

# *Saint* **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**ROOTED IN CHRIST**

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



**Ask, and it shall be given you;  
seek, and ye shall find;  
knock, and it shall be opened unto you**

**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Can you bargain with God?

I've wrestled with this for a long time. I'll share something that I've been tempted by for a long time. In my weaker moments, I've thrown up my hands in frustration in prayer and said to God "you're just going to do what you're going to do. You're not going to listen, bad things still happen, and I feel so helpless before the things I cannot change." This is a very cynical expression of the petition "thy will be done" in the Lord's Prayer. If God's will is to be done then is there really much room for the things I consider to be important or worthy of attention?

I can feel the error of those words as soon as I type them or think them. My Catholic tradition tells me that praying for things matters and can make a difference. The Catechism of the Catholic Church outlines different dimensions to prayer and while something like "praise" and "adoration" can feel a little abstract, I think we all understand how "petition" and "intercession" work. In petition we ask God for our own needs and in intercession we pray for the needs of others. I think more people are willing to pray for others than to pray for themselves. I've often heard people say that they don't want to waste God's time or power on their seemingly trivial needs when others are dealing with so much. That seems noble but we may be underestimating an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God. He is not limited and there's plenty of "God" to go around.

What happens when we pray for things? Can we change God's mind? Our tradition gives us a few different perspectives, some of which can be found in our readings for this Sunday. In the first reading from the book of Genesis, Abraham haggles with God about the fate of the people of Sodom of Gomorrah. *"The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin is so grave"* (18:20). Sensing that God will give them over to destruction, Abraham asks God a question: *"Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?"* (18:24). Another way of translating the Hebrew *zaddiq* for "innocent" is "righteous". Righteousness is a chief virtue in the Bible and one who lives rightly is considered righteous (how that's determined depends on where you are in the Bible). The question posed to God can be said about anyone who does the right thing and might experience what feels like God's wrath. Do we deserve it? Can we avoid it? Can we change God's mind?

One answer is to say that none of us are righteous. St. Paul, quoting the Psalms, puts it bluntly: *"There is no one who is righteous, not even one"* (Rom 3:10). But we should assume Abraham's good will here. He advocates for 50 hypothetical righteous people in the cities and builds a case before God. Would God destroy the cities if there were 50 righteous people?

God says he would spare the city for the sake of the 50. Abraham then does something we've probably been taught *not* to do in our relationship with God. He bargains and haggles. What if there were 45 righteous people? 40? 30? 20? How about 10? Each time God says he would spare the city for the sake of the remnant.

There is a key takeaway here for our relationship with God. (Lord, have mercy on me for saying this) I believe that we should be so entrenched in our relationship with God that we would haggle with him. This implies that you are in a relationship. This implies intimacy. In Genesis chapter 32:1-22, there is the mysterious story of the patriarch Jacob wrestling with God at Peniel. Leaving aside whether or not Jacob actually wrestled God or an angel, Jacob leaves the experience weary and wounded. But because of this experience his name is changed to "Israel", which means "one who has striven or struggled with God". It is through this struggle that the destiny of Jacob is realized.

In other words, I believe that our prayer lives should reflect struggle and striving. I believe that in presenting our petitions, our intercessions, our struggles, and our unanswered questions before God that we should walk away weary and wounded. We should have arguments with God. This is not a sign of impiety but a sign that you care. I believe that God would rather us feisty, persistent, and troublesome than tepid and unconcerned.

So do we change God? Our faith presents us with a great mystery. On one hand we believe that our prayers matter and we ought to pray. When prayer is answered we should rejoice and feel invested in the good thing that God has wrought. We thank him and we praise him in celebration. On the other hand, we believe in an eternal and unchanging God and that we have hope because he is not fickle *"I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished"* (Mal 3:6). These two things are not contradictory. In our honest wranglings with God we are woven into him and it is not he that is transformed but us. I reflect on the words of Mother Teresa, who seemed to understand this mystery quite well: *"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."* May we struggle with God and embrace the change.

-Tom Acemoglu



JULY 24, 2022

**There will be NO  
RECONCILIATION on  
Wednesday 7/27, and  
ADORATION will be in  
the Chapel.**

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.*



WE ARE SLOWLY TRYING TO  
BUILD BACK OUR PARISH  
PICNIC TO PRE-COVID  
LEVELS, AND TO DO THIS WE  
NEED YOUR HELP! WE ARE  
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
TO HELP US PLAN AND  
EXECUTE THE PARISH PICNIC.  
WE NEED HELP WITH THE  
FOLLOWING AREAS: SETUP,  
CLEANUP, DESERT  
COORDINATION, KID'S  
ACTIVITIES, POPCORN,  
COTTON CANDY, AND MORE!  
CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO  
LEAVE YOUR NAME, EMAIL OR  
PHONE NUMBER, AND AREA  
OF INTEREST. WE WILL CALL  
YOU WITH INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE FIRST  
PLANNING MEETING!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED FOR  
PARISH PICNIC!**



## 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.

## 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!



## Mary's Circle of Love

Mary's Circle of Love meets  
once a month on Thursday  
mornings from 10:00 to  
11:30 AM. We pray, share  
faith stories, laugh, and eat.  
For more details please call  
Mary Kay (518-366-9741) or  
Marion (518-785-1992).



JULY 24, 2022



10am in the Chapel on 8/6/22

Please bring your rosary.

**Catholic Men's Conference**  
**STEP up '22**  
*Giving men the tools needed to grow in holiness in their everyday lives.*

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

**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](http://www.rcda.org/StepUp)

Scan for more info.

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: [stambroselatham.com](http://stambroselatham.com)  
Facebook: @stambrosechurch  
Email: [salatham@rcda.org](mailto:salatham@rcda.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 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

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:  
[robyn.spateholts@rcda.org](mailto: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

Want to help teach the Faith to our youngest parishioners?



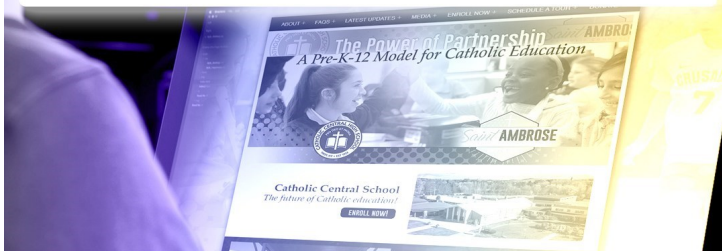
## Become a Catechist

For more information, contact Tom Acemoglu:  
518-785-1351 ext 307 or  
[Thomas.Acemoglu@rcda.org](mailto:Thomas.Acemoglu@rcda.org)



## SCHOOL UPDATE

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!


<https://catholiccentralschool.org>


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CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL

## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

*For those who do not know me, I'm Bill Hayes, the former music director here at St. Ambrose; I held the position before Tom Green skillfully took it over in 2001. I have been given the awesome responsibility of writing an article in the St. Ambrose bulletin regarding topics involving church music and its composers. For those older parishioners who may remember me, you may recall I wrote a similar bulletin article back in the 1990's. I wish to thank Fr. Kelly and the communications committee for allowing me this opportunity to write this article based on my 35 year career as a church music director in the Albany Diocese, before retiring in 2019.*

Amazing Grace

The hymn, Amazing Grace, is a very popular hymn, sung frequently at funerals. It was written by John Newton (1725-1807), who was originally a seaman and was involved in the practice of capturing natives of West Africa and selling them as slaves around the world. However, one night at sea, his ship was involved in a violent storm. As he was greatly alarmed and fearful of a shipwreck, he began to read the book, *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas Kempis. From this book, Newton had a great conversion and completely changed his life by leaving his slave trading days and became an ordained minister in the Anglican Church at the age of 39.

Newton was innovative to introduce new hymns along with the usual psalms in his service. Amazing Grace was a new hymn he wrote, about that frightening night at sea. Realizing that his slave trading days were evil is why he refers to himself as a wretch.

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. —  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved. —  
 3. Through ma - ny dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - rea - dy come. —

8

— I once — was lost, but now — am found, was blind but now I see.  
 — 'Tis pre - cious - did that grace a - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
 — Hath brought me safe — thus far, and grace will lead me home.

John Newton, 1725-1807 This arrangement under public domain

JULY 24, 2022

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, July 23rd — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Arthur Roberts  
Ellen & Chet Halpin  
Jack Mulready  
R. Lawrence Crandall  
Helen Burgess

**Sunday, July 24th — 9am**

**Fr. Deimeke**

Andrew M. Ortiz  
Annette Davis  
Gail S. Jorgensen  
Ruth Sutton

**Sunday, July 24th — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Stasia Piteras

**Monday, July 25th — 12:10pm**

**No Daily Mass**

**Tuesday, July 26th — 12:10pm**

**No Daily Mass**

**Wednesday, July 27th — 12:10pm**

**No Daily Mass**

**Thursday, July 28th — 12:10pm**

**No Daily Mass**

**PRAY FOR  
UKRAINE**

**WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?**

**Saturday, July 30th — 4pm**

**Fr. Bellafigore**

**Sunday, July 31st — 9am**

**Fr. Deimeke**

**Sunday, July 31st — 11am**

**Fr. Bellafigore**

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

7/10/2022:

7/11/2021:

\$14,793.50

\$17,719.11



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting  
your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://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](http://stambroselatham.com) and click on the  
button of this guy with the megaphone in the  
middle of the page.

## PUBLICATION REQUEST



## HAILEY'S CORNER



Dear Lord,  
Can you do  
something  
about the  
weather?

This HOT DOG  
needs a break  
from the  
heat...it's the  
WURST!