

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



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

I have a strange relationship to Lent. After the Christmas season, we enter into a strange, almost unstructured time that is the early days of Ordinary Time and which coincide with the seemingly endless winter months. I have a hard time recalling memories from this part of the year because days seem to bleed together and I desire a way out of the Winter gloom into Spring. Then comes Lent and even if we know nothing about Lent we can see that it overlaps with both Winter and Spring, offering a path forward. In order to reach the new life of Spring, we must first embrace the path that Lent offers us.

It's a difficult season because, for the next several weeks, we will have to explore difficult parts of the human journey; things that none of us like to face. And in order to face them, we have to take on those three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In each case, we offer some good of this life. We might see each as our gift to God which I think has some truth to it, but, in reality, each of the things we offer back to God are things that he has first given us. Like the sacrifices offered throughout the Old Testament, there is a tacit recognition that what has been offered to God was first given by God. So we offer prayer, carved out from our precious time, recognizing that he first granted us the life that is marked by that time. We fast and offer up our food, recognizing that all food is rooted in nature, God's gift that sustains us. We offer alms, recognizing that God has blessed us with surplus in our using the abilities God has given us to do our work. We take something of the gift and offer it back to the creator.

But I also think that we are invited to see how misspent time, excess of food, and overreliance on security are obstacles to seeing God. A few weeks ago we heard Jesus give us the beatitude *"blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God"* (Mt 5:8). A cluttered, adulterated heart cannot properly see God. In the absence of this sight, our information about God can be only second hand and our fidelity to him is only as sure as our trust in the source of that information. We may believe that a saint or another holy person has had contact with God but what about us? The beatitude envisions a condition where you and I see God and that is no small matter. God tells Moses *"no one can see me and live"* (Ex 33:20) and throughout the Old Testament seeing the most holy God was considered lethal. Almost any exception to this was noted as being extraordinary and not the norm. When Jacob wrestles God at Peniel he notes in amazement *"I have seen God face to face...yet my life has been spared"* (Gen 32:31). Moses is the remarkable exception when Exodus notes that *"The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a person speaks to a friend"* (Ex 33:11). Even this is qualified and when Moses is allowed to see God directly, it is only his back as he passes by

(Ex 33:18-23).

It is no small thing that Jesus offers us the ability of seeing God and yet, in order to do so, our hearts must be unencumbered. There must be no obstacles, nothing obstructing our vision. Here we see that Lent is how we can undergo a cleansing of our hearts. Our lives of business are obstacles to God if they offer us no ability to encounter him with prayer. Indeed, it's not merely a matter of carving out a few minutes of our lives to reflection and meditation, important as that is. No, we must seek to make our lives into a prayer, where we live in constant awareness of God's presence at all times and offer him thanks and praise in the midst of his giving the gift of life to us. Here, we can pray for people as we encounter them in their hardship or as they come to mind. All of life can be a prayer.

Likewise, our indulgence can be an obstacle to God because it is in our moments of hunger and thirst that we come to understand our dependence and it is in the condition of dependence that we understand all things as gifts given by a God who provides. Only the hungry know the true value of food and drink and only those who *"hunger and thirst for righteousness"* (Mt 5:6) know that it is God who truly provides what is good and fair and necessary. Finally, our clinging to material wealth is an obstacle of God because it gives us a false sense of self-sufficiency. It is the mentality that looks at our goods as being deserved and justified, forgetting that it was God who gave us our life, our health, and our ability to earn what we have. By clinging on to our surplus, we block the gift of God to others because the gifts of God most often pass through the hands of others as they make their way to us.

In our Gospel reading today, I think it's notable that Jesus is tempted, acknowledging that to be human is to be tempted by the desire for self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and material gain, to place ourselves in the place of God as lords of our own life. By being tempted like us, he offers us a way forward as we seek to see God's face through this season of Lent. This season, you will be tempted too. It's not that it only happens now, but these temptations will be thrown into focus. You will have to face those things that seek to be our "lord" and, ultimately, you will have to face the ways we all try to make ourselves our own gods. In this season, Jesus is telling us to let these things go, to say "no!" to anything that seeks to be master over us, just as he overcame Satan's temptations. We may think that we are losing things by doing this. We may feel the loss of a missed meal, a sinful habit or a gift given in sacrifice. But we can never lose sight of what we gain in doing so. The pure heart will see God and that is incomparably more valuable than what we give up.

-Tom Acemoglu

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

KEEP IN TOUCH

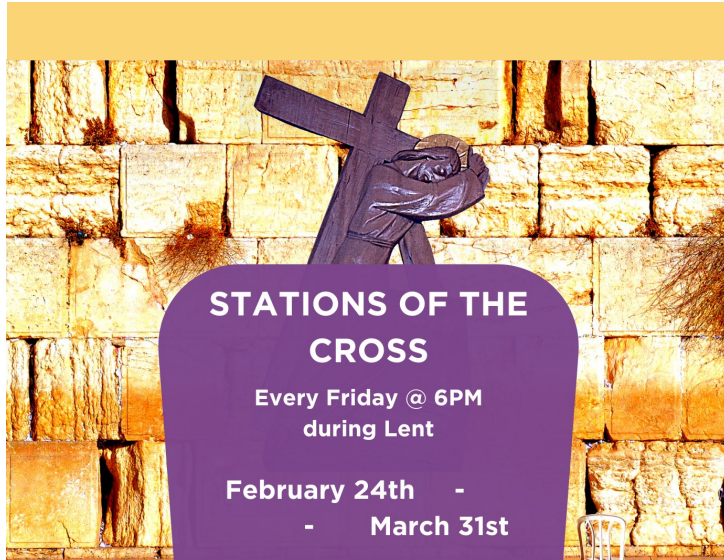
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Facebook: @stambrosechurch

Email: salatham@rcda.org

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"Is not the Way of the Cross the way of every persons life? Doesn't every life have suffering, falls, hurts, rejections, condemnation, death, burial... resurrection? It has been a Catholic tradition through the centuries to meditate on the Way of the Cross, so that it becomes our way of life."

Rev. Andrew Costello



2:30pm in the Church on 3/4/23
Please bring your rosary.

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

LENTEN FISH FRIDAY DINNERS

AT THE LATHAM COLONIE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fri. Feb. 24th, March 3rd -10th - 24th - 31st & April 7th

NO FISH DINNER FRI., MARCH 17TH

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



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.

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1130 COOKIE SALE



The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after the following masses:

**Saturday 3/4
Sunday 3/5
&
Saturday 4/1
Sunday 4/2**

Limited Supplies Available



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

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!



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.

THE BEVERWYCK
CATECHETICAL
ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS...

EPHESIANS 3:17-20



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

A FOUR-EVENT
YOUTH & FAMILY
RETREAT

ROOTED

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

NIGHT 3 - MARCH 26, 2023
MIDDLE SCHOOL &
HIGH SCHOOL XLT NIGHT
(GRADES 6-12)

6:00-8:00PM

ST. AMBROSE CHURCH
(347 OLD LOUDON RD., LATHAM, NY 12110)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: TOM ACEMOGLU

DODGEBALL GAME TO FOLLOW

CONTACT: TOM ACEMOGLU
THOMAS.ACEMOGLU@RCDA.ORG

Overcoming Obstacles to Catholic Life

Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(3/5-4/2)

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/>

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Psalm 51

Today's designated Responsorial Psalm for the 1st Sunday of Lent, Year A is Psalm 51. This is also the responsorial psalm we heard on Ash Wednesday. This psalm is a psalm of lament and repentance, usually heard during Lent as well as Fridays during the he Liturgy of the Hours. Today's responses is "Be merciful, O Lord for we sinned", but other responses of "Create a clean heart for me" and "I will rise and go to my Father" are also used with this psalm.

This psalm is one of seven penitential psalms along with Psalms 6, 32, 38, 102, 130 and 143, and has been called the Miserere, which is Latin for "have mercy on me". It has the elements of reconciliation with God which are confession of sin (51:3), accepting responsibility (51:4), expressing contrition (51:17), and asking for forgiveness (51:2).

In 1997, I set this psalm to music using adaptive lyrics with the refrain "Create a clean heart", a version which some of the older members of the parish might possibly remember. The free sheet music and mp3 recording are available at www.HayesMusicPublishing.com until March 4th.

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.



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 26, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Gregory Sorrentino
Howard Barton
Carol Light
Lynda Yadack

Sunday, February 26th — 9am

Fr. Bellafiore

Vincent Popolizio
Intentions of Nancy I. Fiedler
Angelina Sabatino
Lorraine Garceau
Phyllis Sorrentino

Sunday, February 26th — 11am

Fr. Bellafiore

Maureen Sugrue
Vittorio Renda
Lorraine Beatrice Garceau
Esther Gilheany

Monday, February 27th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Catherine M. Harrison
Robert Fulston
Susan Marie Parsons

Tuesday, February 28th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Lorraine Garceau
Helen & Faustin O'Neil

Wednesday, March 1st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Frederick & Virginia Alston

Thursday, March 2nd — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Lorraine Garceau
David Clark

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, March 4th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, March 5th — 9am & 11am

Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

2/12/2023:

2/13/2022:

\$17,931.37

\$19,151.63



ONLINE GIVING

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



The Albany Chapter of Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, is sponsoring a women's breakfast

**Sat. March 18, 2023 - Wolferts Roost Country Club
Albany, NY from 9:00am - 12:00pm
(Doors open at 8:30 a.m.)**

Guest Speaker: Julie Baaki, Executive Director
of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, NY

Registrations can be made online or by mail. All are due by March 8th. You may register online using PayPal or a Credit Card at <http://www.magnificat-ministry.org/ny-albany>. Online Cost: \$29.40, Students \$19.40. Register by mail with a check (\$28, Students \$18) made payable to Albany NY Chapter of Magnificat, P.O. Box 340, Clifton Park, NY 12065. Please include your name, address, telephone # & email address with your check. No registrations will be taken at the door. Further registration information may be obtained by contacting Kathleen Carroll at 518-930-8380 or via email at albanyamagnificat@gmail.com

HAILEY'S CORNER



I love my name
so much, but I
often feel more
like an "Eve".
We have so
much in
common.
Neither of us
wear clothing,
and we both eat
what we
shouldn't.