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
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Once again, we have begun our journey of Lent together; that special time when we try to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to grow in our faith. Lent is indeed a journey, and like all journeys, it needs several things so that we can journey well. Any journey needs a destination; just as when we tap in the end point of our journey when using a GPS system or something like Google maps (or even if we do it the “old fashioned” way by using a map….!). Our destination during Lent is, of course, Easter, when we will once again celebrate Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection.

We also need directions and pointers to help us along the way on our journey and in our Lenten journey we have these in things such as our Scripture readings. We will see, each Sunday during Lent, how God’s plan for us unfolds and how the carefully chosen readings each day at Mass can guide us and keep us on course. (So, if you have not done so already, do pick up a copy of “the Word Among Us” that provides both the readings and a short reflection on the readings for each day in Lent.) We also have all sorts of extra things going on during Lent such as our speaker series or another “Night of Praise”. Details of this series and many other activities can be found in the Lent program booklet, available at the church exits. Do also check out the parish website that has all sorts of additional things for the season including a short video each week focused on various Lenten themes.

A good journey also needs at least one other thing. I am not sure how you pack for travel and what essentials you always take with you, but most of us certainly make sure that we have things with us that we will need and that will make the journey easier and safer. This is also true with our journey of Lent. By ancient tradition there are three key things that we need to “pack” and to make use of during Lent: prayer, acts of charity and fasting.

Prayer is very much our lifeblood as disciples of Jesus. It is not that we do not pray at other times, but in Lent we try to renew and refresh our prayer life, especially if it has become a little bit stale or if it is running on autopilot. For example, we might try and “pray” the Mass with greater focus and intensity, or spend more time in prayer. The same can be said of acts of charity. Hopefully, we perform these each and every day (for example, giving to charities or offering a kind word to an outsider at work or at school), but during Lent, we try harder.

Above all, Lent is a great time to develop what might be called a charitable or loving attitude and habit towards others: to see them with the eyes of Christ, that is to see them with love and with mercy. Indeed, this has a special importance this year as we continue our “Year of Mercy.” We might think of new ways that we can practice the spiritual or corporal works of mercy (check them up on the internet if you are not sure what they are).

Finally, there is fasting. It is often done as a reminder that we depend on God and that we should not be slaves to our wants and needs. There are so many ways of fasting. We can fast from food or give up certain favorite things (like chocolate…!), but we can also fast from other things such as an overuse of the computer, TV or smart phone and also fast from things such as gossip, harsh words or unkind actions. As one poem puts it:

Fast from discontent, feast on gratitude.
Fast from complaining, feast on appreciation.
Fast from bitterness, feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern, feast on compassion for others.

As we begin our Lenten journey as a parish community, let us support and pray for each other, that we may indeed journey well together. May you and your family and friends have a truly fruitful and blessed Lent!
The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

The First Sunday of Lent is always a very special moment in the life of the Church. In each of the cathedrals of the world, a special gathering takes place in which the catechumens and candidates being received into the Church gather with the bishop in the public ceremony in which the catechumens sign the Book of the Elect.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany will be filled with those entering the Catholic faith, their sponsors, families and friends. It will be such an awe inspiring event as each of the candidates and catechumens come forward to meet Bishop Scharfenberger. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to feel part of the larger Church and stress to them that they are not just joining a parish community, but are becoming part of the Roman Catholic Church throughout their diocese and throughout the world. It is always a very joy filled occasion for those entering the Catholic faith.

PLEASE pray for them as they look forward to and experience this most beautiful rite!

They are Jennifer Mealey, Gregory Seeley, Guia Otero and Donald Harrison.

Prayer Warrior Ministry

Do you know a parishioner who is homebound and is looking for community interaction? Then this is the ministry for them! The Prayer Warrior Ministry is a group of parishioners who, due to short or long-term conditions, can no longer attend mass with the community, but long for community interaction. We are a group who will pray daily for the intentions of our parish and the world, using scripture readings combined with intentions gathered from our Parish Intention Book. This ministry is open to all members of our community, as well as those who are homebound. Please join us for a brief 30 minute information gathering on Thursday, February 25th, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center.

There will be NO 6:30 AM Mass
There will be a 9:00 AM Mass
Church and School offices will be closed

Stations of the Cross

Please join us for the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7 PM in the Church.
This week the stations will be led by the Lectors.

Marriage Encounter


Detours on the Journey

A support ministry for Catholic men and women who have experienced or are experiencing divorce. The group will meet for ten Tuesday evenings starting February 16th from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Diocese of Albany, 40 No Main Ave in Albany. Facilitated by LCSW experienced in family counseling and a family law attorney, the program’s objective is to help gain insight into and heal from the emotional challenges of loss, anger, guilt, fear and loneliness. For more information & registration please contact mary.fay@rcda.org or call 453-6630

The ministry is sponsored by the Office of Catholic Faith Formation & Education.
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.
Please visit our
PRAYER WALL in
the back of Church

Pick up an information sheet about Pope Francis’
devotion to Mary, Untier of Knots!

For our Prayer Wall for Lent...

- Please write on the piece of paper
  provided those “knots” you need God’s
  help untying. Those things that keep
  you from being free...free of worry, free
  of addiction, free of hurt, free of fear-
  the knots that prevent us from being all
  God hopes for us!
- Untie one of the white ribbons on the
  wall, a symbol of the “knots untied”, and
  take it with you as a reminder of Mary’s
  intercession and of God’s powerful
  mercy!
- Roll up your petition and place it in the
  wall.
- Let’s all pray for all the intentions
  placed in the wall during Lent. Let’s
  pray that we will know the great love
  and mercy of God and that we will, by
  his grace, extend that love and mercy to
  others in our life.
- At the Easter Vigil the rolled up pieces
  of paper will be placed in the Easter fire.

Mary Untier of Knots, pray for us!

St. Ambrose Parish
Family
Missionaries
Lifeteen youth Ministry

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your church the mission to
proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.
May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy
Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the
earth and a light to the world, worthy missionaries and faithful
to you.
Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church, and
inspire us to speak the truth with love.
Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have re-
erved.
 Permit us to be united, but not closed; humble, but not fear-
ful; simple but not naive, thoughtful, but not overbearing;
contemporary, but not superficial; respectful of others, but
boldly to our disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ
the Lord, who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God - Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church - Pray for us!
St. John Bosco, Patron of youth ministry - pray for us!
St. Therese, patroness of Missionaries - pray for us!
St. Isaac Jogues, patron of Missionaries - pray for us!
St. Ambrose, our patron saint - pray for us!
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...
February 14, 2016

What makes Valentine’s Day such a big deal to many. It is a time to remember those special people in your life that you place inside your heart. It is something felt, rather than necessarily seen. It starts with little ones and continues throughout life. It is that lasting love for one spouse, and everything in between. It is the love of elderly parents, and the extension of that love to one’s children and grandchildren.

It is God’s ever steady love for each of us, as if there were only one of us, something one of our now deceased priests said very frequently.

Also another sweet reminder to the former little ones who were blessed to attend St. Ambrose School, now who are adults with children of their own, Sisiter Rose Marie would use the term “Royal”, meaning,” Remember, only you are loved”. She taught the little 3rd graders how to sew, and they made little puffy light blue hearts with a rose on them to give to their parents. This is still one of my greatest treasures, that still sits in my room, as a tender reminder of those younger years. What a lasting legacy she left them.

Happy Valentines Day

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
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.

Parishes of Our Local Catholic Communities

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<tr>
<th>Parishes</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<td><strong>Colonie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clare’s</td>
<td>456-3112</td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am</td>
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<td><strong>Latham</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Assumption</td>
<td>785-0234</td>
<td>Sat: 4:30pm&lt;br&gt; Sun: 7:30am, 9:00am St. Joseph Prov. House 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Loudonville</strong></td>
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<td>Christ Our Light</td>
<td>459-6635</td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 9:00 / 11:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pius X</td>
<td>462-1336</td>
<td>Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 &amp; 12 noon</td>
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The Evangelist Subscription

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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.

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.
**Stewardship: A Way of Life**

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

February 7, 2016 $17,383.59
February 8, 2015 $11,945.91

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

**THURSDAYS FOR LIFE**
We invite you to join the Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe (the pro-life group for St. Joseph’s of Troy) every Thursday during Lent, from 2/11 through 3/24, 8 am to 10 am. We will pray the Rosary @ 8:30 am and again at 9:30 am. This event will take place outside the abortuary operated by Planned Parenthood at 200 Broadway, Troy.

**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

Jesus “was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.” What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relations

Spend this Lent in your “wilderness” with God’s work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?

**Valentines Day is February 14 but its spirit can be celebrated any day. Repeat your vows to each other today. “I _____, again take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.” Bonus points if you memorize it.**
First Sunday of Lent

CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

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

Monday – February 15 – Presidents Day
Church & School offices closed
NO School—Mid-Winter Recess through 2/19
7:00 PM  NO Core Team-Chapel

Tuesday – February 16
6:45 PM  NO EDGE - Meeting Rooms

Wednesday – February 17
7:00 PM  Lenten Speaker Series by Mary DeTurris Poust
          Parish Ctr

Thursday – February 18
6:00 –9:00 PM  AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Meeting Rms
7:00 –9:00 PM  Prayer Group-Chapel

Friday – February 19
7 AM- Midnight  Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 PM  Stations of the Cross lead by Lectors
          in the Church

Saturday – February 20

Sunday – February 21
10:15 AM  NO Faith Formation
After 5:30 PM Mass  NO Life Teen

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

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

New Sanctuary for Immigrants Drop-In
Every Wednesday

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—465.3685 x10.

Entrance: 274 Sherman St., Albany, NY 12206. E-mail: ns4immigrants@gmail.com)

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 2016

MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
TEAM #3—BARBARA STAMPFLI, RICHARD LASKY & GEORGE PARKER

MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
TEAM #2—JAN, MIKE & PAT RAYBALL

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<td>Mr. Vincent Cook</td>
<td>M. Stallmer, A. Hallock, A. Tahoe</td>
<td>Nicole Piusienski, Akhil &amp; Sarah Jacob</td>
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<td>Harry A.</td>
<td>Lynn W.</td>
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<td><strong>ADULT MISSION</strong></td>
<td>Mike Blair</td>
<td>376-0082</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</strong></td>
<td>Cathy Boudreau</td>
<td>785-3460</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALTAR SERVERS</strong> (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Walter Ewing</td>
<td>320-0662</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Training)</td>
<td>Lynn Wozniak</td>
<td>456-5990</td>
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<td><strong>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td>Jim LaBombard</td>
<td>371-1996</td>
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<td><strong>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</strong></td>
<td>Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BISHOPS APPEAL (DDP)</strong></td>
<td>Renee Hallock</td>
<td>785-3180</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</strong></td>
<td>Rich Zmijewski</td>
<td>785-3142</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP</strong></td>
<td>Mary Beth Pallack</td>
<td>221-1357</td>
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<td><strong>CONFIRMATION</strong></td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x307</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eucharistic Adoration</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Hooley</td>
<td>783-3411</td>
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<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong> (Training)</td>
<td>Helmut Neurohr</td>
<td>785-4630</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Scheduling)</td>
<td>Mary Stewart</td>
<td>785-6727</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Faith, Hope and Share</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td>785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Saturday Devotion</strong></td>
<td>Connie Strassburg</td>
<td>783-3342</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food Pantry</strong></td>
<td>Pauline Kubisz</td>
<td>785-7816</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Garden Club</strong></td>
<td>Patricia Ostiguy</td>
<td>783-5175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grief Loss Group</strong></td>
<td>Mary Sue Ray</td>
<td>469-1329</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Life Teen &amp; Jr. High Life</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Acemoglu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:outreach@stambroselatham.com">outreach@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lectors</strong></td>
<td>Joe Leombruno</td>
<td>373-2353</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Life Teen &amp; Jr. High Life</strong></td>
<td>Mark Trudeau</td>
<td><a href="mailto:youthministry@stambroselatham.com">youthministry@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x309</td>
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<td><strong>Magdalena Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Paula Borkowski</td>
<td>797-6447</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage Preparation Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Erin Muir</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liturgyandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com">liturgyandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x302</td>
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<td>Mary Alice Hunt</td>
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<td>783-5175</td>
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<td>708-9615</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>John Estep</td>
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<td>Carolyn Chabot</td>
<td>785-6315</td>
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**Readings for the Week of February 14, 2016**

- **Sunday:** Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/ Lk 4:1-13
- **Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
- **Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
- **Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/ Lk 11:29-32
- **Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/ Mt 7:7-12
- **Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
- **Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
- **Next Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14/ Phil 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

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