

# *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**



**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

There are some passages from the Bible that are so big and so deep that you can't really do justice to them. The story of the raising of Lazarus is one of them. Since we are in Lent and Lent is a time where we challenge ourselves, I challenge you to read this whole story after Mass and then just a little more as well. Our reading is John 11:1-45 but I'd suggest reading up through 12:11. Doing this keys us into some important insights for Holy Week. One of them is that for however as much we'd like to see Jesus' actions as being spiritual, we learn in these passages that they are also intensely political as well. The fear of Roman reprisal for Jesus' healing of Lazarus is felt in these further passages, as is the justification for handing him over, and even an attempted assassination of Lazarus. When Palm Sunday begins in John 12:12, we can feel the electricity charging through Jesus' prophetic actions, dividing the loyalties of the people in a way that will culminate in his crucifixion.

This is the wider picture but the raising of Lazarus is a story where so much of what happens is in the details. We find the Jesus of John's Gospel, who often seems to be speaking cryptically or metaphorically and does so to his disciples regarding Lazarus' death, clarifying his metaphor by telling them plainly that "*Lazarus is dead*" (Jn 11:14). We find Jesus hearing of the severity of Lazarus' illness yet mysteriously waiting two days to come to him (11:5). We're given the only references to Martha and Mary outside of Luke 10:38-42, corroborating their importance in Jesus' life. I want to focus on two aspects of this story that I think we can take into our spiritual life. Both, I think, can transform how we relate to the one we call Lord.

Both involve how the two sisters relate to Jesus after seeing him appear only after their brother had died. Presumed in both of their responses is that Jesus could've done something but chose not to (11:21, 11:32). What are we to make of Jesus' own absence in our own lives? Out of a desire to be pious we might say that Jesus is always there when tragedy strikes our own lives and in a sense that is true. As the pre-existing Word and co-eternal Son of the omniscient Father, we trust that Jesus is always present and immediately available to us. I can cling to this belief in my own darkest moments. But doing so creates a new problem, which is why would an all-loving Lord would allow terrible things to happen. Good theology recognizes the problem of the presence of evil and suffering in the face of a loving God. But I don't think it in any way insults the goodness of God to acknowledge the fact that often when something terrible happens that it feels like he simply wasn't there. How are we supposed to sort through those feelings and remain faithful?

Here, I think it's worth comparing the

responses of Martha and Mary to what they assumed was Jesus' late arrival. Remember from Luke's Gospel that Martha was the busy, task-oriented one serving Jesus while Mary was the one who sat listening attentively to Jesus' teaching, much to Martha's consternation. The point in that story is that Martha is distracted, missing the bigger picture while "*Mary has chosen the better part*" (Lk 10:41-42). While it can be hazardous to reduce them to their different responses to Jesus, I think their responses to Jesus "late" arrival are telling in this light. While both confront Jesus with the fact that he could've healed Lazarus if he'd been there, it is only Martha who offers the hope that something can be done ("*even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him*", 11:22). As a response, Jesus offers to Martha his pledge that "*Your brother will rise again*" (11:23). Martha's response is of a resigned piety: "*I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day*" (11:24). Yes, this is what many Jewish people believed in, in a future that felt at once hopeful and intangible. God will deal with death, someday. He'll get involved, someday. But today isn't necessarily that day. As so it can be with our own pious responses to Jesus. It's not that they aren't true expressions of faith, it's that they don't always feel real. It is here that Jesus tells her bluntly that he is "*the resurrection and the life*" that whoever believes in him will live again after they die (11:25-26). This leads Martha to a revelation comparable to Peter's direction-altering confession of Mark 8 and Matthew 16: "*Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world*" (11:27). In her grief and in her hope, Martha's faith transcends platitudes and is a confession of a Jesus who *will* transform death into life.

Mary's response, on the other hand, is more blunt: "*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died*" (11:32). Instead of offering piety, she offers accusation. She represents those of us who may respond to the Lord with anger when things go wrong. Piety may seek to buttress that anger with kindly deference and praise, just like it did with Mary. And that certainly has its place. My own prayers often do the same thing when things go wrong. But Mary's response has its place too. It is not disrespectful to express your exasperation in God when he disappoints you. It is a sign of intimacy. Just ask any family. The closer you are to someone, the more pointed things get. Her curt rebuke of Jesus spurs him to immediately act: "*Where have you laid him?*" (11:34).

We want to see God act promptly and decisively, especially in our moments of need. Martha and Mary offer us two valid ways. Intimacy with Jesus means being honest with him.

-Tom Acemoglu

MARCH 17, 2024

## Holy Week 2024 @ St. Ambrose

### Palm Sunday

March 23rd @ 4:00pm  
March 24th @ 9:00am & 11:00am

### Holy Thursday

March 28th @ 5:30pm  
(No 12:10pm Mass)

### Good Friday

March 29th @ 3:00pm

### Holy Saturday

March 30th @ 7:30pm  
(No 4pm Vigil)

### Easter Sunday

March 31st @ 9:00am & 11:00am

## 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*

# 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](http://www.campveritas.com). Email [admin2@campveritas.com](mailto:admin2@campveritas.com) for more info.

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

# 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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CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
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## BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS @ ST. MICHAEL'S

Blessing of the Easter Baskets will be held on Holy Saturday, March 30th at 10:30 AM, in St. Michael's Church Hall, 20 Page Avenue, Cohoes, NY. A donation will be collected to benefit the Cohoes food pantry. Children and their Easter Baskets will also receive a special blessing. Blessing of the Easter baskets", (Święconka) is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions on Holy Saturday during Easter.

## 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!

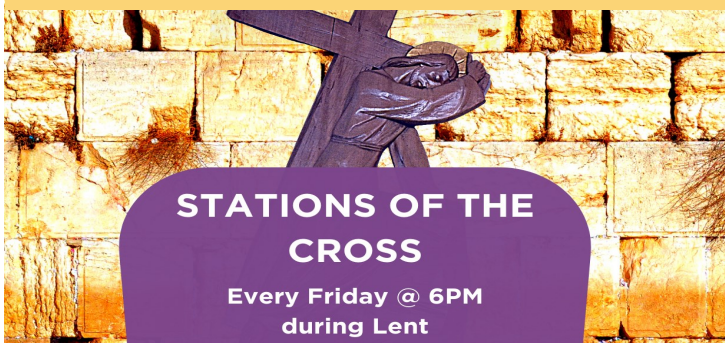
Reservations recommended, Call 518 783-0572.  
Menu; Baked Fish w/ Twice Baked Potato (\$15),  
Fish Fry (\$15) Clam Roll (\$12) w/French Fries or  
Onion Rings  
Coleslaw and Dessert.  
Fish Fry Only (\$10), Clam Roll Only (\$8)  
[www.lathamcoloniekofofc.com/dinners-events](http://www.lathamcoloniekofofc.com/dinners-events)

MARCH 17, 2024



**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.



**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/>

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

**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)

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!

**PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AT  
HOLY TRINITY**

The Evangelization team of Holy Trinity invites you to a Palm Sunday Communion Brunch in their parish center following the 10:45 am Mass (about 12:15 pm). Their guest speaker will be Kileen Stone, past director and area coordinator for the Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet, who will speak on Holy Week. To help defray the cost of the food, adults are \$5, \$2 for children 5 and older. Call the office for reservations, 518-237-2373.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH BOOK CLUB**

Next meeting, **Tuesday March 19th @ 6pm in the Parish Center**. They will complete their discussion of "Champions of the Rosary".

# MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

## Were You There

"Were You There" is an African-American spiritual that was first printed in 1899. It was likely composed by enslaved African Americans in the 19th century. The song was first published by William Barton in his Old Plantation Hymns in 1899 but was described in other writings before this publication. In 1940, it was included in the Episcopal Church Hymnal, making it the first spiritual to be included in any major American hymnal. It is also unique in that it is the only African-American song included in the Catholic Church's Liturgy of the Hours and is frequently used on Good Friday.

## Were You There

Spiritual, unknown composer

Old Plantation Hymns, Boston, 1899, in public domain

1. Were you there when they crucified to my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him in the tree? Were you there when they crucified to my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him in the tree? Oh! Some-times it causes me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble. Were you there when they crucified to my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him in the tree?

## 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

Join Mary's Circle  
of Love in  
praying the Rosary!

Mondays after  
12:10p Daily Mass  
in the Chapel.



MARCH 17, 2024

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 16th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Helen Richmond  
Geoffrey O'Hanlon  
Jennifer E. Stevens Goronsky  
Joseph R. Benoit  
Zofia Knapik

**Sunday, March 17th — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Edwin Guerin, Jr.  
Vincent & Teresa Popolizio  
James J. Pender  
Gerard McDermott  
Jack Frederick  
James Gulino

**Sunday, March 17th — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Deceased members of the McCrea Family  
Barbara J. Usifer  
Mary Theresa McKee  
Vincent Santilli  
Ellen Mary Baker  
Laurie Halloran

**Monday, March 18th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Richard Meher  
Alice Sage  
Mario Villajuan  
Cecilia Tameta  
Robert M. Barao  
Josefina Hofilena

**Tuesday, March 19th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

The Floyd L. Jones Family

**Wednesday, March 20th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

John Doyle  
Salvatore Fanoq

**Thursday, March 21st — 12:10pm**

**Communion Service — Dcn Frank**

Guy Gererd Madaio

## WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

**March 23rd & 24th — All Masses**

**Fr. Kelly**

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

3/3/2024:

2/26/2023:

**\$18,289.75**

**\$18,698.33**



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



I'm told I'm a GERMAN shepherd, but with a name like Kelly, I'm pretty sure I'm more Irish.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!