



*Saint* **AMBROSE**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
**ROOTED IN CHRIST**

518-785-1351 • 347 Old Loudon Road, | Latham, New York 12110 • [www.stambroselatham.com](http://www.stambroselatham.com)

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



**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



A fair measure of how we're doing as a human being is how available we are to others. Lately, people very fairly talk about the need to have healthy boundaries. There is the worry of burn out or manipulation when we make ourselves too available to others. We talk more about codependency and enabling; there are fair concerns for making sure we aren't exploited. But we can take this to extremes, that we become so uninvolved that we don't often make ourselves available. We see an extreme of this in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), a text we won't read on a Sunday again until next year. A man is beaten and robbed, yet a priest and a Levite just pass by the victim on the other side. Only when a Samaritan comes is he tended to. The priest and Levite, known for their holiness and piety, forget God's command to love their neighbor. They are unavailable to him for reasons that they felt were justifiable.

Woody Allen is often attributed for the saying that "90% of life is showing up" and I think there's truth to these words. Making ourselves available is the mark of an involved parent, a dutiful employee, a dependable friend, and a helpful son or daughter. I learned this lesson in a big way over 20 years ago when I became involved with our parish's youth ministry. When I was asked to help out with the teens of our parish, I didn't know what it would mean. Would I have to speak in front of them? Would I have to man the snack table? Would I have to set up or clean up? Sometimes, maybe. But most of the time my time involved me being available to the teens we served. I would play along in the games they played, I'd be a listening ear in small groups, I'd make small talk during unstructured time, or I'd show up to one of their events. What I learned is that by doing this, I could also be available to them if they were going through something hard or if they experienced a breakthrough that they needed to sort out. For me, this is still the model of good ministry. I try to make myself as available as I can to our parishioners and in a special way to parents because they're living the same kind of life I am and there isn't often a lot of spiritual support offered to them. Availability leads to opportunity.

The principle of "showing up" is absolutely true in our relationship with God, but, like our human relationships, it can't end there. We see this in our first reading. Samuel would one day be a great prophet but in the first reading he's still a boy who's being raised by the priests of the Temple. He hears a voice calling him and assumes it's the priest Eli. When he goes to Eli with the words "*Here I am. You called me.*", Eli gently denies he called to him and asks him to go back to sleep. After a few times he realizes that it's the LORD who was calling him and suggests a new reply. When he hears the voice

again, he is to say "*Speak, for your servant is listening*". In other words, he is no longer merely available. He commands the LORD to speak and he is ready to listen.

What are we to make of this? I see in this passage three dispositions that we ought to adopt with regards to God. The first is to make ourselves available to him. The second is to invite him to speak. The third is to listen.

First, to be available to God is to allow ourselves to be at his disposal in any circumstance. Within our capabilities, we should be willing to do what he would want us to do. Back to my analogy with youth ministry, I would sometimes feel a tug on my heart to reach out to a teen who was off on their own or to offer a challenging word to a teen that I knew. For the rest of us it might mean responding to the person begging on the side of the road, advocating for someone at work who's being misrepresented, or mediating a family dispute. God wants to impact any of these circumstances but he usually won't do it without us and we can't do what he wants unless we're available to him.

Second, to invite God to speak is to pray. In particular it involves speaking in the midst of God's silence with boldness and confidence. Implicit in asking him to speak in the belief that he can speak and that he wants to. It's a sign of a deep trust in a God who is not content in leaving us to wander in confusion. I would urge you to find a time and place to speak the words of Samuel to God: "*Speak, for your servant is listening.*" These words urge us to believe in a God who is far more involved than we might give him credit for.

This can be uncomfortable because rarely do we feel any kind of stirring from the LORD. We tend not to hear words, and we might not feel any particular urges towards one thing or the other. We might feel as though we're at the edge of a great canyon, whispering our words into nothingness. But this brings us to our third point, which is to enter into a period of listening. We *must* learn how to listen to God. Over time, I've learned that very rarely do I hear God's voice in words (and for me it's not audible but a sort of voice in my heart). I often do hear God speak through the wisdom of a friend, the witness of the saints,, the words of Scripture, through holy desires, or by responding to needs that I can help with or discerning what may have seemed like a chain of "coincidences" that, upon reflection, were the marks of Divine Providence. God is speaking and, once you get to know his style, you might find him to be quite chatty if we can discern his voice. Lend him your availability, your voice, and your ear and see what he does with them.

-Tom Acemoglu



**JANUARY 14, 2024**



**Father Donald Calloway, MIC  
Guest Speaker**

Fr. Calloway will share his journey from a high school school dropout to a devoted Catholic priest, inspiring us with his compelling talk: **'No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy.'**

**Tuesday 2/13/24 @ 5:30pm**  
St Ambrose Parish  
347 Old Loudon Road  
Latham NY 12110

Book signing & light refreshments to follow  
For more information, contact David Hubicki (518-407-7410) or Jennifer Pfoztzer (518-573-6673).

## **Saved by Adoption: How God Became Our Dad**

Sundays from  
9:50a - 10:50a  
in the Chapel  
(Jan 21st - Feb 18th)

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES? Contact Tom at [thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org](mailto:thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org) or join at <https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

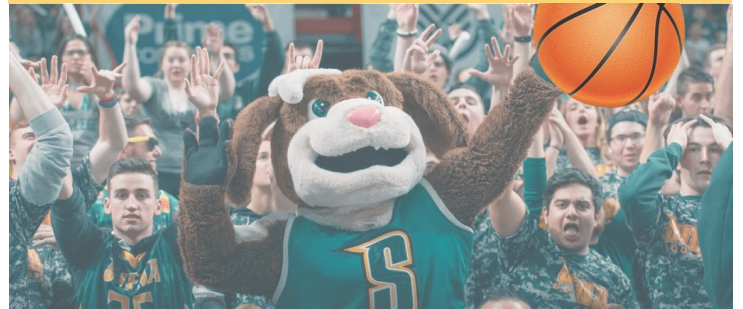
**A new monastery is being built at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge MA. To learn more about the project and see how you can help, call 413-298-3931.**

**St. Ambrose, Latham, New York**

## **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](mailto:Jennifer.pfoztzer@gmail.com) or 518-573-6673. Save the dates and be part of our literary journey!



## **Siena Basketball**

**Siena Saints vs. Saint Peter's Peacocks**

Sunday, January 28th @ 2pm

Tickets are \$12 each.

Please make out checks to St. Ambrose Church.

Deadline for ticket reservations is January 21st. The ticket orders along with the payment can be either put in the collection baskets or dropped off at the parish office. Tickets can be picked up after masses the weekend of January 27th. Please contact Regina Brown at 518-785-1117 or [southgatebrown61@gmail.com](mailto:southgatebrown61@gmail.com) for more information



JANUARY 14, 2024

## Mom's Group



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

Next Meeting: February 4th

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

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.



## 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)

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING A SNOWBLOWER AND REMOVING SNOW?

JOIN OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY AND HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH READY FOR WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS!

PLEASE CONTACT TOM HEALY AT THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM, OR CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE: 518-785-1351



## STUDENTS AT CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE VITA PROGRAM FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Mr. Hannah's Accounting Students work with an alumni to become IRS certified to complete tax returns for people at need in the community. Students in the past have been able to get clients up to \$18,000 in tax refunds. Starting January 15th, you can schedule an appointment at: <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/cash>

For more information, or if you need help with the appointment website, email: [vitagcr@ccrcda.org](mailto:vitagcr@ccrcda.org)



## 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](mailto:cmc.afg.123@gmail.com)



## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

### Here I Am, Lord

On this 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, we'll look at the song "Here I Am, Lord". This song is a Christian hymn written by Dan Schutte in 1979 and published in 1981. The lyrics are based on our 1st reading. (1 Samuel 3: vs.3b-10, 19) and our designated psalm of the day, Psalm 40.

Schutte wrote the song at age 31 when he was studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. He was requested to compose, on short notice, a piece for the ordination Mass of a deacon, incorporating in the lyrics of God's word,

Schutte's hymn is also sung in many Protestant worship services and is found in multiple hymnals and missalettes.

In 2004 a survey conducted by *the Tablet*, an international Catholic magazine, reported "Here I Am, Lord" as readers' favorite. A poll conducted by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians found among members that it came in second among "songs that make a difference".

**Here I Am, Lord**  
Copyright (C) 1981 Dan Schutte & Oregon Catholic Press, all rights reserved Dan Schutte

**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.





JANUARY 14, 2024

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 13th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Rozanne Fusci  
Helen Richmond  
Henry J. Abriel  
Charles and Gloria Barber  
Richard Turcotte

**Sunday, January 14th — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Nichola & Matilda Gallo  
Sal Sestito  
Elizabeth Heaney  
Earl Winchester  
John Clementi

**Sunday, January 14th — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Heather Gordon  
John D. Grego  
Antonio Iannacito  
Rose Vecchione  
Garrett Shover  
Normand Hasenbalg

**Monday, January 15th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

The People of St. Ambrose

**Tuesday, January 16th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Heather Gordon

**Wednesday, January 17th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

John Maiuccaro

**Thursday, January 18th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Cornelius Michael Hanrahan

## WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

**Saturday, January 20th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, January 21st — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, January 21st — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

12/31/2023:

**\$14,129.25**

No previous week  
to compare to.  
2023 had 53  
weeks!



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting  
your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://stambroselatham.com/egiving)

*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.

## HAILEY'S CORNER



We may be  
returning to  
ordinary time,  
but I challenge  
you to keep  
the joy, hope,  
love, and  
peace from  
the Christmas  
season in your  
heart.