

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 10, 2023 | Second 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 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 5 p.m.

Monday - Friday | 7 a.m., 9 a.m.

Saturday | 9 a.m., 5 p.m. (Vigil)

Holy Days | As announced

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday | 9:30 a.m., 3 - 4 p.m.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Saturday | After 9 a.m. Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday | 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. (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

Maria Tejada, School Principal
703-698-7171 | principal@stambroseschool.org

Claire Jackson, Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry
703-280-1122 | 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

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.

Initiation of Adults and Children: The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is the process through which a person becomes 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, 703-280-1122.

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

Parish Membership: 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. Forms are available in the Parish Office and at stambroseva.org



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, Weddings or particular Special Intentions,

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 - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Devotional Candles may be purchased during Parish Office hours or from the ushers before or after weekend Masses.

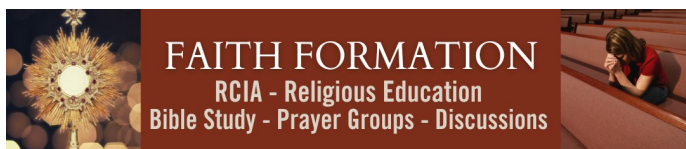
FAITH DIRECT

Plan your recurring Offertory donations through Faith Direct. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/VA401 or click Donate tab on stambroseva.org

PARISH MINISTRIES

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

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



FAITH FORMATION

RCIA - Religious Education
Bible Study - Prayer Groups - Discussions

See details for each program at stambroseva.org

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

- unbaptized or baptized in another Christian tradition
- Baptized Catholics who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

stambroseva.org/RE

Grades K-7 | Sundays | 8:45-9:45 am | School

Grade 8 | Mondays | 7-8 pm | Parish Hall

Classes for public /non-Catholic school students. Instruction includes required 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 DISCUSSION GROUP

stambroseva.org/BibleStudy

Third Tuesday of the Month | 7:30 - 9pm | Parish Hall

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

stambroseva.org/BibleStudy

The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

- September - May | Wednesdays | 10 am-Noon | Parish Hall
- Facilitators: Ron + Mary DeSantis, Chrissy Rabayda

BIBLE PRAYER GROUP

stambroseva.org/faith-formation/bible-prayer-group

Fridays | 9:30-11 am | Parish Library

Adults read and reflect on the following Sunday's Gospel.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

stambroseva.org/WSA

Sundays | 6 pm | Parish Library

Take time for God! Open to all women of the parish.

Claire Jackson

Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry | 703-280-1122



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!

WORK CAMP 2024!



Arlington Diocese WorkCamp is an annual week-long overnight camp providing the teens of the Diocese an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, and fellowship. Combining prayer, great speakers, daily Mass, confession and tons of fun, WorkCamp 2024 is currently

scheduled for June 22-28 in Frederick County, VA.

Open to all high school students, St. Ambrose Youth Ministry is attending WorkCamp with St. Philip's youth group. We'll begin meeting in January. There is a cost to attend WorkCamp, but fundraising opportunities will take place, with the hope that we can cover full attendance costs for each St. Ambrose WorkCamper. Interested in joining and going with us? Contact Claire Jackson, cjackson@stambroseva.org for more information.



Did you know
YOU were **BORN**
for **THIS?**

The Rescue Project
...COMING JANUARY 30

DINNER | VIDEO | DISCUSSION
stambroseva.org/rescue-project



Tuesdays | January 30 - March 12 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | Parish Hall
Saturday Retreat | March 9 | 9 am - 2:30pm

The Rescue Project is an 8 week experience of community, conversation, dinner, prayer and the gospel - and it's free! All adults & teens are welcome. Register now: scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/ambroseproject. For more information, please contact Claire Jackson, cjackson@stambroseva.org, 703-280-1122 or visit stambroseva.org/rescue-project.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 11: Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Brian Houston †
9:00 a.m.	Josephine G. Bourgeois †
Tuesday	December 12: USA: Our Lady of Guadalupe
7:00 a.m.	Peter Benson †
9:00 a.m.	Castelli-Espinosa Family †
Wednesday	December 13: St. Lucy, Virgin & Marytr
7:00 a.m.	Thu D. Tran †
9:00 a.m.	Robert Seoane, Sr. †
Thursday	December 14: St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:00 a.m.	Douglas Jude Dussman †
9:00 a.m.	Jan Koldys †
Friday	December 15: Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Jordan Liu †
9:00 a.m.	Amando de la Cruz, Jr.
Saturday	December 16: Weekday
9:00 a.m.	Cecilia †
5:00 p.m.	Joseph M. Domzalski †
Sunday	December 17: Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	JoAnn Woods †
10:00 a.m.	Getulio Fuster, Jr. †
12:00 noon	People of the Parish
5:00 p.m.	Timothy Foley †

First Friday Adoration | January 5, 2024

9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. (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, Josephine Crosby, John Crowley, Kathy d'Alelio, Conor Doyle, Bill Foster, Therese Fruet, Marianne Haley, Amy Hobbs, Kathleen Johnson, Robert Koldys, Helen (Dolly) LaViolette, Thomas LaViolette, John Maskeny, Lou Osborn, Liz Post, Marcelina Respuesto, Lisa Rhoads, Diane Rispoli, Lewis Rhodes, Jean Reed Saylor, Fr. Spychala, Jim Smith, Irene Symm, Nicole A. Tramonte, Donella Wright, Lilian Yetman

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec 11	Rev. Dort A. Bigg
Dec 12	Rev. Joseph P. Biniek (Ret.)
Dec 13	Rev. Nicholas F. Blank
Dec 14	Rev. Vincent P. Bork
Dec 15	Rev. Edward J. Bresnahan
Dec 16	Rev. Philip D. Briggs
Dec 17	Rev. James C. Bruse

† For the repose of the soul of **Bob Hambleton** †



Second Week of Advent | Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.



"Prepare the way of the Lord..." Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?



MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 16 | 9 AM

hosted by the knights of columbus

"Behold, I Make All Things New."

We renew our Catholic Faith by sharing it with others in word and deed, through evangelization and spiritual and corporal works of mercy. You can do so with your support of the 2023 Annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities of Diocese of Arlington (CCDA). If you forgot, you may contribute a gift in next week's collection by making your check payable to St. Ambrose Parish and noting Catholic Charities on the memo line. You may also make an online gift at bit.ly/ccdachristmas or through FaithDirect.



Give a Gift for Life this season to help Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. An expectant mother wrote: "I learned I was pregnant and knew that I needed support and prayer. Gabriel Project helped me with rent, and my 'Angels' helped with items for the baby and rides. They also provided much needed support, encouragement and prayer."

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 Gabriel Project and Project Rachel. For more information or to donate online, visit arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife



Church Construction Debt Reduction

To complete the church, the parish took out a loan of \$2.9M from the diocese. The loan has not been amortized yet. Currently, we are only paying 3.5% interest on the loan. Once the loan is amortized, we will begin making a monthly mortgage payment. The more we can pay down the principal prior to amortization, the lower our monthly mortgage payment will be. Any amount that you can give to help with the reduction of this debt is greatly appreciated. For those receiving envelopes, a debt reduction envelope has been added. For those using our electronic giving, a debt reduction line item has been added to Faith Direct.



ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Christ is Everything to Us" - St. Ambrose

NEWS & NOTES

Saint Ambrose School offers open enrollment and availability throughout the school year for all grades. Please visit stambroseschool.org or call the St. Ambrose School Office, 703-698-7171.

Dear St. Ambrose Community,

We hope your Advent is off to a blessed start!

We are very grateful for your donations to our Winter Wear Drive. God bless you for your generosity.

Many thanks to the PTO for their work collecting, organizing & managing the annual Three Kings Gift Shop. And many thanks to everyone who donated items for the Shop, too!

We continue to prepare for Christmas with our weekly school-wide Monday Advent Prayer Service. On Tuesday, December 12, we'll have some seasonal fun when Santa's Ride arrives!

St. Ambrose Preschool has openings in our 3 year old half-day program. Please contact Marybeth Cuccias with any questions or to arrange a tour: mcuccias@stambroseschool.org.

Yours in Christ,

Maria Teresa Tejada, Principal | principal@stambroseschool.org



3827 Woodburn Road | Annandale, VA 22003
703-698-7171 | info@stambroseschool.org
stambroseschool.org

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION - PARISH FAMILY PRIORITY

If you have a preschool aged child that you would like to attend **St. Ambrose Preschool** for the 2024-2025 school year, apply now. Current Saint Ambrose Parish families receive priority in class placement. Please see the application instructions below. Applications must be completed and received no later than **December 15, 2023** to be considered before we open to the community at large.



To apply, visit the Preschool website stambrosepreschool.org. Go to the "More" drop down bar and click on "Forms for Parents".

- Please fill out the Diocesan Application form.
- Submit a \$150 non-refundable application fee. (Checks written to Saint Ambrose School).
- The application and check can be mailed or turned in at the school main office.

If your child is attending another preschool program or child-care center please give a copy of the Teacher Comment Form to his/her teacher or caregiver. Once complete, the teacher can send the form directly to: Saint Ambrose School, 3827 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003. Attn: Marybeth Cuccias.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

ST. AMBROSE COUNCIL 8403

Business Meeting | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 pm
Social Meeting + Dinner | 4th Tuesday | 7 pm
Parish Library
ambrosecouncil.org | info@ambrosecouncil.org



St. Ambrose Council's November Food Drive yielded 4,134 pounds of food - a 919 pound increase from the last collection in April! The Council also received \$185 in monetary donations. We are very grateful for your generosity and God bless you for your charity!

Knights of Columbus Events December 2023

Christmas Card Sales After Weekend Masses December 9 & 10

Spread good news of great joy by sending religious cards – 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. Keep Christ in Christmas!



Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Sunday | December 10 | After 8 & 10 am Masses
School Gym

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

- Day of: Child: \$8, Adult: \$10, Family: \$30
- Children under 3 are free!

Men's Advent Retreat

Saturday | December 16 | 9 am | Church & Parish Hall

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

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP STAMBROSEVA.ORG/YOUNGADULTS



Young Adults Women's Group meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 7:30-9 pm. Come for community and time to discuss how God is working in our lives. All single, engaged, or married women ages 21-35 are welcome! Please contact youngadults@stambroseva.org for more information. Join us!

PRO-LIFE CORNER

St. Ambrose for Life | stambroseva.org/pro-life

Next Diaper Drive Weekend January 6 + 7

St. Ambrose Parish provides The MaRiH Center with diapers, formula & wipes to moms & their babies. Collected at all Masses on the first weekend of each month, urgent needs include all sizes of diapers, wipes, formula (especially Similac Advance) & diaper rash ointment. To donate other critical items, 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



WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE

Second Fridays | 9:30 am | Parish Hall

stambroseva.org/WSA

WSA@stambroseva.org

Garden + Grounds Club

[BIT.LY/STAMBROSEGGC](https://bit.ly/stambroseggc)

2ND SATURDAY EACH MONTH
9:45 AM SCHOOL GYM ENTRANCE



HumbleBee Highlights

<https://stambroseva.org/humble-bee>



In this week's Gospel, Mark reminds us that God's plan for salvation was in place long before Jesus arrived. In fact, centuries before, the Prophet Isaiah foretold that a messenger (John the Baptist) would prepare the way of the Lord, and he did!

FAMILY DISCUSSION

John the Baptist tells us of the importance of repentance and seeking forgiveness for our sins. He tells his followers that Jesus is coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit. You have been baptized in the Spirit! Now prepare for Jesus' arrival!

- Reflect: What do I need to repent of? What sins are holding me back in my relationship with the Lord?
- What is our plan for receiving the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas?

See The Bee for more faith + fun!