



# Saint AMBROSE

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## ROOTED IN CHRIST

518-785-1351 • 347 Old Loudon Road, | Latham, New York 12110 • [www.stambroselatham.com](http://www.stambroselatham.com)

### **“Where do you go when the storms of life are greater than what you can endure?”**

“When the storms are great and the winds and the waves are crashing your dreams? Where do you go? You go to the One whom winds and storms obey...His name is Jesus. He is the rock!!! He is the savior!” - Rev. Billy Graham

I have got to say, this pandemic and societal shutdown have been a whirlwind for me as a priest. Used to seeing great crowds on the weekends, running from one meeting about what we want to do to a hospital bed of someone in need. As for all of us, life was uprooted and put on complete hold when NYS PAUSE was enacted. The hope we thought would only be a couple of weeks turned into 100+ days. My priesthood, my connection to the community, my hopes for where we were headed as a community of faith got thrown out the window on March 13th. Leading our beloved parish staff, ministers and I to feel today that we are in the upper room after Jesus' crucifixion and filled with fear for the future of St. Ambrose. We are, as Rev. Graham states, in the middle of the storm, struggling to keep sight on Christ.

However, with all that life throws at us, this is an opportunity if we but seek out God through our setback. There have been many blessings during this pandemic as we hope to grow our parish for the future. We have had the chance to reflect on how much time we have wasted on the services and routines that we were trying to keep alive and going as if it were 1990. Organizations that have served us well for decades may now need to be “reimagined” within the parish in order to serve us and anyone new in the future to fill our pews of faith in the years to come. This has been an opportunity for each of us and especially myself to see where am I needed most to help our community look ahead rather than into the past. Our future because of this pandemic has been a blessing for us to “pause” or better yet “stop” all the areas that weren't focused on the next person who could walk into our doors for the first time. How will they be welcomed? Will it be as we've always done or can we do better? How will they join, with our same old registration process, or something much more interactive and intentional? How are we going to nurture our families and not just our children in our faith formation progress? How are we going to serve the poor in ways that expand upon all the good that we already do? We can always do better...this pandemic has taught each of us who work tirelessly as

staff and ministerial volunteers to want to do better and look ahead.

This pandemic has helped me grow in my faith and eagerness to reach out to not only each of you but the ones whom we have ignored. For example, our faith sharing Catholicism 360 online group has helped me see this as I have gotten to know each person who has joined us in a way I never thought possible. I've come to know their personal stories, struggles and most of all their faith that feeds me in a way I could never express. Through this I have shared parts of me that I wouldn't have been able to pre-shutdown. This pandemic, although horrible for those that it has stricken, effected or those that the Lord has called home, has been for me an opportunity to see my priesthood and it's service in a whole new light. God is there...I just needed to seek Him out. As Rev. Graham said, “when you focus on the threat, you will experience fear. When you focus on Jesus, you will experience faith.” Such powerful words for us to not only take in during this fearful pandemic, but every day of our lives well beyond this. Where is Jesus in this? He's right beside us...guiding us through the storm like always if we but look for Him. Where have you seen Christ these past 100 days? Where do you see Him today in your life and in your family? Rev. Graham reminded me to look for Christ as Mr. Rogers said after 9/11, “look for the helpers” in the time of tragedy and uncertainty. “He is the One whom winds and storms obey. His name is Jesus. He is the rock. He is the savior.” If you see what our minister volunteers have done in our home at St. Ambrose these past six weeks, we but get a glimpse of what God can do through each of us if we but let Him. They have inspired me to be better, to give more and look towards our future. A “new normal” that isn't about restrictions but about the future of the church we call home. I am grateful for their collaboration with the staff and everyone new who signs up week after week to serve. We are St. Ambrose...and each of you has helped me to see and seek God through the storm. “God didn't promise smooth sailing but He did promise that you are going to reach the other side.” Pray with that each day.

May God who has begun this great work in you, bring it to fulfillment.

Fr. Brian Kelly



**JULY 12, 2020**

**15th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

## **SUNDAY HELP NEEDED FOR OUTDOOR MASS/COMMUNION SERVICE**

Parishioners who would like to serve on Sundays, please fill out the Serve form (<https://stambroselatham.com/serve>) by the previous Wednesday at 5pm. We need assistance with welcoming, traffic control, setup, and takedown.

After you've completed the serve form, complete the online COVID form.

Then, on Sunday morning, bring your mask, rain gear (weather permitting), lawn chair and hand sanitizer. Any questions, call the office at 518-785-1351 or email: [StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org](mailto:StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org)

## **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

If you have an article for the Bulletin—please email it to [salatham@rcda.org](mailto:salatham@rcda.org) at least two weeks prior to the weekend.



## **HAILEY'S CORNER**



## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

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

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

Email: [salatham@rcda.org](mailto:salatham@rcda.org)

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

## **NEW OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Sunday TBD

(Hours subject to change as we begin to slowly reopen)



SCHOOL UPDATE

# SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READ-A-PALOOZA VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR

Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started:  
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stambroseschoollatham>



## Tuesday — Thursday 9am to 1pm

Hello Saint Ambrose Families!

If you are stopping by the school office, please know that there are COVID-19 procedures that you must follow to enter the building, including wearing a face covering:

- 1) Upon entering, there is a table near the parish window, please sanitize your hands.
- 2) Take a "new" pen, and complete the Visitor Questionnaire.
- 3) A staff member will take your temperature to record.
- 4) Replace the pen in the "used" basket.

I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding with the building process.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Lily Spera".

### FOLLOW OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @stambroseschoollatham

Instagram: @st.ambrose.latham

518-785-6453

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

Lily Spera, Principal  
Kelly Sano, Secretary



**Are you tilling  
the soil enough  
in your life so  
that God's  
presence can  
grow?**



## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our parish is blessed to possess many individuals who want to share their talents. Let us know how we can be Christ's hands, feet, and presence in your life. Email us at: [StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org](mailto:StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org)



## ONLINE GIVING

<https://stambroselatham.com/egiving>

## CATHOLICISM 360

With Father Kelly, Tom Acemoglu &  
Robyn Spateholts

Have you joined us for Catholicism 360 yet? It's our community faith-share! Join Father Kelly, Robyn Spateholts, and Tom Acemoglu as we talk about faith. You can register for this zoom by visiting our blog: <https://stambroselive.squarespace.com/catholicism-360>! After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.