

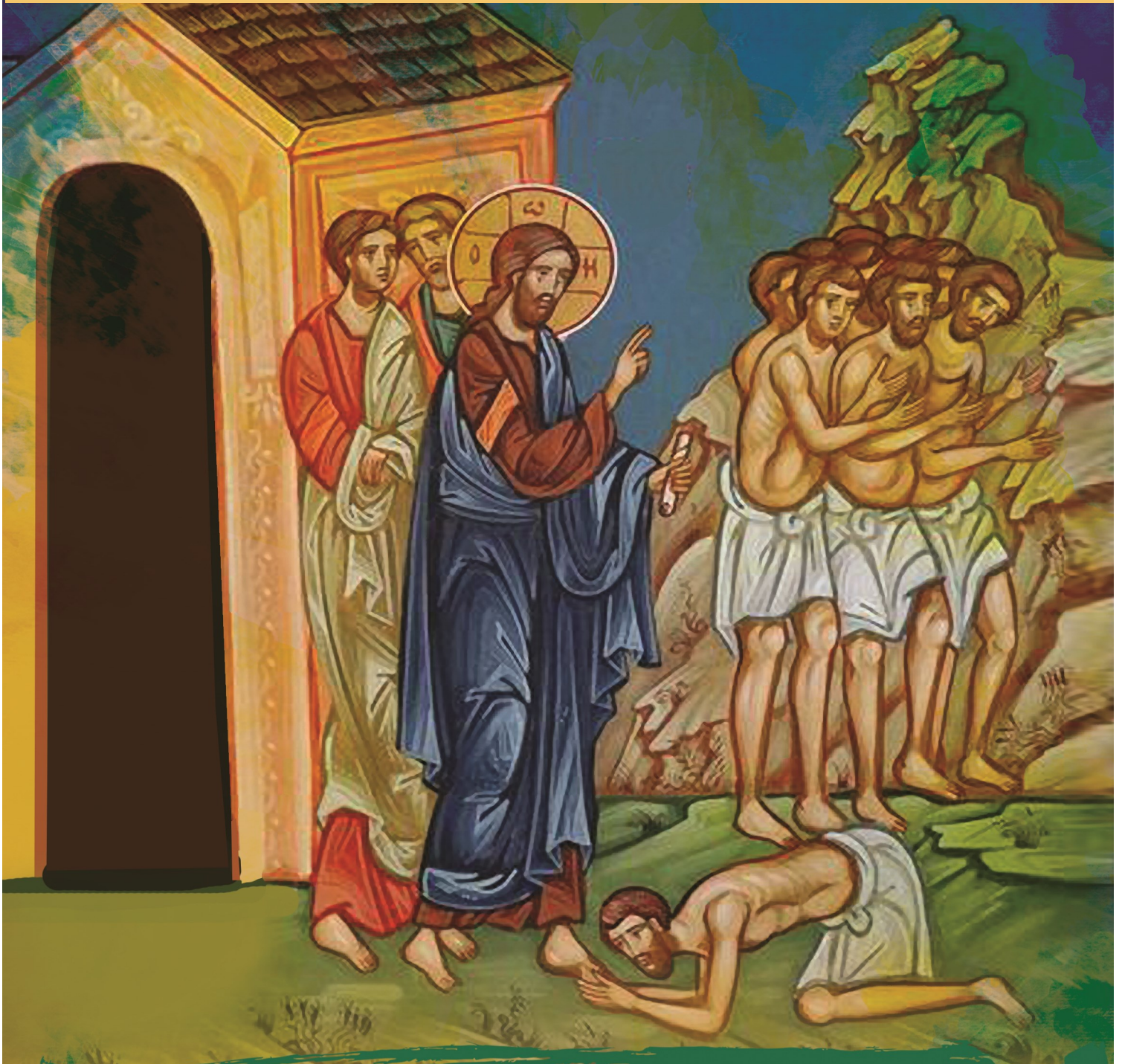
# *Saint* **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**ROOTED IN CHRIST**

518-785-1351 • 347 Old Loudon Road, | Latham, New York 12110 • [www.stambroselatham.com](http://www.stambroselatham.com)

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



**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Of all of the miracles attributed to Jesus in the Gospels, cleansing lepers is one of the most widely attested. I think we often group these miracles into the “nice things Jesus does for people.” These lepers must have been suffering in some way and that Jesus, through the power of God, puts a stop to that. We can glean from this that God is compassionate and hopefully he will relieve our suffering as well.

I think that’s part of the story but we should take a deeper dive into what was going on with these people and why these miracles were among his most dramatic. I think that by reflecting on the dynamics of the ailment and its remedy we can better appreciate what Jesus was doing for them and have a better sense of what he hopes to do with us.

First it’s important to say what is most likely *not* meant by leprosy in the Old and New Testaments. When the word “leprosy” is used in a modern context it usually refers to Hansen’s disease, a disease which, in its advanced forms, can lead to necrosis of the limbs and extremities. It’s an awful disease that can give a person the appearance of their flesh rotting away while they live. One thing that this has in common with leprosy in the biblical context is that people suffering from the disease are often ostracized and treated as outcasts. Hansen’s disease would certainly qualify as biblical leprosy but the definitions of leprosy found in the book of Leviticus (chapters 13 and 14) refer to a wider range of skin diseases that could cause discoloration, discomfort, or a hardening or peeling away of an area of skin. Some of the diseases that seem more in line with is called “leprosy” in Bible translations are “psoriasis, eczema, seborrhea, and certain mycotic inflection” as well as vitiligo (Anchor Bible Dictionary, “Leprosy”). My translation of the Bible includes a footnote whenever the word “leper” is used to indicate that it means any number of possible skin diseases.

Some of these skin diseases are more serious than others and most of us likely know someone who lives with one of them. These diseases seem so much less dramatic than when we imagine biblical lepers as suffering from Hansen’s disease. This forces us to look beyond any suffering or hardship they might have experienced and to look towards the social effects of leprosy. What did it mean to be a leper? How were you seen? How were you treated? What were you prohibited from doing?

Biblical lepers were seen as outcasts. Why? In the Old Testament, a skin disease like their’s was frequently seen as a punishment for sinfulness (2 Kgs 5, 2 Chr 26:16-21, Num 12:10-15, 2 Sam 3:29, Deut 28:27, 35). Like the question of whether the sin of the man born blind in John’s Gospel or the sin of his parents led to his condition (9:2), often certain conditions were seen as God’s punishments. Moreover, lepers were considered “unclean”. This means that they

could possibly defile holy things and places and had to remain separate from the Temple or Tabernacle lest they contaminate what is holy. They also had to remain separate from other people as this impurity was seen as contagious. In the book of Leviticus it says this: *“The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp”* (Lev 13:45-46). If the disease passed, they could be reintegrated back into the community by being inspected by a priest who would then offer sacrifices on their behalf. Undoubtedly, though, many would remain in this condition, perhaps for their whole lives.

Biblical leprosy fell under a number of circumstances that were considered impure (like the foods prohibited by the kosher laws). Anthropologist Mary Douglas posited that things that were considered “unclean” or “impure” were things outside the normal order of things and a person suffering from a skin disease certainly fits the bill. Cut off from other people and cut off from worshipping God, the biblical leper knew loneliness and experienced shame for something they could not control. They were outsiders.

Hopefully this sheds light on Jesus’ healing of ten lepers on his way to Jerusalem in today’s Gospel. Jesus did not simply relieve their suffering. Jesus had removed the thing that kept them from being full participants in worship and in community. The part where Jesus’ heals them demonstrates his lordship over life and nature. It is miraculous. But Jesus’ miracles are most often much more than tending to someone’s physical well-being. That individualizes the miracle when the miracles were also, and most often, communal. Jesus’ desire for the outsider, the afflicted, and the hungry is to bring them into community, whether for the first time or after a period away for circumstances beyond their control. He doesn’t negate the worship of Israel and its commands but instead removes obstacles to full participation.

Seen from this perspective, we might even consider the Church to be Jesus’ greatest miracle. When the Christian community functions as it ought to, people aren’t only included despite the barriers that would ordinarily hold them back. They are also loved and valued and everyone receives what they need because all give freely. Like Jesus, we should also seek to remove the obstacles that hold people back, including the obstacles that hold ourselves back too. If the obstacle is some social marker, then we should overcome them. If the obstacle is sin, that we should seek repentance and the gift of God’s mercy. Whatever it takes, he wants us included.

-Tom Acemoglu



OCTOBER 9, 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](mailto: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](mailto:olv_columbiette_events@aol.com)



St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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



OCTOBER 9, 2022

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.*

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## 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

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## BIBLE STUMPER

What term has been defined as “an outward & visible sign of an inward & spiritual grace”?

- A) Baptism
- B) Confirmation
- C) Sacrament
- D) Last Rites

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](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org) to join!



Answer: C) Sacrament

OCTOBER 9, 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.

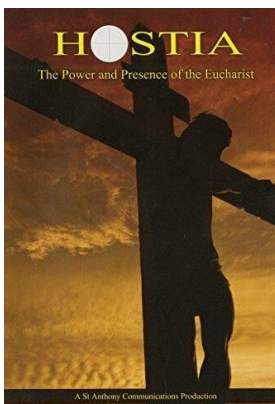
## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

### How Great Thou Art

How Great Thou Art is a well-loved hymn, originally written as a Swedish hymn in 1885 by Carl Boberg (1859-1940) under the original German title "O Store Gud" (O Great God). It was later translated to Russian, when it was then first heard by Stuart K. Hind, a British Methodist minister who was on a missionary trip in the Ukraine in 1931. Hind translated the song to English from Russian and added a 3rd verse in 1949, inspired by the villager's repentance. ("And when I think that God, his son, not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.") Hind later added the 4th verse which was inspired by displaced Russians who were longing to see their loved ones in heaven. ("When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.")

The hymn was recorded by George Beverly Shea (of the Billy Graham Crusade), Elvis Presley (who received a Grammy award for his recording), and more recently by Carrie Underwood. Today, it remains as one of the more popular Catholic funeral hymns, as it celebrates in the beauty of nature and the power of God. I remember Fr. Frank DuBois telling me he held this hymn with a special significance.

## **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.



OCTOBER 9, 2022

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, October 8th — 4pm**  
**Fr. Deimeke**

Mary Jo Lenny  
Charles Hannah  
Kenneth P. Haverly  
Richard Landry  
Ronald James Kiley  
Aleck Sally

**Sunday, October 9th — 9am**  
**Fr. Bellafore**

Vincenzo & Teresa Popolizio  
James J. Pender  
Nicholas Sabatino  
Judy Abdelnour-Frank  
Aleck Sally

**Sunday, October 9th — 11am**  
**Fr. Bellafore**

Joan Prescott  
Robert C. Manley  
Eugene G. Pellegrino

**Monday, October 10th — 12:10pm**  
**Fr. Kelly**

Mary Connolly  
Intentions of James & Jennifer Carey

**Tuesday, October 11th — 12:10pm**  
**Fr. Kelly**

Larry Dubuque

**Wednesday, October 12th — 12:10pm**  
**Fr. Kelly**

The People of St. Ambrose

**Thursday, October 13th — 12:10pm**  
**Fr. Kelly**

Francis Craven

## WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

**Saturday, October 15th — 4pm**  
**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, October 16th — 9am**  
**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, October 16th — 11am**  
**Fr. Deimeke**

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

9/25/2022:

9/26/2021:

\$13,854.97

\$15,537.29



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting  
your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://stambroselatham.com/egiving)

# ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION



The Race for Education is the first fundraiser of the school year. Please consider sponsoring a CCS student to help them reach their \$25,000 school goal!

To donate online visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9asnh3>

Or mail a check to:  
Catholic Central School  
Attn: Race for Education  
347 Old Loudon Road  
Latham, NY 12110



## HAILEY'S CORNER



Faith tells us,  
that no matter  
what lies  
ahead, God is  
already there.

My prayer for  
you: your  
Faith is always  
stronger than  
your fears.