

Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last week and this week we've read from the 16th chapter of Luke which revolves around the topic of wealth. Jesus will present two parables and two sets of teachings. First, I think it's fair to say that having wealth is not in itself a mark of immorality. You don't need to be rich or poor to be greedy, just as you don't need to be rich or poor to be benevolent. Last week, Jesus told us that we cannot serve God and wealth/mammon. The question is one of devotion. Will I dedicate my life to acquiring money and possessions along with the accompanying sense of security that they may seem to come with them? Or will I devote myself and my resources to God which is marked by a radical concern for others?

It's good to note that in last week's Gospel story of the dishonest steward and in this week's Gospel, two different characters share the same name: he is a "rich man", literally "a man who was a rich man" (In Greek *anthropos...tis hayn plousios*). I think that this distinction is helpful. In the construction, he is a man (or "human being", as *anthropos* can mean either) first, and his wealth is something merely appended to him. Everyday he enjoyed his wealth and ate good food. Outside his home is Lazarus and while he is simply called "a poor man" (Gk: *ptōchos*), unlike the rich man he is given a name. He is hungry and he is covered in sores. While the humanity of the rich man is emphasized by his designation as *anthropos*, his inhumanity is manifest in his neglect for Lazarus. It's not inconsequential that Jesus gives the poor man a name. So often, poverty can be a concept and the poor can be a faceless mass. Jesus demands that his listeners know that the anonymous poor that people encounter everyday have a name and their name is known to him. If they are known by him then the least we can do is to get to know the names of people who are most in need, to see them as people and not as a nuisance to our comfort.

The beginning of the parable is marked by the vast difference between the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man wears fine clothing. Not so with Lazarus. The rich man eats a feast at his table. Lazarus lays at his door, longing for his table scraps. The rich man is well-fed and in seemingly good health. Lazarus is covered in sores. To our eyes the disparity couldn't be more clear. And yet when they both die, the gap between them widens. In a total reversal, Lazarus is taken up by angels to "Abraham's bosom" while the rich man is consigned to Hades and to torment. While fate had dealt them one hand in life, in death their roles are reversed. The gap between them is widened further and while in life the rich man would have needed only to reach down to Lazarus as he passed him everyday, in death a "great chasm" exists between them. The rich man can no longer change the direction of his life and Lazarus will not be removed from consolation in the afterlife.

This begs the question. Why is this man in Hades? I do not think it is merely a question of his being a rich man but rather what those riches were meant for. Like the antagonist in last Sunday's Gospel reading, the rich man is an actuality a steward rather than the master he might imagine himself to be. If his wealth is simply his right and if it marks his identity, then his greed or his benevolence is a matter of disposition. What does he feel like doing? From this perspective, the choice to be greedy or giving is the choice of one who sees himself as a master. But if he is a steward, if he has been charged with this wealth at the behest of a gracious God (who is himself Lord and master), then it is his obligation to do with the wealth what the master desires.

I find the final matters of the parable to be the most devastating. The rich man wakes up to his errors while in torment and begs Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers to warn them to change their ways. This tells us that the rich man's entire family was aware of Lazarus and his suffering. Their plight would be the same as the rich man's if they do not change their ways. Abraham rejects his plea, telling the rich man (rather coolly) "*They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.*" The man pleads further that his brothers would surely listen to the testimony of a ghostly Lazarus and then change their ways. Abraham's counters "*If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.*"

Abraham here is speaking to us. Most of us have been told for our entire lives the message of Moses and the prophets. We've heard it so often that our minds wander when we hear familiar passages from Scripture. The fear is that it has all become so commonplace. Scripture loses its ability to cut into our hearts and wound us with its words. It no longer lifts those same hearts back to God in adoration and submission. When you get the chance, re-read our first reading from the prophet Amos (better still, revisit the book). Amos' words were undoubtedly read to the rich man in the Gospel throughout his life: "*Woe to the complacent*", those who eat well and relax in leisure, getting drunk and having the best in this life while their neighbors starve and suffer. What does Amos say of their fate? They "*shall be the first to go into exile*". The rich man's fate was declared some 8 centuries prior...he just didn't listen.

This message we proclaim in the Church is vital and relevant and it should cut through our complacency. Abraham's response tells us that Scripture (and its guardian the Church) shows us the road to life, to true riches and God's goodness.

-Tom Acemoglu

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

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!

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: @stambrosechurch
Email: salatham@rcda.org

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

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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



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.stmichaelsofcohoes.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.



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

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

The rosary, one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. At Fatima, the Blessed Mother said to the three children "I shall come to ask... that on the First Saturday of every month Communions of reparations be made in atonement for the sins of the world."



First Saturday Devotion

October 1st
10:00am
in the Chapel
Please bring your rosary

"When you say the rosary, the angels rejoice..."
Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Volunteer With Us!

The Red Cross needs:

- Caseworkers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Greeters at Blood Drives
- Drivers for Regional Deliveries
- Disaster Action Team Members

Questions?
(518) 387-9441
joineny@redcross.org

Apply!! 



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**

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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).

BIBLE STUMPER

Which of these men
DID NOT become a follower of Jesus?

- A) Caiaphas
- B) Nicodemus
- C) Joseph of Arimathea
- D) Peter

Source: *The Complete Book of Bible Basics* by Mark D. Taylor, 2005.



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!

Answer: A) Caiaphas

There will be NO CONFESSION on Saturday 10/1 or Wednesday 10/5. There will be communion services in place of Daily Masses, 10/3 - 10/6.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Psalm 146

Today, is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. The designated Responsorial Psalm is Psalm 146 with the response: "Praise the Lord, my soul".

The last five psalms in the Book of Psalms (#146-#150) are known as the Hallelujah psalms, as they all begin and end with the Hebrew word YHWH (pronounced "Yahweh"), or translated, "Praise the Lord."

We rely on God, not on the powerful and the strong. For eventually, they too, will perish and return as dust to the earth. (Ps. 146: 2) The Lord will show his strength throughout our lives.

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul.

- 1) Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free.
- 2) The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord raises up those who were bowed down. The Lord loves the just; the Lord protects strangers.
- 3) The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

**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 25, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 24th — 4pm Fr. Kelly

Helen & Peter Falasco
Stephen P. Falasco
Stacey Roberts
Joseph & Rose Lento
Tom & Charlotte Mulready
Viola Smith Brown

Sunday, September 25th — 9am Fr. Kelly

Anne Smoczynski

Sunday, September 25th — 11am Fr. Kelly

Vittorio Renda
The Deceased Members of the King Family
Robert F. Smith
Karen Judge-Cummings

Monday, September 26th — 12:10pm Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Tuesday, September 27th — 12:10pm Fr. Kelly

Kenneth & Jane Blakley
Intentions of Deacon Frank
Intentions of Pauline Kubizne

Wednesday, September 28th — 12:10pm Fr. Kelly

Mary K. Zangrando Family

Thursday, September 29th — 12:10pm Fr. Kelly

Jerry Minihane
Suzie Mansfield
Intentions of Marilyn Frantsov

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, October 1st — 4pm Fr. Kelly

Sunday, October 2nd — 9am Fr. Bellafiore

Sunday, October 2nd — 11am Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

9/11/2022:

9/12/2021:

\$14,093.07

\$17,128.75



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

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

2022 NATIONAL DIAMOND TEAMS

BROOKDALE Edward Jones'

SIGMA KAPPA

2022 NATIONAL PLATINUM TEAMS

SeniorStar LCB
Vitality Angels



SCAN ME

THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Kerry Crew
Charitable Gift Fund



HAILEY'S CORNER



If no one is
going to share
their leftovers
with me, then
maybe they
shouldn't call
them "doggie
bags"!