“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE Barren FIG TREE

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
THE THIRD LENT SUNDAY:
CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE FRUITFUL

I am not sure how you feel, but this Lent seems to be flying by very quickly. We have already thought about Jesus’ temptations in the desert (the first Sunday in Lent) and last week we encountered the transfigured Jesus on Mount Tabor. This week we can pause and take a breath for a moment as the Lord invites us to reflect about two, intimately related things that are at the very heart of our faith. We are asked to think about our ongoing journey of conversion; that is how our whole life is a project of growing in our relationship with God. However, we can also realize afresh how that relationship with God should lead us to being what we might call, “spiritually fruitful.”

This is a big subject, but luckily (and, as usual!) our readings can help us. Our first reading is an account of an amazing encounter between Moses and God: an encounter that changes Moses’ life forever and also will change the whole destiny of God’s chosen people. Notice how Moses is just going about his daily business of tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. He then notices something unusual: a bush on fire and yet it is not consumed by flames. Moses’ curiosity is pricked and so he goes to investigate further. God calls Moses by his name from the burning bush. Moses answers the call; then he listens to God’s words and obeys what God asks of him.

Notice too that Moses does have some questions or worries and so he enters into a conversation or dialogue with God and finally, God even tells Moses His name. Two things are very important here. The first is that Moses’ conversation with God is also part of his conversion to accepting God and then doing God’s will. (Not for nothing are our two words conversation and conversion closely related!) And when God reveals His Divine Name, He is also entering into a deep relationship with Moses. Just as with us in our own time, in the time of Moses, knowing a person’s name was not just a simple thing or just about words: it meant that the person had revealed something more intimate about themselves that invites a close relationship with them.

As we know, Moses went on to be a true leader and an instrument of God’s will. Moses also grew in that special, close relationship with God. Not only this: like the fig tree that Jesus refers to in the Gospel, Moses was truly fruitful. Moses, like any human being, is created by God to be true to his human nature. And what is that human nature? It is quite simple really: it is to love and to serve God and neighbor; to know what God wants of us and then to do it and to be it. This call to be fruitful is often a very personal one. Like the conversation, it is not just a general thing, but is close and personal. Moses had his special calling and job to do; that is how God asked him to be fruitful. The same, of course, is true for us.

So, in our readings today, we have a pattern or an example of conversion and of being fruitful. This is very important for us as we continue our journey of Lent. Lent is very much a season about getting back to basics and to look at our faith with fresh eyes. Our readings this weekend invite us to renew our ongoing journey of conversion; especially if that journey has become a bit stale, or if it seems to have lost its way. Like Moses, we can still go about our daily business, but let us also be attentive and curious about what God wants us to do and to be. Like Moses, God does call us personally, by name. Let us listen to God’s call and enter into a conversation or dialogue with Him (through prayer, for example). We can talk about our worries and concerns in that conversation. Let us then accept what God asks of us in all the various concrete situations that we meet each day and so be fruitful in those concrete and personal circumstances. Let us also remember that this call to be fruitful is often very personal and particular to us: it is actually how we are to be God’s co-workers, just as Moses was.

Fr. Anthony
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 Teens of the Parish.

Easter Flowers and the St. Vincent de Paul Society
The St. Vincent de Paul Society will be purchasing flowers to decorate the altar for Easter. If you wish to help with this endeavor, your donation, in memory of a loved one or in your family’s name, will be used to purchase Easter plants. Surplus donations will be used to continue the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in assisting the underprivileged of our parish family. More information can be found on the lavender sheets found at the entrances of church. Thank you for your continued support.

Preparing for Easter
Families, adults & teens of the parish are all invited to join the ladies of the Altar Rosary Society as we wash & shine the church. Let’s all bring some rags, buckets, favorite cleaning products, wood polish and a smile. Remember, “many hands make light work.” We will gather Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 pm in the church. We’ll work no later than 8 pm. Then we will pray the rosary for all of the intentions of the parish. We hope you’ll join us!

In Loving Memory
Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the souls of Philip M. Mahar, Doris C. Walion and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.

Diocese Special Collection
Next week, March 5th & 6th, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ’s love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and help Jesus in disguise.

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

There will be a meeting of the St. Ambrose Money Counters on Thursday, March 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please call Ann McCauley, Business Manager at 785-1351, extension 303 with any questions. Thank you!

Lent 2016

Our Hearts Turned to God
Speaker: Brian Evers
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!
Parish Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, March 15th
7pm to 8:30pm

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.

The Feast of St. Katherine Drexel is March 3rd

“IT is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.”
—Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus

SAINTS Fun Facts
St. Katherine Drexel was born in Philadelphia in 1858. She took an avid interest in the well being of black and Native American peoples. She began by donating money but soon realized more was necessary.

She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Black and Native American peoples, dedicating her life and fortune of $20 million to this work.

She opened the first mission school for Indians and many others for blacks in the south. She founded Xavier University in New Orleans.

Katherine became only the 2nd recognized American born saint in 2000.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
We have returned and we brought with us the gifts God gave us on this most honorable trip. Thank you is not enough to say to everyone who helped make this trip happen but it is the first best we can do. THANK YOU to all of you and may our Lord continue to bless you and us with His great mercy and love.

Please come to the Parish Family Breakfast next weekend March 4th to see a full presentation on the Mission.
What makes a Catholic education different?
People often ask me this question and my response is always the same. It is very difficult to quantitate the various aspects of a Catholic school environment but you sure can feel the difference. The outcome can be summed up in one word, confidence. Students who know they are a child of God possess an inner confidence that encourages them to try new things, make life-long friendships, challenge themselves, academically and succeed! A prayerful, nurturing environment further supports young learners. This is why we say at St. Ambrose School we are
“Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

Registration for 2016-2017 is now open!
Call today for a tour 785-6453!
It would be our pleasure to share with you all St. Ambrose School has to offer children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Parish Nurse
Nancy Acemoglu, RN
“Nurses notes”

A Retreat for those who have lost a spouse through Death or Divorce.

“Beginning Experience”
The weekend of March 4th

Faith is very important when loss has occurred, understanding, acceptance, concern and being among caring persons that have experienced similar situations can make all the difference.

As one participant described it, “It is a gift to yourself,

Please call Carolyn at 716-560-2107 or me at 785-1351 x304 and learn how this can change you on the road to healing.

The retreat is held in a beautiful, reflective monastery setting, very convenient to the major highways. Limited availability. Registration required. The Retreat is filling up fast. Call today.

There is a place upon a hill where one can be so silent and still.
A place where trees wave in the breeze
A place where God is amongst the leaves.
As one arrives, there could be watery eyes, many times misunderstood, for just wanting to remember and longing for what was good.
Most can’t understand, that in the blink of an eye, this could be them.
So take just a little time, and dry your eyes and through faith and care, you might be glad that you are there.
Life is different, that is for sure, but it can be a good life, if you trust and endure.

So please be assured that you are not alone,
just take a leap of faith, and dial the phone.
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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<td>456-3112</td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am</td>
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<td>Latham</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>Loudonville</td>
<td>459-6635</td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 9:00 / 11:15am</td>
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<td>462-1336</td>
<td>Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 &amp; 12 noon</td>
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PARISHIONER REGISTRATION/UPDATE REQUEST

Name: ____________________________________________
Street: __________________________________________
City: _____________________________________________
Zip: _____________________________________________
Phone No: ________________________________________

Please Check
- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Moving out of Parish
- Want Envelopes
- Name Change (Please contact Parish Secretary)

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

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.

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”

February 21, 2016 $18,707.34
February 22, 2015 $14,481.70

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

Mass Intentions

Monday — February 29—Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM Parish Intention
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Tuesday — March 1—Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Evelyn Daigneault by Daughter Diane Daigneault
Doris Walion by Jean Mooney

Wednesday — March 2—Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM The Richard Family by Madeleine
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Thursday — March 3—Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM Communion Svc at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Parish Intention

Friday — March 4—Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Saturday — March 5—Lenten Weekday
4:30 PM Richard Bango by Daughter Doreen
Elias Carey by Paula Boldasare
Leo & Lucina Charbonneau by Jean Minnick

Sunday — March 6—4th SUNDAY OF LENT
7:30 AM Sam Aliberti by the children
Lena Sellano by Peggy Lincoln
9:00 AM Doris Walion by Gary & Peggy Krill
Gertrude & Edward Bak by the Nolles Family
11:30 AM Doris Walion by Donna Sabatino
Libro Zandri by Family
Chickie Sorrentino & the Sorrentino Family
Frank Houle by Betty & Ray Johnson
5:30 PM Life Teen — People of St. Ambrose

ALBANY NY CHAPTER OF MAGNIFICAT
(a Ministry to Catholic Women) is hosting a Women’s Breakfast on Saturday, March 12 from 9 AM – 12 PM at the Holiday Inn Express Latham, 400 Old Loudon Rd., Latham, NY. Tickets: $20.00; Clergy & Religious - Free. Guest Speaker is Amy Richardson. Register by March 4 - send your $20 check payable to Albany NY Chapter of Magnificat, PO Box 340, Clifton Park, NY, 12015. Please include your name, address and phone # and email address. Questions, call Heather @ 877-8358 or register at magnificat-ministry.net/chapters-websites/albany-ny/. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

A Family Perspective
by Bud Ozar
The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don’t live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don’t cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

Save the Date
For
2016 Autumn Gathering
Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016
Place: LaSalle Institute, Troy
Time: 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

More Details Will Follow!!!
Office of Lay Ministry Formation

Upcoming Program from the Consultation Center
A perfect way to end your Lenten & Easter Journey!
Offered by Marni Gillard, MA
Thursdays, March 31, April 7, 14 & 21 from 7—9 pm
Pastoral Center , 40 N Main, Albany
$50 (payment after 3/24 will be $55)
Call 489-4431 for more info.
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

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is federal regulations concerning patient confidentiality.

If you or a member of your family is a patient in any of the area hospitals, please call the Parish Office at 785-1351 so Father or Deacon can make a visit.

Please also inform the hospital that you are a member of St. Ambrose Parish. Hospital visitation is done on a weekly basis and it is important to us that all our parishioners are visited.
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**Lent is meant for all of us**