PARISH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Anthony M. Barratt, Pastor
Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
Ann McCauley, Business Manager
Erin Muir, P.A. for Liturgy & Pastoral Life
Tom Acemoglu, P.A. for Evangelization & Catechesis
Justina Treventi, Faith Formation Admin. Asst.
Mark Trudeau, Life Teen for High School and Jr. High
Tracey Penk-Masucci, Youth Ministry Asst.
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: principal@stambroselatham.com
Terri McGraw, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm-Life Teen
Daily: Monday & Wednesday 6:30am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am
Communion Service: Friday 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

OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Thursday 9:00am–6:00pm
Friday 9:00am–4:00pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED
On Tuesday, we celebrate the great feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is our belief that Mary was conceived without sin since she was to be the worthy mother of Jesus Christ. In this way, she shared in a unique, anticipated and singular way in the salvation that Jesus would bring to the world. As the opening prayer for our Mass puts it:

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant we pray that as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence…

Since it is such an important feast day for us, it is also a holy day of obligation and so we will have Mass at the following times:

Monday, 7th December at 5.30 pm (Vigil or Anticipated Mass)
Tuesday, 8th December at 9.00 am and 7.00 pm

We not only celebrate this wonderful feast day, but on the same day we will also begin the special jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has promulgated. It will be a time when we can look again with fresh eyes at God’s mercy for us and hopefully also to experience that mercy anew in our lives and in the lives of all our brothers and sisters. We are also asked to look at our own attitudes and values, so that we may imitate the mercy that we have received from God in our relationships and dealings with others. Pope Francis reminds us that “mercy” is at the very heart of the Gospel message and like the image of God as love, it is an essential characteristic of our loving God. Saint John Paul II has also commented that Jesus is, in fact, “the incarnation of mercy…in this way, in Christ and through Christ, God becomes especially visible in His mercy.” Let us also not forget the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who reminds us that “mercy is indeed the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God…”

During this year of mercy, we will be having many special projects and activities in our parish and school to help us celebrate and live this year well. More details will be given as the year unfolds. Of course, the sacrament of confession or reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity and gift to receive God’s mercy. So please do come to our “Leave the Lights On” Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, 15th December from 7.00 pm until 8.30 pm. We will have a good number of priests present to help celebrate the sacrament with all those who come.

We will also have a beautiful image of the well-known parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 1-32) in a prominent place in the church during the year of mercy. Perhaps this parable is the parable or Gospel passage that captures how we can understand what God’s love and mercy really means. The image we will use is by the great artist Rembrandt, painted in 1669 (just a short time before his death). He was greatly moved by the parable and began to make some sketches for it some 30 plus years earlier in 1636; but it took him all that time to compose and then paint the right painting. Many think of it as his greatest painting and indeed as one of the greatest paintings ever produced by any artist. We will have the image in our church during the year as a powerful reminder of that presence of God’s mercy and our call to imitate this mercy in our lives. We will have a further reflection on the painting at another time, but in the meantime, do take some time to stop and to look at it and perhaps let it help you in your thoughts and prayers when sitting in the church. (Incidentally, many thanks must go to the kind member of our parish community who anonymously donated the copy of the painting that we will be using.)

Every prayer and blessing to everyone as we celebrate our great feast day on Tuesday and also for this wonderful year of mercy. May all of us experience, in a special and deep way, that great gift of God’s love and mercy and may we, in turn, be ambassadors of that mercy to all of our brothers and sisters.

Fr. Anthony
ATTENTION PARENTS!

Our Family Life Ministry would like to give you a gift this Advent and Christmas season...some free time!

On Friday, December 11th the Family Life ministry is offering free babysitting from 4pm to 9pm in our meeting rooms. We’ll have a movie night for the kids, crafts, activities and we’ll even give them dinner!

Get your Christmas shopping done, get some dinner, or just take a nap...we’ll watch the kids!

Call Suzi at 466-8815 to RSVP!

St. Ambrose Young at Heart

Our meeting on November 12th was great. We had a good turn out, and the speaker, Roger Dames, a defensive driving instructor, talked about being mentally and physically prepared for safety behind the wheel for winter driving. At the December 10th meeting, we will see a video about faith and go to The Pointe at Carondolet for our Christmas outing. We are planning a Curtain Call performance for January with dinner at The Century House. Call if you are interested in joining us.

Thank you,
President Carolyn Chabot
785-6315

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It is our belief that Mary was conceived without sin since she was to be the worthy mother of Jesus Christ. In this way, she shared in a unique, anticipated and singular way in the salvation that Jesus would bring to the world.

Since the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is such an important feast day for us, it is also a holy day of obligation and so we will have Mass at the following times:

Monday, Dec. 7th at 5:30 PM-Vigil Mass
Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Are you struggling with your emotions, a loss, an addiction, a relationship or family issues?
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.

Next Saturday and Sunday (December 12th and 13th), please bring your infant Jesus statues from your home Nativity Scenes.

We will have a special blessing of the infant Jesus at all the Masses!
Faith Formation News

Come check out this week’s speaker series! Hopefully you’ve seen that the theme for this year’s speaker series is the family.

This Thursday we’re doing something a little unique. Instead of a regular “speaker”, we’ll have a panel of parishioners discussing the struggles we all face in light of faith and the family. Our panel is made up of many different backgrounds and promises to be a special night!

Advent Speaker Series 2015

Thursday, December 3
The Journey of the Holy Family: A Biblical Reflection (Tom Acemoglu)

Thursday, December 10
Joyfully Complex: Parish Families and the Life of Our Community (people of St. Ambrose)

Thursday, December 17
The Church and the Modern Family: Reflections on the Synod of the Family (Fr. Barratt)

You can find last year’s Speaker Series @ www.stambroselatham.com/media

Nativity Play

Our annual Nativity Play is happening during the 4:30pm Christmas Mass and we need YOUR help!
Open to all kids from Kindergarten to 6th Grade!

If you’re interested, please contact the faith formation office at 785-1351 x322!
A Special Christmas Event

If you have never been then please mark your calendars to attend an Advent Reflection presented by the teens of our Parish Family to all of you. It is a beautiful look back at the covenant pursuit God made of us, His creation, and how much He loves us and wants to give us His mercy and love. Please join us immediately after the 5:30pm Mass on December 6th. It will last approximately 45 minutes and we will have a Christmas Party to follow. This is a great event for the entire family and we, Lifeteen, wish you all a very happy and joyful Advent leading to the praise and worship of the birth of our King, Jesus Christ.

Support the St. Ambrose Family Lifeteen Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.
Adult Raffle
Tickets are $100.00 ea.

Each ticket has 1/12 chance of winning. There will be only 200 tickets sold.

First Prize $5,000—one winner;
Second Prize $1,000—two winners;
Third Prize $500—four winners
Fourth Prize $100—ten winners
Sold after each Mass or in the Church Office. Drawing is January 8th at the Mission Pub Dinner featuring Hair of the Dog

Tickets on sale now Jan. 8th

They’re coming back! Save the Date!!
The Premier Irish band in the Capital District.

Tickets $29 per person
Tickets $42 per person

Pub style food will be available for purchase. Wings, Pub Fries, Onion Rings, Sliders, Flat Breads, Chili, Turkey wraps and much more. Come and enjoy a night of raffle drawing, silent auction, great fun and friends to share; all while supporting the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Support our teens to be our hands and feet, serving the poor.

Advent always brings me to Mary and her love for us and for her son our Lord Jesus Christ. As a Dad I know well the feelings of anticipation during a pregnancy and all the thoughts that run through your mind while your love for this coming miracle grows in their mother’s womb. Will I do a good job raising my child? Can I give them all that they need? Will I be able to protect them from any harm? Can I teach them how to love?

I wonder did Mary and Joseph have these same thoughts? I think they must have and in their humanity struggled with the same insecurities and doubt we all handle. And at the end of the day I remember that God will never give us a life that will make Him unnecessary. He tells us to ask for daily bread. He says seek Me and you will find Me. Knock and the door will be opened. Ask and you will receive. Matthew 7. That is what Advent is to me; reflecting and embracing the need I have for Jesus in my daily life—in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do.
December 6, 2015

Angel Giving Tree

All gifts for the Angel Giving Tree are due back by December 7th please, so they can be delivered. If you can help sort or deliver please call me at 785-1351 extension 304 or just stop by even if you just have an hour to spare - it really helps!

Grief-Loss Christmas Gathering

Wednesday December 9th at 6:30PM

Please join us in the Resource Room. All are welcome - Please bring a friend if you like and a dessert or food to share.

Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30PM

Father Barratt is celebrating a Special Mass in the Chapel to honor your loved one who has passed either recently or in the past. Please come and experience a very peace-filled evening.

At St. Ambrose School, we are "Learning to be all God wants us to be."
**SACRED SPACE**
*An Advent Retreat in Everyday Life*

This Retreat invites us to develop a closer relationship with God during this season of preparation and anticipation that is accessible, engaging and meaningful in daily life.

**Wednesdays**
**December 9th and 16th @ 7pm**
**St. Ambrose Parish Center**

Prepare for the Birth of Christ by Entering a Sacred Space. Throughout Advent, each day includes a Scripture reading and points of reflection, as well as a weekly topic enhanced by six steps of prayer and reflection. Our three gatherings will discuss the weekly scriptures and the weekly topic. Each daily prayer requires 20-30 minutes.

If you would like to participate, please call the St. Ambrose parish office (785-1351) and leave your **name, email** and **phone number**.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

THANK YOU to everyone who made our community Thanksgiving dinner a special occasion for our guests. About 150 people were served.

We appreciate everyone who volunteered to peel potatoes, chop vegetables, make favors, cook, bake, prepare the room, and clean up. We are grateful for the drivers, greeters, servers, and people who donated door prizes and money to purchase the food and supplies.

Thank you to Bella Napoli Bakers and Latham Price Chopper who helped provide the rolls and bread for stuffing and to the Food Bank for providing vegetables and baked goods.

We couldn't have done it without you! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity to those in need in our community!

_Fran and Rose Anne_

**The Altar Rosary Society** will be preparing the Church for the Advent/Christmas season and we would like to invite the parish family to participate. We will be decorating the altars in the church, chapel and McCormick Center with beautiful live poinsettia plants. If you wish to help us with this endeavor, for a small donation, you may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in your family's name. Information on this project can be found on the red and green handouts located at the Church entrances. Thank you and God Bless.

**Keep the Legacy Alive**

Please remember St. Ambrose Parish in your will

_St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church_

347 Old Loudon Rd., Latham, NY 12110

**The Evangelist Subscription**

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ________
Zip: ______________________________
Phone No: ________________________

Please check:

_____ Continue my subscription to the Evangelist, here is my $18.00/yr.

_____ Add my name to the subscription list, here is my $18.00/yr.

Please cut out, make check payable to St. Ambrose Church, drop it in the Collection Box or mail to the Parish Office.
Thanksgiving Thanks and Christmas Dinner Needs

We give many heartfelt thanks to St. Ambrose parishioners and community for their most-appreciated donations which supplied 995 persons with bountiful Thanksgiving baskets. The request for Christmas dinner assistance may surpass this number; pantries in Cohoes provide for Thanksgiving but not Christmas baskets.

Through the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners, the pantry volunteers hope to again provide families this year with 5 lbs. of potatoes and gift certificates for the remainder of vegetables, meat, rolls, fruit, etc. for their Christmas dinner needs.

If you are able to help these least of my children, please bring potatoes and gift certificates ASAP or by December 12-13 and no later than December 19-20.

Thank You for Your Continued Generosity!
**CALENDARS & SCHEDULES**

**Sunday – December 6**
- All Masses
- 5:30PM: Commissioning of Lectors
- XLT/No Reconciliation after mass - Church
- Life Teen Breakfast after all morning Masses - Parish Center

**Monday – December 7**
- 7:00PM: Core Group - Chapel

**Tuesday – December 8**
- 6:45PM: Edge - Parish Center

**Wednesday – December 9**
- 6:00PM: Virtus Training - Parish Center
- 7:00PM: Grief/Loss Christmas Gathering - Resource Room
- 7:00PM: Sacred Space Retreat - Parish Center

**Thursday – December 10**
- 9:30AM: Young at Heart - Parish Center
- 7:00PM: Prayer Group - Chapel
- 7:00PM-9:00PM: Advent Speaker - Parish Center
- 7:30PM: AA, ALANON, ALATEEN - Meeting Rms

**Friday – December 11**
- 7:30PM: AA, ALANON, ALATEEN - Meeting Rms
- 7:00PM-9:00PM: Advent Speaker - Parish Center
- 7:00PM: Sacred Space Retreat - Parish Center
- 6:00PM-7:00PM: Grief/Loss Christmas Gathering - Resource Room
- 7:00PM: Sacred Space Retreat - Parish Center

**Saturday – December 12**
- No events

**Sunday – December 13**
- No events
- 5:30PM: Mass - Parish Center
- 6:00PM: Virtus Training - Parish Center
- 6:45PM: Edge - Parish Center
- 7:00PM: Core Group - Chapel
- 7:00PM: Sacred Space Retreat - Parish Center

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**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.*

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**LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 13, 2015**

**MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

**TEAM #1 — ANN MILLER, JOHN BODNAR, PAT O’CONNOR, PATTY LINCOLN, AND TOM PAULUCCI**

**MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

**TEAM #3 — JOE HOGAN AND RENE COMTOIS**

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<td>Sharon Burgess</td>
<td>Bob Lamiano</td>
<td>Fran Fiegler</td>
<td>Pat Rayball</td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
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<td>#1–Joe Leombruno</td>
<td>#1–Valerie Gyurko</td>
<td>#1–Ann Medici</td>
<td>#1–Patricia Frank</td>
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<td><strong>ALTAR SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td>C.R.&amp;M. Hessinger</td>
<td>V. Cook</td>
<td>M. Stallmer</td>
<td>N. Piusienski, A.&amp;S. Jacob</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
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<td><strong>MEDIA MINISTRY:</strong></td>
<td>Gary L.</td>
<td>Kathy G.</td>
<td>Akhil J.</td>
<td>Ed C.</td>
<td>Juliet M./Jill F.</td>
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**Parish Ministries & Contacts**

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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADULT MISSION</td>
<td>Mike Blair</td>
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<td>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</td>
<td>Cathy Boudreau</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Walter Ewing</td>
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<td>ALTAR SERVERS (Training)</td>
<td>Lynn Wozniak</td>
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<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombard</td>
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<td>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
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<td>BISHOP'S APPEAL (DDP)</td>
<td>Renee Hallock</td>
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<td>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</td>
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<td>FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE</td>
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<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
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<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
<td>Pauline Kubizne</td>
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<td>LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE</td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
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<td>MAGDALENA MINISTRY</td>
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<td>Erin Muir</td>
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<td>MUSIC GROUPS</td>
<td>Thomas Green</td>
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<td>P. A. EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<td>PASTORAL CARE</td>
<td>Ruth Lapierre</td>
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<td>PRAYER &amp; WORSHIP</td>
<td>Richard Ostiguy</td>
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<td>RESPECT LIFE</td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
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<td>RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<td>SACRISTANS</td>
<td>Pat Rayball</td>
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<td>ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Terri McGraw</td>
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<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td><a href="mailto:principal@stambroselatham.com">principal@stambroselatham.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Kelly Sano</td>
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<td>HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Cary Lombardo</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL BOARD</td>
<td>William Miller</td>
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<td>ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY</td>
<td>Paul Wilkes</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRUSTEES</td>
<td>Catherine Halayko / Joseph Sinisgalli</td>
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<td>USHERS</td>
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<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOUNG AT HEART</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
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**We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.**

Maryann Fazzone
Agent
Business: 518-783-7897
619 New Loudon Rd., RT. 9
Latham, NY 12110
maryann.fazzone.bju0@statefarm.com

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2015**

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:19-19
         Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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