

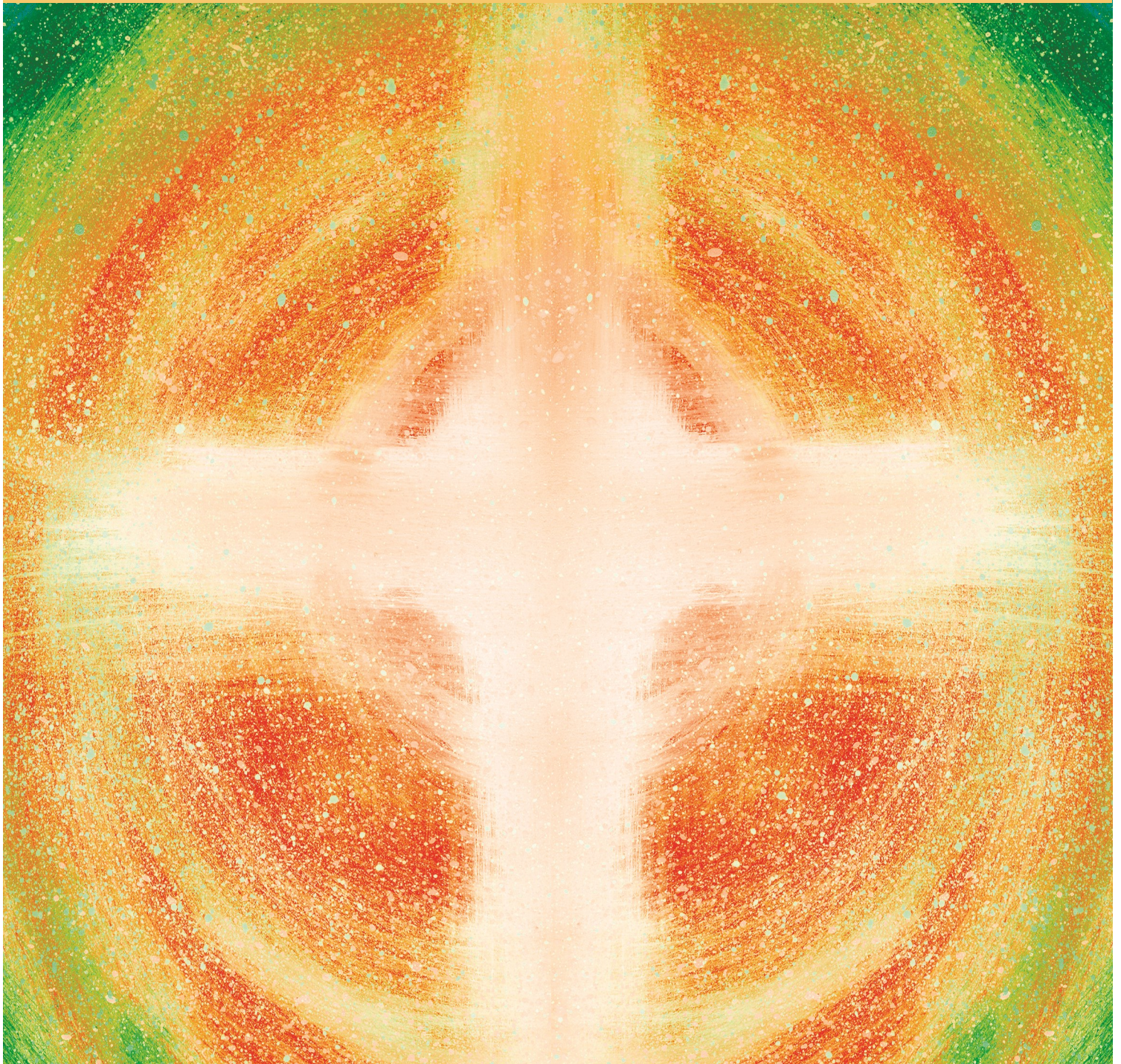
Saint **AMBROSE**

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



5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

I was reading a commentary on this Sunday's section from Matthew's Gospel that noted that in the ancient world, darkness was an objective reality. It wasn't merely the absence of light and something so easily dispelled. Darkness with a presence, a *something* rather than the lack of something greater. At night, darkness crept in at nightfall and surrounded a person and their home. Only the small lights one could carry by lamp or torch could one create a livable space within the darkness. A few weeks ago we reflected on how the modern world has made light so common that we hardly know anything of true darkness. For many of us, electric light from the outside still manages to be visible from our beds as we go to sleep. A child can still know the terror of darkness and has to muster courage in order to face it.

While we may have conquered our fear of darkness-as-presence, we can perhaps understand it from a different angle. Though there is much good, have you ever felt overwhelmed by all of the bad things you see in the world? When watching or reading the news or hearing of something bad happening in your world, have you ever felt the "darkness" of evil? Today, one of the most popular genres of media (podcasts, documentaries, dramatic reenactments, and tabloids) is the true crime genre. We've become fascinated by evil as a presence in our world and so much attention is given to those people who seem to "embody" that evil, who make evil into a person or thing whose presence might even manifest in our communities or in our lives. We can walk away from the evening news feeling as though evil is present all around us or in a certain part of town. The darkness here is moral and it seems as though it can overpower us.

St. Augustine had a different theory of evil, however; He understood evil in this world not as a presence but the absence of good. Here, goodness is *something* and evil happens where it is not present. He said "*evil has no positive nature; but the loss of good has received the name 'evil'*" (City of God, book XI, chapter 9). Just as we no longer see darkness and light as two competing entities but rather see darkness as the absence of light, so too is evil not an entity as powerful (or more powerful) than goodness. Goodness here is a kind of light that dispels the darkness of evil.

This can transform how we see ourselves and how we see others and I think it coheres with experience. How many of us had a "dark" period in our lives, a time marked by sin and waywardness? Here, Augustine can help us see that at those moments we lacked something as we stumbled around in the dark. For many of us, it was the light of Christ that dispelled the darkness and illuminated the right path for us to walk on. The presence of that light reveals to us that we who are made in the image and

likeness of God are all fundamentally redeemable. I think of the conversion stories of some of the modern eras worst criminals, even serial killers. Even they could be transformed. There's no limit to what the light of Christ can do if it's allowed to burn within us.

Our Gospel reading today is about salt and light, of being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt was used for more than just a seasoning for food. It was also used to season the fuel used for ovens so a flame would kindle and sustain itself. Therefore, if you are the salt of the earth you not only give life it's flavor, true as that might be. If that salt is allowed its full potency, you kindle a flame that gives life to your homes and communities, as an ancient oven gave heat to a whole house and used to prepare food for the family. To be "salt" is our mission to the world and we are meant to set this world on fire! "*If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze!*" said St. Catherine of Sienna. And as salt was used to season fuel, we are meant to season our work places and our communities so the fire of the Spirit kindles and the world is transformed.

(We do well to remember that in the ancient world, dung was what was used for fuel...if you're pessimistic on the state of the world that you're meant to season and ignite, know that even at its lowest it can become something truly great!)

Jesus' final image today is that we are "*the light of the world*" and that too is our mission. Jesus tells us that we are not to "*light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket*" (Matt 5:15). To do that would merely snuff the light out. If we do not let the light of Christ shine out, then eventually it will dim. This light exists to illuminate life in the midst of the world's darkness. Instead we must be placed someplace so the world may see the light. It's a scary thing to think of ourselves as lamps that are meant to house the light of Christ and to illuminate the world but that is what we're meant to do. Jesus tells us why this must be the case: "*your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father*" (Matt 5:16). In other words, we are lights meant to kindle other lights. When we glorify we give glory and in the Bible glory is often connected to light. Our good deeds should not be used to glorify ourselves but to glorify God and in that they should be seen, not to call attention to ourselves but to be seen as a response to God who is himself the source of all light and all love. When his light shines in us and it is his true light, then the world sees something of God in what we do. If they respond in kind, they in turn become lights that turn that light back towards its source. If we do this enough, we light up the whole earth like electric lights light up a city at night. Be salt and be light. Transform the world by shining in the darkness.

-Tom Acemoglu

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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

**St. Brigid of
Kildare**

Feast Day - Feb 1st



*You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.*

Amen.

**BISHOP EMERITUS MATTHEW H. CLARK
MEMORIAL MASS**

Bishop Scharfenberger will preside at a Memorial Mass for Bishop Emeritus Matthew H. Clark. This Mass will be held on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30pm, here at St Ambrose, where he served as Associate Pastor from 1967 - 1972.



**STUDENTS AT CATHOLIC CENTRAL
SCHOOL HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE
VITA PROGRAM FOR OVER 20 YEARS.**

Mr. Hannah's Accounting Students work with an alumni to become IRS certified to complete tax returns for people at need in the community. Students in the past have been able to get clients up to \$18,000 in tax refunds. Each year students average around 300 tax returns that get sent to the IRS. This year for the 2022/2023 Tax season we will have about 30 Students participating. If you or someone you know is interested in having their taxes done for free by the VITA program, visit the VITA IRS website, or reach out to the local VITA operator to schedule an appointment: 800-906-9887.



St. Ambrose, Latham, New York



**Valentine Variety
Vittles Dinner**

**Holy Trinity will be having a
Valentine potluck dinner
Saturday, February 11
after the 4 pm mass.**

**Admission is a dish to share, either
appetizer, salad, casserole or dessert.**

**Please call the office at 518-237-2373 to
reserve your spot and join us for a fun
evening of great food and friendship.**

HOLY WATER AVAILABLE

**If you would like
Holy Water, the basin
in the vestibule at
the front of Church is
again filled. Please
just bring your own
vessel to take the
Holy water in.**



SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

**DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING A SNOWBLOWER
AND REMOVING SNOW?**

**JOIN OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY
AND HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH READY FOR
WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS!**

**PLEASE CONTACT TOM HEALY AT
THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM, OR CONTACT
THE PARISH OFFICE: 518-785-1351**

Praying Like There's No Tomorrow: New Perspectives on Our Ancient Prayers

Sundays from 9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(1/8, 1/22 - 2/12, 2/26)

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/>

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.

FRIENDS IN FAITH

A NEW MINISTRY

Would you like an opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners? What about giving back to our parish family by planning future events for parishioners of all ages? Friends in Faith will meet to gather your ideas for future social and hospitality events.

Our kickoff planning session will be on Tuesday, February 14 after the 12:10 mass in the parish center. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have ideas but are unable to attend, please contact Regina Brown: southgatebrown61@gmail.com.

St. Ambrose Bible Study

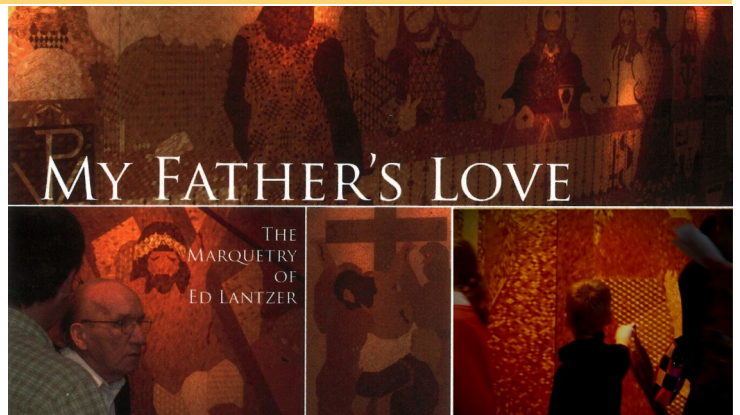
Thursdays @ 7pm
via ZOOM

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!



ART EXHIBIT AT ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

St Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park is now offering tours of the **My Father's Love** exhibit every Thursday! The exhibit consists of thirty, 4' x 8' wooden mosaic panels. Tours are held at 11:30 AM, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, & 6:30 PM. Tours can also be scheduled at separate times for large groups or organizations by contacting Andrew Sutton at 518-371-7372 x229.



MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Holy, Holy, Holy

“Holy, Holy, Holy” is a majestic worship song written by Reginald Heber (1783-1826), who was an Anglican minister and served for a time as the Bishop of Calcutta. His early death at age 43 was widely mourned throughout the Christian world. A year after his death, a collection of 57 of his hymns were published in 1827 as a tribute to his memory, one of which was this hymn.

What does the term “worship” mean to you? How could your life of worship be improved?

The free public domain melody and mp3 recording of this hymn may be downloaded from www.HayesMusicPublishing.com until Feb. 11th.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Melody and Lyrics by Reginald Heber (1783-1826) in public domain; This arrangement © 2022 Bill Hayes
Published by www.HayesMusicPublishing.com; all rights reserved

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

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.

Upcoming Meetings:
Sunday 1/29, 2/12, 2/26

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 4th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Intentions of Leo J. DesChamps
John Tracey
Heather Ryan
Richard Burzynski
Frederick & Virginia Alston
Marie Bell

Sunday, February 5th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Vincent & Teresa Popolizio
Melvin Fernandez
Intentions of Dorothy Sweeney
Vincent Cook
Thomas Mahoney

Sunday, February 5th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Paul Abelman
Elizabeth Langevin
Greg Sorrentino

Monday, February 6th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Shane Zyglewicz
Dave Clark
Timmy Adler
Intentions of Danielle Capp
Joe Shea

Tuesday, February 7th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Lawrence O'Sullivan
Annette Starr

Wednesday, February 8th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Thursday, February 9th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Paul Coneski Sr.
Frederick & Virginia Alston

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, February 11th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, February 12th — 9am & 11am

Fr. Bellafiore

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

1/22/2023:

1/23/2022:

\$15,855.64

\$13,412.76



ONLINE GIVING

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



Latham-Colonie Columbiette Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, February 12th, 2023

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



The more you
open your eyes
to all the
blessings God
has given you,
the more He'll
be able to open
your heart and
mind to ways
you can help
bring about His
Kingdom!