



Saint **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ROOTED IN CHRIST

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



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There's so much about our liturgy that doesn't change. We hear and say the same basic parts week after week with little variation and I think that's part of the comfort we find in the Mass. But not everything is the same. Prefaces, prayers over the offerings, and collects can change from Mass to Mass to better reflect the season we're in. Advent has a mood of expectation. Lent is flavored with prayers for repentance. Easter reveals life in the wake of Jesus' resurrection. There's always something a little different happening each Mass and a deeper level of participation is available to us if we key into those differences.

This is especially true of our readings. They follow the same themes as these other prayers and, if we follow them, they reveal a great drama unfolding from the beginning of the liturgical year in Advent to the end of the liturgical year leading into Advent. We're in that "endgame" right now. The flavor of this season is apocalyptic. That is to say that we are hearing and praying things that have us considering the end of time, the second coming of Christ, his Lordship, and life after death. The prayer over the offerings this Sunday reveals this: *"Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord."* We're looking towards our end and you can see this in our Gospel reading.

Jesus tells the story of a man entrusting each of his three servants with a vast sum of his own money. He gives to them *"each according to his ability"* (Matt 25:15) so that one received five talents (which in our language we might say thousands or millions of dollars), one received two talents, and the last received one. He is leaving them and in his time away it is assumed that they do something with the money to further their master's wealth. Seeing how this story ends, we might think that this story is a lesson on being wise with money or to be productive with what we have. I know that at varying times in my life I would view a story like this as a life lesson that may or may not speak to my situation in life. It didn't always seem applicable to me.

But, true to where we are in the Church year, this story is about the end. In this story the master is Jesus and those hearing Matthew's Gospel would've been able to recognize themselves as the servants to whom much has been entrusted. After the resurrection, the Master has gone away but there is a certainty that he will return again. When the Master returns, each of the servants will be asked to give an account of what they did in the time in between his leaving and his return.

Suddenly, this story seems much bigger. It includes not only Matthew's first hearers but us as

well. Like them, we are a people eagerly awaiting his return. This expectation is absolutely fundamental to what it means to be a Christian. Often, we think about going to him but it has been the attitude of the Church since apostolic times that he is *coming to us*. This story becomes immediately relevant to us by telling us a few things. First, like I mentioned, that Jesus will return. Secondly, we have been entrusted with his wealth. How does that wealth manifest in our lives? In the language of stewardship we call this our time, our talents, and our treasure. God has given us time beyond what is required for us for work and other responsibilities. He has given each of us various abilities, things we can do well that others might struggle to do at all. For many of us, he's allowed us the ability to make a surplus of money beyond what we need to survive. This parable asks this question: Why did God give us these things to begin with?

We see in the parable that the first two servants go on to trade with their talents. That is to say that they engage with the world. They use the Master's wealth as he intended and they prosper. For us, this is when we use all that God has given as he intended. First, the gifts that God has given us should be used to build up the Church, the community gathered in his name. It's why it is essential for each of us to ask ourselves how we use these gifts for the sake of the Kingdom. Most often, people see their abilities as a way to benefit themselves. Others understand that they ought to give back to others in some way. The reality is that your own Church in Latham needs you, needs who you are, needs your abilities to build up God's Kingdom here. Notice I didn't mention money. Money is important (obviously it's the metaphor used in the Gospel reading) but sometimes we fall short of giving ourselves when we reduce the gift to money. This Church needs you. Take this as a plea: get involved if you aren't already. There's some area of parish life that only you can enhance. There's things we could be doing that might only occur to you. There are people in need who need to meet you. There are abilities you have that can make us all better and help us to serve others. From this Church— and I believe this—you can change the world...starting with this community.

We see in the last servant what happens when we bury our talent, when we don't let what we've been given germinate in our world. Each of the servants meet the returning Master in judgment. The first two servants are abundantly blessed for using their talents appropriately. The last one is cast out. When Jesus comes to judge us at the end of time, he will judge us on how we used what he gave us. Thankfully he has given each of us a place where we can manifest those gifts if we so choose.

-Tom Acemoglu

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Reconciliation

Wednesdays 5-6 PM

Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM



**Friends in Faith
Advent Supper Sharing
Saturday, December 2, 2023
(after 4 pm Mass)
in the Parish Center**

Do you have a favorite dish* that you'd like to share, please bring it to the Parish Center before the 4 pm Mass.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the Parish Center, serve the food, and clean up after the event.

Sign-up sheets will be available at all the Masses in the pews. You can drop it in the collection basket after completion or drop it off at the Parish office.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Brown, 518-785-1117, southgatebrown61@gmail.com or Kathy Roop, 518-598-2598, rizzorizzo@aol.com.

*Please note-we do not have access to ovens. Please have your entrée preheated, and if possible, in disposable containers.



St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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/>

HOLY TRINITY ADVENT BRUNCH

The Holy Trinity Evangelization team invites you to an Advent Communion Brunch on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:30 am liturgy at their parish center. The brunch will offer scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, bagels, pastries, breads, coffee and juices. Sign up sheets to attend the brunch will be at both entrances to their church; you may also call the parish office at (518) 237-2373.

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.



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.

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FRIENDS

IN FAITH

Would you like an opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners? What about giving back to our parish family by planning future events for parishioners of all ages? Friends in Faith will meet to gather your ideas for future social and hospitality events.

FRIENDS IN FAITH meetings are scheduled every Tuesday, and are held in the parish center.

Call Mary Kay for more information
(518-366-9741)

Thursday November 30th, at Mater Christi Parish in Albany, Father Dan McHale will give a presentation on the Theology of Suffering from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The presentation will be followed by a Holy Hour with Adoration and Benediction, as well as Confessions from 7:30 pm to 8:30 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!

NOVEMBER 19, 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

Andrae Crouch

Andrae Crouch (July 1, 1942 – January 8, 2015) was an American gospel singer, songwriter, arranger, record producer and pastor. Referred to as "the father of modern gospel music" by contemporary Christian and gospel music professionals. Crouch was known for his compositions "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power", "My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)" and "Soon and Very Soon". He collaborated on some of his recordings with famous and popular artists such as Stevie Wonder, El DeBarge, Philip Bailey, Chaka Khan. Crouch's composition, "Soon and Very Soon" was performed by the Andrae Crouch Choir at the public memorial service for Michael Jackson held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on July 7, 2009.

Soon and Very Soon

Andrae Crouch (1942-2015)

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1. Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King.
2. No more cry - ing there, we are are going going to to see see the the King.
3. No more cry - ing there, we are are going going to to see see the the King.
Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le - lu - ia! We're going to see the King.

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 18th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Chester Morris
Charles & Gloria Barber
Elias Carey
Rosario & Sara Olivetti
Ernest Lavigne
Joseph L. Coleman

Sunday, November 19th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Vincent & Teresa Popolizio
Edwin Guerin, Sr.
Donald Lebentritt
Thomas & Lena Swan
Lynn Stadtlander
Greg Sorrentino

Sunday, November 19th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Deceased members of the King Family
Deceased Members of the Renda Family
Francis Xavier O'Connor
Intentions of Burt Hudson
Intentions of Roberta & Paul Trzcinski

Monday, November 20th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard
Mary Lee Karl Brown

Tuesday, November 21st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Gregory W. Sorrentino
Rozanne Fusci

Wednesday, November 22nd — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Avery Jackson-Dunphy

Thursday, November 23rd — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Frederick & Virginia Alston
James J. Pender
Brian Trombley
Judy Hart

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, November 25th — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, November 26th — 9am & 11am

Fr. Deimeke & Fr. Kelly, respectively

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

11/5/2023:

11/6/2022:

\$19,559.28

\$19,127.25



ONLINE GIVING

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



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

HAILEY'S CORNER



Now that I'm
fully recovered, I
can finally run
around again and
chase tennis
balls! Join me in
thanking the
Lord for the little
blessings He has
given us, which
we sometimes
take for granted.