



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



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Gospel reading this Sunday is fairly well known, remembered for Jesus' clever reply to "*repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God*" when asked if the people should pay taxes or not (Matt 22:21). Our takeaway might be to acknowledge that God should get his due. We might see a tacit acceptance of the reality of paying taxes. But I think there's more going on in this short exchange that's worth exploring.

First, this scene occurs in the "end game" of Jesus' life and ministry and we're following the trajectory to his crucifixion. We'll notice that Jesus' exchanges with the various Jewish groups claiming to speak for the tradition will be more intense. Jesus is making people angry as his opponents lay out traps for him. The Pharisees will figure into the next three Sunday readings, who plot "*how they might entrap Jesus in speech*" (22:15). It's interesting that they pose this question along with the Herodians, people who supported the reign of the Herods, themselves being puppet rulers for the Romans and who had a vested interest in the people paying taxes. The Pharisees at once may collaborate with the status quo while still desiring that a messianic king in the line of David would rule as God had promised. All this to say that these aren't likeminded parties conspiring against Jesus.

Knowing that this exchange is the fruit of a previous plot, we can judge their words to Jesus as flattery and at times ironic, saying "*Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status*" (21:16). Though the Pharisees are considered masters, they are pretending to be students to better humiliate Jesus with their impossible question, a common practice that would increase the status of the questioner. Notice that these same words could just as easily come from one of Jesus' disciples. This shows us a dangerous position we might even find ourselves in. Our words can confess the truth about Jesus in our prayers while our intentions might be far from him.

Jesus asked whether it was lawful or not to pay the census tax. His questioners know the answer but they know that either of the answers that they envision Jesus giving would cause him derision by one side or the other. If he says they should not pay taxes he would be seen as those revolutionaries who claimed the same before him, and Rome would deal with him accordingly. But if he agrees that they should pay taxes he would be seen as a collaborator with the Empire, opposing what most people felt regarding the matter.

Instead of giving a straight answer, Jesus tells them to show him a coin. It's worth considering what was on that coin, a silver denarius. We see from the

examination of the coin that it has the image of the emperor, in this case Tiberius Caesar. Because it had an image of the emperor, it was something of a taboo because Jewish sensibilities avoided producing images of the emperor. Locally minted coins did not have such images on them. The inscription on the coin would have said "TIBERIUS CAESAR, SON OF THE DIVINE AUGUSTUS". In other words, it's the image of the son of a "god", as the previous Caesar had been declared a god (and as Julius Caesar had been before him). The opposite of the coin would've depicted Augustus' wife Livia as the goddess Roma. Merely by asking his questioners to produce the coin, he has shamed them. Why would they as the devout among the people be seen carrying an idolatrous coin?

It's here that Jesus' response to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God can be fully appreciated. The mere reality of that coin reveals what is wrong with the world. Emperors carry on as gods while the pious collaborate with their establishment, just as they conspire against the one God sends as his Messiah to usher in the reign of God. Each of us can become guilty of this. We can accept the status quo without considering how it wrongly frames the boundaries between what it considers to be God's domain and its own. Moreover, the status quo will often encroach on to what had been previously seen as God's domain. Once, not long ago, our society marked out our holy days, for example. Stores were closed and sports avoided the times of worship. This has obviously changed.

But notice the subtlety of it all. It was society that told us what belonged to God and what belonged to itself. And society constantly changes its mind, shifting with the breeze. And yet, what is God's domain? Is it certain hours of certain days (which almost no ones respects anymore)? Is it certain practices in accordance with certain laws? Is it only parts of our life rather than the rest?

Or is rather God the Lord of it all? In reality, the coin that the Pharisees and Herodians produced was God's coin, minted from silver issued from the earth he created. So was the domain claimed by Rome and all rulers who laid such a claim both before and after them. It's easy to forget this. As God's Messiah and as true Son of God, Jesus is the Lord of coins, lands, Pharisees, Herodians, Caesars and all things. If he is Lord then all domains are part of his Kingdom. What's at stake here is not paying lip service to God but an entire way of life. In his Kingdom there is true peace and all are provided for. It's a better way, far better than what those who pass themselves off as gods and kings can imagine.

-Tom Acemoglu

OCTOBER 22, 2023

Night of Praise

October 26th
6 PM

**ST. MICHAEL'S MOVIE MATINEE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023 AT 1PM**

St. Michael's in Cohoes Movie Matinee selection is *St. Francis of Assisi: His Life and Miracles*. Beautifully filmed on location in Assisi and other Italian towns where Francis made an impact, this film tells the story of his whole life, from wealthy young Francis who dreamed of being a great knight, to becoming transformed by a mystical experience of the Lord who asked Francis to "rebuild my Church", leaving all his possessions and uniting himself with his "Lady Poverty". As usual, soups, sandwiches, chips, beverages, popcorn and desert will be served. This time we are having a brownie sundae bar for dessert!! This is a free event. Please bring a friend. All are welcome. Door prizes will be given. The movie runs one hour. There will be plenty of time to have lunch, socialize, see the movie and still get to 4pm Mass if you choose. Please contact Kathleen Burns with any questions: (518)-428-6353.

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

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.**

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/>**

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.

OCTOBER 22, 2023

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Sunday Before & After the Masses
in the Parish Center Lobby.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: stambroselatham.com
Facebook: @stambrosechurch
Email: salatham@rcda.org
YouTube: youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia

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

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)

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.

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Attention all ladies - you're invited to a breakfast sponsored by the Albany Chapter of Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women, on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. The breakfast will be held at The Vista Ballroom at the Van Patten Golf Club in Clifton Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) The guest speaker is Sr. Danielle Marie Baran, CR. Come hear Sr. Danielle's vocation story & how God has used her many talents to evangelize multiple age groups in parish families.

The registration fee is \$30 by mail (postmarked no later than 11/1/23) & mailed to Albany Magnificat, PO Box 340, Clifton Park, NY 12065. Cost is \$32 if registering online at <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ny-albany/>. Registration deadline is November 1st.

For more information email us at albanyamagnificat@gmail.com or call Kathleen Carroll @ 518-930-8380.

Our dedicated Media Ministry Head, Chris Cooper, is leaving us, and we are looking for someone to fill his very big shoes! If you are technologically savvy and interested in getting more involved in liturgical ministry, reach out to the office for more information. We are looking for a new Media Ministry Head, as well as Media Ministers, and Live-Stream Ministers.

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.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Prayer of St. Francis

Sebastian Temple (1928–1997) wrote the music for this prayer and is one of the most influential folk Mass composers from the era immediately following the Second Vatican Council. He grew up in South Africa and later (1951) moved to London, where he worked for the BBC on news broadcasts relating to South Africa. After moving to America in 1958, he converted to Catholicism and joined the Franciscan Third Order. Based in Los Angeles, he began composing music, both secular and religious, including music for the folk Mass.

He is best remembered for "The Prayer of St. Francis" (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace), one of the most popular songs for worship ever written. The song was part of his first collection of liturgical music, *Happy the Man*, songs about St. Francis of Assisi. "The Prayer of St. Francis" was sung by the Westminster Abbey Boys Choir at the funeral of Princess Diana in 1997 (it was one of her favorite songs). It is an anthem of the Royal British Legion and is usually sung every November at the Service of Remembrance at Royal Albert Hall, London. It was sung by Sinéad O'Connor, who died earlier this year, on the Princess Diana tribute album.

*1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

*2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console. To be understood as to understand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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.

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

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

OCTOBER 22, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 21st — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Richard Bango
Frederick & Virginia Alston
Emilio Gabriele
Gerry Yarter
Thomas & Bruce Clear
Dominic Crupi, Jr.

Sunday, October 22nd — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Blaise Agnew
Jerry Yarter
Donald Lebentritt
William Hutchings
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pennock
Constantine Doukas

Sunday, October 22nd — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Francesco Rotiroti
Joseph Rizzo
Mary Forward
Carol M. Dugan Hebert

Monday, October 23rd — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Susan Bell
David Placido
Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard

Tuesday, October 24th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Intentions of Steve Shook
Roy Seipel

Wednesday, October 25th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Paul Coneski Sr.
Frederick & Virginia Alston
Bernadette Henry
Rozanne Fusci

Thursday, October 26th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Robert & Katherine Langdon
Mary K. Zangrando
Judy Hart

St Ambrose, Pray for us!

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, October 28th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, October 29th — 9am & 11am

Fr. Rutherford

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

10/8/2023:

10/9/2022:

\$14,284.80

\$15,772.50



ONLINE GIVING

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

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



American Red Cross
Eastern New York Region



HAILEY'S CORNER



"Remove from your
lives the filth and
uncleanness of vice.
Your upright lives
must make you
the salt of the earth
for yourselves
and for the rest of
humankind..."

-St John of
Capistrano