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

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
• Church & School offices will be closed
• There will be NO 6:30 AM Mass but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
• Church & School offices will be closed
• There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017
• There will be NO 6:30 AM Mass but there will be a 9:00 AM Mass
• Church & School offices will be closed

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
E-Mail: principal@stambroselatham.com
Terri McGraw, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND THANKS

Well, we have finally made it to Christmas Day! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every joy and many blessings as we will continue to celebrate this great season of Christmas, or “Christ’s Mass” over the next few weeks. (Unlike the stores etc., we know that Christmas does not end on Christmas Day, but rather only just begins. We have a whole season of Christmas to celebrate together, ending when we come to the Baptism of Jesus in a few weeks’ time.)

A warm welcome is extended to any visitors to St. Ambrose and “welcome back” to those who have returned for the holidays. On a very personal note as I celebrate my fifth Christmas here at St. Ambrose, my deepest thanks must go to so many of you for your cards, gifts and best wishes: your kindnesses, generosity and support are truly wonderful and very much appreciated. Please do continue to keep me in your prayers, so that I may serve to the very best as your pastor in the time that I have left here at Saint Ambrose! Indeed and as you know, we are in that time of transition and so we can help and support each other above all by our prayers.

There are so many people to thank for all their hard work: those who have prepared and decorated the church and parish center, our music ministry and youth ministry teams, all our sacristans, ushers, media ministry, servers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers, church decorators, all those involved in the food pantry, giving tree and so many other forms of outreach, the Religious Education team and Mrs. Terri McGraw and the children, staff, faculty and supporters of our parish school. We have also had so many volunteers who have helped again with our welcome and evangelization projects this year. I would also like to thank Deacon Helmut, Deacon Frank, the parish staff, trustees, volunteers, parish groups and committees for all that they have done. If I have forgotten to thank anyone else, please forgive me! The efforts and gifts of so many truly enhance our celebration of Christmas, as well as the life of the parish throughout the year.

This year has certainly been a busy one for our parish, and with so many wonderful people with so many talents, we can look forward to building on the strengths of our parish and school community in the year ahead. We have had all the usual activities and events, as well as special occasions such as the Parish Festival and many faith formation and evangelization projects. In fact, we hope to continue our focus on evangelization and discipleship: reaching out and inviting our friends, neighbors and family to deepen their relationship with Jesus, our Savior and to look for ways that the St. Ambrose community can help that relationship to grow. However, to do this, we also know that we need to develop our own relationship with the Lord: to open our hearts to His love and so know what He is asking of us and then to do it with courage and devotion.

We celebrate the coming of Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1: 14) or, as St. Leo says, “[that] He came down from heaven so that we might go up to heaven.” In this great season of Christmas, let us renew our prayers for one another and continue to work together for the building of the Kingdom in our community. Let us also remember in our prayers those who find this time of year difficult for various reasons. We have also been reminded of the need for peace, repentance and a conversion of heart with so many struggles and incidents of violence throughout the world during 2016 and perhaps a sense of uncertainty or even fear. May the peace and joy of Christmas be with us all and flow out into the coming year. God bless you in this coming Christmas season.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Anthony
As we approach the New Year, I pray that we may all discover a deep sense of wonder within us! At Christmas, if we really pause to see the baby in the manger, we see the God who loved each one of us so very much that he became one of us to share our humanity. He made himself helpless because we are helpless. As we go through the ordinary (and the extraordinary!) struggles of this life we know that God understands. In His very weakness we experience the power of His great love. We recognize in this helpless baby the divine in the world. We also come to sense the divine in us as we understand more fully the fact that we are known and loved by God. This intimate experience of God changes us and we see ourselves and the world in a new light. It is not by our own doing but by God’s grace, it is His gift. We have to be willing to surrender all that we know and all that we are and allow God to change us. This includes all our weaknesses and all our struggles as well as our goodness. God does not hold back anything from us, with Him there is no compromise. If we trust Him, He gifts us with all that we need to be who He created us to be, and to do what He created us to do. There is hope because things can change . . . we can change! There is hope because He loves us that much!

I know I have shared this story before but it remains in my heart...

When my Father moved our family to Latham 45 years ago, I was going into 5th grade. He and my mother made several trips to the area to look for our new house. Of course many things were considered but for my parents, finding the right church was very important. I remember they came to the area one weekend and attended Mass at several churches. There was no question in my Father’s mind or his heart, St. Ambrose was to be our new parish. I remember asking my Dad what the big deal was...and he replied, ‘There is something very special about St. Ambrose...you’ll see’! I can’t say that I saw it right away...it took me a few years but I have to say that my dad was correct! It is a privilege for me to have this opportunity to extend to my parish family wishes and heartfelt prayers for a joyful Christmas and a New Year graced with all God’s blessings.

Wishing you all His Hope and His Joy in 2017!

Erin Muir
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Life
Would you like to make St. Ambrose your spiritual home?

- **Visit**
  www.StAmbroseLatham.com/Join-Our-Parish

- **Text**
  the word “AMBROSE” to 84576

- **Sign up**
  for FlockNote at StAmbroseLatham.com
  for e-mail updates

- **Help us get to know you**
  785-1351
  pastor@StAmbroseLatham.com

**A Special Invitation...**

With gratitude in our hearts for God’s great love and mercy, let us come together for a night of praise and worship. We will sing songs of Christmas praise and adoration and listen to some scripture reflections on the Nativity. We pray it will be a night of community, gratitude, joy and worship!

**Please join us from**
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Church
on
**Thursday, January 5, 2017.**
Committed to Catholic education

Committed to serve
For families...

...for our youth
Season by season
Year after year
Through all of life’s changes
We are called to be lights in the darkness

We remember everything that He has done for us

We are called to be lights in the darkness
The Day Chapel

At this busy time of the year, it is good to remember that our Day Chapel (right side of the church) is open for prayer during the day.

The Day Chapel is usually open from 5.45 am to 9pm Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays). Fridays, when we have Eucharistic Adoration, the chapel is open until midnight.

On Saturdays, the Day Chapel is open from around 8.00 am until shortly after the end of the Saturday evening Mass.

The Day Chapel is a wonderful facility to have, especially as we have the Blessed Sacrament reserved there too; so please do make use of it if you wish. Call in, even for just a few moments of prayer, peace, focus and reflection on the way to or coming back from school, work, shopping, running errands or whenever you are just passing by the church. Those few moments will certainly not be wasted!
**CALENDARS & SCHEDULES**

**Sunday – December 25**

School Christmas Recess

**Monday – December 26**

School Christmas Recess
Church & School offices closed

**Tuesday – December 27**

School Christmas Recess

**Wednesday – December 28**

School Christmas Recess

**Thursday – December 29**

9:30 AM Mary’s Circle of Love-Lounge
6:00-8:30 PM AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Meeting Rms
7:00-9:00 PM Prayer Group-Chapel

**Friday – December 30**

Church & School offices closed
School Christmas Recess

6 AM-Midnight **NO** Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

**Saturday – December 31**

3:00-4:00 PM Confessions-Chapel

**Sunday – January 1, 2017**

10:15-11:15 AM **NO** Faith Formation
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen—Parish Ctr

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**LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 1ST, 2017**

**MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

TEAM #9 & 10 — J. DAGGS, V. GYURKO, B. MAHONEY, C. CHABOT, C. ALIBERTI, R. COMTOIS, R. HAGGERTY, S. TRZCINSKI

**MONEY COUNTERS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD**

TEAM #1—TINA ZANDRI & MARIAN DAVIS

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