

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



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"...the just one, because of his faith, shall live" (Habakkuk 2:4)

There is a saying that's used by many teachers of the Bible that says this: "a text without context is a pretext". This means that if we don't try to understand the original situation of a particular verse or passage from the Bible, we can make the Bible say almost anything. A history professor I had in college illustrated this well with a joke. A man, looking for an answer to a problem in his Bible, opened up to a random page and pointed at a verse to find something that spoke to him. The verse said "[Judas] went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:5). The man became very nervous and anxiously flipped the Bible to find a different verse that might speak to him. Placing his finger on the page, he read "*Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'*" (Luke 10:37)". In other words, the man did not take into consideration the context of the passages before trying to apply them to himself.

The name for this way of reading the Bible is sometimes called "Bible bingo" where we try to find God speaking to us in the vast sea of text that is our Scripture. I'm not saying that this kind of reading is without merit (if only we all picked up a Bible when we struggled with a problem) but I am saying that context matters. The Bible is a collection of books so we should seek to understand an individual book on its own terms first. Each book of the Bible is literature and we should try to understand how it was formed by understanding the literary conventions known at the time and we should try to understand what genre of literature that we're reading. For example, not every book is meant to be historical in the modern sense of the word. There is also poetry, legal texts, wisdom literature, and prophecy in the mix as well. Each book of the Bible has its own historical context and we should try to know something of that as well. By doing so we can trace developments over the course of the Bible and we might feel less confused by references made within an individual book.

We can see some of these principals at play in our first reading from the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk is a "blink and you'll miss it" book of the Bible. It's only 3 chapters long. He's one of what is called the Twelve "Minor" Prophets. In our three year Sunday lectionary cycle, he is read only once (which is this week's reading) and he's read only once during our two year weekday lectionary. He's not given a lot of coverage yet a line from today's reading becomes central to the thought of St. Paul when he quotes Habakkuk: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith'*" (Romans 1:16-17).

That little verse would become a very big deal

during the Protestant Reformation. I remember the film version of John Osborne's play on the life of Martin Luther where Stacy Keach (as Luther) preaches a pivotal sermon on the concept of justification in Paul's letter to the Romans after nailing his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Relief of his physical and spiritual suffering comes when he reads Paul's words quoting this Sunday's reading from Habakkuk. In the play, Luther reiterates the point by saying "But the truth is that the just shall live by faith *alone*." In the film version, Luther is emphatic on that final word and it becomes the basis of Luther's teaching on the three *solas*: *sola scriptura* (Scripture alone, against Catholicism which holds to Scripture and Tradition), *sola gratia* (grace alone), and *sola fide* (faith alone, against what he saw as an equivalency in Catholicism of faith with works that we perform that together merit salvation).

But, again, a text without context is a pretext. Neither Habakkuk or Paul said that the righteous live by faith *alone*. Faith in Hebrew (*amunah*) and Greek (*pistis*) speak not only to an intellectual belief in God but, more broadly, to the idea of faithfulness and fidelity. It is the act of standing firm despite our possibly contrary dispositions. Even within Habakkuk, the call to faithfulness comes within the context of evil actions, of "violence", "destruction", "strife", and "discord". The faithful one doesn't just *believe* differently, they *act* differently on the basis of their fidelity to God. The "rash one" has no integrity, "*but the just one, because of his faith [or 'faithfulness'] shall live*". Being rash is one way of acting but faithfulness demands that we act differently.

This brings us, at last, to the apostles' plea to Jesus to "*Increase our faith*." If this is our plea as well, we might imagine that we are asking Jesus to believe things that seem to strain believability. "Let me believe that you can do impossible things, that you work miracles, that you can change my misfortunes and perhaps, then, you will do these things." I think that kind of faith is important and we should believe that God can do the impossible. But what if you have a hard time embracing that kind of belief? I believe that you can still be *faithful* to God when the intellectual acceptance of faith might be difficult and I also believe that this is, in fact, faith. If you live your life like God's teachings are true, then your very life is a witness to faith. Your brain might not understand everything, it may even have a hard time accepting some things, but that doesn't mean that you can't live faithfully with your actions and, therefore, show great faith. A faith like this, "*the size of a mustard seed*", is your statement, even if you don't totally understand. That is walking by faith. If I live as though the teachings of Jesus and his Church are true, even when I don't understand, I am showing great faith.

-Tom Acemoglu

OCTOBER 2, 2022

The St. Ambrose Mom's Group will be going on a family friendly apple picking trip on October 10th.

Meet in the parking lot of Indian Ladder Farm at 10am.



We hope you can join us

**Mom's Group
Apple Pick Trip**

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.



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

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!!



American Red Cross
Eastern New York Region

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

OCTOBER 2, 2022

ADULT FORMATION

A Catholic Vision of Morality: Right and Wrong in a Catholic Context

Every Sunday from 9:50a - 10:50a in the Chapel (10/9 - 11/13)

In this year's first Adult Formation Series, we'll explore the principals that ought to help guide us through the messiness of life.

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES? Contact Tom at thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org or join at <https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>

CRAFT FAIR

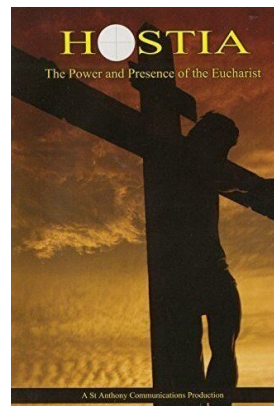
The Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes will be hosting a Vendor & Craft Fair on Saturday October 15, 2022, 9:00 - 3:00, at 55 North Lake Ave, Troy, Parish Center. They're Handicap Accessible! For more information, contact Louise at olv_columbiette_events@aol.com



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SOUPER SATURDAY MOVIE MATINEE RETURNS



St. Michael's Church, Cohoes, is holding a "Souper Saturday Movie Matinee" again. On Saturday, October 15, at 1pm in the church hall, they will be screening "HOSTIA: The Power and Presence of The Eucharist." Soup, sandwiches, desert, beverages, and popcorn will be served. Door prizes will be given, too. This is a free event. If you have any questions or would like to reserve your spot, please contact Kathleen Burns at (518)-428-6353.

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!



OCTOBER 2, 2022

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York



**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 every other
Sunday @ Noon



October is the
month of the rosary
Join Mary's Circle
of Love in
praying the rosary
this month!

Mondays in the Chapel
after 12:10pm Mass.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Psalm 95

Today, is the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, with the designated Responsorial Psalm 95 and its response: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts". Psalm 95 is a psalm of praise as well as a call to worship. It is a psalm well suited for use in liturgy, and is regularly used in the beginning of the Liturgy of the Hours. I wrote and recorded a version of the psalm. The free download of the piano sheet music and mp3 recording is available at www.HayesMusicPublishing.com until Oct.8th.

In addition to being used as a responsorial psalm, it is also the basis for the song, "Come, Worship the Lord" by John Michael Talbot, played occasionally here at St. Ambrose.

John Michael is currently the general minister of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity and lives with his wife, Viola and his religious community in Berryville, Arkansas. Older parishioners of St. Ambrose may remember him coming to St. Ambrose for a concert. They may also remember him as a guitarist for Mason Profit, a country folk-rock band formed with his older brother Terry. He also established the Catholic Association of Musicians, of which my wife, Maureen and I were members. We would travel each summer to Berryville to attend the annual conference and perform with all the other members as well as attend seminars to develop the musical skills of all those who participated.

**There will be NO CONFESSION
on Wednesday 10/5.**

**There will be communion services
in place of Daily Masses, 10/3 - 10/6.**

OCTOBER 2, 2022

Thank you to everyone who made this year's picnic such a huge success. We can't wait to do it again next fall!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 1st — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Timothy D. Butler
Rafaele & Michelina Lento
Judith Abdelnour-Frank
Philip Kopach
Kitty Louise Ray

Sunday, October 2nd — 9am

Fr. Bellafiore

Nicholas Sabatino

Sunday, October 2nd — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Jack Roberts

Monday, October 3rd — 12:10pm

Dcn. Frank — Communion Service

The People of St. Ambrose

Tuesday, October 4th — 12:10pm

Dcn. Frank — Communion Service

Annette Starr

Wednesday, October 5th — 12:10pm

Dcn. Frank — Communion Service

The People of St. Ambrose

Thursday, October 6th — 12:10pm

Dcn. Frank — Communion Service

Helen & Faustian O'Neil

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, October 8th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, October 9th — 9am

Fr. Bellafiore

Sunday, October 9th — 11am

Fr. Bellafiore

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

9/18/2022:

9/19/2021:

\$14,928.58

\$18,633.17



ONLINE GIVING

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



Latham-Colonie Columbiette Breakfast Buffet
Sunday, October 9th, 2022
8:30 am to 11:30 am
328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, an Omelet Station, Home Fries, Corned Beef Hash, Bacon and Sausage, Pancakes and French Toast served w/Warm syrup, A Variety of Cereals and Juices, Bananas and Hot Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate.

Adults - \$12 Children (5-10) - \$6 Under 5 - Free!

HAILEY'S CORNER



Living a life in
darkness is an
impossibility
when you
have Christ in
your heart.

He is the light
of the world!