“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

**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
FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

As we enter the fourth and final week of our season of Advent, our journey and our preparations for the “advent” of the Lord are nearly at an end. It is hard to believe that Christmas is this coming Friday, although the excitement levels (especially with our children) and the heightened sense of expectation are certainly very obvious. Not surprisingly, the prayers, music and readings at the Mass also have this atmosphere of breathless anticipation. The Prayer after Communion for this Sunday can sum up our thoughts and feelings well:

…We pray Almighty God,

that as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,

so we may press forward all the more eagerly

to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son’s Nativity.

One of the unique features of the liturgy during the last week of the season of Advent is the singing or reading of what are called the great “O antiphons” as heard in our Advent carol, “O Come, O come Emmanuel.” Each of these short antiphons or prayers describes the nature of the Messiah and his coming. One speaks of the Messiah as the wisdom and holy Word of God who governs all creation with strong, yet tender care. Another sings of the Messiah as the radiant dawn, splendour of eternal light, who shines on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. And then there is the one we may know the best that describes the Messiah as Emmanuel (God with us), king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people who comes to set us free. If you can, look again at that Advent carol and spend a little bit of time in prayer reflecting on what each of the descriptions say and what they might mean.

At Mass on the Fourth Sunday, our Gospel is always about one of the annunciations made in preparation for the coming of the Messiah (yes, in a way, there is more than one announcement Gospel…not just the announcement of the archangel Gabriel to Mary!). In Year A we would read about the angel of the Lord appearing to St. Joseph in a dream and telling him to take Mary for his wife. In Year B of our three-year cycle, we would hear the most familiar annunciation: the annunciation of the archangel Gabriel to Mary. As we are in Year C, we hear what is called the Gospel of the Visitation, when Mary goes to meet her kinswoman Elizabeth. She recognizes the mother of her Lord and St. John the Baptist leaps for joy in his mother’s womb: both therefore announcing that the Messiah is near.

These wonderful annunciation Gospels are not only about the events that led up to the birth of Jesus at Christmas. They also invite us to think about our response to this annunciation of the good news of salvation. Like St. Joseph, we can be open to God’s messengers, however they may come to us and to respond to those messages as St. Joseph did in love and obedience: “he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matthew 1: 24). Like our Blessed Mother, we can and should enter into a dialogue with the Lord (“how can this be…?”) and then say “yes” to what he asks of us: “be it done to me according to your word” (cf. Luke 1: 38). Like the Gospel of the Visitation we hear today, we can imitate Mary who was blessed because she believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled, and because her soul magnified the Lord (cf. Luke 1: 41-46). We can also be like Elizabeth who was open to being filled with the Holy Spirit so that she then recognized the presence of God (Luke 1: 41-43).

As the season of Christmas fast approaches, let us indeed give great thanks for the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Let us remember that our celebrations are ultimately about what Jesus came and did for us: Christmas and Easter are closely bound together! This is given an extra lift as we begin our special Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has designated. We can gladly receive God’s great love and mercy and then go forth and announce and show that mercy to others.

Fr. Anthony
There will be **NO Eucharistic Adoration** on Friday, December 25th and Friday, January 1st

**Christmas Mass Times**

**Thursday, December 24th — Christmas Eve**
4:30 PM — Church and Parish Center  
8:00 PM — Church

**Friday, December 25th — The Nativity of the Lord**
9:00 AM  
11:30 AM

**Thursday, December 31st — New Year's Eve**
5:30 PM

**Friday, January 1, 2015 — Solemnity of Mary**
9:00 AM

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**Praying for Peace in Advent**

**Praying with Elizabeth and Mary**

**A Part of our Advent Longing**

Part of our Advent longing will be to grow in our desire for peace - a hunger and thirst for it. For at midnight Liturgy on Christmas Eve, we will hear the angels say to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

**Two Women of Faith**

Whether we are a man or a woman, a little child, a teen, an adult, or aging, we can look to Elizabeth and Mary in our longing for peace - in our hearts and in the world. In our growing desire to be more intimate with Jesus in our everyday lives, in what concrete ways, with what particular persons, can we let the pattern of His life transform our lives? How can we hurry to support others, while finding the community of faith we need to be faithful servants in Jesus' own mission?

**Let there be Peace on Earth!** The angels announce to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Let us all continue to pray for peace in our world. Let's pray that hearts might be transformed, to find the path of peace together. But, as we pray, let's let peace have a chance in our own hearts, in our own world, close at home. The peace-making begins with God's work in us. This is truly Advent longing.

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!**

[http://onlineministries.creighton.edu](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu)
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
We need volunteers to help distribute this year’s parish gift for parish families at the
Christmas Eve masses: 4:30pm (2 masses), 8pm
Christmas Day masses: 9am and 11:30am
Please e-mail us at: faithformationAA@stambroselatham.com
or call us at 785-1351 (x307).
THANK YOU!

Christmas is the Time
When We Get to Go Home

Last Advent, our speaker series had a talk called “When Our Families Stop Coming to Church”. The
hope was to reflect a sentiment that many of us feel when we watch what is now a few generations
of Catholics drift away from the regular practice of their faith. Over the years, some of the greatest
personal suffering I’ve seen among Christians has happened because of a son or daughter who no longer attends Church. Why would this be so painful? We don’t expect our children to copy us. It’s up to them to carve their own way through this world and we’re aware from the first moments of our life with them that one day they will go in a different direction. At best, there is similarity just as they resemble us and we see some of our own interests, quirks, talents, and even shortcomings in them as they grow while many things turn out very differently.

Still, a son or daughter leaving the Church is painful. Why? One reason may be because our faith is among the deepest of our family traditions. For most of us, the decision to be baptized was a decision made for us and many of us made that decision for our children because it was part of wanting what was best for them. The Church was how we communicated values and morals but as we grow in faith we see that it is so much more. It is a deep and abiding trust that God cares as much for our life as He did the life of His own Son. We are loved by Him and moved to love others... “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

Even when the faith is no longer practiced, and children have moved away (sometimes far away), families will still tend to come together for Christmas. The reuniting of a family for a meal together is among the most sacred of family traditions and much of our identity as members of our family were formed around the dinner table. For a few meals at the end of December we reclaim those identities no matter how far life may have taken us. For an evening we can once again be sons and daughters, as well as the parents who prepare and serve. We practice hospitality with their new girlfriends and boyfriends as we once welcomed our children into our homes at birth. We become something we once were while also doing something new. It’s deep and meaningful. It’s also holy and profoundly liturgical.

If this is true of our family, it’s no less true in God’s family. This Christmas we will welcome home our family who are coming from all over our communities and even our country. We do not see them often enough but they are coming and they haven’t felt what it’s like to be home in some time. Many older parents will feel the nervousness of asking their adult children to come with them to church while others will simply insist upon it. We don’t know how these adult children will react to the experience.

This Christmas at St. Ambrose, we can create the loving community that we hope our own loved ones would find if they had not been home in some time. Welcome, greet, smile, love, and let them know how deeply happy we are to see them before another year goes by and we risk not seeing them until next year. With His Grace, we can make the difference.
Tickets on sale now Jan. 8th
They’re coming back! Save the Date!!
The Premier Irish band in the Capital District

Pub style food will be available for purchase.
Wings, Pub Fries, Onion Rings, Sliders, Flat Breads, and much more.
Chili, Turkey wraps.
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.

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.

one winner:
First Prize $5,000
two winners:
Second Prize $1,000
four winners:
Third Prize $500
ten winners:
Fourth Prize $100

Sold after each Mass or in the Church Office. Drawing is January 8th at the Mission Pub Dinner featuring:
Hair of the Dog

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 20th. 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.
Observe Grace in Action

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, it is with deep joy to witness such an extraordinary community of persons in every walk of Ministry, living their Faith. In order to have cohesiveness, trust and love of other is imperative, and more than ever, one can witness our Community in sync, working together until the job is done.

This week was something to see; volunteers and staff doing prep work for Christmas, addressing cards, maintenance workers outside in the bitter cold hanging bells, those in need receiving food, children in the School reciting carols, and practicing their prayers. Father Barratt is most supportive of all that goes on in the church and school communities.

Thank you everyone!
SIGN UP FOR THE EVANGELIST

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.

Thank you and God Bless!

ALTERNATIVE FORMS

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

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.

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.

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 about 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.

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 on December 23 at 9 AM, 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!

Are You Registered In The Parish?

People may consider themselves registered parishioners because they have been coming here for a while, were married here, received their sacraments here or attended St. Ambrose School. If you have not filled out a Registration Form you are not in our census. Registration Forms are available at the parish office or website www.stambroselatham.com or simply complete the Registration Request below & drop it in the collection basket & we will mail you the form. Thank you.

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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!

Stewardship UPDATE

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

Due to early submission of the bulletin, collection numbers for December 12 and 13 will be reported next week.

“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.

Mass Intentions

Monday – December 21—Advent Weekday
6:30 AM Yangim Lee by Kaphi Lee
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
Tuesday – December 22—Late Advent Weekday
6:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Mary Ellen Alverson by Terri McGraw
Frances Martin Sical by Terri McGraw
Wednesday – December 23—Advent Weekday
6:30 AM The Richard Family by Madeleine
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
Thursday – December 24—Vigil of Christmas
Church
4:30 PM Teresa Cafaro (12th Anniversary) by Antoinette Muscatiello
Dorothy Oumet by Family
Albert & Dorothy Leombruno
Parish Center
4:30 PM Helen Falasco & Lillian Molnar by Family
Eugene Kendrick by Family
7:00 PM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church
8:00 PM Angelo Pedone by Nancy Acemoglu & Family
Friday – December 25—The Nativity of the Lord
7:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM James Pewder by Son
Vincent DeSess by Shirley
11:30 AM Leo & Yvette Galarneau by Theresa
Helen P. Decker by Nancy Acemoglu & Family
Saturday – December 26—St. Stephen
4:30 PM Vincent Cacciotti by Wife & Family
Steve & Etsuko Shaw by Marcy & Chris Stevens,
1st Wedding Anniversary
Alice Doherty
Constantine “Duke” J. Doukas by Carolyn Chabot
Sunday – December 27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
7:30 AM Marcella Lebrentritt by Barbara & Donald Lebrentritt
Marion Kardas by Eva, Tina, Dale, Robert, Kandi, Grant & Brayden
9:00 AM Carole Sabatino by Donna Sabatino
Michelle Schrader by John & Linda Estep
11:30 AM Mary Kelley by Ann and Jim McCauley
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5:30 PM Life Teen—People of St. Ambrose

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5:30 PM Life Teen—People of St. Ambrose

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.
December 20, 2015

**CALENDARS & SCHEDULES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday – December 20</td>
<td>10:15AM Faith Formation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After 5:30 PM Mass Life Teen - Parish Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – December 21</td>
<td>7:00PM Core Team - Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday – December 22</td>
<td>No Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – December 23</td>
<td>9:00AM Class Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday – December 24</td>
<td>Offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday – December 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday – December 26</td>
<td>No Eucharistic Adoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday – December 27</td>
<td>No Faith Formation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**STEWARDSHIP OF OFFERTORY**

Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give.
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-8

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27, 2015**

**MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH**

**TEAM #4—BILL SAGE & JUDY VAUTRIN**

**MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 28TH**

**TEAM #2—JAN RAYBALL & MIKE RAYBALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sacristan:</th>
<th>Lectors:</th>
<th>Altar Servers:</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers:</th>
<th>Ushers:</th>
<th>Media Ministry:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30PM</td>
<td>Joe Leombruno</td>
<td>Bob Lamiano</td>
<td>V. Cook</td>
<td>P. Szwed, R. Szwed, D. Daub, V. Gyurko, C. Chabot, E. Mahoney, J. Rys</td>
<td>G. Spenard, J. Minnick, E. Potyrala, Volunteer</td>
<td>Jon B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30AM</td>
<td>Bob Lamiano</td>
<td>#1-Cecilia Pracher</td>
<td>V. Cook</td>
<td>P. Szwed, R. Szwed, D. Daub, V. Gyurko, C. Chabot, E. Mahoney, J. Rys</td>
<td>G. Spenard, J. Minnick, E. Potyrala, Volunteer</td>
<td>Jon B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Donna Sabitino</td>
<td>#2-Betty Mahoney</td>
<td>T. Kent, E. Turcotte, J. Frank</td>
<td>P. Ostiguy, J. Conlen, S. Earl, M. K. Frederick, M. Girard, G. Guerrette, R. Hallock</td>
<td>T. Maleski, J. Grady, F. Fraser, Volunteer</td>
<td>Harry A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Brent Masterson</td>
<td>#2-Mary Anne Egan</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>E. Bullis, M. Searles, D. Frament, M.A. Frament, S. Kolcow, R. LeClair, B. Masterson</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Nancy R.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2015

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Hb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8-16/1Th 10:17-22
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1
Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52
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