

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

BELIEVE



“Do you believe in
the Son of Man?”

JOHN 9:35B

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

A fundamental problem for people who feel that they can't embrace faith is that they are unable to see God. Many arguments about the existence of God revolve around the idea that you cannot see him and that, to some, there is no discernable evidence for God in the cosmos.

I don't know if you've ever been there in your own moments of doubt. We might imagine ourselves persevering as though one born blind, moving forward seeing neither the step ahead nor the destination. We muster strong feelings of faith in spite of our own inability to see anything. We might figure that this blindness is part of the journey, that the thing we have in common with those that don't believe is that neither of us can see anything.

I want to propose something different: that we see and hear God all of the time, constantly. The problem is not what is presented to our senses but rather our ability to perceive what's in front of us. What we suffer from is sort of like a spiritual depression. For those of us who've suffered through depression, we can feel alone, defeated, purposeless, and useless even when all evidence is to the contrary. The depression blinds us to the presence of friends or family or meaning even when the people around us can see these things. The people around us might point them out but if you're in the depths of depression it will often not matter. Depression is an interior disposition. It can be affected by mood, season, or environment. It's only when we become mindful of these causes that we can begin to transcend them, even if it's slightly. We might still feel awful but at least we know why and that can give us some agency over it.

I think that spiritual blindness is a bit like that kind of depression that is linked to our environment or factors beyond our control. In other words, we don't see God because of the condition of modern living. I shared this quote with some of our high school students at the school and I think it's worth considering. It comes from Pope Benedict XVI who said, *"Today we can illuminate our cities so brightly that the stars in the sky are no longer visible. Is this not an image of the problems caused by our version of enlightenment?"* In other words, we've created a world for ourselves, however remarkable, that somehow blinds us to the most obvious things. What does it mean if modern people can barely see the stars because of the world we've created for ourselves? It is likewise with God. Advances in healthcare, as much as a blessing as they are, blind us from seeing the one who ultimately gives life and death. Advances in science and technology have given us a mastery over the world around us that we no longer see the one who is Lord of all. Our landscape is filled with buildings, homes, and businesses that are of our own making so much so

that we can no longer discern the Creator in a creation that we can hardly see because all we see is the work of our own hands.

Once we acknowledge this inability to perceive God and its possible reasons can we begin to shift our perspective. God is here. He's all around us. We see the fingerprints of the Creator in nature and in each other if we are willing to shift our perspective. In Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus is presented with a man born blind. He rejects the idea that the man's blindness came from the sin of the man or his parents. Instead, Jesus says that *"he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him" (Jn 9:3)*. And so he heals him. And so it is with us. God has transformed many of us, healed many of us in spiritual or even physical ways. The work of God is revealed in us. We are all living proof of the existence of God. It's why it's most important for us, the transformed and the healed, to tell our stories both amongst ourselves and to others. We share these stories amongst ourselves so that we can give each other hope and to strengthen faith. We ought to share our stories of healing and transformation to others because they reveal to them the fingerprints of God revealed in ourselves, allowing them to discern the possibility that such a God would work in their lives as well.

In this Gospel reading, notice what happens in the wake of this healing of the blind man, a healing that is the revelation of the works of God. The people initially don't believe that the man was ever blind (9:18). The Pharisees deny that God could possibly have done it (9:16). Even the man's parents are afraid to attribute any cause to this miraculous change (9:21). And so it will be with us. Whether it's our transformed life or whether it's the manifest reality of God revealed in an ordered cosmos, there are people who will always deny that God is the reason behind it all. They relativize your experience, they offer bland alternative theories, they deny the presence of what you've testified to, and they might even deny that any change has taken place at all.

You must not let this happen. Reach deep into your life story and find those stories where things inexplicably changed for the good. Renew your marvel at creation. Find those things that are better explained as miracles that we might have been passing off as coincidences. Find them and give glory to God, who makes himself far more perceivable than our culture has allowed us to believe. Treasure those experiences as revelations. Tell your fellow parishioners about them and tell them to others. This builds faith and it reminds us that God is constantly presenting himself to our senses. We need only to shift our perspective.

-Tom Acemoglu

MARCH 10, 2024

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 24 from 12-2, near the school gym. Rain or shine! The Easter Bunny will be there too!

Please RSVP with the QR Code below so we know how many eggs to hide!



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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

Who Do You Say that I Am? - Embracing Jesus as Our Savior

Sundays from
9:50a - 10:50a
in the Chapel
(Mar 3, 10, 17, 24; Apr 7)

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/>

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

EASTER BAG PROJECT

We will be giving supplies for EASTER dinner again this year. Bags will be at the entrance of the Church. On the bag you will find a food list and instructions as to what you are to do. Please consider taking part in this EASTER endeavor as we remember those who are less fortunate than us.



Please return by March 23, 2024

Thank You and God Bless You!!!
The St. Ambrose Food Pantry

Mom's Group



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

Next Meeting: April 14th

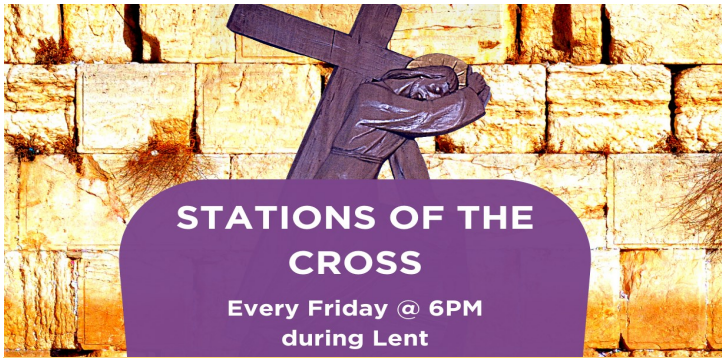
Contact Darlene at 518-496-1886 for more information.

CAMP VERITAS

ENROLL NOW!

Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held at five locations in 2024. An early bird discount of \$50 is applied when paid in full by April 1st. More details can be found at www.campveritas.com. Email admin2@campveritas.com for more info.

MARCH 10, 2024



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday @ 6PM
during Lent



The Latham-Colonie Knights of Columbus Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, March 16th, 2024

328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110

**"Take Out" and "Dine-In" options available!
Serving from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.**

**Menu: Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes,
Carrots, Irish Soda Bread and Dessert.
\$20.00 per person.**

**Make your Reservations now at 518-783-0572
www.lathamcoloniekofc.com/dinners-events**

Lenten Evening of Song and Retreat with composer Dan Schutte

Composer Dan Schutte, whose music includes "Here I Am, Lord," and approximately 160 other hymns, will lead a two-hour evening of song on March 22 beginning at 7pm at **St. Vincent de Paul Church, 900 Madison Avenue, Albany**. Hosted by the Ignatian Volunteer Corp., Mr. Schutte will also lead a Lenten retreat from 9:30am-12:30pm on March 23 at St. Vincent's. Registration is \$15 for each program or \$25 for both programs. Registration and sponsorship information can be found at www.ivcusa.org/Schutte.



For more information
about the IVC Albany
Region,

email
AlbanyNY@ivcusa.org

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

During the year we work with several individuals who seek to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. If you or someone in your life is seeking Baptism, First Communion, and/or Confirmation, let us know! We try to be flexible and we want to make this work for where you're at. You can start at any time and we'll work at your pace.

Please keep **Mark Micheli** and **Ron Labarr** in your prayers as they prepare to be fully initiated into the Church. Also, pray for the people in your life who might take a step forward in faith but are just looking for the invitation or opportunity. Remember that God might be asking you to lead someone into the fullness of faith!

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!
3/12, 3/19, & 3/26 after the 12:10 masses

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



Friends in Faith Holy Thursday Dessert Share Thursday, March 28 2024 (after 5:30 pm Mass) in the Parish Center

Friends in Faith is once again hosting our Holy Thursday event. This is the evening we remember and celebrate Christ's Last Supper. Please join us as we gather together as a parish faith family. Registration forms will be located in the church pews in the next few weeks. Food donations may be dropped off in the parish center anytime before mass.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days

Claudia Frances Ibotson Horniman's (1838-1898) hymn, "Lord, who throughout these forty days," is often sung throughout the season of Lent. Forty is a number with special biblical significance. It rained for forty days and nights when the earth was overtaken by floodwaters, and Noah waited another forty days before opening the window of the Ark. Israel wandered in the desert for forty years. Jesus was seen on earth following the resurrection for forty days. In this case, Christ's forty days in the wilderness provides the primary paradigm for the forty days of Lent.

As is the case with many hymns, Christ's life becomes a model for how his followers should confront temptation. The first two lines of the stanzas focus on a response of Christ when he faced temptation; the last three lines encourage Christians to model their behavior on Christ's example.

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, And did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and always live, By your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, And through your Passiontide, Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life, Of suffering is past, An Easter of unending joy, We may attain at last!

**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:
March 17th & April 7th
Noon in the Parish Center



MARCH 10, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 9th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Elias Carey
Angelina Lent
Geoffrey O'Hanlon
Jennifer E. Stevens Goronsky
Peggy Ann Kelly

Sunday, March 10th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Stephen Lebentritt, Sr.
Sam Aliberti
Roland Marsolais
Joan Tateo
Carl "Mickey" Dembrosky

Sunday, March 10th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

Deceased members of the King Family
Frank Krasher
Sharri Porcelli
Gert Sally
Stasia Piteras

Monday, March 11th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Christine St. Pierre

Tuesday, March 12th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Gertrude Murphy
Kathy Valchine

Wednesday, March 13th — 12:10pm

Fr. Kelly

Mary Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, March 14th — 12:10pm

Communion Service — Dcn Frank

Lillian Scofield

St Ambrose, pray for us.

WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

Saturday, March 16th — 4pm

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, March 17th — 9am

Fr. Kelly

Sunday, March 17th — 11am

Fr. Kelly

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

2/25/2024:

2/19/2023:

\$13,947.25

\$15,686.20



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



"Seek a
relationship
when you pray,
not answers.
You won't
always find
answers, but
you will always
find Jesus."

— Father Mike
Schmitz