

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

SERVE
ONLY HIM



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome to Lent everyone!

Today's Gospel reading might seem almost uneventful. For starters, Mark tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness by Satan without any of the details that you find in Matthew and Luke's Gospel. After that, Jesus proclaims a simple message.

But this simple message that Jesus proclaims is it. It's the entire program. It sets the stage for everything he's going to say and do throughout the Gospel story. Moreover, it's the heart of the entire Christian message. It's worth reflecting on Jesus' words: *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15). It's four simple things and yet it's the entire Gospel.

"This is the time of fulfillment"

Judaism at this time is often portrayed as being in a period of expectation. People were hoping for something to happen. Scattered throughout the Hebrew Bible are the various hopes and dreams of the people, fueled by the promises of God. Many hoped for the coming of a great king anointed by God, a "messiah", who would overthrow the kings and rulers of the earth who had oppressed God's people Israel. Many also hoped for the culmination of the current age where God would rescue his people and vindicate them in the face of their enemies. They wanted things to get better and they wanted God to intervene in their story.

The word "time" in New Testament Greek is the term *kairos*. *Kairos* is not chronological time. A better translation might be season. It's not determined by the seconds and hours but by an entire atmosphere, just as our seasons are marked either by snow, growth, warmth, or the slow dying of nature. The Greek of the word "fulfillment" indicates that this season has already been fulfilled. We have now entered into a new season and that season is marked by the coming of Jesus. Things were one way before but now things are totally different. They look different and they feel different. Jesus is not just one prophet in a succession that have spanned Israel's history. It's a whole new ballgame.

"The kingdom of God is at hand"

The Kingdom is Jesus' central message and this is what marks the change in season. Here in Israel's history, things are marked by the rule of the oppressive Romans, just as it had been the Greek rulers before them, the Persians before them, the Babylonians before them, and so on and so forth going back to the oppression by the Egyptians. Jesus is saying that time is over. For God's people,

God is now the rightful ruler of his people and Jesus' teaching and miracles show us exactly how different this new Kingdom looks. The afflicted are healed, the poor have hope and are provided for, and things are governed by fairness and justice. This message might seem hard to reconcile with the reality of Roman rule (and the rule of our world's current leaders) but Jesus insists that their rule is only an illusion. In the community of God's people, things are different. It is why it is so important that God's people model a different way of life than that of the rest of the world. For us, the Kingdom is everything.

"Repent"

The Greek for "repent" is *metanoete*. It means to turn your heart and mind around and to change the direction of your life. Moreover, the verb is an imperative. Jesus is urgently telling us to take stock of our lives, to evaluate how we're living in contrast to the goodness of the Kingdom, and to urgently make the necessary changes to live according to this Kingdom. The proclamation that God has now entered into our lives necessarily includes the call to repentance. God welcomes us as we are but even if you're a lifelong Christian, God is telling us that we must change what we're doing if what we're doing is wrong.

"Believe in the Gospel"

The word "believe" is also in the imperative form. It is not simply a matter of intellectual belief, to believe the right things about God. It's one thing to believe that something is true with our minds. It's another to live our lives according to the truth, to be faithful to that truth at all costs. For example, I can "believe" that I am married but belief in the Biblical sense means that every decision I make is with the awareness of how things impact my wife. It is not just "faith" but "faithfulness". What are we faithful to? To the Gospel, in Greek *evangelion*. *Evangelion* refers specifically to the glad tidings a king or emperor announces as official decrees. For us, these glad tidings are about God entering into the world as our Lord and our King. It is such a better way of living that we announce it with joy.

This is the heart of the Christian message. We ask the world to imagine a world where God has taken over. Then we show them that this is real in how we model the reality of the Kingdom in our own communities. Things should be more fair, more just, kinder, more welcoming, and more. If our community doesn't model these things then the message is even clearer: repent. Our repentance is not only a turn to good behavior. It's embodying the Kingdom to people who might not believe at all.

-Tom Acemoglu

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

Saved by Adoption: How God Became Our Dad

Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(Jan 21st - Feb 25th)

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/>

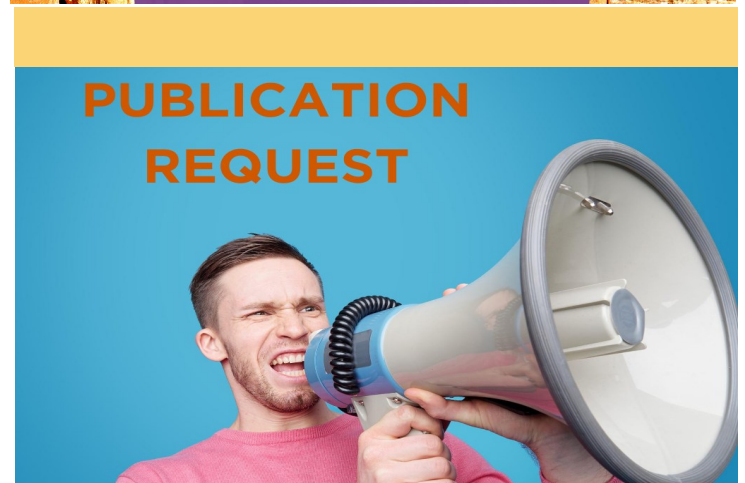
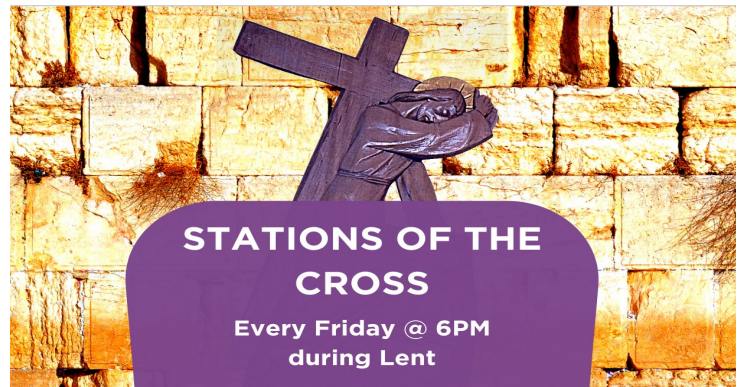


Attention all ladies - you're invited to a women's breakfast sponsored by the Albany Chapter of Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women, on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The breakfast will be held at Wolferts Roost Country Club in Albany from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) The guest speaker is Fran Karpiej, who is professed in the Secular Franciscan Order & has been involved in Healing Prayer Ministry for over 40 years.

The registration fee is \$30 by mail (if postmarked by March 6th) & mailed to Albany NY Chapter of Magnificat, c/o Bonnie Hause, 74 Meadow Rue Place, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Cost is \$32 if registering online at <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ny-albany/>
Registration deadline is March 6th.

For more information, email us at: albanymagnificat@gmail.com
or call Kathleen Carroll @ 518-930-8380

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.



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.

Lenten
Reconciliation
Service
@ Holy Trinity

3/6/24
5:00PM

Opportunities
for
reconciliation
with multiple
priests will be
available.



FEBRUARY 18, 2024

FRIENDS

IN FAITH

Friends in Faith is a ministry that supports new & existing ministries at St. Ambrose, and builds community through social and spiritual events.

Please join us in the Parish Center!
Tuesdays: 2/20 & 2/27 after the 12:10 masses

3/5 at 6:30 pm,
3/12, 3/19, & 3/26 after the 12:10 masses

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

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

JUST A REMINDER

LENTEN FISH FRIDAY'S

AT THE LATHAM COLONIE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 16, 2024
4:30 TO 7:00 PM



EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT
(EXCEPT MARCH 15, 2024)



Eat in or Take Out!

Reservations recommended, Call 518 783-0572.
Menu; Baked Fish w/ Twice Baked Potato (\$15),
Fish Fry (\$15) Clam Roll (\$12) w/French Fries or
Onion Rings
Coleslaw and Dessert.

Fish Fry Only (\$10), Clam Roll Only (\$8)

www.lathamcoloniekofc.com/dinners-events

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mom's Group



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

Next Meeting: March 3rd

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: stambroselatham.com

Facebook: [@stambrosechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stambrosechurch)

Email: salatham@rcda.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

*Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose? Text the word **ambrose** to 84576 to opt in.*

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!

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES**Lenten Gospel Acclamation**

During Lent, the Gospel Acclamation takes on a special form, It is chosen from one of 8 refrains, (such as “Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ”) followed by a verse. The refrains are all forms of praise to Jesus, and the verses are normally from the scriptures, and often from the Psalter. These replace the Alleluia and the verse that are used at this moment of the liturgy during the rest of the year.

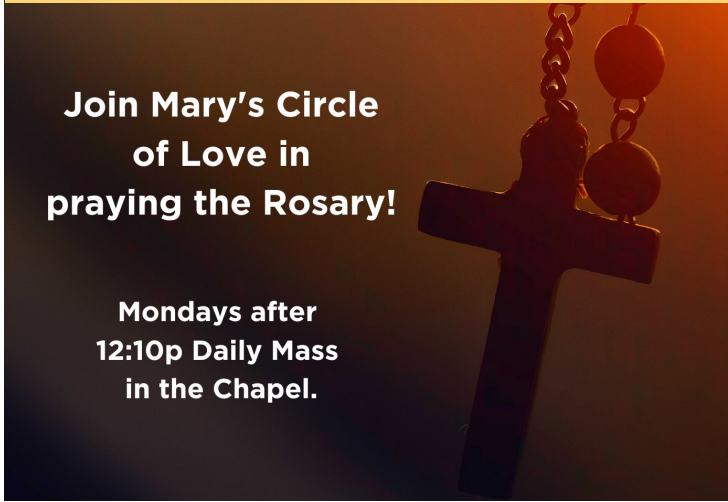
While the practice reaches back in popular piety to probably the sixth century, we can thank Pope Alexander II (1061 – 1073) for the custom of dismissing the Alleluia for the period of Lent as a matter of law. This led to some very creative celebrations of putting the Alleluia away, including ceremonies of burial.



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

OFFICE HOURS

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

**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.

Upcoming Meetings:
February 11th & 25th
Noon in the Parish Center



FEBRUARY 18, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 17th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Pauline DeVoe
Joseph L. Coleman
Helen Radigan
Anna Marie Fusco
Kevin Kretser

Sunday, February 18th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Daniel W. Grady, Sr.
Antoinette Durante
Blanche Matheson
Peter Campisi
William & Bernice Atchinson

Sunday, February 18th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Roland Marsolais
John Grego
Maria DeGiorgio
Intentions of Mary Beth Rourke
Pamela A. Clark

Monday, February 19th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Cecelia Craven

Tuesday, February 20th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

The People of St. Ambrose

Wednesday, February 21st — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Blanche Retta

Thursday, February 22nd — 12:10pm

Communion Service — Dcn Frank

The People of St. Ambrose

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, February 24th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, February 25th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, February 25th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

2/4/2024:

1/29/2023:

\$15,947.25

\$13,761.18



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting
your envelopes?
Switch to online giving:
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



It's normal to feel like you're in the desert at certain points in your life. Just know you're never deserted. Jesus is with you.