

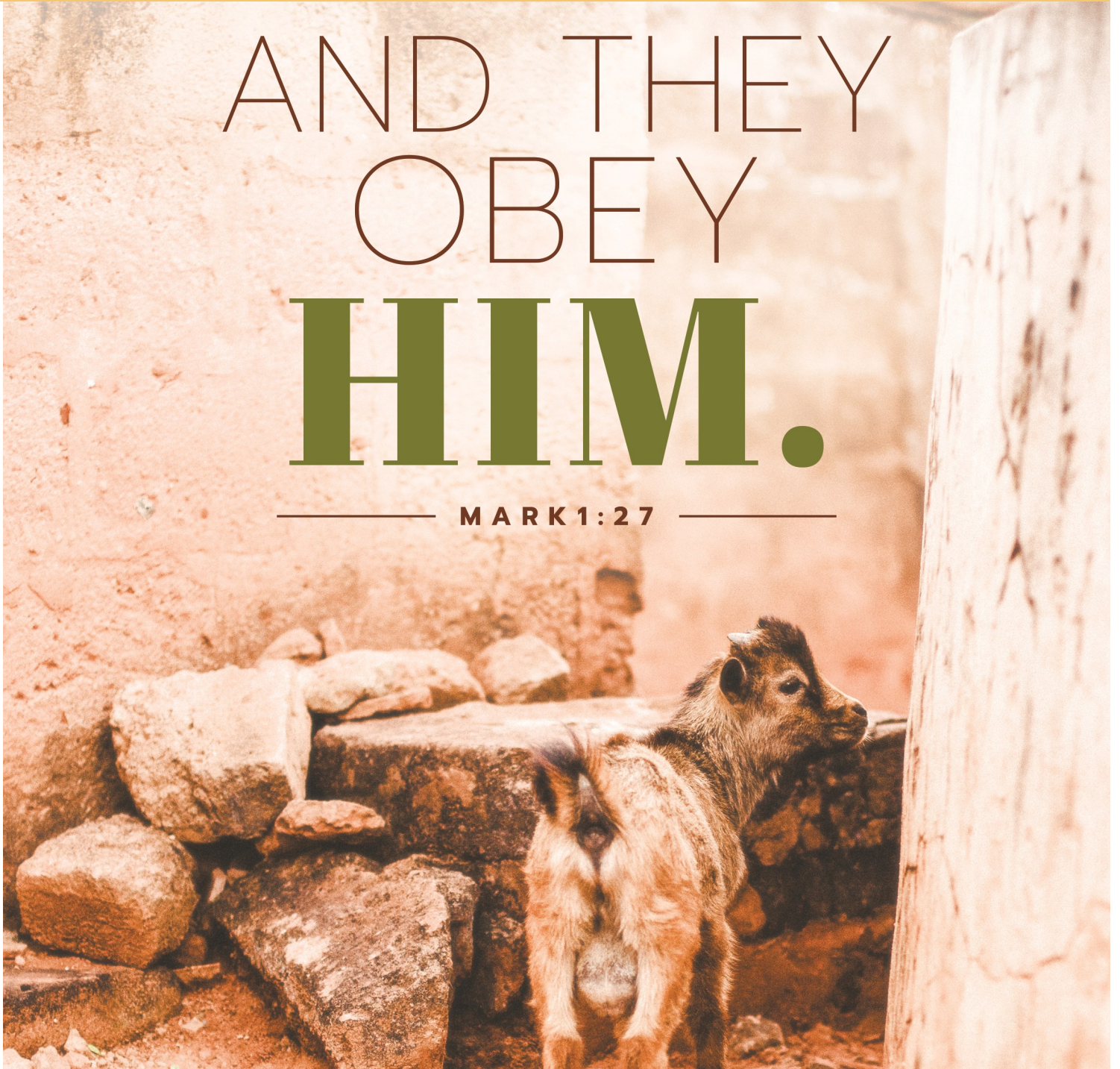
Saint **AMBROSE**
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
ROOTED IN CHRIST

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

AND THEY
OBEY
HIM.

— MARK 1:27 —



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last night I was reflecting on being misunderstood. I have spent most of the last 23 years of my life sharing the Gospel to wide varieties of people. They've been spent before crowds of teenagers or adults. They've been spent before people who struggle to understand our tradition. They've been spent with people who don't believe or have been outright hostile to the faith. They've been spent in front of people where the exchange goes very well: they are engaged or express a genuine desire to understand. They've also been spent in front of people who were angry, not so much with the content of the teaching but who didn't want to listen to anything with regards to faith.

It's been both a tremendous joy and a tremendous cross. Paul says this in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "*If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!*" (1 Cor. 9:16). For Paul, the content of that Gospel is the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and applying the truth that is Jesus to everyday life. It's also a message that is rife for misunderstanding. Earlier in the same letter, Paul says "*we are fools for the sake of Christ*" (1 Cor 4:10). The message at the heart of our faith is just going to sound stupid to other people. Again, in the same book Paul says "*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*" (1 Cor. 1:18). Every time I or any bishop, priest, or deacon stands in front of a group of people to share the Gospel, they are inviting ridicule. And the closer you get to the heart of the truth, the more ridiculous it can sound by the standards of the world around us. And it's precisely that seemingly foolish teaching that is supposed to speak to even the most indignant audience.

I share this with you for a few reasons. One is that the more you live your life in accordance with the Gospel, the more foolish you're going to seem. It's unavoidable. For example, you are hopefully convicted by the proclamation of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection from the dead. That belief changes how you live your life (because, among many things, it confirms Jesus' teachings) and how you approach death (because you don't see death as the end of your existence). These beliefs can give your entire life shape and purpose. But to the rest of the world you believe in things that are not under scientific scrutiny, namely a corpse being brought back to life after three days and in eternal life after death. Beyond

that, the Church teaches many things that are at odds with how people live their lives today, from warnings to not amass great wealth for selfish gain to teachings prohibiting artificial birth control. The more seriously you take it, the more foolish you're going to appear.

The other reason I share this with you is to recognize that if you take these beliefs seriously, beliefs that are extensions of the Gospel, it will often feel like a lonely road. You will not feel like you fit in; you will feel at least somewhat of a disconnect with people you care about. In this, I think we have good company with Jesus, who is disbelieved by his neighbors in Nazareth (Mark 6:5), so much so that he could only work a few miracles for them. He is abandoned by many of his own disciples (John 6:66) because they do not understand his teaching on the Bread of Life. Even his own family thinks he's crazy (Mark 3:21). In other words, you are not alone when your own family and friends think you are a bit odd for how you spend your Sunday mornings and for how you live your life if you choose to take the Gospel seriously.

This was all to preface the last reason I share this all with you. This business of sharing the Gospel is not merely the businesses of clergy or parish faith formation directors. Truth be told, our reach is rather limited. We are usually guilty of "preaching to the choir". The people we reach have likely already made some kind of commitment to the faith (generally) and to being an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ (specifically).

In other words, this business of sharing the Gospel falls on you. It is you who occupy the spaces that the Gospel has failed to penetrate. It is your friends, neighbors, family, and co-workers who do not understand this way of life, probably because someone in their life lived it out poorly or obnoxiously or, as is more likely, they've never been exposed to it at all. In this, I dare you to live well and to live righteously. Not *self*-righteously, which is acting like we're better than other people; because we're not. We are sinners sent among fellow sinners. But through God's grace we are *forgiven* sinners. That same offer is extended to others, but they'll never know if you don't dare to live differently, even foolishly. Because in this we are convicted that, as impossible as this might all seem, it's all true. He brings the dead to life and proposes a way of life that is better than what we'd dream up. Dare to live differently.

-Tom Acemoglu

JANUARY 28, 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.



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



Reconciliation
Wednesdays 5-6 PM
Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

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).



This is a free event, but we ask that you register for a headcount.

Register now at:

<https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/signup/151522>

FRIENDS

IN FAITH

The Friends in Faith Book Club is thrilled to announce our latest book journey - 'Champion of the Rosary' by Father Calloway. Join us for our initial discussion on Tuesday, February 20th, at 6 PM, where we'll delve into Part 1 of this book, covering Pages 1 - 182, as we explore the history of the rosary as a weapon given by God himself.

For additional information or to be a part of our book club, feel free to reach out to Aaron and Jennifer Pfoztzer at Jennifer.pfoztzer@gmail.com or call 518-573-6673. We look forward to welcoming new members!

JANUARY 28, 2024

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Since May of 2018, St. Ambrose has provided a nutritious meal for those in need, locally, through the Matthew 25 Ministry. The community meal is served at the United Church of Cohoes at the corner of Mohawk and Pine Streets in Cohoes. With the cooperation of the St. Ambrose Food Pantry, a small group of dedicated parishioners have planned, prepared, and served the meal on the third Saturday of each month. They're now looking for people who are interested in cooking or serving a meal, to a group of 50 or so people, to join them. No specific skills required; just a heart to feed people. If you think you'd be interested and would like more information please give a call to Lynn Caruso at (518)-598-4555. Thanks for your consideration.

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**

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 or join at
<https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>**

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**10am in the Chapel on 2/3/24
Please bring your rosary.**

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

OFFICE HOURS

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



MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Psalm 95

Today, is the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, with the designated Responsorial Psalm 95 and its response: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts". Psalm 95 is a psalm of praise as well as a call to worship. It is a psalm well suited for use in liturgy, and is regularly used in the beginning of the Liturgy of the Hours. I wrote a version of the psalm, shown below. In addition to being used as a responsorial psalm, it is also the basis for the song, "Come, Worship the Lord" by John Michael Talbot, played occasionally here at St. Ambrose. In addition, John Michael played here at St. Ambrose many years ago in the 1990s that some of the older parishioners may remember.

Psalm 95: If Today

Bill Hayes © 2004; published by www.HayesMusicPublishing.com; all rights reserved

If to - day you hear his voice, har - den not your hearts.

If to - day you hear his voice, har - den not your hearts. Fine

1. Come let us sing, sing - ing in joy to the Lord; ac -
 2. Come let us bow down in wor - ship and praise, and
 3. Oh, that to - day you would hear his voice,

claim the rock of sal - va - tion.
 kneel the be - fore of him who made us.
 har - den not your hearts.

Let us now greet him with thank - ful praise; sing
 He is in our the God and he she - pherds us; me, the
 As in the des - ert they tempt - ed me, though

joy - ful that psalms to him. If to
 flock they had seen now my guides. works.

**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:
robbyn.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 28, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 27th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Rozanne Fusci
Joan Bruno
Henry J. Abriel
John "Nick" Earing
Sharon Bruder

Sunday, January 28th — 9am

Fr. Deimeke

Sophie Halayko
Antoinette Durante
John Clementi
Eleanor Perez Niles
Blanche Matheson
Henry DeLollo

Sunday, January 28th — 11am

Fr. Deimeke

Andy Treventi
Joseph Sorriento
Donna Keegan
Stephen Christopher Szmyr
Vittorio Renda
Deceased members of the King Family

Monday, January 29th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Tuesday, January 30th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Zangrando Family

Wednesday, January 31st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Thursday, February 1st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Melvin Fernandez

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, February 3rd — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, February 4th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, February 4th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

1/14/2024:

1/8/2023:

\$17,588.24

\$16,588.01



ONLINE GIVING

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

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)

HAILEY'S CORNER



Dear Lord,

May your
hands guide us
to put more
healing than
hurt into the
world.