



Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In sharing the faith with people, I've learned that it's helpful to tell stories that illustrate the point I want to make. It's one thing to outright tell someone "trust in God" but if you can illustrate the point either from an example from your own life or through a story that shows that trust in action, you're more likely to be understood. Deep down, I think many of us don't like to be told to do things, even if they are good things to do. But if we discover that it's true on our own, we're more likely to apply it to our lives. A story is one way to invite an audience to discover the point for themselves.

Jesus knew this and it's why so many of his parables are agricultural. Some 90% of the population of his time was engaged in agricultural work. The metaphors Jesus (and John the Baptist and the prophets before him) uses draw from an experience nearly everyone understood. "*His winnowing fork is in his hand*", "*Satan has sought to sift you out like wheat*", "*I am the vine, you are the branches*", and many other examples were extremely relatable, just like a comedian today might get an audience to laugh at common experiences like going to a store, riding an airplane, or using social media. An ancient audience would not understand those examples and would require some explanation. So too we might have to do a little work to understand Jesus' examples. The lesson is there waiting for us if we take the time to understand what he's saying.

In this Sunday's parable of the vineyard, Jesus proposes a scenario well known to his listeners. An absentee landlord is collecting the produce of his land from the sharecroppers that work for him, only whenever he sends someone to collect from them the sharecroppers beat, kill, or stone them. The image of the vineyard goes back to the prophet Isaiah, where the vineyard is a parable representing his choosing, forming, and providing for his people Israel. In Isaiah's parable, the field yields wild grapes that represent the waywardness of the people despite God's careful cultivation. This will lead to their destruction as punishment for their rebellion.

In Jesus' version of the vineyard metaphor, the rebellion is personified in the sharecroppers. Here, it is God the Father that is the landowner and the chief priests and Pharisees that are the sharecroppers. Like the sharecroppers, the chief priests and Pharisees have been given a great responsibility in taking care of a land that does not belong to them. They live off of that same land and its welfare is to their benefit. But at some point the landowner/the Father must collect. This visitation recalls the lead up to a final judgment, when God settles all accounts. The servants he sends are the prophets who represent the Father to the religious establishment. Their violent treatment of them recall the fates of all of the prophets who died at the hands

of those who wanted least to hear the demands of God.

He then tells his audience what happens when the landowner sends his son. I imagine that at this point, the minds of the chief priests and Pharisees were swirling as the parable reminds them of their own history with the prophets. It's a sore subject and Jesus will later echo their assessment of this history when he has them say "*If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets*" (Mat 23:30). The climax of the parable sees the sending of the landowner's son, the sharecropper's conspiracy to kill him and his murder outside the vineyard. When Jesus asks the chief priests and elders what will be the fate of the sharecroppers when the landowner arrives, they answer with what amounts to their own judgment: they will be put to death and the land will be leased to others. In the verse after the end of our reading this Sunday, the chief priests and Pharisees are so enraged that they seek to arrest Jesus, putting into motion the very thing that will make them liable to judgment.

I'm in awe of this parable because Jesus is putting a focus on what is happening right at that very moment. Jesus could fairly tell them: "Do you not see what you are doing? The very thing you condemn your ancestors for doing YOU are doing right now! You are right now in danger of fatally missing the point!" By asking them how the landowner would respond, he is in fact asking them to judge themselves. This judgment can be even more consequential than the coming judgment of the Father at the end of the time.

Every moment of our life is like this. I believe that each moment Jesus is demanding each of us to judge our actions for ourselves, seeing our failures as the Father sees them. He invites us to see ourselves through God's eyes because eventually we will have to face God and everything we've done and everything we are will be laid bare. Before him, our pride and justifications will necessarily melt away. Things will be as they are and I don't think we'll have much to argue about.

It's also worth mentioning that I think that implicit in this reading is a call to repentance. Jesus' enemies really can turn away from what they're doing. The call to examine the situation for themselves and to judge the characters in the story allows them enough critical distance to see things as they are. This reminder is an act of mercy, desiring to restore the accused back to life. When we examine ourselves, may we be spurred to turn our lives around and do the right thing.

-Tom Acemoglu

OCTOBER 8, 2023

FRIENDS

IN FAITH

Join us on a journey of faith and transformation! Please join the Friends and Faith Book Club for our next book "No Turning Back" by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC A powerful story of conversion and grace as we delve into Father Donald Calloway's remarkable transformation from a runaway teen to a Marian priest. Discover the inspiring role of God's grace and the love of the Blessed Mother in his life.

Tuesday, October 17th @ 6:30 pm.
Meeting in the Parish Center or over Zoom

Whether you're already familiar with the book or curious to learn more, they'd love to have you join the Book Club. For further details or to express your interest in joining, feel free to reach out to Aaron or Jennifer Pfohlter at 518-495-1891 or aaron.pfohlter@gmail.com.

DAY TRIP W/HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Join us as we travel to NYC on Monday, Dec 4th to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The cost is \$146. for bus and show ticket. The bus will depart Holy Trinity Parish Center at 9:30 AM and leave NYC at 6:30 PM. Show time is 2 PM and there will be time for shopping, sight seeing and Christmas window browsing. Reservations close on October 29 or when seats are filled. Payment can be made to Journeys By Julie at 112 Masten Ave, Cohoes, or can also be dropped off at the Holy Trinity parish office in an envelope clearly marked "NYC Trip". Checks should be made payable to Journeys By Julie LLC. Payment is nonrefundable unless a replacement is found.

TRUNK OR TREAT!



OCT 29 12PM-2PM
SOUTH PARKING LOT

TO REGISTER YOUR TRUNK TO GIVE OUT CANDY,
GO TO STAMBROSELATHAM.COM

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Night of Praise October 26th 6 PM

FRIENDS

IN FAITH

FRIENDS IN FAITH meetings are scheduled on the Tuesday of each month as follows:

October 3 at 6:30 PM

October 10, 17, 24, 31 following the 12:10 Mass.

All meetings are in held in the parish center.
Call Mary Kay for more information
(518-366-9741)

Giving Tree 2023

Again, this year Holy Trinity, St. Ambrose, and St. Michael's are working together to better serve our community at Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help with tag making, transporting gifts from each parish to the Holy Trinity Parish Center, last minute shopping, sorting and preparing the gifts for the families to pick up. If you are interested in assisting with this endeavor, please email robyn.spateholts@rcda.org or call Kathy Kingsley at 518-435-5949.

OCTOBER 8, 2023

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Knowing God through Faith & Reason

Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(October 8th -29th)

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/>

Mary's Circle of Love

We meet the 3rd Thursday of
each month from
10:00am-11:30am at the
Northern Pass Apartment and
Condo Community, 62
Santanoni Dr, Cohoes. Our
mission is to grow spiritually by
sharing our faith stories. We
pray, laugh, and share food as
we journey with each other.
Please reach out to Mary Kay
Frederick (518-366-9741) for
details. All are welcome.

WEEKLY ROSARY WITH THE ALBANY DIOCESAN CURSILLO MOVEMENT

You are invited to call in and join in reciting the Holy Rosary every Monday at 7PM during the month of October. Directions follow: On Mondays at 6:50pm EST please call this telephone number (1+917-900-1022) at the prompt dial in the code: 841-5606#. (don't forget the #) This will allow you to join in, it's a free call, the rosary starts promptly at 7PM.

Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each
month from 9:50AM -10:50AM
in room 307

Next Meeting: November 5th

Contact Darlene at 518-496-1886
for more information.

The Mom's Group will be
doing a family friendly apple
picking trip October 14th.
All are welcome to join us.
We'll meet at Indian Ladder
Farms at 10:30am.

You are cordially invited to the



November 6, 2023
The Polonaise Ballroom
225 Washington Ave. Ext.
Albany, NY
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

HONORING:

Linda Callahan Cavanaugh

Class of 1973

Joseph Geiger

Class of 1960

Father Brian Kelly

St. Ambrose Church Pastor

Maureen Stapleton

(posthumously)
Class of 1944

\$150 per person
R.S.V.P. by October 13, 2023

Learn More @ catholiccentralschool.org/centennial-dinner

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Faith Of Our Fathers

Henri Hemy (1818-1888), an esteemed organist and composer, wrote the musical setting for "Faith of Our Fathers." The composition was originally written in honor of Catherine of Alexander, a fourth century lady who was put death because of her faith.

Frederick Faber (1814-1863) wrote the lyrics and grew up in a vicarage and seemed destined for priesthood in the Anglican Church. Following his education at Balliol College, Oxford, he became a Fellow at Oxford and in 1837 took Holy Orders as a priest in the Church of England. Ultimately, he converted to the Catholic Church. Faber's original second verse, which would not be acceptable to Protestants, originally read: "Faith of our Fathers! Mary's prayers Shall win our country back to thee. "

In order to make the hymn more acceptable to a wider non-Catholic listener, some alterations were necessary. The second verse now reads: "Faith of our fathers, we will strive, To win all nations unto thee" This newer version still exists in Catholic hymnals today.

Faith Of Our Fathers

Music: Henri Hemy (1818-1888)
Lyrics: Frederick Faber (1814-1863)

**Join Mary's Circle
of Love in
praying the Rosary!**

**Mondays after
12:10p Daily Mass
in the Chapel.**

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.



OCTOBER 8, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 7th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Madelon Kana
Frances Craven
Intentions of Carl Hauser
Betty Tracey
Martha Kuzmyn
Janet M. Frisbie
Aleck Sally

Sunday, October 8th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Roland J. Marsolais
Nicholas Sabatino
Andrew Lasek
James J. Pender
Aleck Sally

Sunday, October 8th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Mary Ann Reinhart
Tommy Howansky
Donald Lebentritt
Maria Bertrand

Monday, October 9th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Intentions of Cindy Polar
Pauline Bowden

Tuesday, October 10th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Roy Seipel
Donna Brant

Wednesday, October 11th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Thomas Hipwell
Marjorie Ostrander

Thursday, October 12th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Frederick & Virginia Alston
Cathy DeSchino
Cathy Favata

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday October 14th — 4pm &

Sunday, October 15th — 9am & 11am

All TBD

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

9/24/2023:

9/25/2022:

\$13,193.19

\$13,854.97



ONLINE GIVING

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



The Latham-Colonie Knights of Columbus Chicken Parmesan Dinner

Jude and Steve Chiera are your hosts for
the evening!

Saturday October 14th, 2023
328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

"Take Out" and "Dine- In" options available!
Serving from 4pm to 7pm.

Menu: Chicken Parmesan, Pasta, Salad, Dessert.
Donation: \$15 per person

Make your Reservations now at 518-783-0572
www.lathamcoloniekofc.com/dinners&events

HAILEY'S CORNER



Bringing about
the Kingdom on
Earth is no small
task. Everyone
must do their
part. What's
something you
can do this week
to help bring us
a little closer to
achieving that
goal?