

Saint **AMBROSE**
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
ROOTED IN CHRIST

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MASS TIMES: SATURDAY 4PM, SUNDAY 9AM & 11AM, MONDAY-THURSDAY 12:10PM

COMPASSION



“A Samaritan traveler
who came upon him was
moved with compassion
at the sight.”

LUKE 10:33

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Why do we have rules in matters of faith? What happens if we break the rules?

Today's Gospel reading is the famous parable of the "Good Samaritan" that Jesus tells. The contours of the story are familiar: a man is beaten and robbed by bandits and left for dead. Two people pass him by but a third person, a Samaritan, tends to his wounds and brings him to an inn, promising the innkeeper that he'll pay him back anything owed for taking care of the man.

When we peel back the layers of the story a little, we see that the two people who passed the man by are a priest and a Levite. We naturally think of our own conceptions of priests and figure that a holy person should know better and that they have missed the point of what God wants.

I want to peel back a few other layers to this story because this story has a number of dimensions that can be lost on us as we are further removed from Jesus' native culture. I think that once we look at these dimensions we can better understand how we are supposed to apply this to our lives.

One key to unlocking this passage is the nature of the Law of Moses (the Torah) that all of Israel was required to follow. A great many of the laws had to do with ritual purity and impurity. In short, someone who wanted to approach God at his holy Temple in Jerusalem had to be ritually pure. Someone could contract impurity any number of ways. Certain bodily fluids or having leprosy made someone impure and until those things were cleared up and necessary purifications were made (sitting in water for prescribed amount of time), you were not fit to approach God in his Temple. This meant that you could not give the required offerings to God, which included offerings that made satisfaction for or expiated sin. To be in a state of impurity was to be cut off from fully participating in worship. You could still pray personally but not do some of the bigger things. Even if you weren't going to Jerusalem to make these offerings (normally during the three great pilgrimage festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles), you were expected to remain in a state of purity. Different Jewish groups at the time of Jesus had very strong opinions about remaining in impurity. One group, the Essenes, considered their communal meals to be a place where one had to be ritually pure to participate.

It's important to note that impurity could not be entirely avoided. It wasn't a sin and it probably didn't come with accompanying feelings of guilt, but something still needed to be corrected. For our purposes here, it's helpful to know that touching a corpse was a great source of impurity. For the Pharisees, even standing on a grave or falling under

the shadow of a corpse could lead to impurity. Touching a corpse could not always be avoided and the accompanying purifications would handle that but it's important to note that priests in particular were barred from touching a corpse unless it was a direct family relative. At this time in history, Levites (the tribe of Israel from which the priests came) often lived as the priests did.

This tells us why they avoided the man, passing by on the other side. He may have been dead and even his shadow might cause them to be impure. If they were impure they could not minister in the Temple and, in effect, to touch the man would be to be barred from God.

Jesus here is forcing his listeners to rethink what is most essential in their religious practices. Can their practices prevent one from the essential commandments listed earlier in the Gospel to love God and love neighbor?

We should not be quick to judge the priest and the Levite because they were doing only what they were taught was right. The problem, according to Jesus, is that God weighs these priorities differently. While honoring the rules or laws of faith, we must not neglect the imperative for mercy and hospitality.

Jesus' point that it was a Samaritan who was merciful would've been offensive to his listeners. To them, the Samaritans were an impure group of people. They were hated because of their mixed breed and corrupted worship. They had their own notions of impurity. But by telling us that it was a Samaritan who showed mercy, Jesus forced his listeners to rethink their religious system and its priorities as well as rethink the status of those who were considered hated outcasts. It really is brilliant.

There's another point. In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that by ministering to the poor and marginalized we are really ministering to him. Looking at Jesus' parable in this way we can say that the Samaritan, in ministering to the man who may be dead or dying, encountered God in a way that was not possible even in the Temple. This encounter with God is dynamic and intimate. This ability to meet God in the suffering of others or in our own suffering is one of our faith's greatest gifts.

Lastly, I just want to think about this: do you feel that your Catholic faith keeps you from showing mercy to certain kinds of people? If so, think of this story. Our faith is right and true and we should never compromise our convictions. But that does not mean that we withhold love, mercy, or friendship. To do so would be to fail to meet our Lord.

-Tom Acemoglu

JULY 10, 2022

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.

WE INVITE YOU TO CUT OUT THIS PRAYER & PUT IN A PLACE OF PROMINENCE SO YOU CAN PRAY IT DAILY

The Angel of God Prayer

Prayer for the
intercession of
the Guardian Angel

*Angel of God,
my guardian dear
to whom God's love commits
me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide.*

Amen.



KIERAN'S LIGHT

CATHOLIC LGBTQIA+
MINISTRY

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:
robyn.spateholts@rcda.org

Kieran's Light is a ministry rooted in love, welcome, and respect for the LGBTQIA+ community, their family, friends, and loved ones. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves and it is in that spirit that this ministry is founded.

Meetings Sundays at
12:00PM
St. Ambrose Church



St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Want to help teach the Faith to our
youngest parishioners?



Become a Catechist

For more information, contact Tom Acemoglu:
518-785-1351 ext 307 or
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!



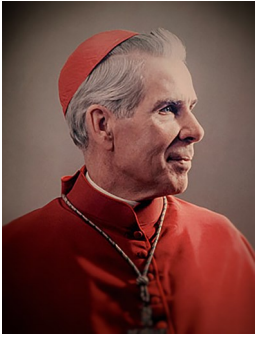
Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each
month in the Parish Center from
9:50AM -10:50AM

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

A REFLECTION FROM FULTON SHEEN



The closer one gets to Christ, the less we think ourselves to be. Golfers may think themselves rather good until they play with Jack Nicklaus.

When we see our lives in contrast to perfect innocence on a Cross, then we see how much we have failed.

Source: *God Love You*, 1955.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Eucharistic Adoration

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

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.





8.20.22 | 9-5
Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine
136 Shrine Rd
Auriesville, NY 12072

Catholic Men's Conference

Giving men the tools needed to grow in holiness in their everyday lives.

Keynote Speakers
Fr. Donald Calloway
Fr. Roger Landry

Registration fee is \$50; College age and younger men are FREE.

For more info go to www.rcda.org/StepUp



Scan for more info.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Going **FOURTH** to Fifth Grade!

Time certainly flies when you are having fun. Some of our fun included: science experiments, lab explorations, and an iced tea party!

Most recently, we read the *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. We discussed how C.S. Lewis used allegory to represent Christianity. The students enjoyed searching the book for symbols of their Christian faith. We celebrated the completion of the book with an iced tea party of our own to commemorate the tea parties set in Narnia.

In science class the students learned how to use various pieces of lab equipment. We finished math with lessons on decimals and we wrapped up social studies discussing New York State's involvement in World Wars I and II.

As we rest and enjoy our summer fun, I hope we can all look back on the 2021 - 2022 school year with fondness and look forward to a great 2022 - 2023 year as we embark on the adventure of becoming Catholic Central School.



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



JULY 10, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 9th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Murielle Rayball
Rose Emma Bonneville
Richard Bango
Timothy D. Butler
Marianne Landauer

Sunday, July 10th — 9am

Fr. Bellafore

John Kwiakowski
Eleanor Lloyd
Annette Quinlan Davis

Sunday, July 10th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Martin J. Killian
Jack Breton
Servillano Quiachon
Luz Duller

Monday, July 11th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St Ambrose

Tuesday, July 12th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St Ambrose

Wednesday, July 13th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St Ambrose

Thursday, July 14th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St Ambrose

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

6/26/2022:

6/27/2021:

\$12,932.17

\$15,341.37



ONLINE GIVING

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

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 of this guy with the megaphone in the middle of the page.

PUBLICATION REQUEST



HAILEY'S CORNER



Make NO
BONES about
it...God's plan
for you is
bigger and
better than
anything you
could possibly
imagine!

Help Can't Wait

Can't give blood? No problem!
Donate time.

Support morning & afternoon
blood drives **NOW** in:
♦ Downtown Albany
♦ Cohoes ♦ Coeymans
♦ Latham ♦ Delmar



 American Red Cross
Eastern New York Region

Contact: joineny@redcross.org