“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”

Palm Sunday

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.” —Mt 21:10-11


Parish Staff

Pastor
Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
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, Ph.D. 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
Making Sense of the Passion

Tom Acemoglu
Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis

I remember the first Palm Sunday where I really paid attention to the words of the Gospel.

The Gospel reading itself always stood out to me because of its incredible length and because we, the congregation, had a role to play.

As we read through the Passion accounts, I realized that I had to say the words "Crucify Him". I had to choose to release a criminal insurrectionist who was not the Lord ("We want Barabbas"). I had to recite the words of a curse ("His blood be on us and on our children"). I had to mock Jesus ("He saved others; he cannot save himself").

Suddenly, realizing what was about to happen I got nervous, horrified at the words that would soon come out of my mouth. My mind wandered to the 1977 television mini-series "Jesus of Nazareth", to an embellished version of this very same scene where Mary Magdalene desperately screams the name "Jesus of Nazareth!" while the crowd demands the release of Barabbas. She is getting lost in the current of the crowd and wants only to save her Master. The crowd is unaware of having just earned the dubious honor of having just become the most infamous mob in history. Jesus is silent and He submits. He will carry the cross and He will be crucified.

It's hard to make sense of the Passion of Jesus Christ. On one hand it is a violently unjust story. One person endures the anxiety of knowing not just that they would soon die but how He would die. He is betrayed and abandoned by friends. He is Almighty God rejected by people who had dedicated their entire lives to understanding Him in His Law and His covenant. He is a peasant who is crucified by the might of an Empire. Among His last words are cries of abandonment to His Father ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me"). Moreover, Christians are invited to see their own sufferings in light of the Lord's ("I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church"(Col 1:24)). To make sense of Jesus' own suffering is to make sense of our own. The Church teaches us that Jesus came not only to reveal God to us, but also mankind to themselves (Gaudium et Spes 22). That means that in contemplating everything Jesus went through we might encounter things that resonate with our worst moments.

Yet, on the other hand, it is precisely in this story that our tradition points to as a sure source of hope: "If we have died with him, we will also live with him"(2 Tim 2:11). "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"(Gal 2:19-20). In the Greco-Roman world, the Christian belief continued to be mocked long after Jesus was crucified. The Jewish context from which Christianity emerged was already ridiculed for their belief in a single God while neighboring cultures believed in many. Now, the Christians claimed that this one and only God had been crucified, widely considered to be the most shameful of deaths in the ancient world.

If, as Christians, we acknowledge that the Cross really stands at the center of our faith then it's also up to us to encourage one another as we carry our own crosses. Because the Cross is the royal road to Resurrection and to new life. Resurrection is the gift of life, the fulfillment of God's promises, and with it comes His peace, consolation, and joy. But there is no skipping steps on the way of the Cross. Instead of avoiding our crosses we can instead stand assured that whenever God sees a cross, He has an Easter in mind.

So how can we make sense of the Passion in our own life?

Faith helps us make sense of the Passion. We really do believe that Jesus died for our sins on the Cross. We really do believe that He was raised up on the third day. He is right this moment at the right hand of the Father and He does not forget us. The story we read on Palm Sunday is not a tragedy. It's a love story. We can read it knowing that our God would endure anything for us. He is like how we are with our own children: He would gladly give His life and He would go to the ends of the earth and back out of love.

The Eucharist also helps us make sense of the Passion. It's one thing to be told that Jesus died for our sins on the Cross. That's exactly what the early Christians were told by the people who witnessed Jesus and knew Him. But it is another thing to sit for the Lord's Supper, to hear His words as the Apostles did, and to eat. I've always thought that the Institution Narrative prayed during Eucharistic Prayer III was like passing through a time machine to the Last Supper: For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and giving you thanks he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples. In faith, we may believe that Jesus died for our sins on the Cross and was raised from the dead, but in the Eucharist we actually ingest that reality. For those moments after we receive, the whole drama of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection is alive, residing next to our beating hearts, and the love that motivated the Lord to the Cross becomes part of our own bodies.

This week it's only natural to feel the weight of the sadness of the Passion. But the counterweight to that sadness is unfathomable and inexhaustible love.
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

TRASH to TREASURE

Saturday, April 29th, 9 am—4 pm
*Early Bird Special @ 8 am
Sunday, April 30th, 9 am—Noon

Donations will be accepted April 27—28 on stage in school gymnasium.
We cannot accept TVs, computers, books or clothing items.

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.

Easter Egg Hunt for children age 10 and younger will be held on Saturday, April 15th at 1:00 PM. Meet at the entrance to the school at the south parking lot. (If the weather is bad we’ll be in the gym). Please bring your own Easter basket to collect the eggs in.

Our meeting for April 13th has been cancelled due to Holy Thursday.

PARISH & SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSINGS

April 13—Holy Thursday
April 14—Good Friday
There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration on Good Friday

The Altar Rosary Society will gather on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel to pray the rosary. A business meeting will immediately follow in Meeting Room #1. We will assemble the candles for Holy Saturday liturgy while we discuss the May Crowning and Year End Dinner. As always, all are welcome.
Save the Date!

VBS 2017

July 31st to August 4th

Registration begins soon!
From the Lifeteen Desk:
Palm Sunday: what does it mean to you? What do you hear this year that maybe you never heard before? For me I try to reflect on the scriptures that I have heard so many times before and yet each time they reveal new understandings, a new appreciation. So as the story goes our Lord came back to Jerusalem for a final time and when he entered he was riding a donkey. Not because He was tired and needed a rest or He was injured and need a ride. He was brought into Jerusalem like a King; honored and revered. The people cried out “Hosanna (an expression of adoration, praise and joy), Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” They laid down their cloaks and broke off palm branches placing them on the ground in front of Him. Mark 11:1-10. These acts of reverence where done only to those who were highly honored. We do that today when we ‘roll out the red carpet’ for someone. Things changed quickly as we read just a day later the soldiers beat Jesus with reeds and spit on Him, mocking Him with their taunts and jeers. Mark 15: 16–20. I wonder if the reeds used to beat Him were the same reeds used to honor Him? As we laid down the reeds on the road to keep the dust from Him did He look at them knowing those would be the very weapon we would use to strike Him? It is hard to understand how Jesus, fully God and fully man, saw things and knew His fate yet He came to us to serve us and to love us. The very same people who would cry out in prayer for help are the people who would nail Him to the cross with our sin. And still He came to us to heal, to help, to serve us, to love us; knowing that in our weakness we might be ungrateful, sinful, selfish. Today let’s all cry out in a loud voice; “HOSANNA, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” – He truly deserves it! As we have for many years, the Lifeteen Ministry will offer a time of prayer and contemplation of our Lord’s Passion. It will happen on Good Friday, April 14th at 7pm in the main church. Please come to join us in prayer and thanksgiving for the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us all.

It’s finally here.
Our Parish family Cookbook and more. We have recipes from Pope Francis, Bishop Scharfenberger, Fr. Anthony and many other Diocesan Priests and religious. And then of course from many of our best Parish Family master chefs. Take a look and see them in the back of Church. If you would like one please add your name to the list and we will be happy to send it to you. They are $20 each and would make great Easter gifts for those special people in your family. Limited number of books so buy them now!
School News
There are so many amazing things going on each day at St. Ambrose School. If you have not checked out our new website and Facebook page, please do!
www.stambroselatham.org

Many thanks to all who supported our March Madness Raffle
Thanks to the generosity of so many, the school made over $8,000!

$$ Speaking of money $$
Students of all ages are learning how to identify currency, count money and even spend it within a budget.

No debit cards accepted here!

Nurses’ Notes…
Nancy Acemoglu, RN

Let us enter the city of God today.
And shout hosanna to our King.
Let us join the walk toward freedom.
And follow Christ’s path to wholeness.
Let our hearts ache
For justice, and mercy.
And weep
For peace and freedom.
Let us turn our backs
on the powers
that grasp for control,
And follow the one
who brings life.
Let us walk in solidarity
with the abandoned and oppressed
and welcome
the broken and the sick.
Let us touch and see
as God draws near,
Riding in triumph toward the Cross.

Creative Site: http://quotespictures.com

April 2nd is the Feast of St. Dominic Savio. I remember learning about him as a child in Catholic School. There actually was a Dominic Savio Club. As a small boy and student, he did exceptional in school, an Altar boy much devoted to go to confession, Holy Communion and was mentored by Father Bosco. When he became ill at 4 years old, his wish was for a happy death. As he was dying he responded. “What wonderful things I see”. He was Canonized in 1954.
What a special patron saint for young children. If there was ever an interest in having this club here, I would gladly help.
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.

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.

PARISHES OF OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISHES</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colonie</strong></td>
<td>St. Clare’s</td>
<td>456-3112</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Latham</strong></td>
<td>Our Lady of the Assumption</td>
<td>785-0234</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sat: 4:30pm</td>
<td>6:00pm St. Joseph Prov. House</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sun: 7:30am</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Loudonville</strong></td>
<td>Christ Our Light</td>
<td>459-6635</td>
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<td>Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 9:00 / 11:15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Pius X</td>
<td>462-1336</td>
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<td>Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 &amp; 12 noon</td>
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We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
We Are A Tithing Parish
Following “God’s Plan for Giving”

April 2, 2017 $17,723.23
April 3, 2016 $20,402.77

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

Good Friday Collection
On Good Friday our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Catholic Community in the Middle East and protect Christianity’s holiest shrines. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on this collection for living their faith.

Please help by giving to the collection on Good Friday.

Food Pantry Stats
The Food Pantry served 98 households in March. This included 212 adults and 172 children. As always the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners is deeply appreciated and helpful. The ongoing need is great and all food and monetary contributions are much appreciated as we strive to feed the hungry in our community.

Divine Mercy services will be held April 23rd at 2 PM at St. Ambrose Church. There will be a Holy Hour, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass. (No confessions) Father Jeffrey L’Arche, M.S. will be the celebrant. A good will offering will be collected. For information call 462-4108.

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.

Attention 7:30 AM Mass-goers

We need you!!

The Media Ministry is looking for TWO new volunteers to help run the displays at our 7:30am Mass starting this summer!! If you love the Mass and can click a mouse, we can show you what to do!! Typically volunteers serve at one Mass a month and we will coach you until you feel comfortable running the displays on your own. Please consider helping us with this important ministry!! It’s a great way to help our community and give some extra service to God! Call Mary Alice at 518-859-6743 to volunteer or ask questions.
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Calendars & Schedules**

**Sunday — April 9 — Palm Sunday**
10:15-11:15 AM Faith Formation
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen / Passion Play

**Monday — April 10**
7:00 PM Core-Chapel

**Tuesday — April 11**
7:00 PM Altar Rosary in the Chapel followed by a Meeting in Meeting Room 1

**Wednesday — April 12**

**Thursday — April 13 — Holy Thursday**
Parish & School Offices Closed
2-3 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation-Chapel
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by watching until 10:30 PM (ending with Night Prayer)

Please join us for DESSERT SHARING after Mass in the Parish Ctr

**Friday — April 14 — Good Friday**
Parish & School Offices Closed
6 AM-Midnight NO Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel
2-3 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation-Chapel
3:00 PM Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion followed by Soup Supper in the Parish Ctr
7:00 PM PASSION PLAY lead by Life Teen-Church

**Saturday — April 15 — Holy Saturday**
1:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt-Gym
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass followed by a RECEPTION in the Parish Ctr

**Sunday — April 16 — Easter**
10:15-11:15 AM NO Faith Formation
After 5:30 Mass NO Life Teen

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**Liturgical Roles for Week Ending April 16, 2017**

**Money Counters, Sunday, April 16th**
Team #9—Jannie Daggs, Valerie Gyurko, Betty Mahoney, Carolyn Chabot & Clara Aliberti

**Money Counters, Monday, April 17th**
Team #3—Richard Ostiguy & Rene Comtois

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**Pro-Life Quote**

“When some lives, including those of the unborn, are subjected to the personal choices of others, no other value or right will long be guaranteed, and society will inevitably be governed by special interests and convenience.”
SATURDAY:
(April 8th)
3:00-4:10 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass with blessing of the palms at Mass

PALM SUNDAY:
(April 9th)
Masses at: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:30 am and 5:30 pm

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK:
6:30 am Mass

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK:
9:00 am Mass

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK:
6:30 am Mass

HOLY THURSDAY:
(Note: NO morning Mass)
2-3 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
8:00 pm Dessert sharing in the Parish Center
followed by watching until 10:30 pm (ending with Night Prayer)

GOOD FRIDAY:
2-3 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:00 pm - Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
4:00 pm - Soup Supper in the Parish Center
7:00 pm - “Living” Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY:
1:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt
8:00 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY:
Masses:
7:30 am
9:00 am
11:30 am
(Note: NO 5:30 pm Mass)