

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



Merry Christmas everyone!

Today we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. God, out of His unconditional love, entered into His beloved creation, to be born of a virgin, so that He may shine on forever in our hearts for each of us who have come to believe. This is what Christmas is all about!

Christmas is God's way of getting us to imagine a different kind of world. What if people in this world were kinder to one another? What if the poor were provided for? What if we lived our lives in a way that's worthy of all that He has done for us? What if we were formed and sustained by a community rooted in Him?

What if we were a community transformed by God's great love? What if we transformed our wider community by extending that love out to others? That's what the Church is supposed to be all about.

I would like you all to imagine a different kind of world too. Imagine a different kind of parish. Imagine a different kind of community. Imagine things transformed because of what happens at St. Ambrose.

As you may know, we have big changes happening in our community. Our school is expanding into Catholic Central School, a place where children in our communities can receive a quality education that is rooted in Christ, from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade. Imagine what this could mean: a 3 year-old entering our school today can spend their youth and adolescence preparing for college and the real world equipped with the values that we hold so dear. How might that transform their life? Their family? Their community?

As a parish, we have always been committed to the formation of our children, as our Sunday morning youth, middle school, and high school programs have demonstrated throughout our history. We are now adding to an already vibrant community of faith, to the benefit of all.

I would also like you to imagine a different way of being the Church in how we serve others. Right now, we are working to renew how we serve those in need. How does St. Ambrose Church take care of the poor and vulnerable? How might God bless us if we answer His invitation to serve those most in need? We're working to identify those needs and to better meet them. St. Ambrose can be the place where you can make a difference in the world.

When I began to serve as your pastor, I was motivated by the idea that your parish can be at the center of your life. People have met their spouses here. Our children have blessed our halls and learned about the faith. They have been baptized and made their first sacraments here. We accompany people through all stages of life, from its high to its lows, from birth to death. We socialize and have fun as well as learn about those things that matter most. We try to model society as it should be rather than how it often is, where people get second chances and can start their lives again. We try to transform the world in those places where it's broken. Most importantly, we come before God in His Son Jesus. We worship Him, we learn from Him, we are healed and forgiven by Him, and we are nourished by Him.

There is so much to be excited about this Christmas. In the coming of Jesus, God asks us to imagine a future full of hope. This Christmas, I encourage you to hope in the future that God has in store for our parish. Great things are happening!

Rev. R. M. G.



DECEMBER 25, 2021

Reconciliation

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Brian Kelly, Pastor x301
brian.kelly@rcda.org

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Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon

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Abbey McGrath, Musician
mcgratha@rcda.org

Stephen Green, Parish Trustee

Suzi Trzcinski, Parish Trustee

OFFICE HOURS

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

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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.

IF YOU WANT TO
STAY UPDATED,
BUT DON'T HAVE A
COMPUTER OR
INTERNET ACCESS,
GIVE US A CALL
AND WE CAN GET
YOU ON OUR
PHONE TREE

518-785-1351



PUBLICATION REQUESTS

Do you have an event you want us to
advertise or announcement you want us to
share? We can help you share that
information through multiple platforms!
Go to stambroselatham.com and click on
the button with the image shown below
toward the middle of the webpage:



That will take you to our Publication
Request Form Once submitted, our parish
communications committee will work with
you on how to best get your message out.
**ALL REQUESTS FOR ANY PUBLICATION
MUST GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS TO
INSURE CONSISTENCY AND FAIRNESS.**
Any questions, contact the office.

Thank you & God Bless

Welcome to Saint Ambrose!

Whether you are a first-time visitor, an occasional guest, or a weekly (or daily!) Mass-goer, we're so happy that you are here. We hope you feel at home here.

This building begs a question: why do churches exist? What's the point of our existence?

What is a church good for?

We've been reflecting on this question a lot this Advent season. We began a project this Advent to focus our outreach efforts. As a community we're trying to be more intentional in how we distribute money and resources through our St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've been taking a look at the people who call us and visit us in a moment of crisis. Maybe they need food. Maybe they need clothing. Maybe they need transportation. Maybe they need a roof over their heads. What are we doing for them as individual followers of Jesus? What are we doing for them as a parish community?

Surely we can be doing more and, with God's help, we can and we will.

Every era of the Church's history is different but I think that in every age many people aren't interested in what the Church believes until they see what the Church does. Is the Church really in the business of helping people? The theologian Tertullian (160 to 220 CE) imagined a dialogue among non-believers about the early Christian community. He pictured them saying "Look...how they love one another...and how they are ready to die for each other." In other words, he pictured a community so devoted to helping one another and others that non-believers are attracted to this way of life.

This is a tall order. I'm sure that none of us feel like we do enough. We feel pangs of guilt when we see someone begging out on the street or when we scroll past a worthy charity on our social media feeds. There is so much need in this world and we don't always rise up to meet it.

But the Church exists so that we can make a difference. Like our Lord, we are sent on a mission to heal a broken world. This is part of Jesus' central teaching in the Gospels. He preached the "Kingdom of God", which is God's

answer to the question "what would the world look like if God ruled?" In Jesus' teaching the Kingdom is a place where wrongs are righted, where people get second chances, where there is healing and forgiveness, and where the poor are provided for. We are sent out to the world to make a difference. We can do that as individuals, as families, and, yes, as a parish. We believe that we are much stronger and much more effective when we work together than we do apart. We need to do better but we also trust God to show us those areas where we need to grow so we can make a difference.

What does this have to do with Christmas?

We believe that God sent His Son to heal a broken world. The newborn lying in the manger radically transforms our image of God. At the time of Jesus, God could be pictured on a throne or in the clouds or on a mountain top. He was so holy and luminous that no one could look upon Him and live. But in Jesus He shows us that this holy, creator God was best seen as a baby, born to poor peasant parents, among animals, and in the company of simple shepherds. In other words, God can be found in poverty.

This is the real mission of the Church, of putting the Gospel into practice. We come together weekly for worship, to hear His Word and reflect on it and to participate in His death and Resurrection in the Eucharist. Fed by Him and expressing our solidarity with one another in Communion, we are then sent out into the world. Our goal? To relieve suffering and build God's Kingdom in the here and now. Think of where we see suffering. Is it in someone who is sick? Lonely? Poor? Hungry? Homeless? Mentally ill? Struggling in their marriage? Where else?

I think that as a parish community God is calling us to more and Christmas is the perfect time to begin the mission anew. If you're reading this, you are part of the mission. You can make a difference. I invite you to become more deeply involved in this community. Bring your gifts, your hopes, and even your hardships. Let's build God's Kingdom together.

God Bless you,
Tom Acemoglu



Giving Tree 2021 was a success because of YOU!

**Thank you to all who
donated gifts and to our
volunteers who donated
their time to assist in the
process.**

A THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

**Once again, like every year, we find
ourselves humbled by the generosity
of this community.**

**Countless local families will be
enjoying a Christmas meal today that
they otherwise wouldn't have had if
not for your donation of the grocery
gift cards. Thank you from the bottom
of our hearts!**

**Have a Blessed Christmas,
The St Ambrose Food Pantry**

HAILEY'S CORNER



**May you
reflect the
light brought
into the world,
on this day so
long ago, in
everything you
do.**

**Merry
Christmas**

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.



ONLINE GIVING

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

2021 Community Outreach Survey Results

Earlier this year, we conducted a needs assessment survey of the parish. Based on those responses, we will be creating 3 new ministries:

- Senior Support Ministry**
- Grief & Loss Ministry**
- Senior Activity Ministry**

Keep your eyes here on the bulletin in the new year for future announcements about these ministries. If you're interested in being a part of one or more of these ministries, please call the parish office and we will save your contact information. Thank you for participating and God Bless you



SCHOOL UPDATE

From the principal's desk...

I would like to wish our St. Ambrose Community a safe, happy, and holy Christmas and holiday season. I feel so blessed to be part of such a supportive community. As we embark on a new journey together in 2022, I am overwhelmed by the positive thoughts and prayers from our community. Walt Disney once said "All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them", and our St. Ambrose family makes it easy to display the courage needed to persevere through change. Because of the belief our students, parents, and parishioners have in St. Ambrose we are able to grow our school and share what makes us special with even more families. 2022 is going to be a year to remember!



May God bless you all! I hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Lily Spera

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



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 to join!



Mass & Adult Formation Sessions

January & February's Topic:

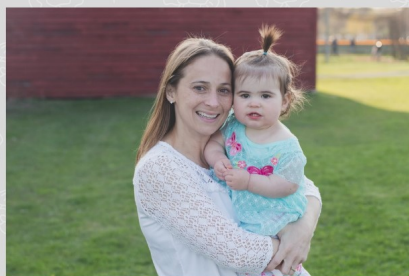
The Church's Best Kept Secret: Catholic Social Teaching.

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

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.

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

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

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



Important Notice:

The parish office will be closed
Monday 12/27 - Friday 12/31/21
in observance of Christmas & New Years

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!

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.

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

DECEMBER 25, 2021

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York



St. Ambrose Parish
Financial Operating Report for Year Ending 6/30/2021

	Total Church	Total School	Total Parish
<u>REVENUES:</u>			
Offertory	803,344		803,344
Other Donations	14,254	15,481	29,735
Faith Formation	1,880		1,880
Tuition		801,522	801,522
Summer Program		4,185	4,185
Fundraising		11,690	11,690
Subsidy			-
Regionalization/Mandated Services		24,977	24,977
Reimbursable Expenses	2,794		2,794
Other Income	19,473	4,759	24,232
Loan Forgiveness PPP	92,752	221,992	314,744
Unrealized Gain on Invest	54,202		54,202
Non-Cash Items			-
TOTAL INCOME	988,699	1,084,606	2,073,304
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
	-		
Salaries & Benefits	477,067	934,709	1,411,775
Building Expenses	170,192	98,268	268,460
Supplies	41,986	32,529	74,515
Food	13,734	659	14,393
Textbooks	5,253	1,561	6,814
Program Expenses	1,265	3,459	4,724
Other Expenses	40,150	20,755	60,905
School Subsidy			-
Bishop's Appeal Shortfall			-
Capital/Structural Repairs	7,472		7,472
The Evangelist	9,698		9,698
TOTAL EXPENSES	766,816	1,091,939	1,858,755
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	221,883	(7,334)	214,549
NET SURPLUS (net of non-cash items)			
Outstanding Debt Payable	35,055	190,824	225,879
Cash On-Hand	420,830	269,340	690,170
Investment Balances			