It is with great joy that we gather today to celebrate the greatest gift of all, The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:16 – 17)” These beautiful words that are ones that all of us know by heart. They are at the center of our faith that makes today a day we celebrate with great joy as we gather as one parish of believers who have come to believe and worship together as one community of faith throughout the world. So it is with great joy that I say to each of you, Merry Christmas!

The weeks leading up to this great day of celebration have been one of the busiest times in the parish “behind the scenes.” Some of the highlights have been: The “giving tree” tags flew off the tree and because of that, so many families were provided with gifts to give to one another all due to your heartfelt generosity that is unlike any other parish I’ve ever seen. I wish to thank all of the parishioners and school children involved in the sorting, the distribution and Justina for coordinating this outreach to those in need. Through this, St. Catherine’s Center for Children Copson House Group Home received a van full of toys, pajamas and supplies for their kitchen. Our food pantry, provided Christmas dinner for over 150 families under the direction of Pauline and the volunteers who come in day after day to help ensure that each family that we can help is given all that we can provide through ongoing donations from our parishioners, the Regional Food bank and the Hannaford “buy a box” program. I am truly amazed at what this parish provides when any need is asked of them. Finally, I wish to say thank you to the Altar Rosary Society for their decorating of the Church and Parish Center throughout the year, but especially in time for Christmas. As always, the parish looks beautiful.

This is a time for us to really step back and give thanks and to each of you I wish to say with all my heart, “Thank you” for all that you do to make St. Ambrose Parish, a place full of people who truly know what it means to live out the mission of Christ’s presence reaching out into the world. I wish you all safe travels, God’s blessing upon your families and homes and a Happy New Year! May God who has begun this great work in you, bring it to fulfillment.

Rev. Brian Kelly

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St. Ambrose School 518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
E-Mail: principal@stambroselatham.com
Ernest Casile, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary
Sunday—December 24, 2017
4:30 PM Church
Dorothy Quimet by Family
Teresa CaFaro (14th Anniversary) by Antoinette Muscatiello
Richard Bango by Daughter— Doreen
Albert & Dorothy Leombruno by Family

4:30 PM Parish Center
Elizabeth Heaney by Family
Helen Falasco & Lillian Molnar by Family
Gene Kendrick by Family
Anne Honsinger by Honsinger Family

8:00 PM All members of our St. Ambrose Community and their families here and in heaven

Monday—December 25, 2017
8:00 AM James J. Pender by his son Silvio “Mac” Pais by Barbara Langston
10:00 AM Chickie Sorrentino (2nd Anniversary) by Frank Sorrentino
Mary Thomas by Kurian Family

Tuesday, December 26, 2017
9:00 AM Gloria Maiello by Sano Family
Martin Killian by St. Ambrose Parish
John V. Weglarz by St. Ambrose Parish

Wednesday, December 27, 2017
6:30 AM John V. Weglarz by St. Ambrose Parish

Thursday, December 28, 2017
9:00 AM Edward Roskiwicz by Staff of Dufresne & CavanaughFuneral Home
Jack O’Keefe by Lucille & Joe Egan

Friday, December 29, 2017
6:30 AM Communion Service

Saturday, December 30, 2017
4:30 PM Thanksgiving for a favor granted by Joe & Patti Leombruno
John Mizwa by Diane Perkins
Harry Cushing by Keith, Patsy & Devin Cushing and Edi Samaneigo and Terri Standish-Kvon
Edward R. Lupian by Family

Sunday, December 31, 2017
7:30 AM James J. Pender by His Son
9:00 AM Bell Family by Laureen Sharp
Jozef Chilinski by Marian Chilinski
Shakir L. Cannon by Kelly Sano

11:30 AM Thomas McGee by Patsy & Bobby
5:30 PM Shakir Cannon by wife & daughter Bernard Weinraub by Claire Boeck

Monday-January 1, 2018
9:00 AM Theresa Robinson by Alan Robinson & Family
Susan Secor by John & Michele Teabout
Celine Dell by Leslie & Bob Beauregard
Thanksgiving for a favor granted by Patti & Joe Leombruno

Tuesday– January 2, 2018
9:00 AM People of St. Ambrose

Wednesday– January 3, 2018
6:30 AM People of St. Ambrose

Thursday– January 4, 2018
9:00 AM Bonita Fabio Tidd by Carolyn Chabot

Friday– January 5, 2018
6:30 AM Communion Service

KEEP IN TOUCH
www.stambroselatham.com
For more information regarding:
♦ Mass Schedules
♦ Ministry Schedules
♦ Sacraments
♦ Adoration
♦ Parish Office Hours
♦ Faith formation schedule
Call the office at 518-785-1351
Connect with us on Facebook @saintambrosechurch
Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose?
Text the word ambrose to 84576 to opt in.

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm
Daily: Monday & Wednesday 6:30am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am
Communion Service: Friday 6:30am
Holy Days and Holidays subject to change

Parish office will be closed on 12/25-12/26/17 and 1/1-1/2/18
This year, the theme for our Advent retreat was “You Should Be Here!” At first, we were worried that it might seem a little arrogant until we thought about the intention: that the place where we all really ought to be is with Jesus. At Christmas, this means thinking about what coming of the newborn baby in the crib really means and to go for there. We live at a time that’s both wondrous and strange. Wondrous because never in history have we been able to do so much through human innovation. This year, science has given us proof of existence of gravitational waves, new advancements in medicine, and so on. And yet...
And yet this year we have also experienced so much strife and division in our world. People suffer, whether it’s through the aftermath of the hurricane in Puerto Rico, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, or even through the divisions in our own country.
In our tradition (which goes back a very long time), we would probably put it this way: though we are made in God’s image and likeness, we often fall short. We are sinners in need of a savior.
And there he is, laying in a manger, infinitely approachable, inviting us to contemplate the natures of both humanity and divinity through the eyes of an infant. It’s an invitation and you really should be here. Me too, and all of us together.

Merry Christmas!
Tom Acemoglu
Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis
Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our giving tree. Thank you to all the hands who helped with sorting, phones calls, and distribution. This year we nearly 370 people received almost 1,000 gifts! The giving tree was the work of many hands including the school students. The school children worked alongside our parishioners to serve the needs of so many. When Brian Gaylord and his SPRU Crew delivered a trailer load of toys, the students were there, to lend a hand and join their community to receive the donations.

Involvement of the school children extended beyond the giving tree. In the week's leading up to Thanksgiving they eagerly put their faith in action to serve others. For several weeks the students assisted with unloading the donations from the Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger program for our food pantry. Every Monday a parishioner picked up and transported the donations to the food pantry. This year we received boxes from Hannaford. This vibrant community comes together time and again to serve so many people.

Once we allow God to truly take up residence in our hearts we become so overwhelmed by His abundant love for us that we just naturally feel the need to join our lives with Him and carry out God's work here on earth by giving to others.

What is Night of Praise? You Should Be Here!

**Thursday, December 28,**
starting at 7pm, please join us for our 3rd year of Night of Praise! This hour is filled with songs of praise and songs of the season. We realize that it is an incredibly busy time of the year, but what better chance for a time of peace, then being together, praying together and all of us gathered together enjoying the Christmas season. Family in town...bring them, all are welcome. Children home from school...bring them, we miss them. Too busy...make time, one hour, relax, unwind, pray. Hope to see you and yours there.

**Colonie Bereavement Support**

The Churches of Christ Our Light & St. Clare's of Colonie will be starting a Bereavement Support Group for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one through death. Join us for 8 Wednesday evening sessions from Jan. 10th - April 18th. Share your grief journey and gain support from others traveling the same road. Meeting location will alternate between churches. St. Clares-January 10, February 7, April 4, April 18 & Christ Our Light-January 24, February 21, March 7, March 21. **Join us for our first meeting Jan. 10th at St. Clares 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Questions and RSVP’s to Pam (St. Clares 518-456-3112) or Terry (Christ Our Light 518-459-6635)**

**First Saturday Devotion**

First Saturday Devotion will be held on Saturday, January 6 in the Chapel at 10:00 am. Please join us for this devotion in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Save the Date Worship Night America**

2018 Worship Night In America
Featuring Chris Tomlin, Kim Walker Smith of Jesus Culture, Matt Maher, Christine D’Clario, Tauren Wells, and Pat Barrett
April 12, 2018, 7:00 pm
Times Union Center, Albany
Price: $33.54 each (Section 121)
Make Checks Payable to: St. Ambrose Church
Attn: Justina (by 3/15, first come, first served)

**Eucharistic Adoration**

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 22 & Dec. 29 due to Christmas & New Year's holiday weekends.