

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



NATIONAL

Vocation Awareness Week



31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our first reading and our Gospel reading give us two examples of a messenger from God being sent to criticize religious practices.

I think it's probably easier to think of what these messengers said about "them" and a lot harder to see what they're saying about us. Let's take a look at what they're saying and see how we feel about their criticisms.

In our first reading the Lord speaks through the prophet Malachi, offering a criticism of the priests from the tribe of Levi. They were not offering sacrifices properly and they were not living the kind of life that a representative of God should live. They had also been unjust in their dealings with the people. His criticisms are pointed and sharp. God will reject their offerings which are at the heart of the people's worship. He says that the covenant he made with the Levites is made void because of their actions.

These Levites have forgotten their true identity and their mission and have instead rested on the status they think it affords them. They have cut corners and exploited their position. Why does God tell them this? First, he is looking to protect those who have been exploited by these priests. Second, and this is important, he says this in an attempt to rehabilitate them. He is using the language of shame that their culture used when they wanted to bring someone back in line. Later in the book (3:2-4), the Lord likens this process to a refiners fire. *"He will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness."* Only then will their sacrifices be acceptable again. The Lord is telling them that right worship of God must be rooted in righteousness which is exemplified in their service. He loves the priests and he understands the importance of the priesthood, but first things must come first.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus offers sharp criticism of scribes and the Pharisees. It's easy to simply see them as the leaders but in the diversity of Jewish expression in the first century a group like the Pharisees was but one group interpreting the Law and the prophets before the people. It might seem strange, but his criticism is a tacit recognition of their authority, as if to say "they get many things right and that's what makes the wrong so serious". Jesus even says of them *"do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice"* (Mat 23:3). His criticism here is twofold: they focus on showing their piety rather than on an interior transformation and that they don't help people out when laying out the demands of the Law (as they interpreted it).

This is how it applies to "them" but in reality this is speaking to us. We are those priests that the Lord criticizes and we are the Pharisees and scribes that Jesus rebukes. This applies to the laity and the clergy alike.

We didn't mean for it to happen. If you've picked up this bulletin at Mass on Sunday you did what the Lord wanted from you by coming, just as the priests did their service at the Temple. You'll make sure to come on Christmas and on holy days and come Lent you will give up meat on Fridays. You may have special prayers that you like to say and your home may have crucifixes, saint statues, palms from Palm Sunday and holy cards. One day you may have a Catholic funeral Mass and be buried in a Catholic cemetery. The same is true for me and all of these things are good things. But Malachi and Jesus are telling us that this isn't enough.

It isn't enough because the heart of our faith isn't expressions of piety. Piety is a wonderful thing but piety can become like someone who speaks with lots of beautiful and ornate words but whose message has no substance.

The heart of our faith, rather, is our heart being transformed by an encounter with Jesus, so much so that it changes how we live. It is expressed by a life of true service of others (something the priests, scribes, and Pharisees missed). It is love of God and love of neighbor and having that love cover every aspect of our lives. It doesn't make life harder but freer and more joyful. It is much easier to root out sin in our life if it's motivated by love of God. It is natural to worship if your heart is filled with gratitude for the God who transformed your life. Prayer stops being a routine but overflows from a joyful heart. Love transforms things. You will do the seemingly impossible if you love someone enough.

It might seem like a cliché coming from a Church bulletin, but I invite you to renew your own encounter with Jesus. That's the thing that the scribes and Pharisees missed. All of their teaching was supposed to bring people closer to God and here was Jesus, God himself in their midst. All they had ever hoped for was right in front of them, but they missed it because they considered the wrong things as being important.

Meet Jesus in the Gospels. Commit to reading one Gospel straight through. Let his words effect you and let his actions move you. He can always be found in the Gospels. Meet Jesus in the Eucharist. He's always waiting in our chapel. Meet him in service to others, because he's always in those in need. Meet him wherever he can be found.

-Tom Acemoglu

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Unveiling the Mystery of the Eucharist

Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(Nov 5, 12, 19 and Dec 3)

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/>

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.*



The Latham-Colonie Columbiette Buffet Breakfast
Sunday, November 12th, 2023
8:30 am to 11:30 am
328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, an Omelet Station, Home Fries, Corned Beef Hash, Bacon and Sausage, Pancakes and French Toast served w/Warm syrup, A Variety of Cereals and Juices, Bananas and Hot Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate.

Adults - \$12 Children (5-10) - \$6 Under 5 - Free!

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

THANKSGIVING BAG PROJECT

We will be giving supplies for Thanksgiving dinner again this year. At this weekend's masses, 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 12th.**



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!!!

Mom's Group



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

Next Meeting: December 3rd

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



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.

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

PUBLICATION REQUEST



Do you have an event you want us to advertise, or an announcement you want us to share? We can help you get the word out through multiple platforms! Go to stambroselatham.com and click on the button of the guy with the megaphone in the middle of the page. Then fill out a short form, and we do the rest.



Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

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!

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OFFICE HOURS

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



Mary's Circle of Love

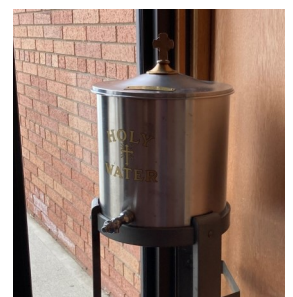
We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00am-11:30am at the Northern Pass Apartment and Condo Community, 62 Santanoni Dr, Cohoes. Our mission is to grow spiritually by sharing our faith stories. We pray, laugh, and share food as we journey with each other. Please reach out to Mary Kay (518-366-9741) or Marion (518-785-1992) for details.

VOCATION? YOU? IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

If you know a woman under 50 who is looking for a wonderful life serving others, please scan the code below, or visit <https://csjcarondelet.org/join/> to learn more about becoming a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



If you would like Holy Water, the basin in the vestibule at the front of the church has some. Please just bring your own vessel.



NOVEMBER 5, 2023

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

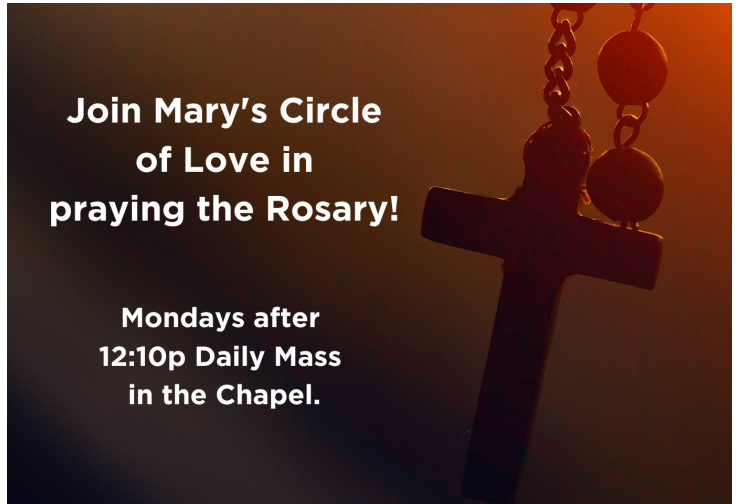


**KIERAN'S
LIGHT**

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.**

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

"The Hymn of Joy" (often called "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" after the first line) is a poem written by Henry van Dyke, who was born on November, 11, 1852 in Pennsylvania. He taught English literature at Princeton between 1899 and 1923. He wrote the hymn in 1907 with the intention of musically setting it to the famous "Ode to Joy" melody of the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's final symphony, Symphony No. 9. Van Dyke told his host at Williams College at Williamstown, Mass, the college president Harry Augustus Garfield that he was inspired by the local Berkshire Mountains in writing this.

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun
above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n
reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of
unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow,
flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain, Call us to
rejoice in Thee.*

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 4th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

David Nicholas
John Zach
Varkey Cyriac
Gerry Yarter
James J. Wunderlich
Mel Andrew O'Hanlon

Sunday, November 5th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Sr. Barbara Maria
Gerald Yarter
Frederick Howell
Donald Lebentritt
Gary LaFountain

Sunday, November 5th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Marcella Ciampolillo
Pino Cavallo
Maureen E. Geracitano
Tim Girvin
Peter J. Ferrara

Monday, November 6th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard

Tuesday, November 7th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

David Nichols
Margie Finn

Wednesday, November 8th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Roy Seipel
Diane Gray LaValley

Thursday, November 9th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Intentions of Joseph Carl
Judy Hart
Mary Durrick

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, November 11th — 4pm

TBD

Sunday, November 12th — 9am & 11am

TBD

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

10/22/2023:

10/23/2022:

\$13,174.50

\$14,563.57



ONLINE GIVING

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

Go to our
website to
stay up to date
with the issues
our diocese is
currently
facing.



"Come to me, all you that are weary and
are carrying heavy burdens, and I will
give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ALBANY

HAILEY'S CORNER



When life
gives you
more than
you can
stand,
perhaps it's
time to kneel.