“The Parish Community of St. Ambrose Church”
347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110
518-785-1351
Website: www.stambroselatham.com
Email: parishsecretary@stambroselatham.com

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)

OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Thursday 9:00am–6:00pm
Friday 9:00am–12 noon
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

PARISH STAFF
Reverend Brian Kelly, Pastor
Deacon Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Andrew Grebe, P.A. for Business & Admin.
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

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

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.
The Kingdom of God as a Mixed Bag

Tom Acemoglu
Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our faith in God often involves us trying to make sense of things that are by most accounts irreconcilable. Put simply, how can we make sense of the problems we face everyday with our belief in a God who can do absolutely anything? Are we wrong about life? Are we wrong about God? Is our situation purely our own faults? Did God inflict them upon us?

Whenever I’ve been in the thick of a spiritual crisis, I’ve found that I often fail in how I think. I’m too deep in turmoil to process things like a Christian ought to process them. There is a way that Christians ought to process the world around them, the good and the bad. There are alternatives as well. Our secular worldview defines what is good and what is bad very differently than the Christian worldview does. If we were to examine how we react to hardship in our lives we might be surprised how our own personal worldview, while perhaps consistent, might not be the one that the Lord asks us to adopt.

How can we correct our way of thinking if it has fallen far from the one the Lord proposes to us?

This weekend’s Scripture readings offer us some antidotes. In short:

- God is sovereign, kind, fair, merciful, and just.
- This world is most often not kind, not fair, not merciful, and not just.
- The Lord gives us provisions so we can live in this world because it is not His Kingdom (prayer, Christian living, and the sacraments).
- Being in communion with the Lord and partaking in those provisions help transform this world into His Kingdom.
- As His Kingdom unfolds in this world, so will inequity. Both will take root powerfully until the very end.
- At the very end, God will have the final say and all things will finally be kind, fair, merciful, and just in His Kingdom. “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Our first reading is a simple praise to God, an acknowledgement of who He is to those who call Him their king. God’s Presence has at least two effects. His Presence dissolves pride and presumption to anyone who stand before Him carrying that in their soul (in those who know you, you rebuke temerity). But that very same Presence is also consolation and mercy (But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us). These attributes are part of God’s very nature and we should only look for them in God alone (you taught your people, by these deeds). When God commands us to “be holy as I am holy” in both Old and New Testaments, He is reminding us that every Christian should act as God acts. Even the saints are true models for us because they only tried to live as God Himself is by His very nature.

The Psalm response allows us to exalt in our good God who is Himself mercy: Lord, you are good and forgiving. The second reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans is our coping mechanism for dealing with hardship in the world: prayer. Prayer is our place of intimacy with God, where often we find ourselves muttering in silence in the belief that God is listening and looking kindly. In prayer we affirm our belief that God listens and God cares (The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness [and] intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit). In prayer, we can both affirm God’s goodness while getting our worries off of our chest. In that, we are graced and He slowly transforms us into citizens of His Kingdom.

Our Gospel reading gives us a sense of the “big picture” of our lives. In the end, we can expect things in this world to be unfair and hard. But God does not intervene because He is absent and cruel. He intervenes in our lives as we are in communion with Him. Since the planting of the Garden of Eden He has allowed all things to grow. To grow, but not to remain unpruned or neglected. In the end, He infuses our hardship with purpose and consolation.
“We Are A Tithing Parish
Following “God’s Plan for Giving”

July 16, 2017 $17,581.38
July 17, 2016 $16,329.03

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

Thank you for your generous response to the 2017 Bishop’s Appeal.

The amount raised thus far is $113,009.40 with a total of 383 pledges and gifts. The vital ministries supported by this annual appeal depend on you and your generosity. Your gift helps St. Ambrose Parish pay its diocesan assessment of $152,989.

Pledge envelopes are available in the church and donations can also be made online at:

www.thebishopsappeal.org

Many thanks for your support!

Mary Stewart/Stephen Green
Parish Trustees

FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING
Wednesday, July 26 @ 6:30 PM—Parish Center
All parish ministries and parish family members.
Please Join Us!

Save-the-Date
PARISH FESTIVAL
Sunday, September 24th
More info to come!

REGISTER TODAY!

Vacation Bible School
Pre-K—Gr. 5
July 31—Aug 1, 9am —noon
www.stambroselatham.com/VBS
2017 Peter’s Pence Collection for the Holy Father
Be A Witness of Charity

Next week our second collection will be for Peter’s Pence, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds of this collection benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression and disasters. Please be generous in next week’s Collection supporting the Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

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

**Polish Day**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH**

at

Shrine of The North American Martyrs, Auriesville, NY

Confessions in Polish and English in the Coliseum from 2 to 3:30 pm. Mass at 4:00 pm in Polish with His Excellency Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany as the Main Celebrant. Sponsored by the Polish American Congress.

“Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known.” Experience increased trust and intimacy in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit us at [https://www.albanyme.org](https://www.albanyme.org)

**Dear Parish Family,**

*From my deepest heart felt gratitude I say to you all, Thank you. For all the prayers that you offered up for teens to attend the Youth Conference, thank you. For all the hours of volunteer work that 75 people put into the conference, thank you. For the countless hours of time spent on the phone inviting teens, on the internet posting notifications about the conference and in the mail reaching out to our parish family. Family has always been our core and it is through family that we do anything worth saving.*

The St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference, 2017
All for the greater Glory of God
**Sacraments**

**RECONCILIATION**
Saturday, 3:00 PM or any time by appointment.

**MARRIAGE**
Congratulations! So that proper preparation may be made, please call the Parish Office 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 of 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 the Parish Office.

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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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**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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**The Evangelist Subscription**

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________  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**

See What’s in Store!
JEWELRY • ROSARIES • BOOKS
AND MORE

www.parishstore.com

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

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**Volunteer!**

**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.
Marriage Moments
“For we do not know how to pray as we ought.” (Romans 8:26) Praying together is one of the most intimate (and scary) deeds a couple can do. Revealing our innermost thoughts and feelings can be a risk. Read Who Me...Pray? With Her? for ideas.

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 2017

MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, JULY 30TH
Team #8—Lawrence Girard, Susan O’Brien, Sandra Trzcinski & David Piusienski

MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, JULY 31ST
Team #1—Tina Zandri & Marion Davis

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