

# Saint AMBROSE

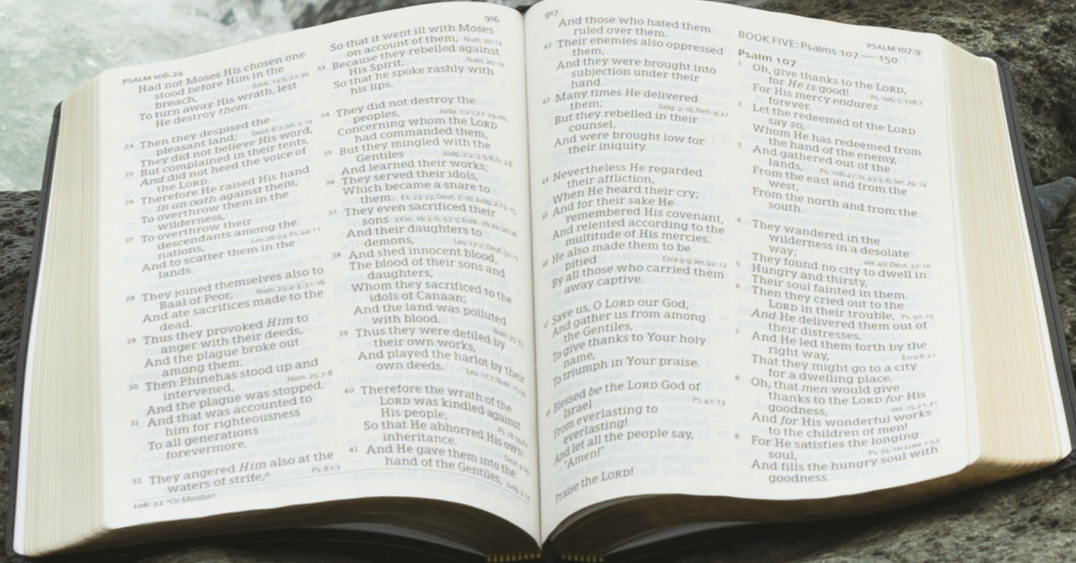
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## 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

# HIS WORDS ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE.



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

How much do you read the Bible?

We Catholics are notorious for not reading the Bible all that much. The truth is that while many of us might not read the “good book” regularly, we are constantly exposed to it through the Mass. Every Sunday we read four readings from the Bible (if you count the Psalm) and the prayers of the liturgy are saturated with prayers with practices from the Bible. When a Catholic is exposed to the Bible a little more, they might find themselves saying “hey, that sounds familiar” because the regular practice of our faith is rooted in the Bible.

Still, deep down most of us know that we should read the Bible more. We might have non-Catholic Christian friends who go to Bible studies and listen to long sermons on the Bible in their churches. We might feel lost when public discourse draws from the Bible when some branch of Christianity seems to dominate the conversation. In those cases we might feel lost or inadequate because we just might not know a lot. When a preacher or speaker starts quoting from the Bible, chapter and verse, even I get a little intimidated.

At St. Ambrose, we want to help you know the Bible better. We have a weekly Bible Study on Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7pm. We’ve offered classes introducing the Old and New Testament as well as on individual biblical books. We live in a community with other Christian churches who often entice new congregants with what seems like a superior command of the Bible which can seem to lend them a certain level of authority when compared with us Catholics. When confronted with our brother and sister Christians who know so much more about the Bible, we might feel like we could say so much if we only knew more. I hope we can work on that. In this day in age, we really can gain a better command of the Bible if we have the desire and a good plan. A couple weeks ago, I drove through Times Square in New York and I saw an ad for **The Bible In A Year** that is a podcast hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and Ascension Press. They offer a plan and easy to follow commentary if you’d like to chunk out the Bible into manageable portions with meaningful commentary. Google it and check it out. If you started it today, one year from now you can say “I’ve read the whole Bible” and your life will be blessed for it.

This is about as personal of a plea as I can give: get to know the Bible. Don’t be afraid. You are in a community where you can find the answers to your questions and difficulties. Nothing makes me happier than when a parishioner asks me to explain something in the Bible. I like explaining things that can be found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek that reveal an unseen facet in the text. It’s a

joy to explain the history behind the text or the underlying theology that informs what we read.

Our first reading and our Gospel reading this Sunday reveal the centrality of the Word to the life of the believing community. In the first reading, the priest Ezra reads the Law of Moses to the Jewish exiles who have returned to their homeland after living in Babylon for nearly 50 years. When you read it, it sounds almost sounds like our liturgy and commentators have noted its resemblance to later synagogue worship. It reminds us that the worshipping community is the privileged place of Scripture. The Bible is meant to be *heard* before it is meant to be *read* and private devotional reading of the Bible wasn’t widespread until the invention of the printing press and the Protestant Reformation (which forced everyone to take the Bible more seriously, not just Protestants).

Pay attention to the effect that the reading of the Bible has on the believing community: as it is read, it compels the community to bow down and worship God. It also causes the people to weep. What does this tell us? In all my years, I have never heard a community cry while the Bible is read to them. Our first reading teaches us that the Bible can absolutely have that effect on a person if we can work through those obstacles that keep us from fully absorbing what is being read to us, whether its confusion, an excess of detail, or even our own complacency when we don’t see the text as speaking to us in our time. I think of the story of St. Francis coming upon a book of the Gospels and reading Jesus’ words to a rich young man: “*go, sell everything you own, then come and follow me*”. When Francis read these words, it cut him right to his heart because he realized that *he* was that rich young man. He saw the Word as speaking to Him. It created a crisis in Francis and he was forced to rethink his entire life. He sold all he had and embarked on a life of radical discipleship marked by a life of radical poverty and service to others. It inspired others to follow and it’s *still* inspiring others to follow. It is said that when the Medieval Church was collapsing under the weight of its own opulence, that it was Francis who saved it. His life change became a little movement which eventually went global...all because he let the words of the Bible speak to him directly.

Our Gospel reading offers a tantalizing glimpse into the process of how some of our New Testament documents were composed. They were composed with great care to record the eyewitness testimony of those who actually saw Jesus. Moreover, this testimony was recorded for our benefit. We have a great gift in Scripture and let us be challenged to engage with it more deeply.

-Tom Acemoglu



JANUARY 23, 2022

## ADULT FORMATION

### St Ambrose Mom's Ministry.



"I love this group and appreciate the mix of Bible readings/prayers, reflections, support, fellowships, and now activities and retreats."

Join us the first Sunday of each month in Room 312 of the school from 9:50AM -10:50AM

AND

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

"This group is a welcome breadth of fresh air!"

"Feels good to have such loving/supportive women and mothers to turn to."

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



## 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 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!



St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

## 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)

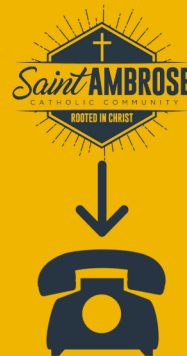
Facebook: @stambrosechurch

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.

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



## 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.

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GLOBAL CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK



JANUARY 23, 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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



Because of your  
generosity, we raised  
over \$10,000 to help  
those who come to our  
parish at a time of need.

**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.

*Kieran's Light*  
Catholic LGBTQIA+ Ministry  
at Saint Ambrose

**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)

### 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.



## SCHOOL UPDATE



### “Yes, 3’s Can!”

One of the learning goals of the three-year-old program at St. Ambrose School is developing and strengthening self-help skills. Mrs. Quirk and Mrs. Gregoire are excited to report that the students in Pre-K 3.1 are excelling in this area! Daily outdoor play is everyone’s favorite and the winter months provide ample opportunities to practice: our youngest learners can negotiate boots, snow pants, coats, hats & mittens independently AND still have time left to actually play. What seems like an impossible task (and total chaos) after the first freeze becomes old-hat by the Spring thaw.

In addition to this, St. Ambrose preschoolers develop autonomy and responsibility by managing their belongings throughout the day, keeping their learning environment clean and organized, and pursuing self-directed activities throughout the day. And to think it all just looks like play.



### 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 23, 2022

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, January 22nd — 4pm

Leone Roberts  
Joseph L. Coleman  
Dianne Mahoney  
Edward Spychalski  
Ronald Brand

### Sunday, January 23rd — 9am

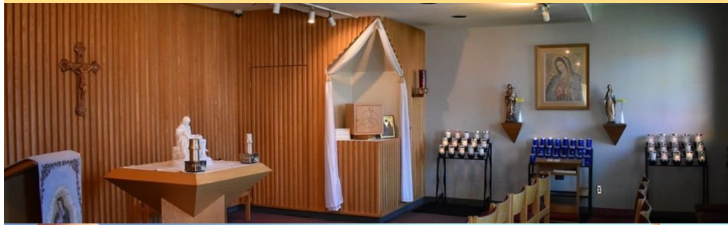
Jean Zembo  
Joseph Frese  
Catherine "Kay" Curran

### Sunday, January 23rd — 11am

Ruth Lapierre  
Mary Trombley  
Sharon DiSarro

### Monday, January 24th — 27th

NO DAILY 12:10PM MASS



2:30pm in the Church on 2/5/22  
Please bring your rosary & MASKS are REQUIRED.

## HAILEY'S CORNER



Feeling thankful?  
Pray.

Feeling anxious?  
Pray.

Feeling joyful?  
Pray.

Whatever the  
feeling: there's a  
prayer for it!

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

1/9/2022:

1/10/2021:

\$13,498.10

\$20,629.25



ONLINE GIVING

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

This coming Wednesday,  
January 26th, there will  
be **NO RECONCILIATION**  
at 5pm, and **ADORATION**  
**WILL BE IN THE CHAPEL**  
from 11am — 6pm.



## SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING A SNOWBLOWER  
AND REMOVING SNOW?

JOIN OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY  
AND HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH READY FOR  
WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS!

PLEASE CONTACT TOM HEALY AT  
[THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM](mailto:THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM), OR CONTACT  
THE PARISH OFFICE: 518-785-1351