THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” - Lk 2:10-11
Merry Christmas everyone! Today we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord; the coming of the true light of the world. God, who out of His unconditional love entered into His beloved creation, to be born of a virgin, so that He may shine on forever in our hearts for each of us who have come to believe; for this is what a Christmas is all about!

Isn’t it a beautiful thing, to hear those words: “Merry Christmas” come from person to person? This truly is a time for us to be joyful; for God has given us a true reason to be: by showing us once more that He is with you always. This isn’t always the case; for so many things happen in our lives that pull us away from God...leaving this holiday and so many other days to be a time where rejoicing just doesn’t seem possible.

If you look around and see the crowd, each of us gathered here in these pews today— you can’t help but tell that each of us deep within is yearning for God to come once more into our lives; to come into our own hearts and just say those few words. “Let there be light.” For this is what God offers us—not only today, but everyday—if we let Him into the darkness that surrounds us, that which pulls us away from Him, so that He can separate and overcome the darkness within you, saying, let my light shine forever in you.

Going back to the story of creation, we read in the book of Genesis, “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters...Then God said, let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day” and the darkness he called “night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day”...and how analogous this is for us; for without God as the center in our lives, God as that first thing before all others, we find ourselves always searching, being swept from one thing to another, without form or foundation, leaving us going from one thing to the next but never finding what we’re looking for. We find ourselves surrounded by darkness. But today we celebrate “the birth of a savior who has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”

The one who saves us, guides us, teaches us and let’s us always know, that I am with you always.

As we look around this beautiful church, we see in those next to us in the pews, that as we let Him in, we enter into and reflect His life here on earth that began this beautiful day. He adores us as a child lying in a manager, listens to us with the fullest attention, anoints us as one of his chosen ones, sanctifies the life He leads us to, runs to us as a child who wants nothing more but to be in your arms, nourishes us along the journey of life, and most importantly, with the trials we face, the suffering we endure and the day that we pass away, He promises that this is not the end for us...for He will raise us up and bring us to Himself to the place He has prepared for us in Heaven. And this is why we say “rejoice” on this most holy of days, for the divine life giving creative light of the world says I am with you always and will always give you more. All by us coming here to encounter Him in the Eucharist, to hear His word, to grow in our faith, trust and hope in Him by saying each time, inside me Lord I have you as my foundation, my rock, always saying Lord come into my life and say everyday inside me, “Let there be light.”
It’s Christmas, and if you’re reading this you’ve probably just attended Mass here at St. Ambrose.

First off, welcome! It’s a joy to have you hear. Whether you come every Sunday, it’s your first time here or something in between, we’re glad to have you here as part of our family.

If you’re a spiritual seeker, we have some great things that you can check out. We have a great ladies night group that will be meeting Monday, January 13th at 6:45pm. We also have a Bible Study that will be happening Thursdays starting on January 2nd at 7pm. Our Mary Circle of Love group includes older members of our community and they welcome you too.

If you have a family, we have regular faith formation classes that meet on Sundays between our 9am and 11:30am Masses that include kids from Pre-K all the way to Middle School. We also have a High School group that meets on Sunday nights after our 5:30pm Mass. We try to make it a meaningful place not only for the kids but for parents as well.

Our community has prayer groups and support groups, people who serve and people who need to be served, a vibrant school and people who care. All that’s missing is you!

If you’d like to become part of our community, you can sign up online by visiting stambroselatham.com/join-our-parish.

You can also sign up to receive parish updates by visiting stambroselatham.flocknote.com or texting the word “Ambrose” to 84576.

Thanks for visiting us here at St. Ambrose. We hope we can help you reach the best that God has planned for you. Whether things are going great or times are tough, we’re here for you. May God bless you this season and in the coming year!

-Tom Acemoglu
Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis
Christmas Gift

Each year the St. Ambrose community gives out a gift for all who worship with us on Christmas. Those past gifts have included items such as books by Dynamic Catholic or a Christmas ornament.

As we were planning to celebrate the birth of our Lord, we decided that this year rather than give you a book or something like an ornament, we would give HIM the gift, serving in His name, caring for others.

This year, the funds that would have been allocated to purchasing a parish gift, were used toward making over a room in a local group home. A few members of the parish staff spent two days making over the living room of Byron House (a St. Catherine’s Center for Children Group Home).

Some of the staff and a school family returned on December 4. We shared a dinner with the children and staff of the group home. We brought with us a Christmas tree and all the decorations. Decorations that included ornaments made by our school children. It was a fun evening and it ended with each of the group home children receiving a new set of pajamas.
Now we are inviting you to continue in the spirit of giving. You are invited to join us on the next mission opportunity. There are so many ways to serve. Many hands make light work.

Maybe you would want to work with us on the next project at this house. Perhaps you want to be involved in a ministry here at church or you want to join together with others to serve in our community.

Through small acts of service, let us all be Jesus’ hands and feet to those in our community. If you want more information about ways in which you can serve, email serve@stambroselatham.com, fill out the form at the end of this bulletin or call Tracey in the parish office.
**SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER CAMP**

Our Summer Camp runs from June through August. We welcome children in grades Pre K 3 to Grade 1. Check out our website for registration information coming by the end of January.

**SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

All Aboard!
Save the date for Vacation Bible School
August 3-7
Look for information coming in January

**ROCKY RAILWAY**

Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through

**SACRAMENTS: WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION**

Give the parish office a call or email at salatham@rcda.org and let’s talk. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. The RCIA is for those who are currently unbaptized, baptized in another Christian Church, or baptized Catholic but have not completed full Christian initiation i.e. First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation.

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**JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING EVENING**

Night of Praise
December 29
6:15 PM
following the 5:30 PM Mass

What if the name Emmanuel means what it means?
Today, now, with us.
The manger proclaims that the presence of God is now present with us; in the mundane, in the uncertainty, in the mystery that lies beyond our understanding or explanation. God Himself is with us, in our joy and our happiness. In our sadness and our brokenness. He celebrates in the light with us and He holds us in the dark with faithful and secure arms.

What if the name Emmanuel means what it means?
Christmas not only begs that we ask that question, but also provides the answer. God with us, Emmanuel, and He’s closer then we could ever imagine.

Come join us, the night of, Sunday the 29th of December, 6:15 to 7:15, the Feast of the Holy Family, for Night of Praise. To celebrate Christmas, together, as a family. Emmanuel, God with us.
Merry Christmas

From your St. Ambrose School

Save the date and join us for an Open House on January 28, 2020 from 5-7 PM
Reconciliation

Jesus is calling you to experience His mercy. Held on Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 PM, or by appointment. Call 518-785-1351 for more information.

Parish Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am–noon

Parish Staff

Rev. Brian Kelly, Pastor x301
   Brian.Kelly@rcda.org
Helmut Neurohr, Permanent Deacon
Frank Garceau, Permanent Deacon
Gerard Matthews, Permanent Deacon
Cary Lombardo, Director of Operations
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   Madison.Penk-Masucci@rcda.org

Parish Trustees

Stephen Green
Suzi Trzcinski

Parish Advisory Council President

Sandi Trzcinski

Parishioner Registration/Update

Name: _____________________________
Street: ____________________________
City: ______________________________
Zip: _______________________________
Phone No: _________________________
Email _______________________________

Please Check

☐ New Registration
☐ Change of Address
☐ Moving out of Parish
☐ Want Envelopes
☐ Would like information on e-giving
☐ Would love to learn more about ways I can serve
   ☐ at my church
   ☐ in my community
☐ Name Change (Please contact Parish Secretary)

The Evangelist Subscription

☐ Add my name to the subscription list, here is my $18.00/year
☐ Continue my subscription to the Evangelist, here is my $18.00/year

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

Keep In Touch

Website: www.stambroselatham.com
Facebook: @stambrosechurch
Email: salatham@rcda.org

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
Adoration: Friday 7:00 am–9:00 PM
Chapel: Open daily 6:00am–9:00 pm