Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. - Lk 5:5-6
LENT IS ALMOST HERE!

It is amazing to think that this Sunday is not only the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, but it is also the last Sunday before we begin, once again, the great season of Lent. Yes, Ash Wednesday is coming this Wednesday! You will notice that we have a special program available for Lent that will be given out at Masses this week. Please do keep a copy of the program on the refrigerator door, or in whatever place that you usually keep notices and other such things. The program lists all the various activities and services that will be taking place during the season; as well as some projects, reflections and suggestions for each week during the season of Lent. We also have the usual copies of ‘The Word Among Us” that can be a great guide through the daily Scripture readings for Lent. There will also be special events such as a Lenten Speaker Series and another Night of Praise (on 16th March).

Lent is very much a time of movement and of promise, just like our sense of the changing of the seasons and the hope of spring (as you may know, the word “Lent” is actually an ancient Anglo-Saxon word meaning “springtime”). We can also see Lent as a time of making wishes come true…I wish that I had more time to pray, I wish that I could pray, I wish that I could overcome this or that all too familiar fault or failing, I wish that I let God into my life more, I wish that a family squabble could be resolved…Lent can be a time when such wishes do not remain simply as wishes, but when they can become a reality. In other words, we can follow the example of the disciples in our Gospel this weekend who follow Jesus’ command to “put out into the deep!”

Indeed, during Lent we make that extra special effort, not only to put out into the deep, but to dig deep; that is to work on areas in our lives that need help and growth. We can only do this with God’s help and love, especially through being fed by the Eucharist and by His Word and also through celebrating the other sacraments such as reconciliation/confession (especially as we continue our Year of Mercy in the Church.) The other great thing about Lent is that we are not doing this alone. Everyone else in our parish and school community of St. Ambrose and millions, billions of other Christians throughout the world are doing the same thing. When we set ourselves goals or undertake projects (diets, training, exercising or whatever), isn’t it so much easier when others join us in that project and help us to achieve our goals? Let us also remember those who are preparing to be baptized and/or received into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year.

So, for all of us may this Lent be a very special time of renewal, refreshment and growth. Lent can be a time when we focus on serving our true master (God!) and when we put to one side some of our daily concerns and worries and deepen our trust in God. Please do make use of all the many resources that are available, whether they be the usual ones or extra ones that are on offer during Lent. Whatever the weather may do during this month and whenever spring may arrive; may this season of Lent be for us a real “springtime of the soul”.

Here is the schedule for Ash Wednesday:

- 6.30 am Prayer Service with the Giving of Ashes
- 9.00 am Mass (including the giving of ashes)
- 12.00 noon Prayer Service with the Giving of Ashes
- 7.00 pm Mass (including the giving of ashes)

Fr. Anthony
RCIA—Rite of Sending

During the upcoming time of Lent, we are called to a profound conversion of life. We are called to remember all that the Lord has done for us. We are called to let God change our lives. Today we have among us a sign of conversion to which the Lord calls us. That sign is our candidates and catechumen in the RCIA process.

Our catechumen is proclaiming that she believes that God is calling her to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Our candidates, already baptized, are proclaiming that they desire the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. They will all be entering into a more profound and intense preparation of purification and enlightenment.

We, the Church, ratify their choice and send them to Bishop Scharfenberger next Sunday for Election and Recognition. We welcome them even more into our midst and witness our faith to them as they, by their conversion, call us to conversion.

Our catechumen is Jennifer Meeley. Our candidates are Gregory Seeley, Donald Harrison and Guia Otero.

Please pray for them as they enter into this most holy phase of their journey.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday. The giving of ashes will be at the following times:

- 6:30 AM Communion Service with giving of ashes
- 9:00 AM Mass (including giving of ashes)
- 12:15 PM Communion Service with giving of ashes
- 7:00 PM Mass (including giving of ashes)

“Celebrate Marriage”

A Day of Enrichment For Married Couples!

Attend a day that will re-energize your marriage and deepen your faith! Put the world’s pressures on hold for a few hours and focus on the most important person in your life—your spouse! Take quality time to enhance communication and build a stronger marital and family foundation. “Celebrate Marriage” is beneficial to couples of all ages and years married.

Saturday, February 13, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose, 347 Old Loudon Rd. Latham, NY

For information and reservations, contact Tony & Joan Viscusi 399-5406 or twiscusi@nycap.rr.com. Fee for the day is $30.00 with lunch provided. Please RSVP by 2/8/2016.

Young at Heart

We had a short business meeting on January 14th, played BINGO and we are still trying to get some new members. The club has shrunk in numbers due to aging, persons moving from the area, going into nursing homes and deaths. I hate to say, but we are all getting older. The persons that have reached 55 still think they are too young for us, but we are willing to try new ideas. Please try us. I have placed a flyer on the bulletin board about our club, please look for it and think about checking us out.

We have a speaker about Black History month for our February 11th meeting and we do have refreshments and coffee too. Thank you, Carolyn Chabot, President...#785-6315

FOOD PANTRY STATS

The Food Pantry served 101 households in January. This included 220 adults and 197 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 much appreciated as we strive to feed the hungry in our community.

There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, February 12th due to the Presidents’ Day holiday weekend.
Lent 2016

Broken, Beautiful, and Beloved
Learning to See Ourselves Through God’s Eyes

Lenten Speaker Series — February 17, 2016, 7 PM (Parish Center)

Can you “fail” Lent? Believe it or not, the answer is “No”!
Mary DeTurris Poust will be speaking to us about preparing for Lent by seeing ourselves as God’s beloved creation. All Are welcome!

Mary DeTurris Poust is a nationally recognized speaker, blogger, retreat leader, and spiritual motivator. She is the creator of Not Strictly Spiritual, a blog that focuses on “discovering the divine in the everyday” through faith, food, family life, travel, and more. An award-winning columnist, journalist and author of six books on Catholic spirituality, Mary has written hundreds of articles for Catholic and secular publications over the past 30 years. She writes a monthly column, "Life Lines," which appears in Catholic New York newspaper and The Catholic Spirit (NJ). She is also the Communications Director for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. Visit her at www.notstrictlyspiritual.com to learn more about her and her writings.

Our Hearts Turned to God
Speaker: TBA
Wednesday, March 2nd at 7 PM in the Parish Center

This night offers the parish a chance to reflect on changing the course of our lives and turning away from those patterns in our life that move us away from God.

Sacrament of Mercy
Speaker: Fr. Anthony Barratt
Wednesday, March 9th at 7 PM in the Parish Center

Jesus left us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to bring healing to our brokenness. Fr. Barratt will guide us through how we celebrate and receive His great gift in the Sacrament.

The Light is On For You!

Tuesday, March 15th
7pm to 8:30pm

Parish Reconciliation Service

3:16 Songs to the Beloved
Night of Praise

On March 16th, come celebrate the love of the Father and the great gift of His mercy. Join us at 7 PM in the Church.
Parish Family Breakfast this weekend. Come and enjoy some great food, friendships and support of our mission work throughout the year. All you can eat Bacon, Eggs, Pancakes, Waffles, Sausage, Potatoes, Fruit cups, Danish, Coffee, Tea and Juice.

$8 per person over the age of 13 is a family bargain.
Under 13 is $3 and under 7 is free.
Please come and enjoy this event.

Mission 2016 Dominican Republic

We are one week away and getting very excited. You can follow us on facebook or the website to see what is happening. We will be posting things each day to show our progress. Thank you for your prayers!

Middle School Ministry--Winter Spring Schedule

We meet on Tuesday nights from 6:45pm to 8:00pm. All youth in grades 6 through 8 are invited to attend. No registration necessary. Just come and learn.

Jan 19th—The Creed (part 1)
Jan. 26th—no class
Feb 2nd—The Creed (part 2)
Feb 9th—the Sacraments
Feb. 16th—no class
Feb. 23rd—What happened to Jesus?
Mar. 1st—Where is He now?
Mar. 8th—no class
Mar. 15th—Reconciliation
Mar 22nd—Passion week
Mar. 29th—no class
Apr. 5th—Parting Gifts
Apr. 12th—Homework
Apr. 19th—Prayer
Apr. 26th—no class
May 3rd—Covenant Promise

It is our year of Mercy. Time for us to embrace the Corporal and Spiritual acts as something that we become not just something we do. To assume a new way of looking out into the world and finding those brothers and sisters in Christ who need our help. And in helping them we in turn are blessed and then revealed by God who He made us to be.
At St. Ambrose School, we are “Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

So you didn’t win the big Power Ball drawing? No worries, the St. Ambrose School

March Madness Raffle

Tickets are On Sale Now!!

$10 ticket gives you 31 chances to win. A winner every day of the month!

Parish Nurse Nancy Acemoglu, RN

Nurses notes...

Needed
A person recently hospitalized who lost her apartment, without resources, is in great need of a bed and mattress. She is currently sleeping on the floor and has no way to pick one up either, it would have to be brought to her. If you can help, kindly contact me at 785-1351 x 304

Please remember in prayer, a tiny premature baby boy who is struggling for his life....as well as for his family.

Prayers of multitude:
Affirmations from the Abode of God
I dwell in sunlight that warms the air.
I dwell in flowers as they dance in spring.
I dwell in the music of the whispering leaves.
I dwell in the rain that renews the grass.
I dwell in rolling of the ocean’s waves, and in the living things that dwell in its depths.
I dwell in the majesty of mountain peaks, and in the sun swept verdure of their valleys.
I dwell in the beauty of moon and stars.
I dwell in all creatures great and small.
I dwell in you! I dwell in each human heart. (Think of each one as a dwelling of God.)
I am your Beloved God, and I make my home here, with you.
I dwell in the heart of the world. All of Earth reflects me.
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.

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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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.

Christians of the Holy Land

I am very grateful that so many of you came to meet me after Mass. Your community & clergy made me feel so very welcomed & appreciated. Many of you expressed kind & sincere words of gratitude & praise; your kindness to our cause is very humbling. I appreciated that many of you purchased the olive wood religious articles that were available; thank you.

Many Christian Palestinians will soon be hard at work to replenish what you’ve purchased & more. This in turn creates a virtuous cycle of simple commerce, all because you chose to participate. One of the major problems we face as Christian Palestinians is the lack of awareness about us. I pray that I’ve left a positive impression on you regarding our community. I urge you to continue your prayers for our shared cause, namely safeguarding our Christian Holy Land; it’s people & parishes.

Peace, Rami Qumsieh, KHS
www.HolyLandDirect.com,
Rami@HolyLandDirect.com

Parishes of Our Local Catholic Communities

COLONIE
St. Clare’s  456-3112   Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am

LATHAM
Our Lady of the Assumption  785-0234   Sat: 4:30pm
Sun: 7:30am, 9:00am St. Joseph Prov. House 10:30am

LOUDONVILLE
Christ Our Light  459-6635   Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 9:00 / 11:15am
St. Pius X  462-1336   Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 & 12 noon

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.

In Sympathy
Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the souls of Mildred Flavin, Margery Darandi, June Rich, Gilbert Reisner and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.
February 7, 2016

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

January 31, 2016 $18,761.85
February 1, 2015 $16,911.40

Renewed thanks for your generosity and many thanks to everyone for the generous response to the Increased Offertory Campaign.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Tired of the winter cold?
Heat up your marriage on the next Marriage Encounter Weekend from March 11 to March 13.
Call (518) 279-3243 or visit www.albanyme.org for more information.

Diocese Special Collection
Next week, at the Masses of February 13 & 14, parishes in the Diocese of Albany will take up the Annual Collection for the Black, Native & Latin American Missions. Funds from this combined collection support a range of pastoral projects & are used to help fund catechesis & evangelization programs throughout the US & the Church of Latin America & the Caribbean. By contributing to next week’s collection you will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come.

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

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.
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

Sunday – February 7
8AM-12 Noon  Life Teen Breakfast Fundraiser-Parish Center
10:15 AM  Faith Formation
After 5:30 PM Mass  Life Teen-Super Bowl Party

Monday – February 8
1:30 PM  Nursing Home Mass
7:00 PM  Core Team-Chapel

Tuesday – February 9
6:00 PM  First Reconciliation-Church
6:45 PM  EDGE - Meeting Rooms
7:00 PM  Altar Rosary in the Chapel followed by a speaker in the Lounge

Wednesday – February 10—Ash Wednesday
9:00 AM  School Mass-Church

Thursday – February 11
10 AM-12 Noon  Young At Heart-Parish Ctr
6:00 —9:00 PM  AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Meeting Rms
7:00 —9:00 PM  Prayer Group-Chapel

Friday – February 12
7 AM- Midnight  NO Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 PM  Stations of the Cross-Church

Saturday – February 13
9:00-4:00PM  “Celebrate Marriage” - A Day of Enrichment for Married Couples-Parish Ctr

Sunday – February 14
10:15 AM  NO Faith Formation
After 5:30 PM Mass  Life Teen

ADOPT-A-STUDENT
FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Each year our school is approached by parents who strongly desire a Catholic education for their children but simply cannot afford one. You can make a difference in a child’s life by sponsoring all or part of a child’s tuition. Please consider helping a student in need of receiving a Catholic Education. Thank you. Terri McGraw - School Principal 785-6453

Congratulations, best wishes and prayers from the St. Ambrose Parish Community to Nicholas P. Moquin & Amanda Jordan Smith and Michael Go & Jennette SanInocencio who were recently joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 2016

MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
TEAM #2— LARRY GIRARD & RICH OSTIGUY

MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
TEAM #1—TINA ZANDRI & MARIAN DAVIS

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<td>Fran Fiegler</td>
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<td>#1-Rich Zmijewski &amp; #2-John Bodnar</td>
<td>#1-Mary Kay Frederick &amp; #2-Ann Medici</td>
<td>#1-Ruth Lapierre &amp; #2-Noreen Fisk</td>
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<td>Celeste, Ruth &amp; Mary Hessinger</td>
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<td>Mary Elena Belski, Abby Hallock, Meredith Hayes</td>
<td>Meaghan Mahar, Paul Adams, Nicholas Koroso,</td>
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<td>Sandi T.</td>
<td>Gail C.</td>
<td>Akhil J.</td>
<td>Rene M.</td>
<td>Jill F.</td>
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Liturical Roles: Volunteers

Media Ministry: Jill F.
## Parish Ministries & Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADULT MISSION</td>
<td>Mike Blair</td>
<td>376-0082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</td>
<td>Cathie Boudreau</td>
<td>785-3460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>Walter Ewing</td>
<td>320-0062</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Scheduling)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Training)</td>
<td>Lynn Wozniak</td>
<td>456-5990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombarde</td>
<td>371-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
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<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>
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<td>CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP</td>
<td>Mary Beth Pallack</td>
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<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
<td>Tom Acmoglu</td>
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<td>EUCHARISTICADORATION</td>
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<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Training)</td>
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<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
<td>Connie Strassburg</td>
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<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
<td>Pauline Kubizne</td>
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<td>GARDEN CLUB</td>
<td>Patricia Ostiguy</td>
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<td>Mary Sue Ray</td>
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<td>LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE</td>
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<td>MARTHA MINISTRY</td>
<td>Donna Sabatino</td>
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<td>Catherine Halayko / Joseph Sinisgalli</td>
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<td>USHARES</td>
<td>John Estep</td>
<td>783-9266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Tom Acmoglu</td>
<td>785-6315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUNG AT HEART</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**We joyfully announce the following that were brought to the Baptismal Font during November, December, January and are now members of the Church. The newly baptized are:**

- Ramon Antonio Cabrera
- Jack Kevin Hanley
- Tanner Joseph Demers
- Alexander Jason Keefe
- Mae Rose Oswald
- Sophia Fernandez
- Quinn Elena Sullivan
- Allison Carole Guzzo
- James Joseph Clas IV
- Wesley Matthew Trunko
- Liliana Reign Celeone
- Austin Patricia Schiller
- Alexis Cashmira Simpson
- Conner Gary Newton
- Natalie Jenna Newton
- Quinn Marie Tessier
- Peyton Elizabeth Hawkyard.