“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

**PARISH STAFF**

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  
(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

**ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL**

518-785-6453  
Website: www.stambroselatham.org  
E-Mail: principal@stambroselatham.com  
**Terri McGraw, Principal**  
**Kelly Sano, Secretary**
Over the years I've noticed that when a loved one is very ill, members of the family quickly become medical professionals, describing illnesses and treatments with a previously unknown precision. I think it's our way of making sense of things that otherwise make no sense. We can't describe "why" these kind of things happen but we can at least try to describe "how" they are happening.

We all suffer and it's almost pointless to compare our suffering. Each of our capacities for suffering are different. When a toddler wails after bruising their knee, they are expressing a large percentage of their capacity and understanding of suffering. It's not the same as, say, having your heart broken by someone you're dating or getting laid off of work or losing your wedding ring but for that one person it ranks high.

I learned this lesson in a strange way the week after my own father died. He had died on a Sunday and I got the call after the 5:30pm Mass. After the most painful, surreal, and exhausting week of my entire life, I was back at St. Ambrose for the 5:30pm Mass. When I got to the front of the Church, a girl in the Life Teen program was weeping outside. I was still numb but I felt compelled to talk to her and try to console her. I asked her what was wrong and she told me: her cat had just died. For a split-second I paused trying to make sense of the weight of these two deaths and I just couldn't. All I could do was give her a hug and tell her how sorry I was for her loss.

Over the years, I've tried to not dwell on the "why" with regards to suffering. It's a terrible given in life and none of us are exempt. Ultimately, I know that all suffering is reconciled on the Cross. Through what Jesus did on the Cross, any terrible thing can be glorified. Our freedom and folly may make suffering possible, but it's the Cross that can pave a path of glory out of the most senseless suffering.

This is also how Jesus answers the question of "why" someone has suffered in today's Gospel reading.

We know the story: Jesus is presented with a blind man. He heals him and everyone who knew the man previously begins to question the validity of either his healing or even his previous blindness. The Pharisees use the situation to further accuse Jesus. People even question the man's parents.

They do everything but the one thing they attempt to scold the man into doing: to "Give God the praise!" They eventually throw him out, berating him for being a sinner without even a trace of irony for the way they abuse him.

Here, everyone gets so wrapped up in the "how's" of the situation that they completely missed "why" Jesus healed the man to begin with. In fact, we can miss it too if we read the text too quickly.

"...it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him". In other words: so that God may show His glory through lame and broken eyes. He'll do it on an even bigger scale through pierced hands and feet. He'll do it through a wound made by piercing His heart. He'll do it through the tears shed on the ground of Gethsemane and the blood pooled at the base of the Cross. Every open wound is an exit point for Resurrection because God desires to transform us from those very points of brokenness and vulnerability.

In the Gospels, Jesus shows us two kinds of wounds. The first are those that are seen: blindness, deafness, paralysis, leprosy, even death. But the other kinds are often hidden: stubbornness, a divided heart, doubt, lust, hatred and animosity, greed, and pride. When Jesus healed the paralyzed man in Mark's Gospel (2:1-12), he puts a priority on these hidden wounds by forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man before allowing him to walk (2:5).

This is still true for you and me. What are your hidden wounds? Those things you won't let people see that often cause you the most pain? Those hidden faults that you struggle to overcome? Those financial problems or those family problems?

It is precisely in these areas of brokenness that God can be glorified. Simply open up your heart to His healing and His grace.

Embrace the cross and you will embrace the Resurrection too.
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**“The Light is On For You!”**

**Tuesday, April 4th**

**Lenten Reconciliation**

**Tuesday night, April 4th from 7-8:30 PM** several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Parish Center. There will also be a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church from 7-8 PM for silent prayer and reflection.

If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a great opportunity to receive the gift of healing and forgiveness.

To remind you about the parts of confession and the Act of Contrition, a brochure will be available to guide you.

**“Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an Invitation to conversation. "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again." Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God's face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God's patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. " Great is God’s mercy," says the Psalm.”**

— Angelus on March 17, 2013 - Pope Francis

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**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.

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**First Saturday Devotions**

to honor & make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday Devotion will be on Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 am. Please join us in the Chapel for this devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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**Easter Egg Hunt**

**PARISH EASTER EGG HUNT:** The Egg Hunt Committee would appreciate your help in donating small individually wrapped candy that will fit inside plastic Easter eggs. **There will be a basket available for the candy at the main entrance of the Church through April 9th.**

THANK YOU!
On March 12th our Faith Formation families made 155 meals for the Capital City Rescue Mission.

**Youth Faith Formation @ Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross are every Friday during Lent. In a special way we welcome our Sunday morning Faith Formation community to the one happening on **this Friday, March 31st**. It’s hosted by our 5th grade faith formation students!

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**Lent 2017**

**Reflecting Christ:**
**From Palm Sunday to Resurrection**
**A Lenten Retreat**

**Monday, March 27**
**Tuesday, March 28**
**Wednesday, March 29**
**7pm in the Parish Center**

**Breaking Open the Word**
**Listen ◊ Pray ◊ Share**
**Hope ◊ Grow**

**Every Sunday of Lent after the 9am Mass**

**Led by our RCIA Team**
**Come meet us in the Chapel!**
These are our winners for the Mission Trip Adult Raffle! Congratulations to all and thank you so much for the great support you have provided to make these Mission Trips possible.

$25.00 Prize
Eileen Rodriguez
Mary and Don Bugor
Carol Fishman
Norman McLeod
Debbie Lupian
Michele Clickner
Charles Petrocelli
Shannon Bryan
Alicia Foti
Tom Maleski
Ginny Frey
Ted Pettigrass
Lou and Louise Donato

$100.00 Prize
Ginger Hoffman
Ruth Kenmerer
Bill and Marcie Serafin
Maggie Crowley
Bill Smith

$500.00 Prize
Maria Chilinski
Warren Egan
Kristin Frank
Lou and Louise Donato

$1,000.00 Prize
Lou and Louise Donato
Jerry Krug

$5,000.00 Prize
Ted Pettigrass

Congratulations to All!!
At St. Ambrose School, we are “Learning to be all God wants us to be.”

Congratulations Bill Miller! 2017 Beacon of Hope Community Spirit Award Recipient.
St. Ambrose School is proud to recognize Bill Miller for his commitment to our school community. He and his wife, Sandy, were honored guests of Bishop Scharfenberger at the Beacon of Hope Ball on Saturday evening. With heartfelt gratitude for all you do,
Thank you, Bill!

Nurses’ notes… Nancy Acemoglu, RN

Easter Baskets
We will be collecting Easter Baskets for those in need. All ages needed, for both girls and boys. Please bring them as early as possible to my office. Please call me if you have any questions at 785-1351 x304.

Easter gifts for the Ill and Elderly
Starting this weekend, we will be collecting little items for those ill and in Nursing Facilities. Just a small remembrance of letting them know that they are always valued and cared about. New items needed are: lotions, soaps, little flowers that would fit on a bedside stand, soft centered candy etc. Each year they are so grateful to be remembered. May God bless you for the continued good works you do for others.
**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.

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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.

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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.

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**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

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**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.

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**Advertiser of the Week**

You Get More at

**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
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**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

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**785-4161**
Great Friendly People

We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
**2016 CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST**

Name: ____________________________________________________
Street: ____________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ Zip: _________________
Envelope #: __________ Phone #: ________________________
Email: ____________________________________________________

Please provide email if you would like to have it emailed.

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

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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.

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**PLEASE NOTE...**

Easter Vigil will be at 8 PM NOT at 7:30 PM as printed in some of the booklets

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**Stations of the Cross** will take place every Friday at 7 pm in the Church.

March 31st:  Lead by Faith Formation
April 7th:  Lead by Deacons Helmut and Frank
April 14th:  Passion Play Lead by Life Teen

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**GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR EASTER FOOD BAGS**
The St. Ambrose Food Pantry Volunteers will again offer Easter dinner supplies for families in need. **Market Bags will be available starting weekend of March 18th & 19th.** In addition to the food list attached to the Easter bags, gift certificates from Hannaford or Price Chopper in $5, $10 or $15 amounts would be most appreciated. These will be distributed according to family size for purchase of a meat choice. Please **DO NOT PLACE GIFT CERTIFICATES IN THE BAGS. Please place in an envelope or drop off no later than April 5th at the office or in offertory collection marked St. Ambrose Food Pantry or Easter Dinner.** The number of families requesting assistance has increased a great deal; together we can help these families experience a most BLESSED EASTER.

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**A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

Failure to forgive blinds us to another’s goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind-spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today’s gospel: "Go wash and see.”

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**Martha Ministry**

With Easter coming soon, Martha Ministry is in need of volunteers to help with the Holy Thursday Dessert Sharing and Good Friday Soup Supper.

We will also need help with First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6th at 9 AM and 11:30 AM and the Confirmation on Sunday, May 14th after 5:30 PM Mass.

If you would like to help us, or if you have any questions please call Donna Sabatino at 782-1470.

Please call Rose Ann Szewdo at 469-5367 to help with the Soup Supper.
Calendars & Schedules

Sunday — March 26
10:15-11:15 AM Faith Formation
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen / Passion Play Practice

Monday — March 27
7:00 PM Core-Chapel

Tuesday — March 28
7:00 PM A Lenten Retreat—Parish Center

Wednesday — March 29
9:00 AM School Reconciliation-Parish Ctr
7:00 PM A Lenten Retreat—Parish Center

Thursday — March 30
6:00-8:30 PM AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Meeting Rms
7:00-9:00 PM Prayer Group-Chapel

Friday — March 31
6 AM-Midnight Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross lead by Faith Formation

Saturday — April 1
3:00-4:00 PM Confessions-Chapel

Sunday — April 2
8-12 Noon PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST-Parish Ctr
10:15-11:15 AM Faith Formation
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen-/ Passion Play Practice

Liturgical Roles for Week Ending April 2, 2017

Sacristan:
tbd

Lectors:
#1-Frank Carlino
#2-Michael Lupian

Alter Servers:
Rachel Dwyer, Michael & Michele Commerford

Eucharistic Ministers:
S. Burgess, JA Conroy,
D. Ellinger, E & MS Ray,
M. Trudeau, N. Hooks

Ushers:
L. Commerford, J. Minnick,
G. Spenard, E. Potyrala

Media Ministry:
tbd

Sacristan:
tbd

Lectors:
#1-Patty Lincoln
#2-Elizabeth Mahoney

Alter Servers:
Mr. Vincent Cook

Eucharistic Ministers:
J. Bodnar, C. Chabot,
D. Daub, V. Gyurko,
G. Gentile

Ushers:
P. Szvedo, R. Haggerty,
V & M DesChamps

Media Ministry:
tbd

Sacristan:
tbd

Lectors:
#1-Regina Brown
#2-Carol Blanchard

Alter Servers:
Catherine Blanchard & Anjali Tressa Kurian

Eucharistic Ministers:
N. Styczynski, A. Medici,
A. Langevin, K. Matheson,
M. Rosenthal, R. Zmijewski

Ushers:
T. Maleski, J. Grady,
R. Pascozio, F. Fraser

Media Ministry:
tbd

Sacristan:
tbd

Lectors:
#1-Dorothy Carr
#2-Mary Anne Egan

Alter Servers:
Sara Heitner, Therese & Sara Bizon

Eucharistic Ministers:
N. Fisk, J & L Natale,
M. King, S. Rayball,
D. Rootes, N. Hooley

Ushers:
R. Mullen, J. Martin,
S. DeSess, D. Fuda

Media Ministry:
tbd

Sacristan:
tbd

Lectors:
Volunteers

Alter Servers:
Volunteers

Eucharistic Ministers:
M & K Trudeau, N. Agner,
J & M Searles,
K. Maxwell, J. Proctor

Ushers:
Volunteers

Media Ministry:
tbd
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<td><strong>ALTERN ROSEY SOCIETY</strong> ................................................................. Cathy Boudreau .................................................. 785-3460</td>
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<td><strong>ALTERN SERVERS</strong> .............................................................................. Walter Ewing / Deacon Frank Gareau ........................................ 785-1351</td>
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<td><strong>ATHLETIC PROGRAM</strong> ........................................................................ Jim LaBombard ................................................................. 371-1996</td>
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<td><strong>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</strong> ................................................................. Helmut &amp; Vicky Neurohr ......................................................... 785-4630</td>
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<td><strong>BISHOPS APPEAL (DDP)</strong> ...................................................................... Renee Hallon ................................................................. 785-3180</td>
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<td><strong>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</strong> ................................................................. Rich Zmijewski ................................................................. 785-3142</td>
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<td><strong>CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP</strong> .............................................................. Mary Beth Pallack ............................................................. 221-1357</td>
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<td><strong>CONFIRMATION</strong> ................................................................................... Tom Acemoglu ...................................................... 785-1351 x307</td>
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<td><strong>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</strong> ................................................................... Nancy Hooley ................................................................. 783-3411</td>
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<td><strong>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</strong> .................................................................... Helmut Neurohr ................................................................. 785-4630</td>
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<td><strong>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION</strong> ............................................................... Pauline Kubize ................................................................. 785-7816</td>
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<td><strong>FOOD PANTRY</strong> ....................................................................................... Patricia Ostiguy ................................................................. 783-5175</td>
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<td><strong>GARDEN CLUB</strong> ..................................................................................... Mary Sue Ray ................................................................. 469-1329</td>
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<td><strong>GRIEF LOSS GROUP</strong> ............................................................................. Nancy Acemoglu ...................................................... 785-1351 x304</td>
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<td><strong>LECTORS</strong> ............................................................................................. Joe Leonmbruno ................................................................. 518-729-0895</td>
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<td>**LIFE TEEN &amp; JR. HIGH LIFE ** .............................................................. Mark Trudeau ................................................................. <a href="mailto:youthministry@stambroselatham.com">youthministry@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x309</td>
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<td><strong>MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRY</strong> ................................................... Erin Muir ................................................................. <a href="mailto:liguryandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com">liguryandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x302</td>
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<td><strong>MARY'S CIRCLE OF LOVE MINISTRY</strong> ................................................ Mary Kay Frederick ......................................................... 783-5186</td>
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<td><strong>MEDIA MINISTRY</strong> .................................................................................. Mary Alice Hunt ................................................................. 859-6743</td>
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<td><strong>MUSIC GROUPS</strong> .................................................................................. Thomas Green ................................................................. <a href="mailto:music@stambroselatham.com">music@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x306</td>
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<td><strong>PARISH SECRETARY</strong> ............................................................................ Parish Office ................................................................. 785-1351 x321</td>
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<td><strong>P.A. EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS</strong> ................................................ Tom Acemoglu ...................................................... 785-1351 x307</td>
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<td><strong>RESPECT LIFE</strong> ..................................................................................... Erin Muir ................................................................. <a href="mailto:liguryandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com">liguryandpastorallife@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-1351 x302</td>
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<td><strong>RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)</strong> ............................. Tom Acemoglu ...................................................... 785-1351 x307</td>
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<td><strong>SACRISTANS</strong> ......................................................................................... Pat Rayball ................................................................. 708-9615</td>
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<td><strong>ST. AMBROSE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL</strong> ............................................... Terri McGraw ...................................................... <a href="mailto:principal@stambroselatham.com">principal@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-6453</td>
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<td><strong>SECRETARY</strong> ....................................................................................... Kelly Sano ................................................................. <a href="mailto:school@stambroselatham.com">school@stambroselatham.com</a> 785-6453 x320</td>
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<td><strong>HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION</strong> ............................................................. Cary Lombardo ................................................................. 785-6453</td>
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<td><strong>SCHOOL BOARD</strong> .................................................................................. William Miller ................................................................. 785-6453 x320</td>
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<td><strong>TRUSTEES</strong> ......................................................................................... Mary Stewart / Stephen Green ........................................ 785-1351</td>
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<td><strong>USHERS</strong> ............................................................................................... John Estep ................................................................. 783-9266</td>
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<td><strong>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</strong> ................................................................. Tom Acemoglu ................................................................. 785-1351 x307</td>
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<td><strong>YOUNG AT HEART</strong> ................................................................................ Carolyn Chabot ................................................................. 785-6315</td>
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**SACRISTAN MINISTRY**

Like altar serving, being a Sacristan is a very beneficial way to help out your church community, and an active way to participate in Mass. Sacristans perform the following duties:

- Setting up the church before Mass. Typically, sacristans arrive at church half hour before anyone else. They light the candles, arrange the books, ready the linens and basically perform a little simple organizing before Mass begins.
- Prepare the Holy Eucharist for the celebration of the Mass. This includes readying the wine, water and bread and putting them in place for the start of Mass.
- Coordinate all Mass participants, make sure Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers are ready.
- Cleaning the holy materials after Mass in the sacristy.
- Before the sacristan leaves the church everything is set back in its place and secured.

**Decide if this is something you think you can do.** Setting the table of the Lord is a ministry that is essential for the Mass. We are in need of sacristans for all masses. Our schedules are flexible so after training you can let us know what Mass works for you. Our schedule is posted ahead several months at a time for your convenience. Please contact the Sacristan Coordinator Pat Rayball 708-9615 for more information.