



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



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Like many of us, I'm on the internet a lot. My omnipresent phone keeps me forever connected to the internet. I spend far too much time checking in on social media, e-mail, and text messages.

If that's you too, then perhaps you know the feeling of being overwhelmed by disaster. I constantly read bad news from throughout the country and throughout the world. I read the posts of people I know and people I don't know who are suffering terrible things. It leaves me feeling sad and helpless at things that I cannot control.

Now, one response to this might be to tune it all out and that's a fair response. If it is preventing you from living your life and focusing on the things that matter most in your life, then perhaps it needs to go. If you feel the need to "fast" from social media and the internet, you would only get my strong encouragement. I should do the same! There's also the reality that many of us are already carrying heavy burdens and we cannot reasonably expect to carry the world's as well.

But there's another response too. Feeling the world's misfortune and misery does key me in to realities that I might be sheltered from in the routines of my life. Whether I am aware of it or not, people are indeed suffering. It's happening all of the time. Being keyed into it affords me the ability to try and relieve it in some way. At the very least (and, arguably, at the very most!), I can pray for them. I can express solidarity with those who suffer and petition for them before our God. I admit that when I pray for someone, it almost never feels like it's remotely enough. But I suspect that more is accomplished by our praying for others than we could ever realize. Hearing and seeing the needs of others can be a bridge between their need and our loving God.

I can also try to relieve their suffering by choosing to enter into it. Many of us have been trained to not get involved and, while it is true, we risk inviting trouble into our lives, we also risk the opportunity to make a difference.

I think all of this can serve as windows to our readings this Sunday. In our Psalm, the saving God is invoked to respond to the calamities of Israel, who are facing violence and deportation from their land. Our response is "*Lord, make us*

turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved". Another translation could be "*Lord...return us and make your face shine on us that we may be saved.*" Return us from exile! Return us from our present calamity! Rescue us! Hopefully we have all had times of safety and security in our lives. We can ask God to return us to that state, marked as we may be by our hardship. It can also compel us to help others so that they might feel safety and security in their lives.

This can beg the question: what does that help look like? When God breaks through, how will I know? Both our first reading from Micah and our Gospel reading from Luke tell us to not look for God to make a big, flashy entrance. Micah tells us that God's salvation will look like how King David became king of Israel. David, as we remember, began as a humble shepherd boy coming from humble Bethlehem. In the Gospel reading, the first fateful meeting between Jesus the Messiah and John, his prophet, did not occur in a great royal court (as the meetings of kings and prophets usually went) but while both were in their mothers' wombs. Mary is a peasant facing shame and ridicule for the circumstances of her pregnancy. Her cousin Elizabeth had been previously shamed and cut off for being older and barren. Why is Mary there? To assist Elizabeth in the last months of her pregnancy (Luke 1:56).

In other words, God's coming happens in a messy family situation where someone was just trying to help. God does His part and people do their part. In Luke 1:46ff, Mary lifts up her great prayer known as the Magnificat, where she glorifies the saving God and announces His salvation. In a way, she's like us when we face the suffering of others. We see suffering, we are moved by it, we are compelled to pray, and we should be compelled to act in order to relieve suffering. In that, a great encounter with God happens and we participate in God's rescue operation. I think that's why I think parish moments like our giving tree project are so important and, God willing, we will do more and more things like it in the future. God's rescue can often appear out of thin air. But most often He compels us to cooperate in His salvation and we need only to respond to the need that we see.

-Tom Acemoglu

DECEMBER 19, 2021

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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



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

Reconciliation

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



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!

ADULT FORMATION



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

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!**

DECEMBER 19, 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
Facebook: @stambrosechurch
Email: salatham@rcda.org

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

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 is our ongoing parish novena.

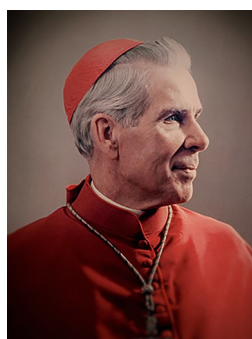
Please join us in prayer; simply pick up a prayer card at the entrances of the church and pray the novena daily! The 3rd cycle of the novena ends on December 24th, Christmas Eve. May our church be filled to overcapacity on Christmas and every day thereafter!

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

A REFLECTION FROM FULTON SHEEN



True followers of Christ! Be prepared to have a world make jokes at your expense. You can hardly expect a world to be more reverent to you than to Our Lord. When

it does make fun of your faith, its practices, abstinences, and rituals—then you are moving to a closer identity with Him Who gave us our faith. Nor may you return sneer with sneer. We cannot fight God's battles with the weapons of Satan. Repaying jeer with jeer is not the response of a Christian, for under scorn Our Lord "answered nothing." The world gets more of its amusement from a Christian who fails to be Christian, but none from his respectful silence. Dogs bay at the moon all night, but the moon gives back no snarl. It goes on shining.

Source: *Characters of the Passion*, 1947.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Third Grade Works Hard; Plays Harder!

Third grade is grateful for our homes and personal possessions, especially after reading "How to Steal a Dog" which is about a girl who becomes homeless and lives in her car. We were blessed to take part in our last school mass where Alexis received her first communion.



Here's what third graders are learning about in the classroom. In reading class we're learning how to become reading detectives and extract text evidence to support our opinions. We are working on multiplication in math, and using chrome books to improve our math fluency in addition, subtraction, and multiplication. In writing class we are writing letters to persuade someone about something. In science class we are experimenting with light energy.



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 19, 2021

OFFERTORY

Current Year

12/5/2021:

\$18,973.70

Previous Year

12/7/2020:

\$19,723.50



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 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



"No pain, no gain" isn't just a motto for exercise.

The suffering we go through turns into a blessing when we use that experience to help others through the same thing.

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 18th — 4pm

Helen & Peter Falasco

Lillian Molnar

Frank Sala

Louis Charles Landauer

Paul VanAlstyne Sr.

Joseph & Rose Lento

Sunday, December 19th — 9am

Connie Repko

Blaise Agnew

Donna Marie Viggiani

Sunday, December 19th — 11am

Deceased members of the Drum Family

Deceased members of the Deasy Family

Adelaide Maiello

Anthony J. Maiello, Sr.

Monday, December 20th — 12:10pm

Deceased members of the Del Ra Family

Tuesday, December 21st — 12:10pm

Yang Im Lee

Wednesday, December 22nd — 12:10pm

The People of St Ambrose

Thursday, December 23rd — 12:10pm

The People of St Ambrose

St Ambrose, pray for us.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Did you know that you can request the Sacrament of the Sick for any illness?

It's a Sacrament for anyone who is in danger due to serious illness, mental or physical.

If you're suffering due to an illness, reach out to us at the parish office. We can set up a time for you to be anointed. If you are here in person, Father would be happy to anoint you after any of the masses.

Furthermore, if you have reason to believe that a loved one is approaching death, do not wait! It is their right, and our privilege to administer this Sacrament.