

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 EASTER

A week and a half ago I participated in a webinar called “Speaking of the Pharisees - A Virtual Interreligious Dialogue”. I had been looking forward to it for a long time and it didn’t disappoint. Jews and Christians from around the world came together to discuss the legacy of Christian preaching on the Pharisees. The Pharisees are mentioned around a 100 times in the New Testament, primarily in the Gospels but also in Acts of the Apostles and once in St. Paul’s letters where he tells us that he was, in fact, a Pharisee (Phil 3:5).

Sadly, Pharisees are normally considered to be mere foils for Jesus. Stereotypically, they get it wrong where Jesus gets it right. Even today, the word “Pharisee” connotes either hypocrisy or an unmerciful scrupulosity to follow God’s Law. In fact, when many people think “Pharisee” they normally think “the bad guys”.

This webinar sought to shatter many of the stereotypes surrounding the Pharisees for a few reasons. One major reason is that throughout history, hostility towards the Pharisees has translated into hostility towards Jewish people on the part of Christians. The Pharisee movement eventually became the leading movement in Judaism after the destruction of the Jewish Temple and the expulsion of the Jews from Jerusalem. They gave way to a community that was led by rabbis and sought to observe the Torah within the context of the traditions that had accumulated around them.

The other reason is that the old stereotypes are complicated by the New Testament itself. Besides St. Paul, we are given sympathetic treatments of the Pharisees in Nicodemus (John 3:1 and who helps give Jesus an honorable burial in John 19:39) and Gamaliel (Acts 5:34). Amidst Jesus’ denouncement of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23, he does seem to speak favorably about their tithing practices (Matthew 23:23), even amidst condemnations. Jesus dines with Pharisees (Luke 7:36) and, even in their fierce disagreements, is recognized as a teacher among them (Matt 12:38) and, therefore, an equal. In Matthew 23:2-3, Jesus even says “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach.” What’s notable here is that Jesus affirms their role in Jewish

society and the validity of their teaching, even while there are great disagreements.

The webinar acknowledged a sad reality in our history, of a parting of ways that happened between the movement that became modern Judaism and the movement that became Christianity (it’s good to remember that both traditions emerged from a common milieu and developed into what they’re known as today). In fact, our first reading this Sunday talks about a definitive moment in that break. The early Christian evangelists (who were all Jewish) spread their message of the crucified and risen Lord to others of a common Judean heritage. The synagogue was the place of assembly in Judean towns or places where Jewish people resided outside of the land of Israel. It’s where ideas were discussed and argued about. In the second reading, Paul and Barnabas win over many diaspora Jews living in Perga, which was a town in the region of Pamphylia in Asia Minor. But by the next week they are rejected and Paul and Barnabas realize that they needed to extend their mission to the Gentiles, to those not of Jewish-descent.

How do we remember this moment as Christians? On one hand, we Gentiles received God’s call. If the mission of the apostles did not extend past the Jewish people, we would be hapless pagans. But on the other hand, many of us lost our relationship to those who Pope John Paul II called “our elder brothers in the faith of Abraham”. The Jewish people did not always do favorably under the Roman Empire, but when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, many Jewish people experienced real suffering and persecution fueled by pervasive stereotypes.

In 1965, the Second Vatican Council produced a declaration on the relationship between the Church and non-Christian religions called *Nostra Aetate*. The document was born from a desire to heal the centuries-long rift that existed between Judaism and Christianity. It acknowledged our common bond as God’s people and decried all forms of antisemitism. For me personally, my own faith has been enriched by Jewish teachers and writers who helped me understand the common heritage we all share. We should always seek dialogue and mutual understanding as to better live as God’s children.

-Tom Acemoglu

MAY 8, 2022

Reconciliation

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

The Parish Office will be closed this week (5/9 - 5/12) due to the move.

NIGHT of PRAISE

"BY REQUEST ONLY"
5/19 @ 6PM

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE SONG
ALONG WITH A BRIEF
EXPLANATION OF WHY YOU'VE
CHOSEN THE SONG

Learn more and submit your song at
<https://stambroselatham.com/night-of-praise>



Special listening sessions for the LGBTQ community, their friends, family and allies

June 2, 2022
6:30p-8:30p, prayer service
beginning at 6:30p.

Please join us as we welcome the Bishop for a special listening session for the LGBTQ community. Come voice your questions, concerns, and recommendations.



St. Ambrose Church Parish Center,
347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

BAPTISMAL PREP MINISTRY

Are you interested in sharing your faith and meeting other Catholic parents? Consider a ministry with our Baptismal Preparation Program! Baptismal Prep families meet with Baptismal parents to help prepare them for the Sacrament, and then keep up with them throughout their child's first year after Baptism. This creates closeness between the families and encourages Christian community! We will train you. All that's required is a heart for service! Reach out to Darlene for more details: 518-496-1886.

Kieran's Light

Catholic LGBTQIA+ Ministry
at Saint Ambrose

Meetings Sunday at 12pm
in the Parish Office

Join us Sunday, May 22 for our next workshop, at 12:00pm in the Parish Center. We enjoyed her presentation so much that we've asked Lisa Puckey to return. This workshop's topic will be "How to Be A Good Ally". Come! Listen, enjoy, eat pizza, and have your questions answered.

CAMP VERITAS

ENROLL NOW!

Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. Volunteers (18+) come free at some sites, and are needed! Get more details at www.campveritas.org.

MAY 8, 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

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

AND

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

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

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

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

9:50am Sundays in the Chapel

Living the Mystery

Starting with the Sunday after Easter, new initiates into the Church enter into a special period where they explore the sacramental life of the Church and as a parish we're all going to do the same thing. How can we let the Sacraments breathe life into our daily lives? How can they be points of contact with the divine, transforming our lives and the lives of those around us?

For more information, contact Tom Acemoglu: thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: stambroselatham.com

Facebook: [@stambrosechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stambrosechurch)

Email: salatham@rcda.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

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



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1130 COOKIE SALE



The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after the following masses:

SAT. 4/30

SUN. 5/1

SAT. 5/7

SAT. 5/14

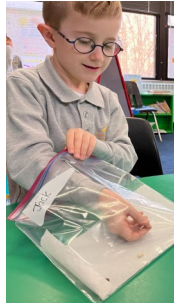
SUN. 5/22

Limited Supplies
Available



SCHOOL UPDATE

Academics + Kindness = Second Grade



Second grade has been hard at work this spring. We have finished our units on three digit addition and subtraction. We now get to move on to new concepts such as money, time, measurement, and geometry. The students have also been learning to use I-ready for our math learning. The kids are having fun with the games that come with the program. We have set a goal to do 100 lessons by the end of the school year.

In Science, we have been learning about plants. It's perfect timing with spring and all the new growth. We put seeds in bags and gave them water to see the roots grow. We also did an experiment and grew a plant with sunlight and one without. We found the results very interesting. It's been really fun to learn about the parts of the plant, what they need to grow, and how pollination works.

We have also been working on spreading kindness to our classmates and others. We love sharing kindness and can't wait to spread kindness to our mothers on Mother's Day!



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



MAY 8, 2022

OFFERTORY

Current Year	Previous Year
<u>4/24/2022:</u>	<u>4/25/2021:</u>
\$15,223.02	\$13,026.50



ONLINE GIVING

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

**Are you interested in
becoming a Spiritual Care
Volunteer?**

St. Peter's Health Partner (St. Peter's, Samaritan, Albany Memorial, St. Mary's and Sunnyview Hospitals) are in need of volunteers to assist in the Spiritual Care Department as Eucharistic Ministers.

- Flexible schedules
- Training provided
- Weekly commitment or offer to be on a volunteer call list

Contact us to schedule an interview.

St. Peter's Hospital

518-525-1602

HAILEY'S CORNER



It's Mother's Day!
Take the time to
tell her you love
her. No matter
where she is, she
will hear it, and
feel it. The bond
between a
mother & child
knows no bounds.

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 7th — 4pm

Helen Falasco
Lillian N. Molnar
Aline Tremblay
Marc Carroll
Joseph Di Rosa

Sunday, May 8th — 9am

The Golden Ladies
Marie Stangle
Joseph & Fortunata Aliberti
Anna D. Mahoney
Mary Mundipare
Frances Fiegler
Gert Sally

Sunday, May 8th — 11am

Mary Sweeney
Mary Monaghan
Vittorio Renda
Arcangela Mele
Nicolina Renda
Betty Watkinson
Monica Bentley

Monday, May 9th — 12:10pm

Rose Zaccardo

Tuesday, May 10th — 12:10pm

Vincenzo & Teresa Popolizio
Sr. Joan Harrington, CSJ

Wednesday, May 11th — 12:10pm

The Del Ra Family

Thursday, May 12th — 12:10pm

Roy Seipel
Lena Zullo

St Ambrose, pray for us.

UNITE IN PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

The Albany Chapter of Magnificat is uniting in prayer for peace in our world. Please join us by simply setting your clock or phone for 6:30 p.m. daily and at that time, stop for a moment, pray 3 Hail Mary's for peace throughout the world. We will unite in prayer for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and peace throughout the world.