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
Mary Stewart / Stephen Green

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–4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”
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 next Sunday, 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 says 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 annunciation Gospel…not just the annunciation of the archangel Gabriel to Mary!). As we are in Year A this year, we hear about the angel of the Lord appearing to St. Joseph in a dream and telling him to take Mary for his wife. We can notice how St. Joseph trusts in God’s messenger and immediately does what he has been asked to do. In Year B of our three-year cycle, we would hear the most familiar annunciation: the annunciation of the archangel Gabriel to Mary. 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! The Opening Prayer for the Mass this Sunday puts it so well:

Pour forth we beseech you O Lord, your grace into our hearts;
that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son
  was made known by the message of an angel,
may by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Fr. Anthony
Monday—December 19—Late Advent Weekday
6:30 AM Richard Family by Madeleine
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Tuesday—December 20—Late Advent Weekday
6:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Richard P. Jacobson by Sisman Family

Wednesday—December 21—St. Peter Canisius
6:30 AM Yangim Lee by Kaphi Lee
Servillana Quiachon (40th Day Death Anniv) by Lynette Quiachon
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Thursday—December 22—Late Advent
6:30 AM Communion Svc at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Virgina Iachetti by Dufresne & Cavanaugh Funeral Home
Edward Cox by Family

Friday—December 23—St. John of Kanty
6:30 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Saturday—December 24—Late Advent Weekday

CHURCH
4:30 PM Albert & Dorothy Leombruno by Family
Teresa Cafaro (13th Anniv) by Antionette Muscatiello
Dorothy Ouimet by the Family

PARISH CENTER
4:30 PM Helen Falasco by Family
Lillian Milnar by Family
Gene Kendrick by Family
Richard Bango by Doreen Bango

CHURCH
8:00 PM Paul T. West by Love, Smith & Degnan Families
Nancy L. LaRow by Mrs. Nancy Acemoglu & Family

Sunday—December 25—The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
7:30 AM Parish Intention
9:00 AM Catherine Sorrentino (1st Anniv) by Kathryn Fremigendick
James J. Pender by Son
Nicholas Casale by the Howe Family
11:30 AM Vincent DeSess by Shirley DeSess
Rocco, Nicola, Teresa, Luciana Mele by Vittorio Renda & Family
Mary Thomas by Kurian Family
5:30 PM NO Life Teen Mass

CLOSINGS & CHANGES
- 12/22, Thursday, Church office will close @ Noon
- 12/23, Friday, Church & School offices will be closed
- 12/23, Friday, there will be NO Eucharistic Adoration
- 12/24, Saturday, Christmas Eve, there will be NO Confessions
- 12/26, Monday, Church & School offices will be closed
- 12/26, Monday, there will be NO 6:30 AM Mass but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass
- 12/30, Friday, Church & School offices will be closed
- 12/30, Friday, there will be NO Eucharistic Adoration
- 1/2/2017, Monday, Church & School offices will be closed
- 1/2/2017, Monday, there will be NO 6:30 AM Mass but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass

Have you and your family...
- Been Baptized?
- Made your first Reconciliation?
- Received your First Communion?
- Made your Confirmation?

St. Ambrose parish provides many opportunities for adults and children who still need to make their sacraments. It’s never too late to receive the Sacraments!

Contact the Faith Formation office at 785-1351 x307 or faithformationAA@stambroselatham.com

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOW COULD JOSEPH HAVE SO MUCH FAITH IN DREAMS?

HE DIDN'T -- HE HAD FAITH THAT GOD COULD SPEAK TO HIM ANY WAY GOD WANTED TO!

© 2001 LPI WWW
We (really, really) need
Your Help!

We (really, really) need
Your Help!

December 18, 2016

Please sign up to
help distribute the
parish gift on
Christmas!
(Sign up sheets can be found in
the back of the Church)

A couple of things!

- Check out our Advent
  video series at
  www.stambroselatham.com/
  media

- There’s some great
  things to sign up for in
  the back of the Church!

We’re trying to get
together some small
  group gatherings for
after Christmas that are
  based on our parish gift,
Resisting Happiness by
Matthew Kelly. We have
a lot of possible times
listed in the back of the church. Please check
them out and see if one
of them works for you!
Mission Trip Raffle is on sale!
Adult Raffle Tickets are $25.00 ea.
Each ticket has 1 in 17 chance of winning.
First Prize $5,000—one winner;
Second Prize $1,000—two winners;
Third Prize $500—four winners
Fourth Prize $100—Five winners
Fifth Prize $25—Twenty winners
No raffle has better odds of winning
than this raffle, EVER!
Your generosity can bring back big
paybacks if you are one of the winners.
Remember that every winner drawn goes
back into the hopper to have another
chance to win.
It doesn’t get better than this.

Save the Date
March 18th at 5:30pm
Dinner and Silent Auction to support the Mission Trip. There will
be a choice of Prime Rib, Baked Salmon or Chicken Cordon Bleu.
Each with Vegetable and Potato or Rice.
There will be live entertainment, Fine Dinning and we will have the
drawing of our Adult Raffle.
Please join us and be a part of the family who reaches out to our
brothers and sisters in love and service to experience first hand why
Jesus came to serve us. He said, after washing the feet of His
disciples ...

"Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me teacher and
master and rightly so for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and
teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet.
I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you,
you should also do.” John 13:12b-15
At St. Ambrose School, we are “Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

We wait in prayerful preparation

Soon and very Soon...

for our Lord.

Let us, with Mary, rejoice in the Lord in our spirits and magnify Him in our hearts.

Nurses’ notes...

Nancy Acemoglu, RN

Farewell Dear Sister Catharine Ryan

Our very much loved Sister Mary Catharine Ryan, CSJ, former Pastoral Manager of St. Ambrose was laid to rest this week at St. Joseph’s Chapel.

She was gentle, soft spoken and kind, firm and very educated having had numerous positions within the area of Education, Ministry and Advocacy. She was a soft, reflective listener, who worked here diligently, with skill and was a person of few words. Her words were of wisdom when she spoke, and one would learn from her, for she was a par-excellent educator always.

She was a compassionate, caring friend, who left her position here suddenly, after a multiple trauma car accident while coming home from St. Mary’s Church some years ago. Her future looked very dim after being on a respirator for quite some time..

Upon reflection now, many years later, it seems so poignant that she courageously, never lost hope and while she remained hospitalized she was a symbol for Justice, the very thing she fought for, the right to choose life, regardless of all obstacles.

She overcame what was the impossible to live on many more valuable years with dignity, grace and unwavering Advocacy.

May God rest her. May we always love and remember her.
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.

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 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.

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

CatholicMatch New York

CatholicMatch.com/NY

We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
"We Are A Tithing Parish
Following "God's Plan for Giving"

December 8, 2016  Immaculate  $ 2,740.35
December 8, 2015  Conception  $ 2,636.90
December 11, 2016  $17,219.30
December 13, 2015  $18,338.60

Deepest thanks for your continued and generous support for our parish. Your gifts enable so much to be done in so many ways.

PRAYER TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen

Thanksgiving Thanks and Christmas Dinner Needs

We give many heartfelt thanks to St. Ambrose parishioners and community for their most-appreciated donations which supplied 954 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 10-11 and no later than December 18.

Thank You for Your Continued Generosity!

It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the “two P’s” seriously: prayer and penance.
—St. Francis Xavier

Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the souls of Wayne Beaupre and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.
Readings for the Week of December 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/
Lk 1:67-79
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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# Parish Ministries & Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry/Group</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY</td>
<td>Cathy Boudreau 785-3460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>Walter Ewing / Deacon Frank Garceau 785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</td>
<td>Jim LaBombard 371-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPTISMS PROGRAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>BISHOPS APPEAL (DDP)</td>
<td>Renee Hallock 785-3180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</td>
<td>Rich Zmijewski 785-3142</td>
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<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
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<td>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAITH, HOPE AND SHARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD PANTRY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GARDEN CLUB</td>
<td>Mary Sue Ray 469-1329</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MARY’S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY</td>
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<td>TRUSTEES</td>
<td>Mary Stewart / Stephen Green 785-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>USHERS</td>
<td>John Estep 783-9266</td>
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<td>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>Tom Acemoglu <a href="mailto:EvangelizationAndCatechesis@stambroselatham.com">EvangelizationAndCatechesis@stambroselatham.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUNG AT HEART</td>
<td>Carolyn Chabot 785-6315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**December 18, 2016**

Suddenly,
A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and singing,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Anyone who would like to sing for the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass, there will be a rehearsal Wednesday, 12/21 at 7:00 PM in the choir loft. All are welcome. Any questions please email Mark at mlangevi94@gmail.com or see Tom after any Mass.

Compassion is a gift we can all give this Holiday Season. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance to those families in need of help. Please help us to make a difference in their lives by contributing to the **POOR BOX**.