

*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**

BLESSED  
ARE THOSE  
WHO FOLLOW  
THE LAW OF  
THE LORD!

*Psalm 119*

**6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

If there is a characteristic that is particularly noxious to most people's sensibilities, it would be "self-righteousness". Back on October 23rd, we read the story of a tax collector and a Pharisee praying in the temple area. In his prayer this particular Pharisee boasted about how great he was in comparison to a tax collector while the tax collector approached God confessing his need for mercy. For us, the qualities of this Pharisee are supposed to be something we avoid. We shouldn't extol our supposed virtues and "toot our own horn". Instead we should be humble, aware of our sinfulness, as we approach God in mercy.

Sometimes, however, he might throw the baby out with the bathwater. While we must be vigilant against *self-righteousness*, we are still called to be righteous. Because of our aversion to self-righteousness, I think we have to learn how to be comfortable with this. Righteousness is one of the great themes of Judaism, reflected in our Old Testament. It is used to describe holy people, it's used as a virtue to be cultivated, and it's used to describe God himself.

The basic meaning of the Hebrew word *zedek* or *zedakah*. Is to be "right" or "just". It's frequently coupled with other words to clarify it's meaning, particularly words like "justice" (*mishpat*). It's a quality that assures that all of one's actions are in the right, not based on the standards we set as human beings but based rather on the standard of God's "righteousness". God always does what is right and so must we. God is always just in his actions and so should we be. Righteousness in the Old Testament can embody two dimensions. On the one hand, it is concerned with things being ordered correctly. This means that an action, like we said, conforms to what God has established in the right order of things. The other dimension it embodies salvation. It is always right to save someone in their distress. God is righteous in the sense that whatever he does is correct and conforms to what's right and he is righteous because he is a God who saves. The standard is not above God, the standard *is* God and all of our actions are to be judged on what may seem like the most impossible of standards. Our common tradition of confessing our faults and asking God for mercy acknowledges our inability to meet this standard, though we must strive in that direction nonetheless.

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells his listeners that "*unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt 5:20). We might think that Jesus is disparaging the scribes and Pharisees and setting the bar low but I think he's taking those parties that were most committed to following God's Law and telling people to exceed that. If Jesus' message to us last week to be a light that shines before others "*that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly*

*Father*" (Matt 5:16) is true, then our living rightly is evidence to the world that God is indeed our Lord and that to see us is to see something of him.

In case you're wondering if this is indeed true, if Jesus is indeed raising the bar of righteousness or lowering it, look at the four examples he gives illustrating righteous living. He mentions four examples from Jewish Law, two of which are from the 10 Commandments. These are the commandments not to kill (Matt 5:21/Ex 20:13), not to commit adultery (Matt 5:27/Ex 20:14), the commandment allowing for divorce (Mat 5:31/Deut 24:1-4), and the commandment not to make a false oath (Mat 5:33/Lev 19:12). In each instance, Jesus reveals that the words of these commandments are no longer sufficient marks of righteousness. His followers must exceed even what is written in the Law. Now, anger with a brother or calling him a fool is akin to murder because they are points on the same trajectory that leads to murder. The physical act of adultery is no longer the measure of infidelity but rather those lustful impulses that entertain unfaithfulness in what one wrongly considers to be harmless fantasizing. The Mosaic command allowing divorce when one is unsatisfied with their marriage and marrying another is adultery. And finally, a simple oath of any kind is an example of swearing falsely. Our simple "yes" or "no" must bear the full force of our integrity.

If we allow the words of the Sermon on the Mount to permeate our hearts, we may find ourselves uncomfortable or perhaps protesting what Jesus is saying. Today, I don't think we have a hard time embracing Jesus' mercy but we cannot think for a moment that he isn't asking us to take on a way of life that most people consider to be difficult or impossible. How do you tell someone with a temper not to be angry? How do you tell someone in the throes of puberty not to lust? How do you tell someone in an unhappy marriage to stick it out? How do we not certify our claims with extra words of assurance? Here, I'd encourage you to imagine sitting through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) and coming up to him to discuss these matters further. Perhaps make that your prayer. Talk to him, argue with him if you must. As he listens, know that he understands the reality of human frailty and that we don't always measure up. I am convinced, however, that he would not alter his teaching. Instead, I believe that he offers counsel to the angry, compassion to those who lust, counsel in the unhappy marriage, and grace to each of us when we fall short. Still, the standard stands because it is not our shortcomings that are the measure of right or wrong but the righteousness of God, something that stands above us and is yet attainable through grace, striving, and patience. Do not fear what he lays before you but receive it as a still better way, knowing that he accompanies us in our struggles.

-Tom Acemoglu



FEBRUARY 12, 2023

## 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.*



## 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

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

## LENTEN FISH FRIDAY DINNERS

AT THE LATHAM COLONIE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fri. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>

**NO FISH DINNER FRI., MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

4:30 TO 6:30



**"TAKE OUT & SIT DOWN"**

### COST

Baked Fish Dinner - \$15.00

Fish Fry Dinner - \$15.00

Clam Roll Dinner - \$12.00

Homemade New England Clam Chowder - \$5.00

### MENU

Baked Fish Dinner Served with Twice Baked Potato, Veggie,  
Coleslaw & Dessert

Fish Fry or Clam Roll Dinner Served with French Fries or  
Onion Rings, Coleslaw & Dessert

**Fish Fry Only - \$10.00 Clam Roll Only - \$8.00**

Children's Menu Available for Eat In Only

**For Reservations Call (518) 892 - 3750**



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Sunday Before & After the Masses  
in the Parish Center Lobby.

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

THE BEVERWYCK  
CATECHETICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS...



A FOUR-EVENT  
YOUTH & FAMILY  
RETREAT

EPHESIANS 3:17-20

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

# ROOTED

NIGHT 1 - FEBRUARY 15, 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL &  
HIGH SCHOOL XLT NIGHT  
(GRADES 6-12)

6:00-8:00PM

ST. PIUS X  
(23 CRUMITIE RD.  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOSH KAY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW

CONTACT: JOSH KAY  
YM@STPIUSXLONDONVILLE.ORG

NIGHT 2 - MARCH 15, 2023

YOUTH & FAMILIES NIGHT  
TOPIC: MENTAL HEALTH  
(ALL FAMILIES WELCOME)

6:30-8:00PM

CHRIST THE KING  
(20 SUMTER AVE., ALBANY, NY 12203)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GRACE FAY  
BREAKOUT WORKSHOP TO FOLLOW

CONTACT: LISANNE JENSEN  
LJENSEN@CTKPARISHNY.ORG

**St. Brigid of  
Kildare**

**Feast Day - Feb 1st**

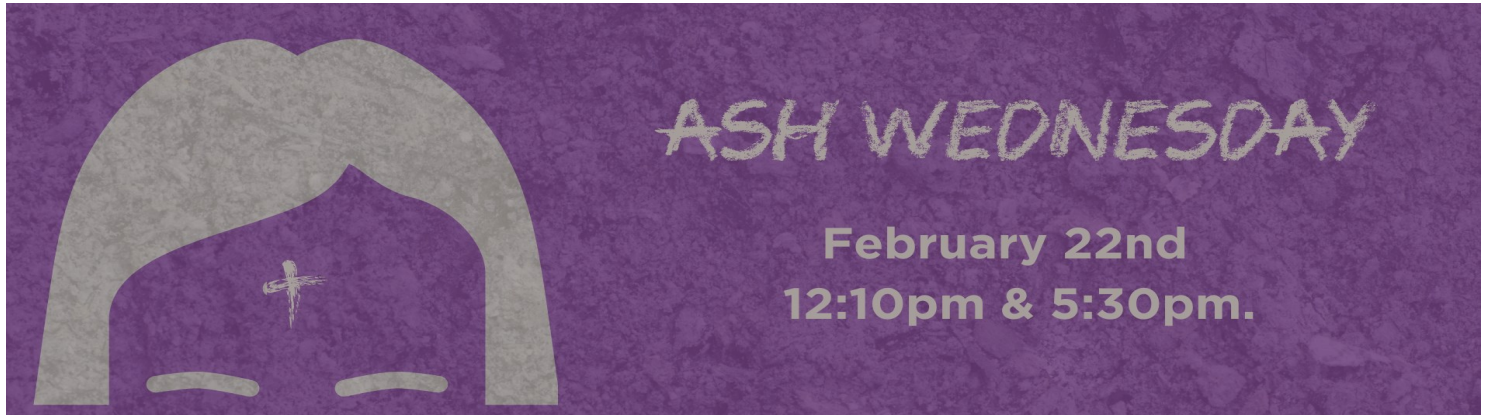


*You were a woman of  
peace.*

*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.**





## 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](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org) or join at <https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>

## 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.

We will meet every Tuesday after the 12:10 mass in the parish center. You are more than welcome to bring your lunch. If you have ideas but are unable to attend, please contact Regina Brown:

[southgatebrown61@gmail.com](mailto:southgatebrown61@gmail.com)

## 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.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday @ 6PM  
during Lent

## 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!



## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

### All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

"All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name" is yet another worship song with the lyrics written by Edward Perronet (1726-1792), who was also an Anglican minister who came from a family of French Huguenots (Protestants) who fled from France to Switzerland to England to escape religious persecution. The melody was written by Oliver Holden (1765-1844) of Worcester and Boston, Massachusetts.

Do you have a favorite worship song? Would that song help to improve your level of worship?

The free public domain melody and mp3 recording of this hymn may be downloaded from [www.HayesMusicPublishing.com](http://www.HayesMusicPublishing.com) until Feb. 18th.

**All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name**      Lyrics by Edward Perronet (1726-1792)  
 Music by Oliver Holden (1765-1844)

Lyrics and melody in public domain;    This arrangement Copyright (C) 2022 Bill Hayes    Published by [www.HayesMusicPublishing.com](http://www.HayesMusicPublishing.com); all rights reserved

### KIERAN'S LIGHT

CATHOLIC LGBTQIA+  
MINISTRY

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:  
[robyn.spateholts@rcda.org](mailto: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



**Eucharistic  
Adoration**

**Wednesdays  
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM**



FEBRUARY 12, 2023

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 11th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Frederick Burgess  
Jack Holbine  
Antonio Moscatiello  
Joan Bruno  
Agnes Millson

**Sunday, February 12th — 9am**

**Fr. Bellafiore**

Sophie & John Halayko  
Bob Gottfredsen  
M. Annette Dawkins  
Frederick & Virginia Alston  
Agnes Millson

**Sunday, February 12th — 11am**

**Fr. Bellafiore**

John Dudek  
Roland Marsolais  
Maureen Sugrue  
Emerlina Almonte  
Ma. Victoria Go

**Monday, February 13th — 12:10pm**

**Dcn. Frank — Communion Service**

Joan T. Weir  
Marilyn Santoro  
Mary Connolly  
Francis Burns  
Jack McFarland

**Tuesday, February 14th — 12:10pm**

**Dcn. Frank — Communion Service**

Tiffany Bay  
Richard Hillman Jr.

**Wednesday, February 15th — 12:10pm**

**Dcn. Frank — Communion Service**

Robert Douglas

**Thursday, February 16th — 12:10pm**

**Dcn. Frank — Communion Service**

Kevin Krester

## WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

**Saturday, February 18th — 4pm**

**Fr. Bellafiore**

**Sunday, February 19th — 9am & 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

1/29/2023:

1/30/2022:

**\$13,761.18**

**\$12,699.83**



ONLINE GIVING

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

## 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.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: [stambroselatham.com](http://stambroselatham.com)

Facebook: [@stambrosechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stambrosechurch)

Email: [salatham@rcda.org](mailto:salatham@rcda.org)

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

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

## HAILEY'S CORNER



It's that time of  
year again...

Don't go  
BACON my  
heart! Say you'll  
be my  
Valentine!

Shucks, who am  
I kidding?  
Anything from  
the deli is good.