



St. Ambrose Catholic Church

3901 Woodburn Road, Annandale, Va. 22003 (703) 280-4400

December 25, 2022

Dear Members of Saint Ambrose Parish

In the gospel of Christmas, we hear angels announce to the shepherds the most wonderful news, "For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:11). Today we consider the priceless gift we have received in Jesus Christ, who came into the world to take away our sins and show us the way to heaven. At Christmas we reflect on this supreme act of divine love with renewed faith, joy, and gratitude. For Saint Ambrose parish, this Christmas brings another announcement of good news, as we make great steps forward in our new church building project.

First, we are pleased to announce that on account of your outstanding generosity, we will be able to carry out the proposed interior color scheme that we presented to the parish earlier this fall. As joyful as we are to have this final piece in place, and to know that we will soon have a true jewel box of a church, the new scope for painting will extend the timeline for final church completion.

The following is our new expected time schedule:

Whitener & Jackson, our general contractor, is aiming to finish the building itself before the end of February, at which point, we will have a series of specialists take their place. The first into the building, currently scheduled for the last week of February through early March will be the New Holland Woodworking Company. They will need close to two weeks to install our high altar, reredos, sanctuary wainscot, and side altars in preparation for the ornamental painting. The painting company, Conrad Schmitt, will begin in mid-March, and will work through to the end of May to complete the stenciling and decoration you saw and supported back in September.

After Conrad Schmitt have finished and taken down their scaffolding, a complex dance will begin to bring in the last components over the month of June. In order, we will have Rugo Stone come to assemble and install our baptismal font and main altar, while Dixon Studios installs the Mary and Joseph statues at the side altars. Once they have begun their work, Beyer Studios will begin installing our beautiful antique stain glass windows, starting at the sanctuary end of the church, and working back towards the glorious rose window above the choir loft. During that time, Daffer Church Organs will reinstall the organ from our previous church. After the stained glass has made sufficient progress, we will welcome back New Holland to install our pulpit and altar rail, and then, our pews. Finally, Monte Brothers Sound Systems will set up our microphones and speakers. We currently aim to have everything completed by the end of June, which would likely give us a dedication date of early July. We hope to provide the exact date soon, so we can all together prepare for the great joy of consecration day.

Over the course of the spring, we plan to find opportunities to show off the progress inside the church through photo updates, and even some in person tours, as we are able. We will also plan to have some presentations on the theology of Catholic Church architecture and the saints who are tied to our new church.

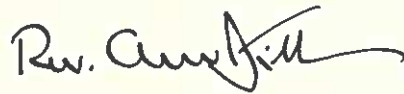


Though not much will change on the exterior of the building in the spring, feverish work will continue within, bringing us closer each day to the place of worship we have desired and worked towards for over a decade. Truly, by God's grace and your perseverance, we are now in the ninth inning, and we will soon give praise to God together in the beautiful new Saint Ambrose Church.

If you or your family wish to participate in this building project, and have not yet done so, there are still a few items needed in the new church that have not yet been sponsored. Gifts to the new church can be made in your name or in the name of deceased loved ones. The names of all who have given to this project will be placed in a book located in the altar and remembered at Masses in the new church. Questions about gifts or donations can be made to the parish Business Manager, Mrs. Carla Yaglou, by contacting the parish office.

Lastly, please know of my gratitude for your faith, support, and generosity. Be assured that you have a special place in my prayers, and the prayers of Father Rampino.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Andrew J. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "h".

Reverend Andrew J. Fisher
Pastor