



Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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

MASS TIMES: SATURDAY 4PM, SUNDAY 9AM & 11AM, MONDAY-THURSDAY 12:10PM



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sometimes, the routine of our lives can create a kind of fog around us. We get caught up by the things that we're doing and the ways things are. Some of those things can be very good and like any good thing they can be taken for granted. Each of us can take our families, our health, or homes for granted.

We can also take bad things for granted too. Things like chronic pain, financial hardship, or unfairness in the world can become a different kind of routine. When bad things become a routine, we can stop hoping that things can become better. We can feel paralyzed or numb to the bad things in our lives. We just accept them as the way things are and try to carry on with our lives. The loss of hope prevents us from imagining a better world and a better life.

Thinking about the bad things we take for granted and thinking about the loss of hope can give us a window into our readings this Sunday. Our first reading from Baruch speaks to the situation of the Jewish people at different junctures of their history. They were often oppressed at the hands of larger empires. They were poor and heavily taxed. They had very little sense of self-determination. They regularly faced death and calamity. The author of Baruch is calling to mind the Babylonian Exile, when people in the kingdom of Judah were transported out of the Promised Land and forced to live their lives in a foreign land without their Temple, their nation, or their king. For the Jewish people it was one of the lowest points in their history and it went on for nearly 50 years. Their oppression became a normal way of life. In our lives, we can feel the same way. There are areas in all of our lives where we might have given up and accepted bad things as just the way things are.

But what if this isn't just the way things are? What if God wants to reinvigorate hope in our lives? What if He wants us to believe that He wants to relieve us of hardship and

bring blessings in our lives?

When Baruch tells Jerusalem to "take off your robe of mourning and misery" and "put on the splendor of glory from God forever", he is telling them that God has not forgotten them. God is not giving them vague hopes of a hazy future. He is telling them "Now is the time! I see your suffering! I am ending your exile! You are going home!" Like a good doctor, God diagnoses the place of hardship and suffering and works to relieve it. What if He is planning to do the same with us?

In the Gospel reading, Luke sets the stage for another era of oppression for the Jews. Tiberius is Emperor of Rome. Pontius Pilate is their governor overseeing things in Judea. Herod was a puppet-king ruling on Rome's behalf. The high priests Annas and Caiaphas represent a system that had failed. All seemed lost.

Yet it's precisely at this moment that John the Baptist proclaims God breaking through at a time of collective oppression. John's preaching tells God's people that God has not forgotten them and that they need not settle on the way things are. Rome might rule in their land but they could not rule over people's hearts. John's proclamation of a baptism of repentance and the forgiveness of sins was a bold statement that when we turn ourselves over to God that we belong to Him. He is our King, not Caesar. We live under His rule, not Rome's. He grants us freedom and He is coming.

This is a blessing we can extend out to others. We hope for God to relieve our suffering. In turn, we ought to seek to relieve the suffering of others. As a parish, we're being asked to do just that, to do for others what we hope that God will do for us. Let this Advent be a season where hopes are realized and others experience freedom and relief.

-Tom Acemoglu

DECEMBER 5, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Kieran's Light
Catholic LGBTQIA+ Ministry
at Saint Ambrose

**Meetings Sunday at 9:40AM
in Parish Office Conference Room**

For questions, or to be added to the flocknote list, email Robyn:
robyn.spateholts@rcda.org

MARIAN CONSECRATION MASS

The RCDA Marian Consecration Mass will take place on Wednesday, December 8th, at 12:15pm, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Scharfenberger will celebrate this annual mass to renew the Consecration to Jesus through Mary on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. If you cannot attend in person, you can watch live, or tune into the recording of the event at your convenience, on the Diocesan YouTube account. For more information, go to www.rcda.org/marianconsecration

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Sunday Before & After Masses



*Christmas
Family Fun Day*

**Sunday, December 19th at
9:50am in the Church.**

**Join us on the 4th Sunday of
Advent to spend time together
with Jesus before Christmas.
There will be Adoration, music,
milk & cookies, AND a special
guest: St. Nicolas!**

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

Our Lady of Mercy Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites is a lay community of Catholic men and women, from all walks of life, pursuing a contemplative prayer life in the context of their daily personal, family and work activities in the world, under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and inspired by the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and other Carmelite Saints. If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 and feel called to a contemplative prayer life, we invite you to visit our community at one of our first Sunday of the month meetings. To find out more, contact Laura Iwan 518-428-2084, or Linda Levine 518-399-6965.



Reconciliation
Wednesdays 5-6 PM
Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM

**PRAYER MINISTRY: COME HOME FOR
CHRISTMAS — A NOVENA TO ST. MONICA**

Prayer is essential in our lives; let's pray as a parish that those who have wandered from the church will return. Michael Dubruiel, in his book, The Church's Most Powerful Novenas, lists three main benefits of praying a novena, a set form of prayer for 9 consecutive days. "First, it helps develop the daily habit of prayer; it reinforces a sense that God is our Father and that he loves us and it teaches us the benefits of praying with others to God. This is especially true when we participate in communal novenas such as those said in informal groups or ongoing novenas in parishes."

**Come Home for Christmas is our ongoing
parish novena.**

Please join us in prayer; simply pick up a prayer card at the entrances of the church and pray the novena daily! The 3rd cycle of the novena ends on December 24th, Christmas Eve. May our church be filled to overcapacity on Christmas and every day thereafter!

DECEMBER 5, 2021

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve
Mass Streamed
ONLINE
4:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass
4pm in Church & Parish Center

Midnight Mass
12am in Church

Christmas Day Masses
9am and 11am in Church
& Parish Center



CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

We will be providing Christmas assistance for the food pantry clients. We are requesting donations of grocery store gift cards in denominations of \$10, \$15, etc. We appreciate the generosity of the St Ambrose community. Please donate by December 12th.

Giving Tree 2021

Please return all gifts (wrapped or unwrapped) by

Sunday December 12th

with the tag securely affixed to the gift.



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

hosted by
The Latham-Colonie
Knights of Columbus.



**Saturday, December 11th
8:00am-12:30pm**

328 Troy-Schenectady Road

To schedule your appointment visit www.RedCrossBlood.org
or call 1 800 RED CROSS.

ADULT FORMATION



Mass & Adult Formation Sessions

December's Topic:

Church on a Mission: A Vision of How St. Ambrose Can Serve

What is the Church's mission to others? How are we as a parish called to serve? Come and explore what service can be here and how you can make a difference. See you 9:50am-10:50am on December 12th in Room 312 of the school.

For more information, contact Tom Acemoglu:
thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org

St. Ambrose Bible Study

**Thursdays @ 7pm
via ZOOM**

We cover all parts of the Bible in an approachable way even for first time attendees. E-mail your contact information to thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org to join!

CALLING ALL MOMS.

They say it takes a village; so let's build one together!



We are starting a Catholic mom's group and we want YOU to join us.

ALL moms are welcome: trying mothers to empty nesters. There is so much to share and learn from one another at every stage.

We'll talk about our faith and the joys/challenges of raising children in the Catholic faith. We will also enjoy small group time with moms with children of similar age, accompanied by a mentor mom, to share ideas and build relationships.

Meetings are the first
Sunday of each month
during the Faith Formation
hour: Sundays from
9:50AM -10:50AM

Contact Darlene at
518-496-1886 for more
information.



**We are looking for
volunteers (specially mentor
moms): please call if
interested!**

SCHOOL UPDATE

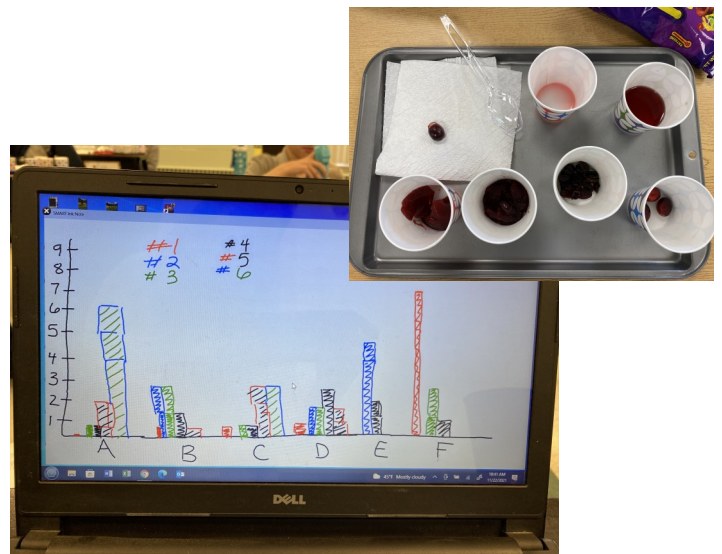
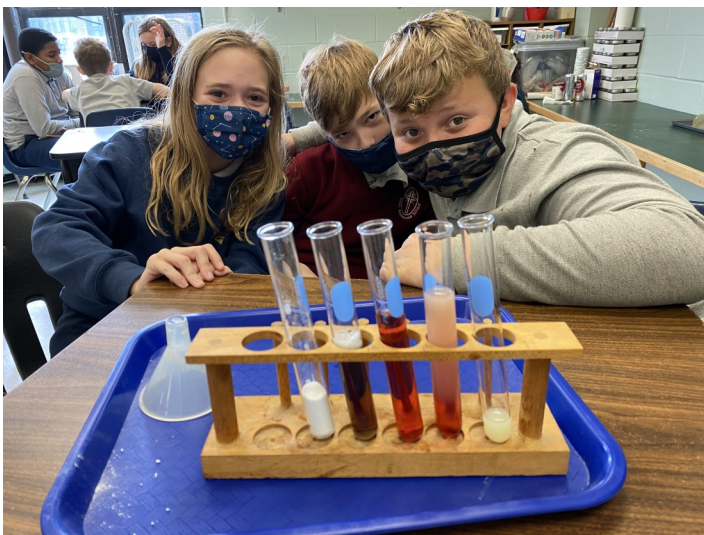
Greetings from Mrs. Rauche's Class

Hello! My name is Mrs. Maria Rauche, and I am the new 5th and 6th grade teacher! So far this year, the 5th and 6th grade English classes have journaled twice a week, written monthly newspapers, practiced interview skills, have conducted research for a term paper, and have been introduced (or reintroduced!) to cursive writing.

The 5th grade social studies class recently explored colonial times. One way to experience what the colonists went through was to spend time making soap, grinding wheat, and dipping candles. They are developing an appreciation for how America came to be....and an appreciation for "modern" conveniences!

The 5th grade science class has already covered the basics of matter and Newton's laws of motion. They are currently working on becoming amateur meteorologists as they explore weather. Rather than just look out the window they have constructed thermometers, barometers, wind vanes, and anemometers. During our exploration of clouds, we took time each day to catalogue the clouds we saw in the sky!

Finally during our combined STEM classes, the students have spent time playing with Mentos and diet cola (from a scientific standpoint of course), writing and constructing their own hardcover books, practicing first aid, and are currently embarking on a "Gingerneering" challenge for Christmas. It is never a dull moment in this classroom!



FOLLOW OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @stambroseschoollatham

Instagram: @st.ambrose.latham

518-785-6453

Website: www.stambroselatham.com

Lily Spera, Principal

Kelly Sano, Secretary



DECEMBER 5, 2021

OFFERTORY

Current Year

11/21/2021:

\$15,823.61

Previous Year

11/23/2020:

\$13,854.25



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting
your envelopes?
Switch to online giving:
stambroselatham.com/egiving

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY — NEW LOCATION FOR INTERCESSORY PRAYER REQUEST BOOK

The Intercessory Prayer Request Book that was in the back of the church is now located in the chapel along with the prayer request cards. This new location will give you more access to it, as the chapel is open for private devotion from 6am-9pm daily.

In addition, we would like to establish a prayer chain whereby anyone who can dedicate prayer time to our parish prayer requests can pray for these needs.

If you are interested in being a part of the prayer chain that prays for these intentions, please call the parish office and leave your name with Michelle: 518-785-1351.

HAILEY'S CORNER



If you're
struggling with
something,
God would
much rather
hear your
complaints than
not hear from
you at all.

Nothing is a
burden for Him.

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

What if the greatest gift we could give
was peace of mind for somebody else?

Help us assist every parishioner who
calls our parish in need by participating
in our advent coin drive, "be the gift".

Look for the flyer at the church
entrances, or call the parish office for
more details.

Be the Gift

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 4th — 4pm

Marilyn Santoro
Angelina & Michelina Lento
Konstantyn & Martha Kuzmyn
Charley Sherlock - 35th Anniversary
Ray Johnson

Sunday, December 5th — 9am

Vincenzo & Teresa Popolizio
Matilda & Nicola Popolizio
Fran Fiegler
Blaise Agnew

Sunday, December 5th — 11am

Jack Breton
Martin J. Killian
Ester Roche

Monday, December 6th — 12:10pm

Virginia & Philip Mahar
Fran Fiegler

Tuesday, December 7th — 12:10pm

Deceased members of the Jones Family

Wednesday, December 8th — 12:10pm

Intentions of The Coneski Family
Grace O'Sullivan - 15th Anniversary
Dianne Mahoney

Thursday, December 9th — 12:10pm

Blaise Agnew