to be. The one I always sought to mirror my life after and the role model above all others who I connected with so well. This was a moment that truly tested my faith, the day I walked away from God, the day I walked away from the Church for good.

Each of us unfortunately have been through similar moments in our own lives that leave us grieving in various forms. We are angry, saddened, seeking answers to questions like “why” that we never know the answer to. Our faith is tested, our hope and faith in God is shaken to the core, leaving us at a crossroads to walk away or turn to the Lord. For myself, that day I chose to walk away, choosing to say goodbye not only to the Lord, but to the Church I called home.

St. Paul writes in today’s second reading, “rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.” To follow this is incredibly difficult, let alone understand or reconcile with when we are going through these trying times we each face. For St. Paul is telling us in yet another way, that we are to turn it over to the Lord, to place our faith, hope and trust in Him. To not let these times stand between us and God, nor to let these times stand between us and one another. We are to hand the question of “why” that we want the answer to over to God, to pray especially in those times and never let our Spirit be quenched. To find in our crying out, in our turning to prayer, some way to give thanks and to rejoice once more. In the gospel, John speaks of the coming of John the Baptist, for “he came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.” Together, these readings show us that God still finds a way into our hearts to rejoice as we continue to connect with Him through our prayer, no matter what trial we face. That our testimony will help others all around us see that it is our faith that will always help us, our staying on the right path heading towards the Lord, never away. This is the path that will help us to find some way to rejoice once more.

As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the third week of Advent dedicated to joy, let us always be mindful that God will bring us through it all, no matter how difficult it may seem. If we but hold true to our faith, holding onto the Lord without letting go, to pray without ceasing we can find that any challenge we face, the times we want answers that we may never have, that He is still here to carry us through it and that is what is most important of all. May God continue to bless each and every one of you as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. The day God entered into our humanity to save us from within, so that we can rejoice always in the Lord.

Rev. B. Kelly

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

4:30 PM

Mass in the
Parish Center
& Church

8:00 PM

Mass

Christmas Day

8:00 AM &

10:00 AM Mass

MUSIC MINISTRY

Please come and sing Christmas Eve with us! Even if you’re not a current member of the music ministry come and sing at the 8 pm Christmas Eve mass. We will have a rehearsal on

**Wednesday,
December 20** at
7pm in the church.

All are welcome!

CLERGY

Rev. Brian Kelly
Pastor

Helmut Neurhor
Permanent Deacon

Frank Garceau
Permanent Deacon

DECEMBER 17, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – December 18

6:30 AM Louis Charles Landauer by family

Tuesday – December 19

9:00 AM Michael Dauphinais Sr.
(10th Anniversary) by wife Nancy and
family

Sylvia Mauriello by Sissman family

Wednesday – December 20

6:30 AM People of St. Ambrose

Thursday – December 21

9:00 AM Yang Im Lee by Kaphi Lee
Dominic Console by Ted & Lesia
Pettigrass

George McCormick
by St. Ambrose Parish

Friday – December 22

6:30 AM Communion Service

Saturday – December 23

4:30 PM The Carey Family by Richard &
Debbie DeVoe

Ilene Valenti by Marlene Lillis
Alfred Chenot by Joe & Caroline
Gomez

Sunday – December 24

7:30 AM Marcella Lebentritt
by Barbara & Donald Lebentritt

9:00 AM People of St. Ambrose

11:30 AM People of St. Ambrose

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 22 & Dec. 29 due to Christmas & New Year's holiday weekends.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sign up sheets are outside the sacristy for those interested in serving during Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

- Ushers
- Lectors
- Altar Servers
- Distributors of Christmas gift

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm

Daily: Monday & Wednesday 6:30am

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am

Communion Service: Friday 6:30am

WWW.STAMBROSELATHAM.COM

SCHOOL



Chances are if you take a walk down the halls of St. Ambrose School, you will hear the kindergarteners



singing songs about the months of the year, days of the week or the sounds that the letters make. You may also

hear us counting or we may be hard at work learning to print our letters and numbers. We may be

trying out our engineering and problem solving skills



in a STEM activity, learning the scientific process through hands on experiments or you may just see us having fun on the playground with our friends! Our full day kindergarten combines the rigor of academics with fun, developmentally appropriate



activities to make learning meaningful. Our small class size enables us to meet the needs of each child through individual attention, differentiation and a variety of instructional approaches. It consists of religion, literacy, math, science and social studies as well as art, technology, Spanish, music and physical education. Our kindergarten classroom is a safe

environment with clear expectations where our students are provided opportunities for leadership, social interactions and hands on learning. Christian values are instilled daily and are the core of all we do. Our students come to school each day smiling and excited for a chance to learn something new!



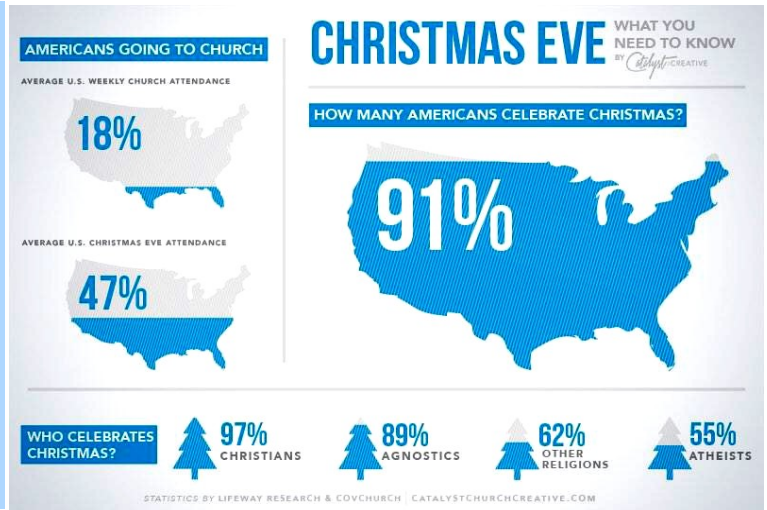
ST. AMBROSE CHURCH, LATHAM, NEW YORK

Help us with a Christmas tradition at
St. Ambrose!

For our 5th year, we are distributing a parish gift and we need your help! We need people willing to hand out this year's parish gifts at all of the Christmas Masses. Just let us know which Mass you'd be attending and we can send you some more info. Just e-mail Tom at "Thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org".

Remember, you can make a MASSIVE difference on the day we have our largest Church attendance!

WWW.STAMBROSELATHAM.COM



YOU SHOULD BE HERE!

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

—A WEEKLY RETREAT—

7pm in the Parish Center

Wednesday, December 20th

Behold

Join us for a special evening of prayer, reflection, teaching and discussion to help us prepare to receive Jesus in the coming week as our Savior and helper.

All are invited!

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Save the Date—January 27, 2018

Pastoral Care Ministry Ongoing
Enrichment—Winter Mini-Presentation
"Christ Reveals Himself in Tears"

Presenter: Yervant Kutchukian

When: Saturday, 1/27/18

Where:

Pastoral Center, 40 No. Main Ave.,
Albany

Time: 9:00 AM to Noon

Cost: No charge

<https://goo.gl/aCdfWt>

Pre-registration required, space limited—
Deadline January 12, 2018

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am—noon

Keep in touch

On our parish website you can find a lot of information such as: ministry schedules, parish events calendar, faith formation calendar, staff email addresses, information about sacraments and Mass times.

Website: www.stambroselatham.com

Facebook: @stambroselatham

Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose? Text the word ambrose to 84576 to opt in

DOMINICAN RETREAT & CONFERENCE CTR.

The Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, offers retreats for women and men, workshops and presentations to enhance your spiritual life and growth. Check their schedule at

www.dsicny.org

3rd Sunday of Advent

NIGHT OF PRAISE

What is Night of Praise?
You Should Be Here!

Thursday, December 28,

starting at 7pm, please join us for our 3rd year of Night of Praise! This hour is filled with songs of praise and songs of the season. We realize that it is an incredibly busy time of the year, but what better chance for a time of peace, then being together, praying together and all of us gathered together enjoying the Christmas season. Family in town...bring them, all are welcome. Children home from school... bring them, we miss them. Too busy...make time, one hour, relax, unwind, pray.
Hope to see you and yours there,
Thursday, 12/28, starting at 7pm

BLOOD DRIVE

Life's a gift. Give more of it. Donate blood.

Friday, December 29, 2017
1:00-6:00 PM

Parish Center

Make your appointment today
Visit www.redcrossblood.org
or call 800-RED-CROSS



MARCH FOR LIFE

RCDA Respect Life: March for Life Bus Opportunities

Washington, D.C. - The [March for Life](http://marchforlife.org) (<http://marchforlife.org>) as a Diocese with Bishop Scharfenberger

Friday, January 19, 2018 - Bus locations and contact information to reserve your bus ticket: Albany, Catskill & Rensselaer: Dr. Philip Frateriggo ([518-456-3998](tel:518-456-3998));

A flyer with more information can be found on the bulletin board in the back of church

PARISH SUPPORT

We are a tithing parish following
God's plan for giving

November 27, 2016 \$16,447.69

November 26, 2017 \$15,636.03

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

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT



2018
Worship
Night In
America
Featuring
Chris
Tomlin, Kim
Walker Smith
of Jesus
Culture, Matt
Maher,
Christine
D'Clario,
Tauren Wells,
and Pat Barrett

April 12, 2018, 7:00 pm
Times Union Center, Albany

Price:

\$33.54 each
(Section 121)

Make Checks Payable to:
St. Ambrose Church
Attn: Justina
347 Old Loudon Rd
Latham, NY 12110
(by 3/15, first come, first served)

KEEP IN TOUCH

On our parish website you can find a lot of information such as: ministry schedules, parish events calendar, faith formation calendar, staff email addresses, information about sacraments and Mass times.

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Facebook: [@stambrosechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stambrosechurch)

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