

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 17, 2023 | Third 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
frfisher@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.



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

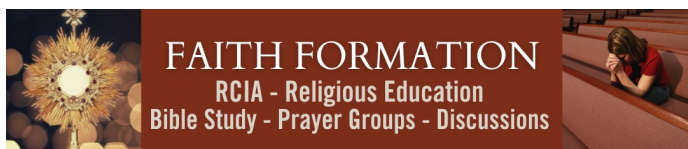
FAITH DIRECT

Plan your recurring Offertory donations through Faith Direct. Visit 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 | 1:15 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? Please email Claire Jackson, cjackson@stambroseva.org.



Did you know
RESCUED PEOPLE
RESCUE PEOPLE?

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 - 2:30 pm

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 visit stambroseva.org/rescue-project or contact Claire Jackson, cjackson@stambroseva.org, 703-280-1122.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	December 18: Weekday Margaret Eleanor Smith † Thu D. Tran †
Tuesday 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	December 19: Weekday Regina Dewey † James Kem
Wednesday 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	December 20: Weekday Rosario De Los Santos † Bernice Marian Elder †
Thursday 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	December 21: Wkdy; St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church Myrna Seangio † John Kem
Friday 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	December 22: Weekday Steven Wu † Martha Kem
Saturday 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	December 23: Wkdy; St. John of Kanty, Priest Agnes Connors Frank O'Brien †
Sunday 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Sunday Obligation Masses</i> Rev. Paul G. Wynnants † Bill Elder Maria Lomboy † No 5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	December 24: Christmas Eve <i>Holy Day of Obligation Masses</i> Miss Cheng (Children's Vigil Youth Choir) Delores Parise † (Christmas Eve Vigil) Maria Ignacio † (Solemn Mass Adult Choir Carols before Mass)

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, Lewis Rhodes,
Diane Rispoli, Jean Reed Saylor, Fr. Spsychala, Jim Smith,
Irene Symm, Nicole A. Tramonte, Donella Wright, Lilian Yetman

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec 18	Rev. Christopher M. Buckner (Ret.)
Dec 19	Rev. Tarsicio D. Buitrago (Ret.)
Dec 20	Rev. Jason C. Burchell, LT, CHC, USN
Dec 21	Rev. Richard T. Carr
Dec 22	Rev. Mark F. Carrier
Dec 23	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen
Dec 24	Very Rev. Robert C. Cilinski

† **For the repose of the souls of**
Mary Knowlan and Catherine Tierney †



Third Week of Advent | Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

MASS SCHEDULE

December 24, 2023 - January 1, 2024

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Obligation Masses

Saturday, December 23 | 5 pm | Vigil
Sunday, December 24 | 8 am, 10 am (Livestream), Noon
No 5 pm Mass

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Day of Obligation Masses

4 pm | Children's Vigil | Youth Choir
6 pm | Christmas Eve Vigil
10:30 pm Solemn Mass | Adult Choir (Livestream)
Carols before Mass

MONDAY | DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Day of Obligation Masses

8 am, 10 am - Adult Choir (Livestream), Noon
No 5 pm Mass

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday Obligation Masses

Saturday, December 30 | 5 pm | Vigil
Sunday, December 31 | 8 am, 10 am - Adult Choir (Livestream),
Noon, 5 pm
11 pm | Holy Hour followed by Midnight Mass

MONDAY | JANUARY 1, 2024 | SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

No Holy Day Obligation This Year

Midnight Mass (12:00 am), 9 am | No 7 am Weekday Mass

2023 Annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA)

Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Charities in last weekend's Parish Christmas Collection. With your support, you are helping to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer in our Diocese. If you have not made a gift yet, you may do so by contributing to this week's collection. Make your check payable to St. Ambrose Parish and note Catholic Charities on the memo line. You may also make an online gift at bit.ly/ccdachristmas or through the parish online giving program, FaithDirect.



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,

The school will be closed December 21 through January 2. It is a season of love and family, and we are very blessed to have such a unified school community here at Saint Ambrose. Wishing students, parents and Parishioners a blessed Christmas season.



Yours in Christ,

Maria Teresa Tejada, Principal | principal@stambroseschool.org

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

Merry Christmas
**PARISH OFFICES
CLOSED
DECEMBER 25 & 26**



DONUT SUNDAY!

**JANUARY 7
AFTER 8 + 10 AM MASSES
PARISH HALL**

**Hosted by
Pro-Life Ministries**



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 FaithDirect.



2 MINUTES TO VIRTUE PODCAST
ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/2MINUTES2VIRTUE

Diocesan Pilgrimage | National Eucharistic Congress
Indianapolis | July 17-21, 2024 | bit.ly/nec2024



We are inviting you to participate in this pivotal moment in the Church! Join our diocese at the National Eucharistic Congress and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Scan the QR Code at the right for more information.



[Learn More](#)



**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



MARCH FOR LIFE

Rally Watch Party, Potluck & Prayer

Friday | January 19
11 am - 2 pm | Parish Hall
All are welcome!

Bring a potluck lunch side dish
or dessert to share!

Sponsored by Women of St. Ambrose

WSA
WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE

Second Fridays | 9:30 am | Parish Hall
stambroseva.org/WSA
WSA@stambroseva.org



USHERS NEEDED
emailushers@stambroseva.org

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 supports The MaRiH Center by providing diapers, wipes and formula for moms & their babies. Collected at all Masses on the first weekend of each month, urgent needs are: diapers (all sizes); wipes; formula (especially Similac Advance); and diaper rash ointment. To donate other critical items, please visit 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

Looking ahead: 2024

March for Life | January 19 | Washington, DC
WSA March for Life Rally Watch Party, Potluck & Prayer | January 19
WSA MaRiH Center Baby Shower | February 4 | Parish Hall

CHRIST HOUSE MONTHLY MEALS



BIT.LY/STAMBROSECHMM



HumbleBee Highlights

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



In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist told the priests and the Pharisees that the Messiah was coming and that many wouldn't recognize him. John went into the wilderness to prepare a path for others to recognize and follow the Lord.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

In a way, we live in a wilderness, too, where many people don't recognize Jesus as our Messiah, our Savior. We are baptized priests, prophets, and kings; being a prophet means being a witness of the truth, in word and deed.

- How can we be prophets of the truth in the wilderness of our modern world?
- How do we, as a family, help others recognize Jesus by our words? By our deeds?

See The Bee for more faith + fun!