THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND OUR BAPTISM

Today we keep the great feast of the Baptism of Jesus. It marks the end of our season of Christmas in the church calendar and the beginning, once again, of Ordinary Time. In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus asks to be baptized by Saint John the Baptist and after this, he begins His three years of public ministry that we will hear about in our Gospel readings each Sunday. Perhaps, like John, we might be puzzled by Jesus’ request. After all, Jesus is the Son of God and is “one like us in all things but sin.” Surely Jesus does not need to be baptized? This is certainly true, but as Father Robert Barron puts it: “Jesus stood shoulder to shoulder with sinners in the muddy waters of the Jordan, not because he was a sinner in need of salvation, but because he wanted to bring the divine love even to the darkest and most painful corners of human experience.” As we continue our Year of Mercy, Jesus’ baptism is therefore a great sign of God’s wonderful love and mercy.

Today’s feast is also rather like an annual reminder of the great sacrament of baptism that we have received and so, at Mass this weekend we will renew our baptismal promises and we will be sprinkled with holy water. (We use holy water to put us in mind of the waters of our own baptism.) Most of us do not remember our own baptism or the promises made for us when we were baptized because, of course, we were just a little baby when it happened; although perhaps we have had the joy of being present at a baptism recently. It is good to remember all the wonderful gifts that the sacrament of baptism brings to those who receive it: new life and a washing clean of all sin, adoption as sons or daughters of God through Jesus Christ, the light of Christ to guide us, entrance into the community of the Church to name but a few. Once again, we might say that these are all great gifts that come from God’s love and mercy for us.

Going back to our Gospel reading for today, there is one other important gift that we receive in the sacrament of baptism and it very much ties in with our parish and school focus on evangelization: that is of living as true disciples of Jesus Christ and sharing our faith with others. In the Gospel, a voice is heard from heaven and God designates Jesus as His “beloved Son”. In a way, Jesus receives a call from God and a mission and after this event at the Jordan River Jesus begins his ministry.

So too with us when we were baptized. The very first thing that happens in the Rite of Baptism is that the parents are asked: “what name do you give your child?” This is a very significant and symbolic moment. Giving a name gives an identity to a person and also a purpose. When the person being baptized is “named” it means that God will know them by that name and call them by that name for the rest of their lives. We received that naming and purpose when we were baptized…let us live up to that name by which God knows us and calls us!

One final thought. We have the custom of blessing ourselves with holy water as we enter or leave the church: we do this almost instinctively or automatically. On this feast day of the Baptism of the Lord, it is good to remember why we do this. It is actually a ritual reminder of our baptism and of the promises of that sacrament that we try to follow and to live, not just when we gather in the church, but when we leave to go about our lives. So, as we bless ourselves with holy water, why not also say a short prayer or make a promise, that we will live up to our name and our calling that we received when we were baptized. And perhaps, we can also pray in this Year of Mercy that just as we have received so many gifts of mercy, we will also be merciful to others.

Fr. Anthony
The Altar Rosary Society would like to thank you for your generous support of the Poinsettia sale. Your contributions purchased beautiful plants for the church altar, chapel and the McCormick Center. Any remaining funds will be used to decorate the altar throughout the coming year. God bless you and may 2016 bring you much health and happiness.

The Altar Rosary Society

The Family of:

Carl & Marion Rosenthal
Donato & Patricia Gagliardi
Grenchus Family
Helen D. Richmond
Jim & Shelly Conlen
Josol Family
Kevin & Anne Schwenzfeier
Marjorie Connors
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Wickert
(OLA Visitors)
Mrs. Leon Durvage
Patrick McNally & Children
Renda Vittoria
Rita & Bill Mohr
Robert & Julie Rys
Robert & Maryanne Denault
Sano & Theresa Famulare & Family
The Baseel & French Families
William & Harriet Whalen

Dora & John Daub
Dorothy & Robert Cox
Edward & Felicia Fitzgerald
Edward & Marie Haverly
Eugene & Aline Benoit
Frances Carcia
Frances Hudy, Michael Hudy & Families
Fred Burgess
Gene & Mary Carlassco
Grace J. Kulzer
Helen Falasco
Henry & Martha Miller
Hope & Bob McAllister
Howard & Cathy Birdsell
James E. Sharp
James Falasco, Sr.
James McKeown
James Minnick, Sr.
Jane & Edward Szwedo
Jean O'Brien
Jim Danner
Joan & Paul Bader
John & Adele Mizwa
John & Ann Maloney & Son, John
John & Ann Wetra
John & Marion Kardas
John & Theresa Kopela
John J. Tierney
Joseph & Eleanor Pelgrin
Joseph Lemieur
Julia & George Kepner, Sr., Dec.
Kathleen Englant
Kathleen M. Burke
Keith Farron
Lawrence O'Sullivan
Lillian Molnar
Linda Falco
Louis & Nicholas Muscatiello
Louis Falco
Marie & Leo Wilson
Marie Falco
Marion & Claude Winnie & Tricia
Mary & Anthony Falasco
Mary & George Spenard
Mary & Peter Bukowski
Mary & Tom Mundipare
Mary & Walter Krul
Mary Shruan
Michael & Elizabeth Cook
Michael A. Dauphinias, Sr.
Michael David Grady
Michelle Schrader
Millie Nazarovech
Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Quimet
Mr. & Mrs. William Bookhop
Neal M. Goodman
Patricia Figueroa, Jr.
Pauline Urso
Peter Babulas
Philip Falasco
Phylona Pecori
Robert & Margaret Sutherland
Rose Judd
Ruth & Joe Glasheen
Ruth & William McCrea
Sandro R. Fiegler
Shirley McNally
(Wife of Patrick McNally)
Stephen Molnar
Stephen R. Warshany
Steve & Dot Chovan
The Allen & Shea Families
The Cazasta & Frank Families
The Deceased Members of the DiBacco,
DeNault, & Banette Families
The DesChamps & Schweers Families
The Duffy & Zmijewski Families
The Godfrey & Kana Families
The King & Chorwat Family
The Renda & Mele Family
The Trzciniski & Hutchings Family
The Volks & Geracitano Families
Timothy D. Butler
Victor & Irene Coallier
Viola Deskewies
Walter & Mary Jesiowski
Walter Nash
William & Alice Doherty
William & Josephine Couch
William Sugrue

In Memory of…

Ann & Anthony Zubal
Anna D. Mahoney
Arthur Quinn
Baniak & Kubizne Family Members
Betty & Ed Heppern
Billy Whalen
Boudreau & Dufort Families
Bruno & Josephine Chiera
Calvin Chabot
Charles & Helen Clark
Charles & Marie Dooley
Charles A. & Marc D. Morse
Chester Roberts
Daniel W. Grady, Sr.
Deacon Leo Rayball
Deceased Members of the Blum & Leicht Families
Deceased Members of the Maxwell & Decker Families
Deceased Members of the Mink & Rizzo Families
Deceased Members of the Murray & Lattaf Families
Devid Wetra
Donna & John Kiersztyn
Sign up for updates! ♦ See upcoming events! ♦ Read the bulletin online! ♦ Check liturgical schedules! ♦ Find out more about the different parish ministries! ♦ Find important forms! ♦ Connect with our Facebook and Twitter pages!

“Like” St Ambrose Church on Facebook to get updates on what’s going on in the parish!
www.facebook.com/saintambrosechurch

Check out our Media Page for new videos: Seasonal Video Series and Speaker Series!
www.stambreselatham.com/

Hilary of Poitiers
315–368
Feast—January 13

This bishop and theologian, a highly cultivated pagan who became a Christian, was elected bishop of his native Poitiers, in France, at age thirty-five, while his wife was still living. For his unwavering opposition to Arianism, the heresy that Jesus Christ was in some way subordinate to God, he was banished to Asia Minor in 356 by an Arian emperor. But he continued to study Greek theology and oppose Arianism and was sent back to France for being a “mischief-maker.” He left extensive writings and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1851.

St. Ambrose Faith Formation
Important Dates

Sunday, January 10th—First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (10:15am in Parish Center)
Sunday, January 10th—1st Large Group Meeting for Confirmation (6:30pm in Parish Center)
January 15th to 17th—Confirmation Weekend Retreat (Christ the King Spiritual Life Center)
January 31st—Faith Formation Parent Meeting and Classroom Visits (Grades 3 and 4)

“And with the grace of Baptism and of Eucharistic Communion I can become an instrument of God’s mercy, of that beautiful mercy of God.”
—Pope Francis, Regina Caeli, April 1, 2013

Scenes from Christmas 2015...
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mission 2016 Dominican Republic

Please know that we are so very grateful for the empowering donations made by our parish family to allow us to be the hands and feet of this community and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will be praying for all of you and thanking God for your willful support of this yearly mission trip. Please also keep us all in your prayers as we finalize our preparation for this trip. We leave on February 13th and return on February 21st. While we are there we will build a home for a family; share our faith with those we work with and look for the blessing God will bestow on us so we can grow closer and stronger in our faith returning to our home to share with all of you. We will also embrace a group of Catholic Nuns who are providing for the poor and provide for them all the help we can.

These are our family Missionaries who will sacrifice their time and talent to serve in the name of Jesus Christ and St. Ambrose Parish family.

Andrew Conner, Deb Baker, Emily Balmer, Cameron Brochu, Chris Sevinsky, Blake Clickner, Nate Einstein, Blaze Flores, Heather Green, Jacob Watson, Theresa Kent, Dominic Marchese, Angelica Martinez, Zachary Mitchell, Mikaela Natale, Marybeth Pallack, Noah Pallack, Rachel Peterson, Megan Plekan, Marygrace Pelsinelli, Kimberly Reilly, Mark Searles, Catherine Searles, Justin Searles, Mary Siple, Sarah Siple, Emily Teeter, Mark Trudeau, Marygrace Wehranberg

Here’s one for your Frig!!

Mercy-

With full awareness of my heart’s position on selfishness, God the Father meets me first with love and acceptance, putting me in a place where I feel safe and able to learn.
DID YOU KNOW?

St. Ambrose School offers...

...A quality, personal education to students age 3–grade 8.

...Spanish instruction to all students, even 3 year olds!

...Every classroom is equipped with an interactive Smart Board, wireless devices for student use and a computer lab where all students learn the necessary technological skills.

...A peaceful beginning to each day by praying as a community. We celebrate everyone’s birthday with a song and celebrate each child as a gift from God.

...Wrap around care from 7:15 am–5:30 pm.

...New extracurricular activities for all age groups every 10 weeks.

...The opportunity for students to engage in all types of meaningful community service.

...Musical instrument lessons including the violin, guitar, and piano.

Happy New Year

It is indeed a new year, a time to re-evaluate the previous year and make plans for the year ahead.

It is so important to remember our blessings. This is a vibrant community of many loving and caring people who make sacrifices each day for others. Each person, in their respective positions have multiple responsibilities, that are so enhanced because of the selfless concern of our many volunteers who just stop by to lend a helping hand.

Christmas was without exception, as the cliché’ goes, it takes a village to raise a child, and it takes the same to form a beautiful community. How blessed we all are to be part of it. Many thanks to all who helped to make the Giving Tree possible; those who purchased the gifts, sorted, lifted, delivered and cared. Although grueling at times, it is the Christ spirited way of love and carrying out the Gospel message.

Wishing all a healthy and prosperous year!
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.

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.

Altar Rosary Society

THANK YOU

A special “Thank You” to all those who generously gave of their time and talents to create a beautiful altar to celebrate our Savior’s birth.

The next meeting of the Altar Rosary Society will be Tuesday, January 12 at 7 PM in the Chapel. The meeting will begin with praying the rosary. Following prayer, we will meet in the Meeting Rooms to tie blankets as part of ongoing service project, “Hugs from Lou.” All are welcome!

Cathy B.

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

Christmas
December 25, 2015 $25,572.01
December 25, 2014 $25,452.13

Holy Family
December 27, 2015 $15,969.00
December 28, 2014 $14,457.91

Solemnity of Mary
January 1, 2016 $  4,432.25
January 1, 2015 $  5,069.02

Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2016 $21,390.49
January 4, 2015 $16,053.85

Mass for Peace - Wednesdays (Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 2) - We’ll gather for Mass at 7 PM. Before Mass, please join us for a potluck supper at 5:45 PM at Emmaus House. Sponsored by the Albany Catholic Worker. All are welcome!

Items Needed - The Albany Catholic Worker distributes items to low-income families throughout the Capital Region. Please consider donating diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, toilet paper, laundry detergent, tissues, toothpaste, bars of soap, cereal, etc. Donations may be brought to Emmaus House. For more information please call (518) 482-4966 or send an email to: catholicworkeralbany@gmail.com.

New Sanctuary for Immigrants Drop-In - Every Wednesday starting January 13 - Are you an immigrant (or know one) who needs help? Please visit with members of our New Sanctuary Group. We assist with legal concerns, education, employment advocacy and access to healthcare. Office location: Our Lady of the Americas Shrine Church 274 Sherman Street, Albany, NY 12206 Phone: (518) 465-3685, extension 10 email: ns4immigrants@gmail.com

St. Ambrose Young at Heart

The group met on December 10, with a short business meeting and viewing of the Drawing and Faith video. The video was enjoyed by everyone. The group then had a Christmas luncheon at the Restaurant at the Pointe at Carondelet.

The next meeting of Young at Heart will be January 14 at 10:00 AM. The group will also be attending a Curtain Call performance of Sleuth on January 17. Dinner will follow the show at the Century House. Please contact Bob at 423-6275 to register.

Thank you, Carolyn Chabot
CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

Sunday – January 10
10:15 AM Faith Formation
10:15 AM First Reconciliation Parent Mtg – Parish Center
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen - Parish Center
6:30 PM Confirmation Large Group - Parish Center

Monday – January 11
7:00 PM Core Team - Chapel

Tuesday – January 12
6:45 PM Edge –Parish Center
7:00 PM Altar Rosary Society - Chapel

Wednesday – January 13
6:00 PM Virtus Training - Parish Center

Thursday – January 14
6:30 PM Confirmation Large Group - Parish Center

Friday – January 15
7AM- Midnight Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday – January 16
No events scheduled

Sunday – January 17
10:15 AM No Faith Formation

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17, 2016

MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17TH
TEAM #8—LAWERENCE GIRARD, SUSAN O’BRIEN, SANDRA TRZCINSKI, DAVID PIOUSIENSKI

MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH
TEAM #1—TINA ZANDRI, RICHARD OSTIGUY, MARIAN DAVIS

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

KEEP THE LEGACY ALIVE
Please remember St. Ambrose Parish in your will
St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church
347 Old Loudon Rd., Latham, NY 12110

2 Corinthians 9: 6-8

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STATEMENTS & SCHEDULES
Parish Ministries & Contacts

ADULT MISSION ................................................................. Mike Blair ................................................................. 376-0082
ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY .................................................. Cathy Boudreau ......................................................... 785-3460
ALTAR SERVERS (Scheduling) ............................................... Walter Ewing ........................................................... 320-0662
(Training) ........................................................................ Lynn Wozniak ......................................................... 456-5990
ATHLETIC PROGRAM ......................................................... Jim LaBombard ........................................................ 371-1996
BAPTISMAL PREPARATION ............................................. Helmut & Vicky Neurohr ........................................... 785-4630
BISHOPS APPEAL (DDP) .................................................. Renee Hallock .......................................................... 785-3180
BUILDING AND GROUNDS ............................................. Rich Zmijewski ........................................................ 785-3142
CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP ....................................... Mary Beth Pallack ................................................... 221-1357
CONFIRMATION ................................................................ Tom Acemoglu ..................................................... 785-1351 x307
EUCHARISTICADORATION ............................................... Nancy Hooley .......................................................... 783-3411
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Training) ................................ Helmut Neurohr ........................................................ 785-4630
(Scheduling) .................................................................. Mary Stewart ........................................................... 785-6727
FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE ............................................. Nancy Acemoglu ..................................................... 785-1351 x304
FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION........................................... Connie Strassburg .................................................... 783-3342
FOOD PANTRY ................................................................... Pauline Kubizne ...................................................... 785-7816
................................................................. Patricia Pyndus .......................................................... 785-4664
GARDEN CLUB .................................................................... Mary Sue Ray ........................................................ 469-1329
GRIEF LOSS GROUP ........................................................ Nancy Acemoglu . outreach@stambroselatham.com .... 785-1351 x304
LECTORS ........................................................................ Joe Leombruno ........................................................ 373-2353
LIFE TEEN & JR. HIGH LIFE ........................................... Mark Trudeau . youthministry@stambroselatham.com ... 785-1351 x309
MAGDALENA MINISTRY .................................................. Paula Borkowski ....................................................... 797-6447
MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRY ............................. Erin Muir . liturgyandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com . 785-1351 x302
MARTHA MINISTRY .......................................................... Donna Sabatino ......................................................... 782-1470
........................................................................................ Frances Fieglcr .......................................................... 785-8763
....................................................................................... Rose Anne Szwed .. ....................................................... 469-5367
MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY ......................... Mary Kay Frederick ...................................................... 783-5186
MEDIA MINISTRY ................................................................ Mary Alice Hunt .. AmbroseMediaMinistry@gmail.com ...... 859-6743
MUSIC GROUPS ............................................................... Thomas Green . music@stambroselatham.com .................. 785-1351 x306
PARISH SECRETARY ........................................................ Parish Office ................................................................. 785-1351 x321
P. A. EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS ......................... Tom Acemoglu ......................................................... 785-1351 x307
PASTORAL CARE .............................................................. Ruth Lapierre .............................................................. 785-0905
PRAYER & WORSHIP ..................................................... Richard Ostiguy ........................................................ 783-5173
RESPECT LIFE ................................................................ Erin Muir . liturgyandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com ... 785-1351 x302
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) ...... Tom Acemoglu ......................................................... 785-1351 x307
SACRISTANS ................................................................. Pat Rayball ................................................................. 708-9015
ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL .................................................. Terri McGr ... principal@stambroselatham.com .................. 785-6453
PRINCIPAL ................................................................... Terri McGr ... principal@stambroselatham.com .................. 785-6453
SECRETARY ................................................................... Kelly Sano . school@stambroselatham.com .................. 785-6453 x330
HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION ........................................ Cary Lombardo .......................................................... 785-6453
SCHOOL BOARD .............................................................. William Miller ............................................................ 785-6453 x320
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY .................................... Paul Wilkes ................................................................. 785-1351
TRUSTEES ........................................................................ Catherine Halayko / Joseph Sinisgalli ......................... 785-1351
USHERS ......................................................................... John Estep ................................................................. 783-9266
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ............................................ Tom Acemoglu .. EvangelizationAndCatechesis@stambroselatham.com
YOUNG AT HEART .......................................................... Carolyn Chabola ......................................................... 785-6315

We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.

Steve Duggan
Real Estate Salesperson
RE/MAX Park Place
Cell: 518-210-3290
Mobile Phone: 518-210-3290
http://www.stevesellsny.com/

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2016

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2. 5, 7-10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 2:1-12
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17

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