



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

I 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 Aquinas 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.

-Tom Acemoglu

OCTOBER 29, 2023

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/>

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!!!

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)



Noon — 2pm

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 5, 2023

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!

OCTOBER 29, 2023

Holy Days: November

**ALL SAINTS
DAY
11/1/2023**

9am
(w/Catholic Central
School)

12:10pm

5:30pm

**ALL SOULS
DAY
11/2/2023**

12:10pm

5:30pm

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.



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 albanyamagnificat@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.

OCTOBER 29, 2023

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

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.

St. Michael the Archangel

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Music by Bill Hayes

Lyrics by Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903)

The musical score is written for a single voice in 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection 'gainst the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

OCTOBER 29, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 28th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

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

Sunday, October 29th — 9am

Fr. Rutherford

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

Sunday, October 29th — 11am

Fr. Rutherford

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

Monday, October 30th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Roy Seipel
Fr. Michael Kolodziej
Intentions of Stacey Smith

Tuesday, October 31st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Susan Bell
Helen & Faustin O'Neil

Wednesday, November 1st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Keith Kinnicutt
LuAnn Abbott

Thursday, November 2nd — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

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

St Ambrose, Pray for us!

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

10/15/2023:

10/16/2022:

\$18,678.06

\$14,099.62



ONLINE GIVING

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

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!

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, November 4th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, November 5th — 9am & 11am

Fr. Kelly

HAILEY'S CORNER

