THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Anthony M. Barratt, Pastor
Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Ann McCauley, Business Manager
Erin Muir, P.A. for Liturgy & Pastoral Life
Tom Acemoglu, P.A. for Evangelization & Catechesis
Debbie McKown, Faith Formation Administrative Secretary
Mark Trudeau, Life Teen for High School and Jr. High
Joan Welch, Parish Secretary
Thomas Green, Parish Music Director
Nancy Acemoglu, RN, Parish Nurse
David Dobkowski, PhD-Counselor, 859-4015
Jim LaBombard, Athletic Director
371-1996 • email stambrosecyo@gmail.com

PARISH TRUSTEES
Catherine Halayko / Joseph Sinisgalli

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
E-Mail: ambrose_347@outlook.com
Terri McGraw, Principal
Lori McCoy, Secretary

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm-Life Teen
Daily: Wednesday & Friday 6:30am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am
Communion Service: Monday 6:30am
Holydays and Holidays subject to change
(see bulletin)

CHURCH OF ST. AMBROSE
347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110
518-785-1351
WEBSITE: www.stambroselatham.com
E-MAIL: parishsecretary@stambroselatham.com

NEW OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Thursday 9:00am–6:00pm
Friday 9:00am–4:00pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
THE TEMPLE

Each Sunday in Lent, our readings have been carefully chosen to act as markers of signposts so as to guide us on our journey through the holy season. First we heard about how Jesus’ temptations in the desert can help us as we make a special effort to face our demons and overcome temptation during Lent. Last week, the Gospel told us about his transfiguration on the mountain and how this is a revelation of Jesus’ divine nature, as well as an invitation for us to be transfigured or transformed by God’s love.

However, our Gospel for the Third Sunday in our Lenten journey can come as something of a shock to us. It is not the usual picture of the “gentle Jesus”. Jesus drives out the money changers from the temple with some considerable force! People at the time of Jesus would also have been shocked. The money changers were there to exchange the usual coins for a special currency that was used only in the temple and those selling animals were doing so to provide offerings and sacrifices for the temple worship. Both the money changers and those selling animals were therefore part and parcel of everyday life at the Temple. So, why all the drama and why was our Lord so moved and angry at this “normal” scene in the temple area?

Our Gospel tells us why and, as usual also provides us with spiritual insights to help us. Jesus could see that people had rather lost the plot. All the exchange of money and animals had become an end in itself and the real reasons and purposes for doing all this had been lost, that is to give honor and glory to God. There was a danger that the Temple, the sacred place in Jerusalem, had become instead just another place or building rather than a living sign of God’s presence among His people. In fact, it had become, to quote Jesus’ words a “marketplace”. There is also another important layer in our Gospel drama. Jesus also provides his listeners with a prophecy about his soon-to-come suffering, death and resurrection: “…destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” This, of course, makes us think of Good Friday and then of Easter Sunday.

So far so good; but how can this Gospel help us further as we continue our Lenten journey in earnest? Perhaps we can take with us the image of the Temple in Jerusalem. St. Paul (1 Corinthians 6: 19) reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, for we are made in the image and likeness of God and God dwells in us. The obvious question then is what sort of temple are we? We might say that Lent is a time to renovate the temple that is us, especially if it has become a bit jaded or full of clutter spiritually speaking. In other words, Lent is a time to do some serious spiritual spring cleaning of our hearts and souls. Similarly, just as the temple in Jerusalem was meant to be a very visible sign of God’s presence among His people, so too are we meant to be living stones or signs of that same presence to others. During Lent we are asked to focus in a special way on acts of charity; that is of being real signs of God’s loving presence in the world.

Fr. Anthony
**MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the members of St. Ambrose Parish, Latham, New York believe that, through our faith and baptism, we have been called to give witness to the values of Jesus as expressed in the gospel and teachings of our Church. As individuals and as a Parish Family we strive to:

- Develop our spiritual life • Spread the Gospel message • Respect the human dignity and rights of all persons
- Support family life: the role of married couples, singles, youth and children
- Share our time, energy, talent and resources

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to make choices and decisions that will reflect and give evidence of what we say we believe and value as a Catholic Christian Faith Community.

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**Sacraments**

**RECONCILIATION**
Saturday 3:00 PM or any time by appointment.

**MARRIAGE**
Congratulations! So that proper preparation may be made, please make an appointment with Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date. Either the bride or groom should be a registered parishioner of St. Ambrose parish.

**BAPTISM**
Congratulations! If you wish to arrange preparation for baptism, please call the Parish Office. Parents should be registered members of St. Ambrose parish.

**RCIA**
(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
For those inquiring into the Catholic Faith. Welcome!
Please contact the Parish Office for program details.

**VOCATION**
If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony.

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**Parishes of Our Local Catholic Communities**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonie</td>
<td>456-3112</td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am</td>
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<td>Latham</td>
<td>785-0234</td>
<td>Sat: 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Sun: 7:30, 9:00 &amp; 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loudonville</td>
<td>459-6635</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>462-1336</td>
<td>Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 &amp; 12 noon</td>
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**Church Heating System Update and Appeal**

As mentioned at the Masses last weekend, we need to make some significant and overdue repairs and improvements to the church heating system (that is also the system for part of the school). Our heating system is certainly feeling its age, especially after the cold winter that we have had. We also have the issue that there are no thermostatic controls for the system: it is either on or off and we cannot zone areas for heating. Of course, all of this means that we are wasting energy and that we cannot control the heating in particular areas. We have also had a number of close calls over the winter when we nearly lost the whole system!

We are looking at estimates for the cost of this necessary and overdue work and we hope to carry it out once the spring arrives: if it ever does! Again, as mentioned at Mass, we do budget for repairs and general maintenance and this is usually covered by our tithing and weekly offertory (many thanks, as ever for your amazing generosity), but, as you can imagine, this project would be well beyond the usual amount. The total cost would be in the $45,000 range. It seems a good idea to have mini capital project to help meet these costs and so special envelopes will be available in the church over the next few weeks. It must be stressed that this collection is entirely voluntary.

Many thanks again for your generosity and ongoing support.

Fr. Anthony

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**School Open House**

**Sunday, March 8, 2015**

1 - 2:30 PM

All are welcome to come in for a tour of our terrific school enrolling students Pre K3 through Gr 8

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**A Married Couple’s Lenten Reflection:**

Fast from self-concern and feast on spousal love

March 21-22nd

Call 518-279-3243 or www.albanyme.org
Lent is here!
We will also be hosting a special session of enrichment and prayer called “Lent with the Mystics”. It’ll include short presentations on some of our Church’s greatest mystics and a special time of prayer where we seek to draw closer to God in the same way that the mystics did. It will be something really special!

Wednesday, March 11th—Lent with the Mystics
(St. Teresa of Avila, led by Beth Lynch)

Wednesday, March 18th—Lent with the Mystics
(St. Francis De Sales, led by Fr. Barratt)

Wednesday, March 25th—Lent with the Mystics
(St. Therese of Lisieux, led by Bob Martino)

Rite of Election took place last weekend at the Cathedral with Bishop Scharfenberger! Please keep our Candidates John and Sharon in your prayers! Also, special thanks to the RCIA team who have continued their long tradition of service to the parish in helping many people prepare to fully enter into the sacramental life of the Church.

Lent and Life
St Ambrose Parish
Latham, NY

Episode 3:
The Pillars of Lent –
Fasting

Lent and Life
A video series to help you make the most out of your Lent!

The series is live now and you can find it on our website, on Facebook, and on YouTube! Please share!

Please check out
www.stambroselatham.com/media

www.facebook.com/saintambrosechurch

Our Lent with the Mystics
This Wednesday (3/11) at 7pm in the Parish Center

St Teresa
of Avila

Presented by Beth Lynch

A special presentation and guide to mystical prayer with the Church’s greatest masters in prayer.
“LEAVE THE LIGHT ON”
Tuesday night, March 24th from 7—8:30 PM in the Parish Center. We will have several priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a great opportunity to receive healing and forgiveness. To remind you about the parts of confession and the Act of Contrition, a brochure will be available to guide you.

“The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is the privileged place to receive God’s mercy and forgiveness. It is a place for both personal and communal healing. In this sacrament, all the baptized have a new and personal encounter with Jesus Christ, as well as a new encounter with the Church, facilitating a full reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Here the penitent encounters Jesus, and at the same time he or she experiences a deeper appreciation of himself or herself.”

2012 Synod of Bishops

Come to Church with me for Lent

DIOCESE SPECIAL COLLECTION
Next week, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to the displaced refugees, and Christ’s love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to the Catholic Relief Services Collection and help Jesus in disguise.

As we are a tithing parish, a portion of our regular collection will be tithed toward this Special Collection.

NEXT WEEKEND WE WILL TAKE OVER FORTY OF OUR PARISH FAMILY ON RETREAT TO PREPARE FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN ON RETREAT THEN YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THAT A HUGE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE IS BACKED BY A HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PRAYING FOR YOU. AND SO I AM ASKING FOR PRAYER FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS WHO WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ENCOUNTER OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN A VERY PERSONAL AND INTIMATE WAY. SPENDING SOME TIME APART FROM THE NOISE AND BUSINESS OF OUR LIVES CAN BE THE EXACT THING WE NEED TO HEAR OUR LORD WHISPER: WORDS OF HOPE AND LOVE. EVERYONE SHOULD GO ON RETREAT—ESPECIALLY MOMS AND DADS.

PLEASE HELP!
There are winners of the Adult Cash Raffle that have not picked up their prize money and we do not have contact information for them. If you know any of these names please contact the Lifeteen Office at 785-1351 x309 and let me know how to reach them.

Steven Breen
John Herzog
Nick Schaub
L. Clark
MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE meets every other Thursday after the 9:00 Mass. This is a group for those 55 and older. Don’t let the name of this group “throw you off”. This is for men and women.

The main essence of our mission is to develop a spiritual journey in the imitation of Christ. We journey with each other, sharing our joys, trials, fears and triumphs. All are welcome to attend our gatherings.

On **Thursday, March 26th**, Laetitia Rhatigan, PhD will join us. Her topic is *Extraordinary Women of the Bible*… women who were used by God to lay the groundwork for God’s redemptive work in the world. The presentation will aim to connect, when possible, their experience with ours and discover timeless and universal truths about God’s interaction with us. Mary, Mother of God will be central to the presentation.

Laetitia is the Mission Director of Family Rosary, Albany. Her office is a branch of Holy Cross Ministries, North Easton, Massachusetts. She holds a Doctorate in Theology (STD) from the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton. Her specialization is Mariology. She has ministered in the Albany Diocese in education, social services and catechetical formation.

Please consider joining us for this enlightening experience. What a beautiful way to celebrate Lent.

Please RSVP by calling **Mary Kay Frederick 783-5186** or email her at **mkleader@gmail.com**. We will gather in the parish center for this particular event after the 9:00 Mass.

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**FOOD PANTRY STATS**
The Food Pantry served **97 families** in **February**. This included **223** adults and **168** children.

As always the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners is deeply appreciated and helpful. The ongoing need is great and all food and monetary contributions are deeply appreciated as we strive to feed the hungry in our community.

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**COUNSELING** is available in the evenings at St. Ambrose.

A **$25** donation is appreciated. Contact **Dave Dobkowski, Ph.D.** at **859-4015** to make an appointment.

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THE MISSION OF THE PEACEMAKER

To stop war
To transform the world
To get it saved from poverty and riches
To heal the sick
To comfort the sad
To wake up those who haven’t yet found God.

To create joy and beauty wherever you go.
To find God in everything and in everyone

By **Muriel Lester**

I saved this many years ago, given to me from, I believe, our beloved Sister Jean Cummings, an advocate for all, a proponent of peace and a natural born peacemaker.

May she rest in peace.
Give the Gift of Catholic Education

Tuition Credit Raffle

Win $5000
Tuition Credit for 2015-2016 School Year

2nd Prize - New IPad
3rd Prize - $200

Don’t miss this great opportunity!
Ticket price $50.

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, current, new
and prospective families are welcome.
Give the gift of Catholic Education!

Winners will be announced at a special drawing on Friday,
March 13th after morning prayer at 8:15am.
All are welcome to attend; need not be present to win.

Tickets are available through
the school office, contact the
HSA, or return the slip below to
school by Monday, March 9th!

Please return to school by Monday, March 9th. Paper tickets will be issued.

Name: _______________________________ Phone Number: _________________________
Student Name/Grade: _________________________________________________________
Number of Tickets: _____________ Amount Enclosed: ___________________________
Around the Parish

BISHOP’S APPEAL UPDATE
I would like to offer a personal thanks to so many kind parishioners who have been so generous with the 2014 Bishop’s Appeal. This is especially true given the still rather fragile economic situation and all the extra demands on parishioners with projects such as the ongoing parking lot appeal. I must confess that the Bishop’s Appeal is always a very anxious time for me (and for many priests and parish leaders) as we try our best to get towards our target (and the target always seems so big: $171,000 to be precise). As you may know, if we do not reach the target through donations, then we have to make up the difference from our regular parish funds and offertory. The Appeal closes in just a few weeks’ time and, to date, we have raised an amazing $150,000 in donations and pledges. This is truly excellent, but it also means that we are still about $21,000 short of the target. So, and my apologies for asking, if you can help just a bit more with an extra “one off” gift, that would be wonderful and a relief too!

Once again, many thanks for your generosity and continued support, not just financially, but in so many other ways. I hope and pray that the ongoing season of Lent will be a great time for you and your family of spiritual growth and renewal.

Fr. Anthony

Gift Certificates for Easter Food Bags
The St. Ambrose Food Pantry Volunteers will again offer Easter dinner supplies for families in need. Market Bags will be available starting weekending March 1st. In addition to the food list attached to the Easter bags, gift certificates from Hannaford or Price Chopper in $5, $10 or $15 amounts would be most appreciated. These will be distributed according to family size for purchase of a meat choice. Please DO NOT PLACE GIFT CERTIFICATES IN THE BAGS. Please place in an envelope or drop off no later than March 22nd at the office or in offertory collection marked St. Ambrose Food Pantry or Easter Dinner. The number of families requesting assistance have increased a great deal; together we can help these families experience a most BLESSED EASTER.

Stewardship Update
We Are A Tithing Parish
Following “God’s Plan for Giving”

March 1, 2015 $22,985.57
March 2, 2014 $20,760.92

“Thank you for being so generous!”
Thank you to all who are responding so generously to our financial need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to those who signed-up for electronic withdrawal. If you decide to sign-up for this option in the future, forms are available at the entrances to the church, or just call the Parish Office.
Many Thanks.

Parishioner Registration/Update Request

Name: ________________________________
Street: ________________________________
City: ________________________________
Zip: ________________________________
Phone No: ________________________________

Please Check
☐ New Registration
☐ Change of Address
☐ Moving out of Parish
☐ Want Envelopes
☐ Name Change (Please contact Parish Secretary)

Please cut out and drop it in the Collection Basket or mail to the Parish Office.

Converse with the LORD

Please join us for the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7 pm in the Church. This week the stations will be led by RCIA Catechists.
**Liturgical Roles for Week Ending March 15**

**Money Counters, Sunday, March 15, 2015**

**Team #7 — Tom Thouin, John Beaumont, Paul Tessier**

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<td>Sharon Burgess</td>
<td>Bob Lamiano</td>
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<td>#1-Mary Riley</td>
<td>#1-Greg Serio</td>
<td>#1-Kimberly LaBombard</td>
<td>#1-David Piusienski</td>
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<td>#2-Valerie Gyrko</td>
<td>#2-James Conlen</td>
<td>#2-Ruth Lapierre</td>
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<td>Michael &amp; Michelle Commerford, Volunteer</td>
<td>Jacob &amp; Noah Smith, Volunteer</td>
<td>Hannah &amp; Seth Dougherty</td>
<td>N. Koroso, M. Mahar, P. Adams</td>
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<td>Jon B. / Paul C.</td>
<td>Gail C.</td>
<td>Akhil J. / Suzi T.</td>
<td>Rene M.</td>
<td>Tenn C.</td>
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**March Calendars & Schedules**

**Sunday — March 8**
- 10:15-11:45AM Faith Formation / 1st Communion Parent Meeting
- After 5:30PM Mass Life Teen-Parish Ctr

**Monday — March 9**
- 1:00-2:30PM SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
- 1:30PM Nursing Home Mass
- 7:00PM Core-Chapel

**Tuesday — March 10**
- 6:00PM Finance Committee Meeting-Mtg Rms
- 6:45PM The Edge-Parish Ctr
- 7:00PM Altar Rosary in the Chapel followed by a business meeting in the Resource Rm

**Wednesday — March 11**
- 7:00PM LENT WITH THE MYSTICS (ST. TERESA OF AVILA, LED BY BETH LYNCH) IN THE PARISH CTR

**Thursday — March 12**
- 9:30AM Mary’s Circle of Love-Lounge
- 10-12 Noon Young At Heart-Parish Ctr
- 6:30-8:30PM AA, AL-ALONI, ALATEEN-Mtg Rms
- 7:00PM Prayer Group-Chapel

**Friday — March 13**
- 7AM-Midnight Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel
- 7:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS in the Church lead by RCIA Catechists

**Saturday — March 14**

**Sunday — March 15**
- 10:15-11:45AM Faith Formation / OPEN HOUSE FOR PRE K & K
- After 5:30PM Mass Life Teen-Parish Ctr
### Parish Ministries & Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADULT MISSION</td>
<td>Mike Blair</td>
<td>376-0082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</td>
<td>Cathy Boudreau</td>
<td>785-3460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Walter Ewing</td>
<td>458-7540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS (Training)</td>
<td>Lynn Wozniak</td>
<td>456-5990</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombard</td>
<td>371-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
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<tr>
<td>BISHOP'S APPEAL (DDP)</td>
<td>Renee Hallock</td>
<td>785-3180</td>
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<td>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</td>
<td>Rich Zmiewski</td>
<td>785-3142</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP</td>
<td>Mary Beth Pallack</td>
<td>862-1623</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHURCH OFFICE ASSISTANCE</td>
<td>Parish Office</td>
<td>785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</td>
<td>Nancy Hooley</td>
<td>785-3411</td>
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<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Training)</td>
<td>Helmut Neurohr</td>
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<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Sue Laverne</td>
<td>280-2387</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
<td>Lenora LeMay</td>
<td>664-4374</td>
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<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
<td>Pauline Kubiszne</td>
<td>785-7816</td>
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<tr>
<td>GARDEN CLUB</td>
<td>Mary Sue Ray</td>
<td>469-1329</td>
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<td>GRIEF LOSS GROUP</td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
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<td>LECTORS</td>
<td>Joe Leombruno</td>
<td>373-2353</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE</td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
<td>785-1351 x309</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAGDALENA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Paula Borkowski</td>
<td>944-5579</td>
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<td>MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRY</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
<td>785-1351 x302</td>
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<td>MARTHA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Donna Sabatino</td>
<td>782-1470</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY</td>
<td>Mary Kay Frederick</td>
<td>783-5186</td>
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<td>MEDIA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Mary Alice Hunt</td>
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<td>MUSIC GROUPS</td>
<td>Thomas Green</td>
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<td>PRAYER &amp; WORSHIP</td>
<td>Richard Ostiguy</td>
<td>783-5175</td>
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<td>RESPECT LIFE</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
<td>785-1351 x302</td>
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<td>RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
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<td>SACRISTANS</td>
<td>Pat Rayball</td>
<td>708-9615</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Terri McGraw</td>
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<td>Lori McCoy</td>
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<td>William Miller</td>
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<td>Paul Wilkes</td>
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<td>Catherine Halayko / Joseph Sinigalli</td>
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<td>TRUSTEES</td>
<td>John Estep</td>
<td>783-9266</td>
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<td>USHERS</td>
<td>Suzi Trzecinski</td>
<td>466-8815</td>
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<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
<td>785-6315</td>
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### Readings for the Week of March 8, 2015

- **Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1, Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
- **Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
- **Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
- **Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
- **Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
- **Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
- **Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
- **Next Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

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