

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 1, 2024 | First Sunday of Advent



WHERE THE CHURCH IS, THERE ARE HIS MYSTERIES
- SAINT AMBROSE -

Very Reverend Andrew J. Fisher, V.F., Pastor
Reverend Michael T. Nugent, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Anthony Appiah, In Residence

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday | 8 am, 10 am, Noon, 5 pm
Monday - Friday | 7 am, 9 am
Saturday | 9 am, 5 pm (Vigil)
Holy Days | As announced

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday | 9:30 am, 3 - 4 pm

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Saturday | After 9 am Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday | 9:30 am - 7 pm (Benediction)

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

703-698-7171 | stambroseschool.org | info@stambroseschool.org

3901 WOODBURN ROAD | ANNANDALE, VA 22003 | 703-280-4400 | STAMBROSEVA.ORG



Welcome!

Whether you are a parishioner, a visitor, seeking a parish home, returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, or interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, we welcome you to St. Ambrose and invite you to become a member of our growing parish family.

PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Friday | 9 am - 4 pm
 3901 Woodburn Road | Annandale, VA 22030
 703-280-4400 | stambroseva.org
 email: dvasilakos@stambroseva.org

CLERGY

Very Rev. Andrew J. Fisher, V.F., Pastor
rfisher@stambroseva.org

Rev. Michael T. Nugent, Parochial Vicar
frnugent@stambroseva.org

Rev. Anthony Appiah, In Residence
tonyapia50@yahoo.com

Ted Devlin, Permanent Deacon
tdevlin@stambroseva.org

STAFF

Donna Vasilakos, Parish Secretary
 703-280-4400 | dvasilakos@stambroseva.org

Margaret Kelty, Administrative Assistant
 703-280-4400 | mkelty@stambroseva.org

Carla Yaglou, Business Manager
 703-280-4400 | businessmanager@stambroseva.org

Ratna Adinata, Bookkeeper
 703-280-4400 | radinata@stambroseva.org

Dr. Aranzazu Ascunce, School Principal
 703-698-7171 | principal@stambroseschool.org

Claire Cieplak, Director of Youth Ministry & Religious Education
 571-640-9938 | cjackson@stambroseva.org

Jon Laird, Obl.O.S.B., Director of Music
 703-280-4400 | jlaird@stambroseva.org

Alfonso Dominguez, Plant & Facilities Manager
 703-280-4400 | facilities@stambroseva.org

BULLETIN NOTICES

Please email your announcement request to Donna Vasilakos. Bulletin deadline is **14 days before publication.**

ISSUES AFFECTING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Diocese of Arlington website provides a resource page with information about recent events affecting the Church. Child protection policies and responses to the crisis, from Bishop Burbidge and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, are available at arlingtondiocese.org/childprotection

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Parish Registration: Parish membership is necessary for Baptism, Matrimony, or Sacramental Sponsor Forms. **In order for a Sponsor Form to be issued, one must be a registered/participating member of the Parish for at least three months.** Please notify the Parish Office of any changes on your registration form, telephone number, address, temporary absence, etc. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office and at stambroseva.org/registration



Baptism: First-time, expectant parents must attend an instruction class prior to the Sacrament of Baptism. Call the Parish Office to make the necessary arrangements. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Sundays following the Noon Mass.

Matrimony: Registered parishioners who wish to be married at St. Ambrose, or to be prepared for marriage in another parish, must, by Diocesan policy, begin the required preparation at least six months prior to the proposed date for their marriage. Contact the Parish Office for an appointment.

Returning to the Church: If you are Catholic and returning to the Sacraments, or to the practice of the faith, we welcome you back! If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact a priest at the Parish Office or after Sunday Mass. We're happy to help you come back home to the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA/RCIC): The process through which a person is initiated into the full sacramental life of the Catholic Church through weekly instruction. If you or someone you know would like to inquire about the life of Jesus Christ and the beliefs and teachings of His Church, please call Claire Jackson, Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry, 571-640-9938.

Sick Calls: Contact the Parish Office to schedule visits to the sick and/or home-bound for the Sacraments of Penance, the Eucharist & the Anointing of the Sick.



Mass Intentions Pray for people in need, both living or deceased, by having a Mass said for that intention. Masses can be offered to celebrate Baptisms, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Confirmations, Special Intentions, Weddings or other needs.

Devotional Candles for the St Ambrose Shrine in the Narthex are available for a \$4 donation.

For Mass Requests, please visit the Parish Office, Monday through Friday, 9 am-4 pm. Devotional Candles may be purchased during Parish Office hours or from the ushers before/after weekend Masses.

FAITH DIRECT

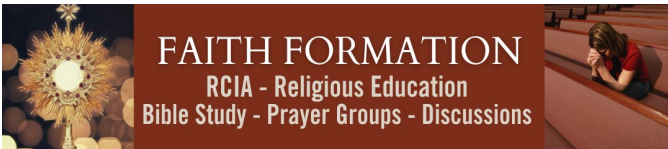
Plan your recurring Offertory donations through Faith Direct. Visit bit.ly/StAmbroseFaithDirect or scan the QR code.



PARISH MINISTRIES

Visit stambroseva.org + click on Ministries tab for details and contacts

Adult Choir	Altar Servers	Altar Society
Bereavement Group	Christ House Meals	Eucharistic Adoration
Friday Morning Bible Study	Gabriel Project	Garden & Grounds Club
Intercessory Prayer Tree	Knights of Columbus	Knitting Group
Lectors	Religious Education	Rosary Makers
St. Ambrose for Life	St. Paula Society	Ushers
Vocations Committee	Women of St. Ambrose	Young Adults Group
Youth Choir		Youth Ministry



FAITH FORMATION

RCIA - Religious Education
Bible Study - Prayer Groups - Discussions

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

stambroseva.org/RCIA

September - May | Mondays | 7 - 8 pm | Parish Hall

RCIA is the Church's process for people over the age of seven who want to become Catholic and are not baptized or baptized in another Christian tradition and Baptized Catholics who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

stambroseva.org/RE

September - May | Grades K-8 | Sundays | 8:45 - 9:45 am | School Instruction for public/non-Catholic school students. Classes include preparation for First Penance, First Communion, and Confirmation.

JESUS, MARY & A CUP OF JOE

stambroseva.org/JMJ

September - May | Sundays | 8:45 - 9:45 am | School Gym

Learn more about the faith & enjoy fellowship, coffee and conversation. All adults welcome!

APOLOGETICS 101

stambroseva.org/BibleStudy

Third Tuesdays | 7 pm | Parish Hall

Grow in your knowledge & ability to evangelize & defend our faith. Lee Cena, Facilitator

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

stambroseva.org/BibleStudy

Wednesdays | 10 am - Noon | Parish Hall

September 18 - February 26 | The Acts of the Apostles
Ron & Mary DeSantis, Ann Rossi, Facilitators

MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

bit.ly/MensPMBibleStudy

Third Thursdays | 7:30 pm | Parish Library

Jonathan Wertz, Facilitator

Come join fellow men as we learn about the Bible and discuss living our Catholic faith. Fellowship, 7:30 pm; Bible Study, 8 pm.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

bit.ly/FridayAMBibleStudy

Fridays | 9:30 - 11 am | Parish Library

Carol Russell, Coordinator

All are welcome to drop in and discuss the upcoming Sunday's gospel. Stay as long as you like - join us!

ST. AMBROSE MEN'S GROUP

bit.ly/stambrosemensgroup

Second & Fourth Saturdays | 7 am | Parish Hall

Father Nugent, Facilitator | frnugent@stambroseschool.org

All men, 21 and older, are invited to join for prayer, coffee, conversation and faith formation.

TAKE TIME FOR GOD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

stambroseva.org/WSA

Sundays | 3 pm | Parish Library

Magdalena Manzo, Coordinator

Open to all women of the parish. Celebrate God's goodness through praise & thanksgiving, share holy moments, reflect on God's Words & pray for up each other's prayer intentions. Sponsored by WSA.

Claire Cieplak

Director of Youth Ministry & Religious Education

571-640-9938 | cjackson@stambroseva.org

YOUTH MINISTRY



GOD SQUAD

stambroseva.org/GodSquad

September-May

Sundays | 6 - 8 pm

School Gym

Open to everyone in Grades 9-12

Bring a friend - see you there!

Together in Hope:

2024 Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection

The Annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) will take place next weekend, December 7 & 8. The CCDA mission is to serve the poor with Christ's love and compassion - and your support of this collection is vital. Please consider donating by check (write Catholic Charities on memo line), or at ccda.net/Christmas, or add the Christmas Collection to your Faith Direct e-giving account.



December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, falls on the Second Sunday of Advent this year. The obligation to attend Mass for the holy day is Monday, December 9. The faithful are obliged to attend Mass on both days. *One Mass does not fulfill the obligation for both days.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

DECEMBER 8, 2024

8 & 10 am, Noon, 5 pm (*is not the Vigil Mass for the holy day*)

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

Holy Day of Obligation Masses

7 & 9 am, 7:30 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 2: Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Joan Francis
9:00 a.m.	Margaret Dominguez †
Tuesday	December 3: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
7:00 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Corro
9:00 a.m.	Michael Wildman †
Wednesday	December 4: Wkdy; St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:00 a.m.	Rosemary Weide
9:00 a.m.	Sam Vincent
Thursday	December 5: Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Mr. Gerald W. Francis †
9:00 a.m.	Cora Jones †
Friday	December 6: Wkdy; St. Nicholas, Bishop First Friday
7:00 a.m.	David K. Holmes †
9:00 a.m.	For victims of abuse, for Healing of the Church, and for Holiness of Clergy
Saturday	December 7: St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
9:00 a.m.	Paul McCormick
5:00 p.m.	Margaret Dominguez †
Sunday	December 8: Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	Arthur Carlson
10:00 a.m.	Delores Klimonda †
12:00 noon	Robert Scott Elder II †
5:00 p.m.	People of the Parish

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Friday, December 6, 2024

9:30 am - 7 pm (Benediction)

During the week before Adoration, sign up in the binder in the Church Narthex or call the Parish Office, 703-280-4400.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick

Irene Anderson, Katie Bader, Kathy Burns, Josephine Crosby, John Crowley, Kathy d'Alelio, Conor Doyle, Bill Foster, Marianne Haley, Amy Hobbs, George Hughes, Kathleen Johnson, Lauren Elizabeth Kasydar, Robert Koldys, Helen (Dolly) LaViolette, Thomas LaViolette, John Maskeny, Lois LeFebvre, Lou Osborn, Liz Post, Marcelina Respuesto, Diane Rispoli, Lisa Rhoads, Lewis Rhodes, Jean Reed Saylor, Fr. Spychala, Jim Smith, Irene Symm, Nicole A. Tramonte, Donella Wright, Lilian Yetman

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec. 2	Rev. Stefan P. Starzynski
Dec. 3	Very Rev. Michael G. Taylor, VF
Dec. 4	Rev. Lawrence B. Terrien, SS
Dec. 5	Rev. Gregory Thompson
Dec. 6	Rev. Christopher F. Tipton
Dec. 7	Rev. Joseph B. Townsend
Dec. 8	Rev. Augustine Minh Hai Tran

† For the repose of the soul of *Marilyn Jerussi* †



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

God of love, may this wreath and its light remind us that Jesus came to save us from our sin. Bless this wreath and all who gather around it as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope, faith, and life to our world. Amen.

First Week of Advent | Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

FEAST DAY
December 7

“
OPEN YOUR
HEART AND
RUN TO MEET
THE SUN OF
ETERNAL LIGHT
THAT ILLUMINATES
ALL MEN.
”

- ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, COMPOSER



camino pilgrimage
september 20 - 30, 2025

PORTUGUESE ROUTE OF THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

St. Ambrose is going on the Camino!
stambroseva.org/camino-pilgrimage

Join Father Mike Nugent September 20-30, 2025 for a 10-day hike across Portugal and Spain - the Portuguese Route of the centuries-old Catholic tradition called the Camino de Santiago. This pilgrimage features:

- 100+ kilometers of hiking across 10 days
- Visit to Fatima, Portugal
- Visit to Santiago de Compostela and the tomb of St. James in Spain
- Daily Mass

For detailed information & pricing options, please email Bill Williams at journeys@medseas.com. The Pilgrimage is operated by MedSeas Catholic Journeys, www.medseas.com.



O come, O come,
Emmanuel,
And ransom
captive Israel.



MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT
DECEMBER 14 | 9 AM - 1 PM
Church & Parish Hall
Hosted by the Knights of Columbus



CHRISTMAS CARD SALES
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES
NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1 | DECEMBER 7 & 8



Feast of Saint Ambrose

Women's Advent Retreat

December 7
9 am ~ 1 pm
Church / Parish Hall

WSA
WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE



WELCOME SUNDAY!
DECEMBER 1
AFTER 8 + 10 AM MASSES
PARISH HALL
Hosted by St. Ambrose Choir



Saint Ambrose School PTO Notes

Restaurant Fund Raisers

- Tuesday, December 11, 4 - 8 pm at Old Dominion Pizza, 3950 University Dr, Fairfax, VA. St. Ambrose will receive 15% of sales.
- Tuesday, January 14, 4 - 8 pm at Chipotle in Mosaic, 8191 Strawberry Lane, Falls Church, VA. The school will receive 33% of sales.

THREE KINGS GIFT SHOP NEWS

Be a star - support the Three Kings Gift Shop!

The St. Ambrose School PTO elves are preparing for your Three Kings Gift Shop donations! Discover what we need for this annual event at bit.ly/3KingsShop. And - you won't have to traverse afar! **Bring your donations to the School or Parish Hall Lobbies November 25 - December 6.** Thank you!



Parishioners: we will be still proceeding on Wednesday, December 11, 8:30 am - Noon with the Three Kings Klearance Sale in the Parish Hall!



save the Date!

Havana Knights

Saint Ambrose School Gala
Saturday, February 22, 2025
We hope to see you there!
More details to come...



Knights of Columbus®

Saint Ambrose Council 8403 Advent 2024 Events

Christmas Card Sales

After Weekend Masses | Church Narthex

November 30 & December 1 | December 7 & 8

Keep Christ in Christmas! Spread good news of great joy by sending religious cards that express the meaning of the Season! The Knights offer a variety of affordable Christmas cards with all proceeds donated to Christ House, Alexandria.

Saint Ambrose Christmas Honey Sales

At all Knights of Columbus Advent Events



Bee ready for a sweet deal! The Knights are selling local honey at all their parish events, November 30 through December 15 - or until supplies run out. Bee sure to purchase yours! \$10 per jar.

Parish Feast Day Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday | December 7 | 6 pm | School Gym

Join us to celebrate the Feast of St. Ambrose, our Parish Patron! All-U-Can-Eat spaghetti, famous sauce (meat or veg), salad, garlic bread, beverages & dessert. Complimentary wine & beer for adults (ID required).

Tickets

- Pre-Sale: Child: \$10, Adult: \$18, Family: \$45
- Day of: Child: \$12, Adult: \$20, Family: \$50
- Pre-Sale online at <https://kofc-council-8403.square.site/> or scan code below

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Sunday | December 15 | 8 - 11 am | School Gym

All-U-Can-Eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit & beverages!

Tickets

- Pre-Sale: Child: \$7, Adult: \$10, Family: \$30
- Day of: Child: \$9, Adult: \$12, Family: \$35
- Children under 3 are free!
- Pre-Sale online at <https://kofc-council-8403.square.site/> or scan code below



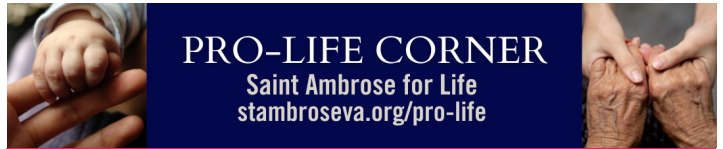
Scan to purchase

Spaghetti Dinner and/or Pancake Breakfast tickets

Men's Advent Retreat

Saturday | December 14 | 9 am - 1 pm | Church & Parish Hall

Prepare the way of the Lord with Mass, prayer, reflection and fellowship with us. All men are welcome.



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Saint Ambrose for Life
stambroseva.org/pro-life

Diaper Drive Weekend: December 7 & 8

St. Ambrose Parish supports & provides The MaRiH Center with basic supplies for moms & their babies. Collected at all Masses on the first weekend of each month, *critical needs are diapers (all sizes), wipes and formula (especially Similac Advance)*. To donate other items, please see stambroseva.org/pro-life or contact The MaRiH Center, 703-370-4774, marih.org.

Rosary for Life | Wednesdays | Noon - 1 pm

Help + Hope + Healing

visit stambroseva.org/pro-life for more resources

Gabriel Project
helpforpregnantwomen.org
703-841-3810
info@h4pw.org

**Diocese of Arlington
Catholic Charities**
703-841-3830
www.cdda.net

Project Rachel
helpafterabortion.org
703-841-2504
Info@helpafterabortion.org

Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) Action Alerts | vacatholic.org

Join us at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Fairfax on Saturday, December 7, at 9 am for **Mass and a Morning of Reflection** for parents who have lost children at any age, featuring talks by the Very Rev. Jamie Workman, Vicar General of the Diocese of Arlington, and Betsy Leon, national speaker and author. The event starts with the weekly parish Mass and concludes at Noon. For more information and to register, go to arlingtondiocese.org/event/parentsmaass.

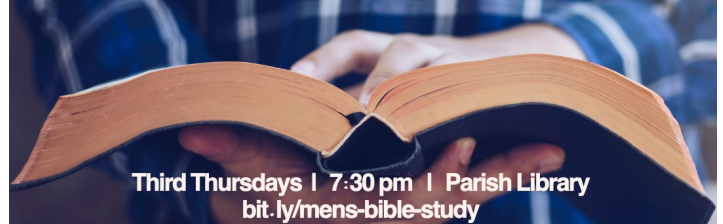
GABRIEL TREE

November 30, 2024 - January 5, 2025 | Church Narthex

Give a Gift for Life this season to help the Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. Please take a donor gift card and envelope from the Gabriel Tree. Mail the card along with your donation or take them to the Parish Office during office hours. May God bless you for your generosity to those helped by the Gabriel Project and Project Rachel. Visit arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife for more information or to donate online.



MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY



Third Thursdays | 7:30 pm | Parish Library
bit.ly/mens-bible-study



USHERS NEEDED

[email ushers@stambroseva.org](mailto:ushers@stambroseva.org)