Pursuing the Lord

Do you remember as a child growing up hearing from a parent or teacher, “you can be anything you want to be, if you just put your mind to it?” Perhaps a variation of “you can become anything you want to become if you just put your mind to it and work hard?” These are fairly common statements of encouragement we share with those that we love, those we encounter in various ways and even those that are struggling with trying to figure out where their life is headed. To do this however requires a certain amount of resilience, determination and willingness to see it through. Have you found yourself where you wanted to be as you have traveled through the years in your life? The answer, I would imagine for most of us, is quite simply “no” or “not quite.” Why is that? Growing up we may have wanted to become a first responder, an astronaut, doctor, lawyer or even trade worker who enjoys most working with their hands. Fortunately, or unfortunately, life took a different course, a different road to success, meaning God had a different plan.

How mind-blowing it is to humbly acknowledge that what we think we want in life may not be the best thing for us and may be the wrong answer for following God’s plan. In today’s gospel passage, the Canaanite woman shows us the example of persistence, hard work, when it comes to our reaching out to Christ and seeking what we want. Dismissed in a way, Christ is challenging the woman to “see” or “test” just how great her faith is. How easily we can relate as perpetually we are asking things of God that He may appear to dismiss, while instead is really testing our faith in Him. Don’t get me wrong, God is not a vending machine that distributes what we wanted if we simply shake the machine enough until it finally falls. God’s grace is always about His will and His plan for each and every one of us individually. Teaching us to pursue Him more, letting Him take the wheel, so that we can become what is right in the end. If anyone feels for a second that their hopes and aspirations have failed because they are not on the path they originally sought after, perhaps it is an opportunity to see just how God is working through where you are right now. The Canaanite woman shows us how to seek the Lord, a desire to have our prayers answered by not giving up on turning to the One whom grace flows from.

Following with that theme, if we pursue the Lord starting right now, the way we would our greatest desire in life, how much would your life and perception change about where you are in the moment? Jesus has a purpose for where you are, what you are doing and wants you to turn and let Him into all of that so that His will can be done. Jesus wants to turn to us, see and say, “Great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” Leaving the choice up to us! Do I want to pursue God’s will, His plan and His “career” for me as His presence to the world around me? I think we’ll find that when we change our focus and energy onto that, that the two roads that seemed so separate are actually merged into one. The road we have been called to travel, the road to the peace, joy and love of Christ that is the greatest aspiration and accomplishment life has for us all.

Fr. Brian Kelly
August 16, 2020

**20th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021**

Sign up your family (children Pre-K to Grade 8) to our updated program today! Program info and registration can be found at www.stambroselatham.com/ff

Signing up from now helps us make sure we have enough materials to kick off the year!

**HAILEY’S CORNER**

You know how much us dogs love our owners? God loves you infinitely more!

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**BIBLES & bonfires**

Join us every Tuesday this summer for a teen Bible study around a camp fire. Meet at the St. Francis Circle.

6:30-7:30PM
S’mores equipment provided
Bring a Lawn Chair!

RSVP to Robyn:
robyn.spateholts@rcda.org
518-785-1351 x 303

**VISIT OUR CHAPEL**

Don’t forget that our chapel is open for private prayer DAILY from 6am - 9pm. Please bring a mask and remember to social distance if anyone else is in the chapel.

**SUNDAY HELP NEEDED FOR OUTDOOR MASS/COMMUNION SERVICE**

Parishioners who would like to serve on Sundays, please fill out the Serve form (https://stambroselatham.com/serve) by Wednesday at 5pm. We need assistance with welcoming, traffic control, setup, and takedown. After you’ve completed the Serve form, complete the online COVID form. Then the Parish Advisory Council will follow up with you. Finally, on Sunday morning, bring your mask, rain gear (weather permitting), lawn chair and hand sanitizer. Any questions, call the office at 518-785-1351 or email: StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org
ENROLL NOW for the 2020-2021 School Year!

Openings in all grade levels: PreK3 - Grade 6

Please consider donating an item from our
amazon

St. Ambrose School
WISH LIST

email
salatham@rcda.org
for the link

REOPENING 2020-2021

There is a lot of planning that is going into being able to have students back in our building in September. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. To that end, you can see our full reopening plan at our website: https://stambroselatham.com/reopening-2020-2021. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

God Bless & Stay Safe

Mrs. Lily Spera

FOLLOW OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @stambroseschoollatham
Instagram: @st.ambrose.latham

518-785-6453
Website: www.stambroselatham.org
Lily Spera, Principal
Kelly Sano, Secretary
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our parish is blessed to possess many individuals who want to share their talents. Let us know how we can be Christ's hands, feet, and presence in your life.
Email us at: StAmbrosePAC@rcda.org

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: www.stambroselatham.com
Facebook: @stambrosechurch
Email: salatham@rcda.org
Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose? Text the word ambrose to 84576 to opt in

Reconciliation
Wednesdays 5-6 PM
Saturdays 3-4 PM
In the Chapel

Jesus is calling you to experience His mercy.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Sunday TBD
(Hours subject to change as we begin to slowly reopen)

Help for Grieving Parents – A Spiritual One-Day Retreat

For: Parents Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child of Any Age, By Any Cause, No Matter How Long Ago - All are Welcome!

“Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents Spiritual Retreat”
Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Church of St. Mary, Rensselaer and St. Henry’s Church, Averill Park
Location: Church of St. Mary, 163 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Come to a warm and loving place with other parents—to think/talk/feel/pray.
Find compassion, rest and peace...at least for a time.

Donation: $25 Individuals; $40 Couples
Scholarships are available. Pre-registration is required.

To register, go to: www.emfgp.org
For more info: Linda Banker (518) 526-5824

Spring into Ireland
Come Across the Sea to Ireland with us!

Our April “Spring into Ireland” trip is now scheduled for April 25 - May 6, 2021, and we have space available for you!
Our 10 night vacation will take us across Ireland, beginning and ending in Dublin.
Limited space is now available.
For more details and pricing info, please contact Julie at Journeys By Julie, LLC:
518-326-2187
or by email at journeysbyjulie@gmail.