24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgive

“So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.” - Mt 18:35

In today’s gospel, Jesus speaks of the need for us to forgive, not just once, but as many times as it takes really, always reminding us that we are to forgive as the Lord Himself, forgives us. For His forgiveness is without limit, therefore in following the model that Christ is for us to truly live by, how can we not or always want to always do the same? I’ve always said, reconciliation and forgiveness are two of the most difficult things for us to live by, we get hurt, we all hold grudges, and we find ourselves unable to simply let go and hand over our pain to the Lord. We may go to confession and even after receiving God’s forgiveness, still not be able to forgive ourselves or another because we just can’t seem to let it go.

When we do this, without noticing it, we find that we are now the ones holding ourselves in the past, stuck in that moment when we were first hurt or hurt another. We may not recognize that in doing so, we are putting a limit on God’s endless forgiveness that comes with the grace to let go. But the Lord knows this, knowing us better than we know ourselves and He still wishes for us to see the grace that He offers to let Him take the burden on Himself, so that we can be free of the pain once and for all. For in these moments, we are at a crossroads, one in which we can allow the Lord to help us and fill us with His love where that pain took up space within our hearts, or we can keep the door locked and still not let Him in no matter how much we may desire His presence to be there. This is essential for us to recognize, because we were made not only by God, but more importantly, for God. For Him to fill every part of our being with His love, His presence and especially His peace. So we need to ask ourselves in these moments, no matter how much it may seem impossible to let go or how hurt we’ve been, can I hand it over to the Lord? Can I let His presence take up that space inside instead? If the answer is yes, than that is how we can actually forgive. Not just once, but as many times as it takes, following Jesus’ command and example to live by, that reconciliation, mercy and forgiveness should be the motto we live by. Our battle cry throughout life, that allows the Lord to move us forward each day to where God wants us to be, unchained from the ups and downs of our pasts, leading us to a life of absolute freedom and endless peace.

For hidden within the gospel passage, is the reminder that we are to be a free people, free from anything that separates us from the Lord and where He’s trying to pull us towards. That our need to reconcile and forgive isn’t so much about the other person, for the situation may never change, but it really is all about us and our relationship with the Lord. For He frees us from it all, not for them, but for our own good. So today we need to ask ourselves where have I allowed myself to be chained down in the past? Where do I need to ask the Lord for forgiveness for myself? What haven’t I handed over to the Lord? So that He can free me once and for all, letting His grace, peace and presence fill my heart and soul, so that I can free to finally become who he wants me to be.

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.
Faith Formation Reminders

- **SEPTEMBER 24TH IS A BIG DAY!**
  - We start with a Parent/Student Workshop for PreK/Kindergarten at 10:15
  - At 11:30 Mass we will have our blessing of backpacks! Bring your child’s backpack up for a special blessing. They’ll even get a special keepsake tag to remind them that both God and their home parish love them!
  - **OUR PARISH FESTIVAL BEGINS AT 12:30 RUNNING UNTIL 5:00 PM!** Please sign up to bring a dish to share.

- **OCTOBER 1ST** will be a Family Mass at 9am as well a special commissioning of our 2nd graders as they prepare to make their First Holy Communion!

BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVING

All this weekend our friends from Bethlehem Wood Carving will be here with items for sale. Your purchase will make a difference in the lives of many Christians. They gladly accept all major credit cards, checks & cash.

Experience the grace of God's forgiveness that we have heard so clearly in our gospel’s this week and last week through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Saturday’s 3:00—4:00 pm or by appointment

FOOD PANTRY

There will be a required training for all those who currently serve in the food pantry. September 20, 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Blessings of Animals
St. Ambrose Church
Sunday Oct 1st 1:00 PM
At the St. Francis Garden
(School Entrance)

St. Francis delighted in God’s presence wherever he found it, even in the least of God’s creatures. In remembrance of Francis’ love for all of creation, bring your pet dog, cat, hamster, bird, horse or even your favorite stuffed animal for a blessing. Our event will include prayers, blessing, time for fellowship, and treats for both animals and humans. We invite you to bring a monetary donation for animals in need due to Hurricane Harvey and Irma.
Parish Festival
September 24
12:30—5:00

All are invited to bring a friend rain or shine!

International Food Stations
Delicious delights including:
  Eggplant parmesan
  Haluski
  Apple crisp
  Stromboli
  Kielbasa
  Chicken Biriyani
  Fire house chili
  Pierogi

(sign up to bring your favorite dish to share on the parish website, click the festival banner on the homepage or at the church entrances)

Returning Favorites:
  Bingo
  Kids games
  Fried Dough
  Snow Cones

New This Year:
  North Country Wild Care
  Religious Article Swap
  50/50 to assist hurricane victims

Call ext. 303 to donate prizes or an hour of your time

St. Ambrose Lifeteen Youth Ministry presents ...

HOW TO ENJOY YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

ATTEND
Mass @ 5:30pm Sunday night And then after Mass is our High School gathering called Afterlife. Here we learn about our great faith and how our Lord God wishes to engage us in a relationship that will make us all new.

DISH UP
There are many ways to embrace the life of the church through service and this is a big part of living out our faith. We will send you a calendar of opportunities you can pick from.

INDULGE
The gifts given to us from Jesus remain the most precious and the most mysterious the Church knows. They are also the most powerful and most desperately needed by all of us. We will immerse ourselves in the Sacraments of Adoration, Reconciliation, Eucharist

ENGAGE
There will be many opportunities to embrace the parish family while growing in faith and grace. We will celebrate each other in events like - Team Building Days, Sponsor Dinners, Large Group Meetings and so much more.

CHILL
Relationship is the first best way to describe our faith in Jesus. That relationship starts with an encounter. That encounter is best experienced on retreat. We will go together away to a place separate from our everyday lives to allow ourselves a chance for that encounter.

WWW.STAMBROSELATHAM.COM
ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
E-Mail: principal@stambroselatham.com
Ernest Casile, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary

PARISH STAFF
518-785-1351
Reverend Brian Kelly, Pastor x301
Deacon Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Andrew Grebe, P.A. for Business & Admin. x304
Tom Acemoglu, P.A. for Evangelization & Catechesis x307
Justina Treventi, Faith Formation Admin. Asst. x303
Mark Trudeau, Life Teen for High School and Jr. High x309
Tracey Penk-Masucci, Parish Administrative Asst. x303
Joan Welch, Parish Secretary x321
Thomas Green, Parish Music Director

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)

FOOD PANTRY

STATS FOR AUGUST 2017
The Food Pantry served 114 households—this included 241 adults and 219 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.

CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

Sunday — September 17
After each Mass Bethlehem Wood Carving
10:15 – 11:15 AM Faith Formation EDGE
After 5:30 Mass Life Teen-Parish Ctr

Monday — September 18
7:00 PM Life Teen Core-Chapel

Tuesday — September 19

Wednesday — September 20
Life Teen Deep End—Lounge
Food Pantry Training—PC

Thursday — September 21
9:30 – 11:00 AM Mary’s Circle of Love – Lounge

Friday — September 22
6 AM-Midnight Eucharistic Adoration-Chapel

Saturday — September 23
3:00-4:00 PM Confessions-Chapel

Sunday — September 24
10:15 – 11:15 AM Faith Formation EDGE
10:15 – 11:15 AM Parish Festival
12:30 PM After 5:30 Mass

Thursday—September 21 cont’d
6:00-8:00 PM AA, ALANON, ALATEEN-Mtg. Rms
7:00 PM Prayer Group-Chapel

Monday – September 18
6:30 AM Anne McCormick by Gina Gentile & family
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Tuesday – September 19
6:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM James Parker by wife Mary
Rita Meher by Mary Ellen & Bill

Wednesday – September 20
6:30 AM People of St. Ambrose
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Thursday – September 21
6:30 AM Communion Svc at Our Lady of the Assumption
9:00 AM Robert Smith by Pat Judge
Karen Cummings by Pat Judge

Friday – September 22
6:30 AM Communion Service
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

Saturday – September 23
4:30 PM Theresa Carey by Richard & Debbie Devoe
Susan B. Bell by Laureen Sharp
Ann Catazaro by Donna Sabatino
Nancy Riente by Nolles Family

Sunday – September 24 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM Sam Aliberti by Kids
Helen Howe by Raymond Tracey & family
9:00 AM Donald J. Waters by Eileen & Rich Zmijewski
George Houser by Tom Maleski
Joseph Garceau by family
11:30 AM Renda and Mele families by Vittorio Renda & family
Chickie Sorrentino by Sorrentino family
Antonio Lombardo by Family, Children, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchild & Wife
5:30 PM Life Teen – People of St. Ambrose
**Parishes of Our Local Catholic Communities**

**COLONIE**
- St. Clare's: Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 8:30 / 456-3112 10:30am

**LATHAM**
- Our Lady of the Assumption: Sat: 4:30pm
- Assumption: Sun: 7:30am, 785-0234 9:00am St. Joseph Prov. House 10:30am

**LOUDONVILLE**
- Christ Our Light: Sat: 4:00pm/Sun: 9:00 / 459-6635 11:15am
- St. Pius X: Sat: 5pm/Sun: 8, 10 & 12 noon 462-1336

**Please keep in your prayers**

**Home to God**
Please remember in the charity of your prayers the repose of the soul of Arlene Vanslyke and all those who will be remembered in Masses this week.

**Advertiser Of The Week**
We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.

9 Halfmoon Crossing, Clifton Park 518-688-0153

**Liturgical Roles for Week Ending September 24, 2017**

| MONEY COUNTERS, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | Team # 8 L. Girard, S. O’Brien, S. Trzcinski, D. Piusienski |
| MONEY COUNTERS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | Team # 3 R. Ostiguy, R. Comtois |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4:30PM</th>
<th>7:30AM</th>
<th>9:00AM</th>
<th>11:30AM</th>
<th>5:30PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRISTAN:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUC. MINISTERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Burgess</td>
<td>#1— N. DiMarino</td>
<td>C. &amp; M Hessinger</td>
<td>G. Gentile, J. &amp; M. Rayball, J. Gandara, J. Bodnar</td>
<td>D. Buser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRISTAN:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUC. MINISTERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRISTAN:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUC. MINISTERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRISTAN:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUC. MINISTERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SACRISTAN:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUC. MINISTERS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALG. SERVERS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**
“The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.” Help to encourage our compassion and forgiveness by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Nov 3-5, 2017 in Albany, NY and Sep 29-Oct 1, 2017 in Morristown, NJ. For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit us at albanyme.org