



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



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What's in a name?

I recently spoke to my daughter about the power of a name. I had her consider what people think when they hear her name. Our name is our reputation. There's a reason why we feel very different feelings when we hear the name "Mother Teresa" versus when we hear the name "Hitler". Their name evokes their reputation and what kind of person they were.

So what do people think when people hear her name? I reflected a bit on our last name and told her a story. We talked about how her mother works in Troy, and that very often people ask her about her last name when they see it on her business card. They ask her if she's related to "the doctor". My father was a physician whose office was in Cohoes. Many of his patients and colleagues are still in the area, and when they realize the connection, they often share warm memories of my father. Even though he's been gone for 18 years, he's still remembered. I shared with my daughter that her last name is now both his legacy, and her legacy. I hope that as a family under our name, we can all honor that.

In our readings today, we are given a glimpse into the power of a name. We are told that Joseph is "*of the house of David*" (Luke 1:27) and Gabriel announces that Jesus will inherit "*the throne of David his father*" (1:32). The name of David is a lasting legacy for the Jewish people. David is remembered as being a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). He was a shepherd, the least of his brothers, that God anointed king over all of Israel through the prophet Samuel. He was chosen to replace the wayward King Saul, and even served in his court. He brought victory after victory for Israel and, at least at the beginning, did not waver in his loyalty to God and to the king he had been chosen to succeed. Through David, God established a line of kings, a dynasty that lasted until the last king of Judah was deposed by the Babylonians. So from about the year 1,000 BCE to the 580's BCE. David was a sign of divine favor and Israel's strength. Later, people remembered the days of David as being happier times.

They also remembered a promise that God had made to David: "*And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will*

raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever" (2 Sam 7:12, 14a, 16). This promise of God stood out because, by the time the larger story of the books of Samuel and Kings had their final form, this promise appeared to have been broken. When the Babylonian Exile ended, David's descendant Zerubbabel returned, but now as a governor of the newly christened province of Yehud in the wider Persian Empire. Eventually, even that remnant of leadership would go away, and by the time of Jesus, the leader of the Jewish nation was the Roman Empire with their client kings or governors ruling over the Jews.

Many people would dream that God would make good on his promise. That's where the belief in the "Messiah" (or "anointed") came from. In the Messianic age, God would once again rule over his people through his anointed one. Behind this was a desire for God to make everything okay again, to erase the centuries of oppression and shame that they experienced. The very name of David evoked the hope of rescue and salvation.

We see in the story of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary that Jesus is all of this and more. He's not only a son of David, an inheritor of David's legacy and throne, but he's also "*Son of the Most High*" (Luke 1:32). The hope of Israel couples with God's deepest desire to rule over his people (1 Sam 8:7) as God does something quite unexpected. And this joining of human and divine lordship is entwined in the paradox of God's own coming as the child of peasants, born not in a palace but a stable, who would live as a carpenter in Galilee until his time would come.

I think it's an understatement to say that I think that David would've been proud of the one who would bear his name. We're inheritors of this name too, because the very name "Christian" bears the memory of God's anointed one. We too reflect this legacy to the entire world and to everyone we meet. May we be worthy of the name Christian as we celebrate the coming of Christ into this world.

-Tom Acemoglu

DECEMBER 24, 2023

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Important Notice:

The parish office will be closed Thursday 12/21/23 - Monday 1/1/24 in observance of Christmas & New Years

**God Bless you,
The St. Ambrose Staff**

ALATEEN MEETINGS

Alateen is for young people whose lives have been affected by someone's drinking. The teens learn that they are not alone and discover ways of coping with their situation. The healing begins by meeting and sharing with other young people. Meetings are held weekly, on Sunday, at St. Edward the Confessor, 569 Clifton Park Center Rd, Clifton Park at 4pm. Any questions can be directed to: cmc.afg.123@gmail.com

Christmas Mass Schedule 2023

**Christmas Eve Mass
4pm - Sunday, December 24th**

**Christmas Day Masses
9am & 11am - Monday, December 25th**

Fr. Kelly will celebrate all Masses.

**There will be NO MASS at 11am
on 12/24 for 4th Sunday of
Advent**

Night of Praise

**Meeting
Christ in the
Cradle,
Eucharist, &
Cross**

**Thursday
January 4th
6pm**

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

**Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(Dec 10 & 17, Jan 7 & 14)**

**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/>**



Due to the high cost of postage, starting in January, we'll be sending large receipt donations via email. Please call the office to make sure our records are up to date. If there is no email on file you will receive your receipt in the mail as always.

Mom's Group



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

Next Meeting: January 7th

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

What if the greatest gift we could give was peace of mind for somebody else?

Help us assist every person who calls our parish in crisis. Look for the flyer at the church entrances, or call the parish office for more details.

Be the Gift

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)

DID YOU KNOW?

A new monastery is being built at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge MA. To learn more about the project and see how you can help, call 413-298-3931.

DECEMBER 24, 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

On Jordan's Bank

On this last day of the Advent season, we'll look at one last Advent hymn "On Jordan's Bank", with the lyrics written by Charles Coffin (1676-1749) who was a French teacher, writer and Jansenist (a system of doctrines in the 17th and 18th century) who was Rector of the University of Paris. Among his writings were several hymns which have been translated into English

In 1712, Coffin became principal of the college at Beauvais, succeeding the historian Rollin. In 1727, he published some of his Latin poems, and in 1736, the bulk of his hymns appeared in the Paris Breviary and Hymni Sacri Auctore Carolo Coffin. In 1755, a complete, two volume edition of his works was published. He ended up writing over 100 hymns.

On Jordan's Bank

Lyrics by Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry, an - noun - cing that the Lord is nigh; A -
2. Then clenched thou be ev - ry sal - va - tion, Lord, Make straight re - the straight the way of our God with - in; Pre -
3. For All praise, e - ter - nal Son to thee whose Ad - vent set thy sure peo - ple free. Shine Whom
5
1. wake and with - har - ken for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of Kings.
2. pare with - in let our herts, he a home, where a - migh - y - come.
3. forth and the Fa - ther light we re - store our and such a to heav'n - ly grace ev - er more.
44. with the

DECEMBER 24, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23rd — 4pm

Fr. Deimeke

Helen, Peter & Stephen Falasco
Lillian Molnar
Richard Bango
Timothy D. Butler
Roland Marsolais
Joan Bruno
Noel Murphy

Sunday, December 24th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Sunday, December 24th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Monday, December 25th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Monday, December 25th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Tuesday, December 26th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Roger Blackman

Wednesday, December 27th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

David Placido
Lorraine Garceau
George Blais

Thursday, December 28th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

St Ambrose, Pray for us!

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, December 30th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, December 31st — 9am

Fr. Deimeke

Sunday, December 31st — 11am

Fr. Rutherford

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

12/10/2023:

12/11/2022:

\$17,236.80

\$19,174.46



ONLINE GIVING

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

FRIENDS

IN FAITH

Friends In Faith Book Club is thrilled to unveil our upcoming schedule! Join us for our next book club meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th, at 6 pm in the Parish Center. On this occasion, we will delve into the enchanting worlds of "Joy to the World" by Scott Hahn and "Manchester Christmas" by John Gray. Copies of these books are available at local libraries in both hardcopy and Kindle formats. Looking ahead to Tuesday, February 20, 2024, we anticipate an engaging discussion on "Champions of the Rosary" by Father Don Calloway. For more details or to become a part of our book club, please don't hesitate to contact Aaron and Jennifer Pfoztzer at Jennifer.pfoztzer@gmail.com or 518-573-6673. Save the dates and be part of our literary journey!



HAILEY'S CORNER



Christmas is almost upon us, and things can get a little hectic. Take some time in a peaceful place for quiet prayer.
"Yule" thank me later.