

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

love you, my Lord, my strength. Psalm 18

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Every so often I find myself surprised by what I find in the Sunday readings, not so much by what is said but by what is left out. If you follow our 3 year cycle of Sunday readings you cover a lot of the Bible. If you also read the daily readings (which are on a 2 year cycle), you read a whole lot more. This was one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). We are now exposed to the Bible a whole lot more. Our lectionary has even been adapted in many Protestant churches (other than certain books that are omitted from the Protestant Bible) because it really is a fuller picture of the biblical witness.

But what surprised me today is our first Sunday reading from Exodus. In it are a series of laws. We shouldn't be so surprised to see them if we have even a passing interest in Judaism, who reflect the root of our faith (Rom 11:18). At the heart of Judaism is the Torah. Torah in Hebrew means law or instruction and the Torah comprises the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). The Law is comprised of a series of mitzvot or commandments. We are likely aware of ten of these mitzvot which we know as the Ten Commandments. But Jewish Law had many mitzvot beyond the ten, numbered by the early rabbis at 613. The importance of the Law to Judaism can not be overstated. The Law was not the arbitrary commands of a capricious deity. They were a gift from God that guided the whole of human life. They were an expression of God's covenantal love with humanity. They were an act of mercy. They were a sign that God did not want his people to stumble around in the dark. Understanding and applying this Law has been paramount in Jewish life since the Torah was codified. In the late 2nd/early 3rd century, a collection of rabbinical sayings known as the Mishnah helped, in conjunction with the traditions of the rabbis, to apply these laws to a contemporary situation. Later, the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds would comment on this entire body of teaching and has served as the guide to Jewish life ever since. At the heart of it all is the Torah, God's Law revealed to his people.

It was today that I was surprised to find that we read relatively little of this Law in our Lectionary. In the 3-year cycle we read two passages from Leviticus and three from Numbers. Exodus and Deuteronomy fare a little better until we see that many of the Exodus passages are narrative and not laws and many of the Deuteronomy passages comment on the Law generally without describing individual laws. There's a reason for this and our Gospel reading is part of it. A scholar of the law asks Jesus which commandment/mitzvah is greatest. Jesus provides an answer that we're all likely familiar with: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. [Deut 6:5] This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18]. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments" (Matt 22:37-40). Jesus distills the essence of all of the commandments. This rings true if you were to look at the better known Ten Commandments. The first commandments seem to cover love of God and the second set seems to cover love of neighbor. This is similar to a response that the Jewish sage Hillel gave to a Roman who asked if he could sum up the whole Law while standing on one foot. Hillel responded: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to another; that is the entire Torah. The rest is interpretation. Go study." (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a:6).

Part of our neglect of the Law has to do with the first great controversy in the earliest Church, when we questioned whether non-Jewish/Gentile Christians ought to follow the whole of the Law. It's important to note that the Law covered numerous aspects of life. St. Thomas Aguinas would later delineate three categories of laws in the Torah: the moral law, the ritual law, and the penal law. Based on his reading of the New Testament, he judged the last two as being fulfilled by Jesus, who is the new "merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17). The rituals find their fulfillment in Jesus' sacrifice and the penal laws (those Torah laws that speak to punishment for transgressions) are fulfilled in his atonement. The moral law, however, still stands according to St. Thomas. It is still a guide to right and wrong in God's eyes. The laws of the Torah are something of a lightning rod in contemporary culture. We may not understand them. We may need to consider its rituals and penalties in light of Christian revelation. But we ignore them to our peril. I wish we read them more and struggled with them because I believe that real growth happens in that struggle. We may ask why God would command this or prohibit that but it's better to have the conversation than not have it at all.

Which brings us at last to our first reading this Sunday. These laws reveal God's heart to the oppressed as he prohibits the people from oppressing foreigners, from exploiting widows and orphans, and from extorting a borrower with interest. He is revealed as the defender of the oppressed and it is our own exploitative practices that are under attack. In harming others, we find ourselves subject to God's wrath. This is far cry from stereotypes of the Torah as being a burden to the people. It's interesting that even at the time of Jesus people found ways around these particular laws which is why Jesus reveals their essence as love of God and neighbor. If we neglect them in the particular, we neglect that essence.



THANKSGIVING BAG PROJECT

We will be giving supplies for Thanksgiving dinner again this year. Beginning this weekend,

bags can be picked up at the church entrances. On the bag you will have a food list and instructions as to when to return

to church. Please consider taking part in this Thanksgiving endeavor as we remember those who are less fortunate than us. Please donate no later than Sunday, November 11th.

PRICE CHOPPER & HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS IN AMOUNTS OF \$5, \$10, \$15 & \$20 FOR PURCHASE OF A TURKEY WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.

Thank You and God Bless You!!!

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/

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)



Please come after the 11:00am mass for a Community Open House! Meet and greet with staff and students, take a tour of the facility, and see a beautiful display of "vintage" Crusader gear! Plus they'll be serving cider and donuts!

Holy Days: November

9am

(w/Catholic Central School)

ALL SAINTS DAY 11/1/2023

12:10pm

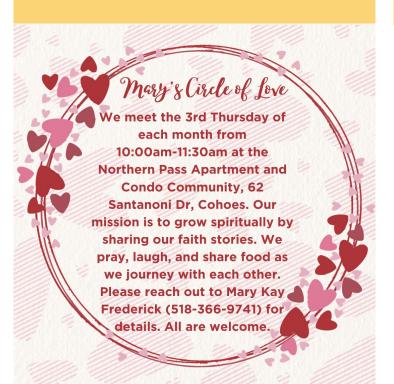
5:30pm

ALL SOULS DAY 11/2/2023

12:10pm

5:30pm







10am in the Chapel on 11/4/23 Please bring your rosary.



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 albanymagnificat@gmail.com or call Kathleen Carroll @ 518-930-8380.



The Latham-Colonie
Knights of Columbus
Turkey Dinner

Saturday November 4th, 2023 328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

"Take Out" and "Dine- In" options available!

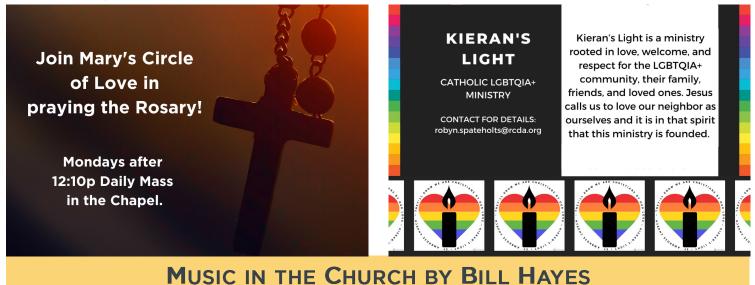
Serving from 4pm to 8pm.

Menu: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, all the fixings, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

Donation: \$15 per person. Reservations

Requested

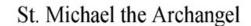
Make your Reservations now at 518-783-0572
Proceeds benefit Community Maternity Services,
Albany, N.Y.

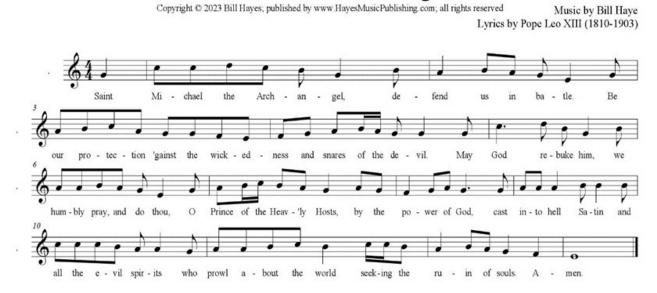


St. Michael the Archangel

The Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel ("St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.....") was recently printed in this bulletin. Whenever I tried to recite this prayer from memory, for whatever reason, I struggled to recite it correctly. When this happens, I set the prayer to music, to make it a little easier for me to recall it in the future (shown below.)

In 1886, Pope Leo XIII instituted what would later be known as the "Leonine Prayers" after Mass (something familiar to those who have attended a Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form). These prayers include the well-known Prayer to St. Michael. Not much is known for certain about the origin of this prayer, but it is believed by many historians that Pope Leo had a profound vision that sparked its creation.





MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Saturday, October 28th — 4pm</u> <u>Fr. Deimeke</u>

Roland Marsolais Pamela Colligan Paul Van Alstyne Sr. Helen Mazur Godfrey Leydon and Gilhooley Families Mary Ann Hilton

<u>Sunday, October 29th — 9am</u> <u>Fr. Rutherford</u>

Teresa Popolizio Marion Kardas Pricilla Hogan Donald Lebentritt Mr. and Mrs. Frank Casale

<u>Sunday, October 29th — 11am</u> Fr. Rutherford

Vittorio Renda Lawrence Casabonne Joan Wright Joseph C Bozicevich Victor Manuel Gonzalez Lopez

<u>Monday, October 30th — 12:10pm</u> Fr. Kelly

Roy Seipel Fr. Michael Kolodziej Intentions of Stacey Smith

<u>Tuesday, October 31st — 12:10pm</u> <u>Fr. Kelly</u>

Susan Bell Helen & Faustin O'Neil

<u>Wednesday, November 1st — 12:10pm</u> Fr. Kelly

Keith Kinnicutt LuAnn Abbott

<u>Thursday, November 2nd— 12:10pm</u> <u>Fr. Kelly</u>

Frederick & Virginia Alston Rosalita Biazon Rodrigo Jagolino Carmelita Jagolino Rosalinda Catadman Eugene Hahn

St Ambrose, Pray for us!

OFFERTORY

Current Year Previous Year

<u>10/15/2023</u>: <u>1</u>

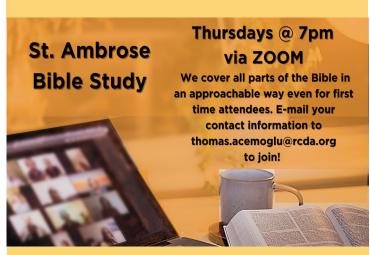
10/16/2022:

\$18,678.06

\$14,099.62



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



WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

<u>Saturday, November 4th — 4pm</u> <u>Fr. Deimeke</u>

<u>Sunday, November 5th — 9am & 11am</u> Fr. Kelly



