

# *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)

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



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Scripture speaks powerfully to the poor.**

I noticed some subtext in our readings this Sunday that is worth considering. In order to understand this subtext we have to ask ourselves these questions: who was the original audience of these biblical readings? What situations were they living in? How does it relate to today? Finally, what lessons can we learn from what we're reading?

**I believe that some form of poverty underlies each of our readings if we allow ourselves to see it.** We can often lose sight of this, but so much of scripture addresses either the poor or those who oppress the poor. To the poor Scripture often proclaims a message of hope despite the way things look. To those who oppress the poor Scripture exhorts them to take better care for their neighbor.

Our first reading from Zephaniah was written in the midst of great social and political upheavals in the 7th century BCE. Notice the language used to describe his audience. They have "*enemies*". They suffer "*misfortune*". They are prone to feeling "*discouraged*". They are in need of a "*mighty savior*". Our passage ends in verse 3:18 but if you were to go on in your Bible to verses 3:19-3:20, you would hear of the people's "*oppressors*" and the plight of "*the lame*" and "*the outcast*". We might feel hints of this kind of thing in a difficult work situation, among family, with a difficult neighbor or in our regular business dealings. But who in our community feels most like this? I would argue that those suffering some kind of poverty know this plight all too well. Poverty comes in many forms, it can be economical, social, or existential. And what is the prophet's response to his audience? In the face of their suffering he is exhorting them to rejoice, to "*shout*" and "*sing*". Why? Because "*the king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst*", "*a mighty savior*". In other words, help is coming. The hope that God offers us is real and concrete. It answers our actual needs.

**And here's the part of the equation that we can miss: that help often comes through other people,** people who honor God's Law and care for their neighbor. Biblical Law commanded people to care for the most vulnerable in society. Even in our everyday experience, we know that while God can, and sometimes does, work out of nowhere, most often he uses people to help

other people. In other words, he's trying to use us to help others, to "be the gift".

Our second reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians is written to those who are prone to "*anxiety*", who have "*requests*" and, therefore, in deep need before God. Here, the hope is that God will provide "*the peace of God that surpasses all understanding*" that comes from God. I think it's significant that even in the 1st century CE, the early Church contained those who suffered from the alienating, hopeless experience of anxiety, a form of existential poverty. What is God's response to them? What should our response to them be? And how many of us could use help in this area?

Finally, in our Gospel reading John the Baptist is asked three times "*what should we do?*". He is asked by all sorts of people: the crowds, the tax collectors, and soldiers. This is the attitude we should all have at Church. Monday to Saturday we are out in the world and we see suffering, hardship, and misfortune. We are tempted to look away and to focus on ourselves. If we do look, we cannot make sense of it all. It should create in us unease in turmoil because we desire a world where all things are made right. This unease should boil over into a question, almost a cry of frustration: "*what should we do?*".

John's answer each time he's asked is a plea for justice to be carried out about by the questioner. He says to share food and clothing with those who need it. He says to not exploit others in our business dealings or to lie for our own benefit.

He is also calling for a radical face-to-face encounter with those who suffer. They might suffer through our own insensitivity or neglect. They might suffer in our sight and are waiting for someone to intervene. Or they might be hidden in their suffering and are looking for someone to search them out.

I think part of our parish's mission is to reform ourselves and to seek out those who suffer so that we might help relieve it. We are on a mission. We are God's emissaries in this world and our base of operations is St. Ambrose. Together, we can change things. We have begun the work and that is good, but let's see how far God wants to take us.

-Tom Acemoglu



DECEMBER 12, 2021

## *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

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Facebook: @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.

### Christmas Liturgy Schedule

**Christmas Eve Mass  
4pm In Church & Streamed to  
Parish Center**

**Midnight Mass  
12am In Church**

**Christmas Day Masses  
9am and 11am In Church  
& Streamed to Parish  
Center**

**Christmas Eve  
& Christmas  
Day at 9am will  
both be  
streamed  
ONLINE**



### Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesdays  
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
in Church**

IF YOU ARE VACCINATED, YOU NO LONGER NEED TO WEAR A MASK. IF YOU ARE UNVACCINATED, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

ST. AMBROSE, LATHAM, NEW YORK

### 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.

### CONFESSION CANCELLED

**There will be NO Confession,  
this coming Wednesday,  
December 15th.**

### 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 will be 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!



## ADULT FORMATION

### 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](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org) to join!



## Mass & Adult Formation Sessions

January & February's Topic:

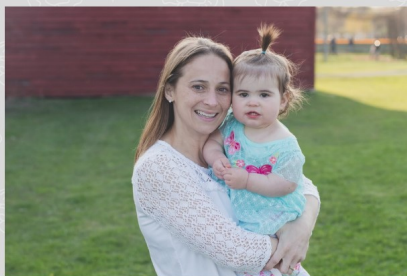
### **The Church's Best Kept Secret: Catholic Social Teaching.**

The Church's teaching offers a comprehensive vision of the value of human life, as individuals and in the society at large. Come and learn what service in the Church can be! 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](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org)

## CALLING ALL MOMS.

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



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



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.

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

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

## LET'S PREPARE THE CHURCH FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD!

IN PREPARATION FOR ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY'S BIGGEST CELEBRATIONS OF THE YEAR, WE WILL BE COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY ON SUNDAY 12/19/21 AFTER 11:00 MASS TO CLEAN & DECORATE. BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER TO HELP DEEP CLEAN THE CHURCH AND SET UP THE CHRISTMAS TREES! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL [SUZIT133@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUZIT133@GMAIL.COM)

The Latham-Colonie Council Knights of Columbus Council, (328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110), is hosting a Christmas Dinner Fundraiser.



There are two options for this wonderful Roasted Pork Roulade Dinner! A "Take Out Only" dinner will be offered and served between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM. A Sit-Down Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM with a reservation limit of 80 people. Donation of \$20.00 per dinner. All proceeds benefit Community Maternity Services of Albany. For reservations call 518-892-3750. Please specify either the "Take Out Only" or "Sit Down" option! For further information go to [www.lathamcoloniekofc.com/dinner-events](http://www.lathamcoloniekofc.com/dinner-events)

## 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!



## SCHOOL UPDATE

## News from the Religion &amp; Music Classroom



Students have started to celebrate the season of Advent. Advent is Latin for “arrival”. It is considered the first season of the Liturgical Year. Students have been learning that Advent is a season of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. We celebrate Advent on four consecutive Sundays beginning with the Sunday closest to November 30 and ending December 24, Christmas Eve. Each Sunday has a traditional meaning of Christian virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Students are also preparing for their annual Christmas Show. This year we are performing the Twelve Days of Christmas. It is a story explaining that “our true love” is God. The first day represents One Bible, Two Testaments, Trinity, Four Gospels, Pentateuch, Six days of Creation, Seventh day of rest, Eight Beatitudes, Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, Ten Commandments, Eleven true Apostles, and the Twelve Tribes of Israel.



Kindergarten is learning Silent Night  
In Sign Language.



Grade 3 is learning Jingle Bells  
on their recorders.

Have a Blessed and Joyous Season of Advent. Merry Christmas!

Cathy Viola

## FOLLOW OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @stambroseschoollatham

Instagram: @st.ambrose.latham

518-785-6453

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

Lily Spera, Principal

Kelly Sano, Secretary



DECEMBER 12, 2021

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

### 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 would be willing to pray for these needs.

If 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



"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

-St. Gregory Nazianzen

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, December 11th — 4pm

Peter & Elizabeth Pettigrass  
Ray Johnson  
Patrick & Rose DeSignore  
Florence A. Stout  
Lorraine Borowicz

#### Sunday, December 12th — 9am

Madeline Dombrosky  
John J. Kardas  
Bob Rice  
Joseph Coleman  
Mary Durrick

#### Sunday, December 12th — 11am

Margaret H. Maher  
Deceased Members of the Mele Family  
Deanna Colfels

#### Monday, December 13th — 12:10pm

Cynthia Lohrke  
Allan Hartshorn  
Sr. Joan Harrington, CSJ

#### Tuesday, December 14th — 12:10pm

Karen Cummings

#### Wednesday, December 15th — 12:10pm

Patricia Murphy

#### Thursday, December 16th — 12:10pm

Margie Diodati  
David C. Maxwell  
Theodora Ferrell

### St Ambrose, pray for us.

### OFFERTORY

Current Year	Previous Year
<u>11/28/2021:</u>	<u>11/30/2020:</u>
\$16,598.30	\$12,010.50



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://stambroselatham.com/egiving)