

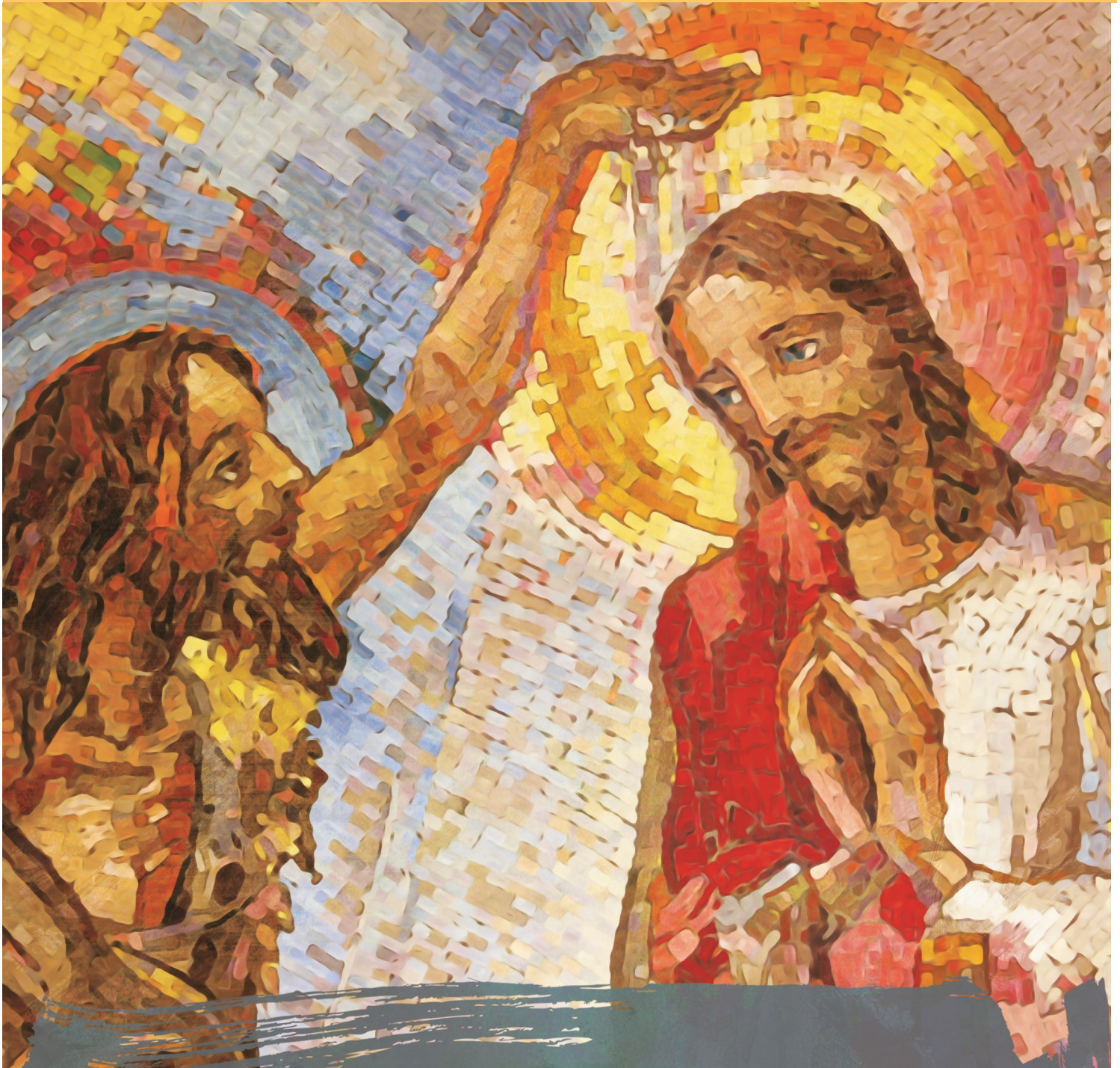
# *Saint* **AMBROSE**

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**



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



Do you know when you were baptized? If you don't, I challenge you to find out!

Catholic churches keep careful records of the sacraments you receive. Of the various sacrament registry books, arguably the most important is the baptismal registry. You may have been Confirmed, made your First Communion, or been married at a different church, but all of that information is sent back to the parish where you were baptized and that information is placed in the baptismal registry. It's humbling to go through the records here at St. Ambrose as they tell a story of a parishioner's walk with God. No matter where they may have ended up in their lives, these parts of a person's life find their way back to the parish of Baptism. If you'd like to find out when you were baptized, simply contact the parish where you were baptized and ask. If the church no longer exists, you can contact the diocese and find out where the records ended up. Know that somewhere your name is written down and you are remembered as a Catholic Christian. That also includes those we know and love, whether they practice anymore or not. They always matter and they are always remembered.

We are in the habit of remembering our birthdays. It's a time where parents remember the circumstances of their child's birth and where we treat someone as a gift to this world. In the Gospels, Jesus talks about two births (John 3:3). There is our first birth, our natural birth. But Jesus also introduces the idea that we can also be "born from above" (sometimes translated "born again"). In this second birth, a person becomes a new creation. Things have followed a natural course up to the point of this second birth but now things are different. This change is so dramatic that it can only be characterized as a second birth.

What does this second birth look like? For us, that second birth is enshrined in the moment we are baptized. We can talk about the effects of Baptism: it cleanses us of original sin (and, if we're baptized when we're older, any sins we may have committed), it gives us sanctifying grace (that is God alive within us, accomplishing His good work in us), and it makes us members of God's family the Church. We believe that it leaves an indelible mark on our souls. Baptism makes us different, whether we realize it or not.

Baptism, especially in the early Church, could be

very dramatic. We are used to seeing babies baptized but in the Baptism of adults we see the whole drama of a person's salvation unfold. Imagine the scene in an early Christian community when a person of ill-repute would come to the waters of Baptism. Their past misdeeds might be known to all. As they are brought to be baptized, they are carrying the weight of their former life. They have gone through a period of preparation where they learned the Christian way of life and have amended to live differently. Baptism in the early Church (and in some churches today) was often done by immersing someone into a pool of water. The imagery would have been stark. As they entered the water, they put to death the old self and its sinfulness. As they arise they become a new creation. This moment was considered so holy and unalterable that it really was expected that the person would not sin seriously ever again. In fact, many (like the Emperor Constantine) delayed their Baptism until their death bed, almost as a kind of insurance policy! The current practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation came from the Church seeking to apply Jesus' mercy to people once they had strayed from the path begun at baptism.

That drama is not readily apparent to those of us baptized as infants. The reality is that all of us are trying to live up to the reality of our Baptism. In Baptism, we were made saints. I'm sure most of us don't consider ourselves saints! I think of St. Paul, who would call his audience "saints" (Romans 1:7)...and then persuade them to turn away from sin. In the Church, we are all saints trying to live up to the name. In the life of the Church we formalize the moments where we turn away from sin (in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass), but day in and day out we should always be working (with God's help!) to become that person who shined so brightly as they emerged from the waters of Baptism. When we see someone being baptized, part of us should want to recover that same state within us, cleansed from sin, filled with God's help, and enmeshed in Jesus' Body, the Church.

I challenge you to celebrate your Baptism, to recover what it means, and to live up to its promise. You were made into a new creation and all of us are in need of being renewed.

JANUARY 9, 2022

## 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:

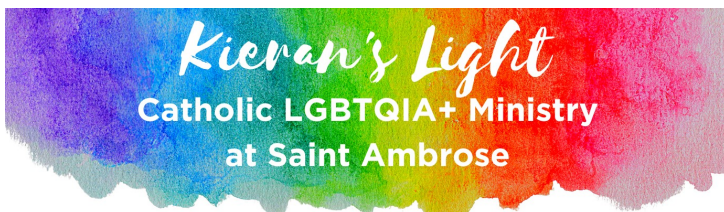
### The Church's Best Kept Secret: Catholic Social Teaching.

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 on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays of the month, 9:50am-10:50am in Room 312 of the school.

For more information, contact Tom Acemoglu:  
[thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org)

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

## Reconciliation is **CANCELED** on Wednesday, January 12th.



Meetings Sunday at 12pm  
in Parish Office Conference Room

For questions, or to be added to the flocknote list, email Robyn:  
[robyn.spateholts@rcda.org](mailto:robyn.spateholts@rcda.org)



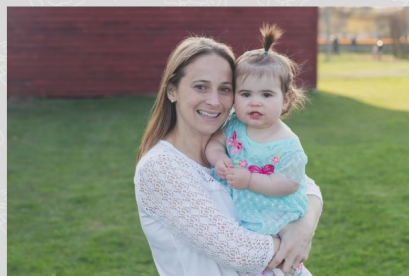
### Eucharistic Adoration

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

WE ASK THAT YOU WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES.  
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

## 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

AND

The second Wednesday of  
the month from 6PM-7PM in  
the lounge

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!\*\*

## 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





**JANUARY 9, 2022**

## **HELP WANTED @ THE CHURCH OF ST CLARE**

Pastoral Associate for Parish Services  
Church of St. Clare, Albany, NY

General areas of responsibility include preparation of the weekly bulletin, creation of worship aids, maintenance of parish records and databases, and serving as a liaison to parish ministries and outside vendors. Required skills include a pastoral approach to people across the entire age spectrum, the ability to multi-task with attention to detail, and a demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office. Interested candidate should submit a resume, a letter of interest, and references to:

[Richard.thiesen@rcda.org](mailto:Richard.thiesen@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.

## **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.

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

## **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.

## **BIBLE STUMPER**

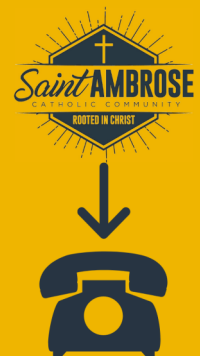
What parable did Jesus tell in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?"

- A) The Good Samaritan
- B) The Lost Sheep
- C) The Prodigal Son
- D) The Pearl of Great Price

Source: *The Complete Book of Bible Basics* by Mark D. Taylor, 2005.

**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**



Answer: A) The Good Samaritan

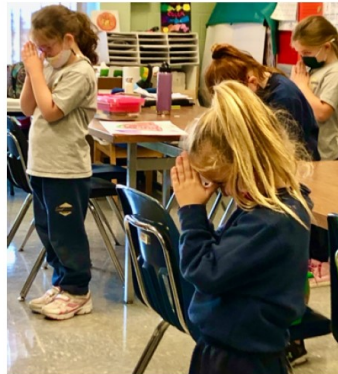
## SCHOOL UPDATE

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Beginning a new year prompts us to look back at what we have accomplished in the past year. Our art education has flourished I'm happy to say!! Evidence of this is seen on our school walls,



posted with student art work. You can see the spectacular talent our students exhibit. We have studied contemporary artists as well as the Masters and learned many techniques from them. Art education has encouraged team work as well as problem solving. We will continue to create with clay/ceramics, printmaking, and paper mâché as well as experiment with all of the elements and principles of design like color, form, line, variety, balance, patterns, etc.! We pray this new year will be filled with many blessings!



## 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





JANUARY 9, 2022

## OFFERTORY

Current Year	Previous Year
12/26/2021:	12/28/2020:
\$29,393.35	\$24,887.50



ONLINE GIVING

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

## St Ambrose Mom's Group Mini- Retreat to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge Massachusetts

January 15th, 2022  
2 Prospect Hill Road  
Stockbridge, MA 01262

RETREAT STARTS AT 11AM

If you'd like to drive up as a group, please  
plan on meeting in the St. Ambrose parking  
lot at 9:15am for a departure time of  
9:30am. It's approximately an hour drive.

For more information, please contact:  
Jennifer Pfoltzer  
[Jennifer.Pfoltzer@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.Pfoltzer@gmail.com) 518-573-6673

## HAILEY'S CORNER



"God sometimes  
takes us into  
troubled waters  
not to drown us  
but to cleanse  
us."

Take some time  
to reflect on how  
we can better  
live out our  
baptismal  
promises.

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, January 8th — 4pm

Deceased Members of the Grenchus Family  
Deborah Ries  
Deanna Colfels  
Tracy J. Nolan  
Dianne Mahoney  
Frances M. Spychalski

### Sunday, January 9th — 9am

Sam Alberti  
Peter Joseph Ficalora  
Dianne Mahoney  
Deceased Members of the Hardy Family  
Mafilda Cavanagh

### Sunday, January 9th — 11am

Rose Vecchione  
Witold Jankowski  
Cyriac Varkey  
John J. "Jack" Egan

### Monday, January 10th — 12:10pm

Mafilda Cavanagh  
Philip M. Mahar

### Tuesday, January 11th — 12:10pm

The People of St. Ambrose

### Wednesday, January 12th — 12:10pm

Frank Craig

### Thursday, January 13th — 12:10pm

Roy Seipel

## 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.