

Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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

**Thanks for joining us for
another great season of
Outdoor Masses!**



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Gospel reading this Sunday is interesting. Jesus presents a parable about a dishonest steward and the rich man who employs him. By the end of the story, he's going to lift up the dishonest man as an exemplar to be imitated. It's worth sitting with this story for a while because it's a story that often confused the early Church, who tried to glean a moral from a story that was steeped in immorality.

First off, I think that telling a moral story involving immoral persons is a bit of storytelling genius on Jesus' part. One of my favorite filmmakers has made several films where the protagonists are often thieves, murderers, drug dealers, liars, or some combination thereof. What's interesting is that his stories are often strangely moral, despite the wretched things that his characters do. He might emphasize how the virtues of honesty or loyalty or honor play out even among the most unscrupulous people. In one of his films, a group of murdering bank robbers are faced with a situation where loyalty and honesty become intensely important to their survival. What these characters do is wrong. They are on the wrong side of morality. But somehow, some virtue still shines forth from the muck and the audience is left to reflect on how those virtues play out in their own lives.

The steward in our story is charged by his rich employer to give an account for all of the business affairs the steward has been managing on his behalf. Why? Because this steward has squandered his employer's property. This is a reckoning day for the steward. He is losing his status and likely the patronage of the rich man. So, before news of his dismissal reaches his village, he devises a plan. He would play with his rich master's finances one final time. Without authorization he makes deals with those who owe the rich man a debt. He then discounts their debt by 20 to 50% if they settle up with him now. Why does he do this? Because, having fallen out of favor with his employer, he might set up new relationships and perhaps be hired by them. He would then retain some position and perhaps gain a new patron. It's good to keep in mind that this is not his money to do with it what he pleased. He is using dishonesty and deception to solve a problem caused by his own dishonesty and deception.

Then the unthinkable happens: the rich master *commends* the steward for his actions. To use another unsavory example, imagine a racketeer extorting a business owner for protection money for a mob boss. Would the mob boss be pleased to get only part of the money? Wouldn't he feel like a lesson should be made out of the business owner? Or if someone owes us a debt, are we pleased to get only part of it? Wouldn't it harm the relationship in some way to only get part of it? Already, we might

be uncomfortable with all of the above examples. How are we to find a moral in a situation where there are no real good guys? Even the rich man would have most likely be seen as a "bad guy" to Jesus' predominantly peasant audience, who frequently found themselves in debt to such men and therefore were less able to provide for their own family. They would've also have frequently dealt with debt collectors like this steward. And though this steward is being dishonest, they would have loved an opportunity to lessen their debt with an offer like his.

Why does the rich man commend the steward? One reason is that now the community sees the rich man as a merciful and compassionate man. The steward has unwittingly gained honor for his employer. He has made him look good. In the original Greek, the rich man says that the steward acted *phronimōs*, a word that can be tricky to translate. If it is translated as "shrewdly", we get hints of the steward's craftiness and guile, which is not something we'd consider a virtue. Sometimes it is translated as "wisely", "skillfully", or "prudently". These are much closer to virtues in the traditional sense but the same sentence in our Mass's translation outright calls him "dishonest" (the Greek word is *adikia* and literally means "unrighteous"...while the rich man commends the debt-collecting steward, Jesus still sees him as an unrighteous man).

What values stand out, even in such an unsavory situation? Somehow, in a situation rife with exploitation, the virtues of mercy and compassion still stand out. Those who hold a debt over someone should be merciful and in Jesus' scenario even an unrighteous person who is only looking out for his own interest learns that mercy is a good policy. The practice of mercy also gains honor for the rich man, even if that seems like all he cares about. Stewards and rich men in his audience would do well and learn from this story. But to Jesus' predominantly peasant audience, a different moral of the story might've seemed clear. They wouldn't have been as concerned with the ethical wranglings of immoral people. They would've seen debt relieved and they knew that debt relieved means more food to eat and an easing of suffering.

In this particular story Jesus, in a sense, is saying this (among other things): "Look, even immoral people can see that mercy is a good policy. Mercy is God's policy and it should be yours too." It also calls out church leaders who are themselves stewards acting on God's behalf. Mercy has to be the way and we can't be less merciful than an unrighteous debt-collecting steward. Even for him, mercy restores relationships and relieves suffering....sometimes we can learn something from the bad guy!

-Tom Acemoglu

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Parish Picnic 2022

September 25, 2022,
12-2pm, North Lot.

Brooks Barbecue is being sold for \$10 a box, Free Burgers and Hot Dogs for children who won't eat chicken. Please register in advance for head count on our website: <https://stambroselatham.com>

Tickets for the chicken meals are available now if you prepay or you can pay the day of the picnic.

If you'd like to prepay for the chicken you will be purchasing, you can do so in one of two ways:

By credit card online at:
<https://stambroselatham.com/pp-22>

OR

in person by cash or check at the parish office.



**RSVP
DEADLINE
IS
SUNDAY
9/18.**

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York



We're collecting Religious Items for the Parish Picnic:

**Rosaries
Statues
Prayer Cards
Medals**

NO BOOKS PLEASE

Donation Bins will be at all Church entrances

We need volunteers to help with setup, serving food, and clean up for the Parish Picnic.

**Set up: Sat. 9/24 at 5 pm
Serving food: Sun. Sept. 25
from 11:30 am-2:00 pm (1/2
hour shifts)
Clean up: Sun. 9/25 at 2 pm**

Sign up sheets will be available at the volunteer sign-in table before or after weekend masses.

**For more information or any questions, contact
Tom & Shawn Healy
thealy969@nycap.rr.com**



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

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

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle. Be our
protection against the
wickedness and snares of the
devil;*

*May God rebuke him, we
humbly pray, and do thou, O
Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,
by the power of God, cast into
hell Satan and all the evil
spirits who prowl about the
world seeking the ruin of
souls.
Amen*



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

GREAT NEWS: If you were active in our program last year **YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED FOR 2022-2023!** Please let us know as soon as you can if your info has changed or you plan on **NOT** coming back this year.

If you need to register a new student, please visit www.stambroselatham.com/ff. We've got a great year planned for the whole family!

Book pick-up times will be sent out via Flocknote (our e-mail and text update system). If you aren't subscribed to our Faith Formation updates, please let Tom know!

First Responder Appreciation Day!

**Saturday, October 1
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**St. Michael's Church
20 Page Avenue, Cohoes, NY**

Rain Date: Sunday, October 2

Join us as we celebrate First Responders with the City of Cohoes on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. St. Michael is the patron saint of military and police. The celebration will include educating children and adults on services provided by First Responders.

Mass at 11 a.m.

Featuring our First Responders as readers and Eucharistic ministers!

Lunch: Noon to 2:30 p.m.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, potato chips, kapusta, water, coffee, and desserts!

And more fun!

FREE!

Learn more about firefighting, community policing, and emergency medicine through interactive demonstrations and games for children!

More details on

www.stmichaelscohoes.org/fr

Get all the details on the St. Michael's web site, including a First Responder Poster Contest for all Faith Formation students!

This special event is hosted by St. Michael's Church and co-sponsored by Holy Trinity, St. Ambrose, and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each month from 9:50AM -10:50AM
Contact Darlene at 518-496-1886
for more information.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: www.stambroselatham.com

Facebook: @stambroselathamchurch

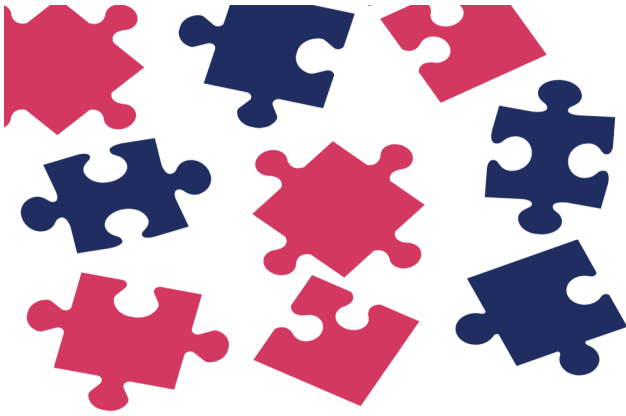
Email: salatham@rcda.org

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

**Thank you for always
answering the call!**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York



FIGHT AGAINST SUICIDE FUNDRAISER

**GET YOUR OWN UNIQUE
ARTWORK MADE WITH PUZZLE
PIECES WHILE HELPING TO
FIGHT AGAINST SUICIDE! FIND
REBECCA AT THE PARISH PICNIC
SELLING HER ART FOR
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION
MONTH.**

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

St. Alphonsus Liguori

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) was a bishop and doctor of the church, and is the patron of moral theologians. Although the practice of making a spiritual communion has existed as early as the 5th century, the Act of Spiritual Communion prayer, shown below, is attributed to Alphonsus Liguori. The reason he wrote the prayer is that as bishop, he would celebrate morning mass in a nearby convent. If one of the nuns failed to perform the required fast of abstinence (which was much stricter in the 18th century than it is today), they would have an alternative if they were unable to receive communion.

Today, in the 21st century with televised and virtual masses, the prayer has taken on a new, special revival. Unable to find that anyone has set this prayer to music, for easier memorization, I decided to set this prayer to music. The piano music and mp3 recording (with Maureen Hayes singing) are available at www.HayesMusicPublishing.com as a free download until Sep 24th.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy sacrament. I love you above all things. I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there. I unite myself wholly to you. O. never permit me to be separated from you.

**Join us in Praying the Chaplet
of St Michael**



**Mondays during September in the
Chapel at 11:30AM**

KIERAN'S LIGHT

CATHOLIC LGBTQIA+
MINISTRY

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:
robyn.spatholts@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 every other
Sunday @ Noon



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 17th — 4pm
Fr. Bellafore

Patricia "Pat" O'Brien
Ernest Pariseau
Vicky Neurohr
James Brennan
Heather Boucher

Sunday, September 18th — 9am
Fr. Kelly

Michael D. Grady
Sam Alberti
Sr. Marita Agatha
Richard Klimkewicz

Sunday, September 18th — 11am
Fr. Kelly

Philip Vecchione
Virginia & Philip Mahar
Mary Eileen Vosburgh
Maria Russo
Frank & Ralph Deso

Monday, September 19th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

Intentions of Sr. Geraldine Kennah
Rita Meher

Tuesday, September 20th — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

Mary Eileen Vosburgh

Wednesday, September 21st — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

Phyllis Testo

Thursday, September 22nd — 12:10pm
Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, September 24th — 4pm
Fr. Kelly

Sunday, September 25th — 9am
Fr. Kelly

Sunday, September 25th — 11am
Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

9/4/2022:

9/5/2021:

\$16,366.77

\$16,500.50



ONLINE GIVING

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

Walk to End Alzheimer's — Albany
Saturday, October 1, 2022

2022 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Edward Jones • CVS Health

2022 NATIONAL DIAMOND TEAMS

BROOKDALE Edward Jones

SIGMA KAPPA

2022 NATIONAL PLATINUM TEAMS

SeniorStar LCB
Visiting Angels

THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Kerry Crew
Charitable Gift Fund

To register, scan or
visit act.alz.org/neny



SCAN ME



HAILEY'S CORNER



Waiting for a
prayer to be
answered?

Remember to
be patient.
God's time is
not our time.
He hears you!