

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 21, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Reverend Andrew J. Fisher, 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

Reverend Andrew J. Fisher, Pastor
rfisher@stambroseva.org

Reverend Michael T. Nugent, Parochial Vicar
fnugent@stambroseva.org

Reverend 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

Jennifer Wyse, Director of Religious Education
571-640-9938 | DRE@stambroseva.org

Lissie Torres, Youth Minister
703-280-4400 | YM@stambroseva.org

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

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The parish bulletin deadline is 14 days prior to the desired Sunday publication date. Please email your announcement request to Donna Vasilakos, dvasilakos@stambroseva.org

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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): 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 the Director of Religious Education, 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.

ONLINE GIVING: PARISHSOFT

Faith Direct, our online giving platform, has merged with ParishSoft. **The new login is at bit.ly/sacc25**
Your Faith Direct email and password remain the same for ParishSoft login.



FAITH FORMATION

OCIA | Religious Education | Youth Ministry | Bible Studies | Discussions

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

stambroseva.org/OCIA

September - May | Mondays | 7 - 8 pm | Parish Hall
Jennifer Wyse, Director of Religious Education
DRE@stambroseva.org | 571-640-9938

OCIA 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
Jennifer Wyse, Director of Religious Education
DRE@stambroseva.org | 571-640-9938

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
January - August 2026 | A Walk Through the Creed
Lee Cena, Facilitator

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

stambroseva.org/BibleStudy

Wednesdays | 9:30 am, Snack 10 am - Noon, Study | Parish Hall
September 2025 - April 2026 | Foundations of Faith
Ron & Mary DeSantis, Ann Rossi, Facilitators

.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.

ST. AMBROSE MEN'S GROUP

bit.ly/stambrosemensgroup

Second & Fourth Saturdays | 7 - 8:30 am | Parish Hall
Father Nugent, Facilitator | fnugent@stambroseva.org
All men, 21 and older, are invited to join for prayer, coffee, conversation and faith formation.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

stambroseva.org/WWP

Wednesdays | 7 pm | Parish Hall
Julia Waterman, Coordinator | email: wwp@stambrosethool.org
Open to all women of the parish. Please RSVP/register/order the study materials at stambroseva.org/WWP

ST. AMBROSE YOUTH MINISTRY

Lissie Torres, Youth Minister
703-280-4400 | YM@sstambroseva.org



December 21 Holy Hour / Talk / Confessions



Parish Office Hours December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026

Monday	December 22	9 am - 4 pm
Tuesday	December 23	9 am - 4 pm
Wednesday	December 24	CLOSED
Thursday	December 25	CLOSED
Friday	December 26	CLOSED
Monday	December 29	9 am - Noon
Tuesday	December 30	9 am - Noon
Wednesday	December 31	9 am - Noon
Thursday	January 1	CLOSED
Friday	January 2	9 am - Noon

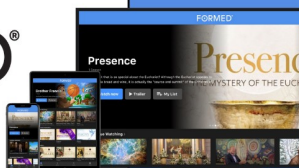
Prayer for Christmas

Dear Lord,

You came to us in humility and silence, setting aside your majesty so that we might approach with wonder. Allow us to grow ever closer to you this Christmas, and always. Amen.

FORMED®

DISCOVER THE FAITH
ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.
bit.ly/formedfaith



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 22: Late Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Archbishop Broglio
9:00 a.m.	Vincent & YaRu Tahong & Family
Tuesday	December 23: Late Advent Wkdy; St. John of Kanaty, Priest
7:00 a.m.	Ron Lemnah†
9:00 a.m.	Rev. Paul G. Wynants†
Wednesday	December 24: Late Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Fr. Hayes
9:00 a.m.	Bill Elder
	December 24: Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
6:00 p.m.	Peter Coniglio†
10:30 p.m.	Peter Coniglio†
Thursday	December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
8:00 a.m.	Peter Coniglio†
10:00 a.m.	Margaret Dominguez†
12:00 Noon	Peter Coniglio†
	There will be no 5:00 pm Mass today
Friday	December 26: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
7:00 a.m.	Madeline Tchong
9:00 a.m.	Josephine Bourgeois†
Saturday	December 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
9:00 a.m.	Larry Payne†
5:00 p.m.	Viola Coniglio†
Sunday	December 28: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:00 a.m.	Many Nysewander & Leah Tchong
12:00 noon	Margaret Dominguez†
5:00 p.m.	Bailey Barron Parducci†

Eucharistic Adoration ~ No January Adoration
Friday, February 6, 2026 | 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

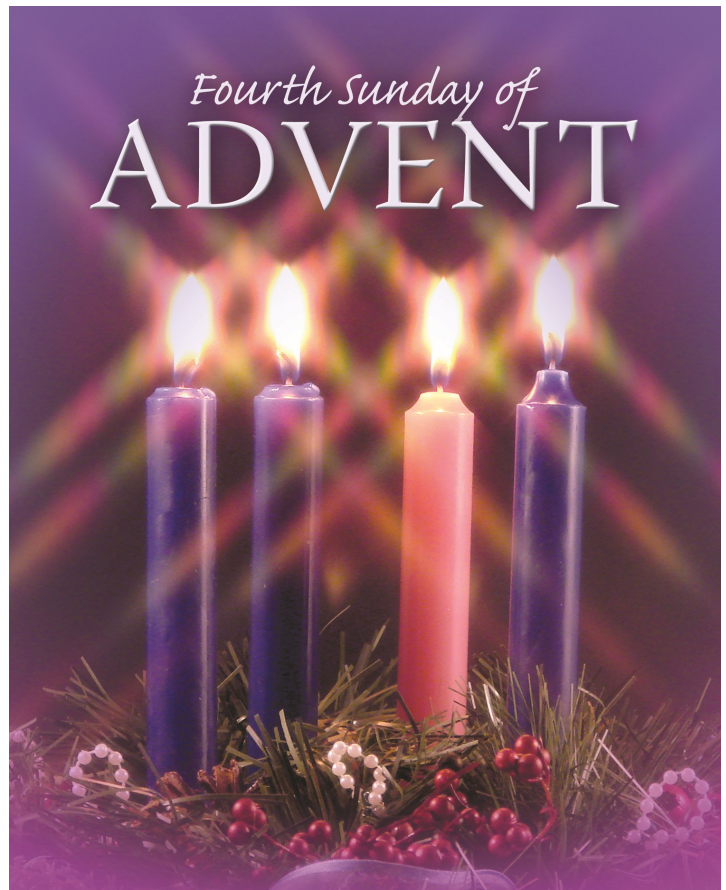
Irene Anderson, Katie Bader, Josephine Crosby, John Crowley, Kathy d'Alelio, Ken Dinger, Conor Doyle, Marianne Haley, Amy Hobbs, Larry Holmes, George Hughes, Kathleen Johnson, Lauren Elizabeth Kasydar, Robert Koldys, Helen (Dolly) LaViolette, Thomas LaViolette, John Maskeny, Lois LeFebvre, Meghan Lewis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

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec 22	Rev. John P. Peterson, YA
Dec 23	Rev. Mauricion R. Pineda
Dec 24	Rev. Anthony J. Pinizzotto (Ret.)
Dec 25	Rev. Donald J. Planty, Jr.
Dec 26	Rev. Stanley J. Poczatek, IV
Dec 27	Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky
Dec 28	Rev. Christopher J. Pollard



For the Deceased of St. Ambrose



Fourth Week of Advent | Love

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.



"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'"
 (Matthew 1:23)

Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 703-841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

ST. AMBROSE COUNCIL 8403

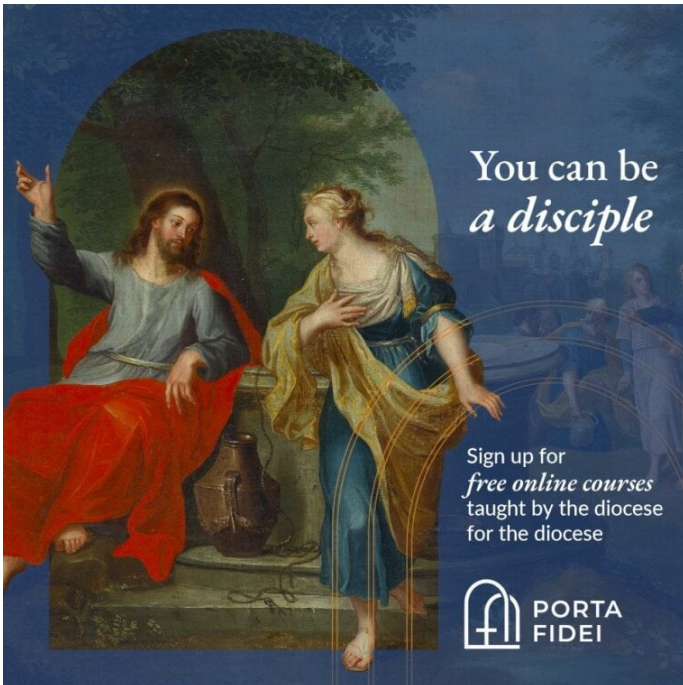
Business Meeting | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 pm
Social Meeting + Dinner | 4th Tuesday | 7 pm
Parish Library
ambrosecouncil.org | info@ambrosecouncil.org

WSA

WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE

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

O COME
all ye faithful



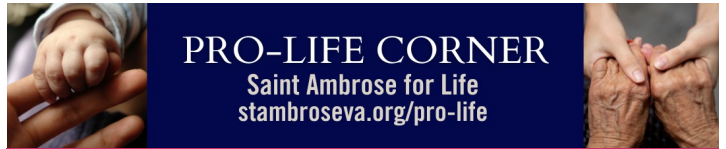
You can be
a disciple

Sign up for
free online courses
taught by the diocese
for the diocese



PORTA FIDEI | DOOR OF FAITH

Sacred Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ has "opened the door of faith" to all. Inspired by this assurance we invite you to a new threshold: Porta Fidei, a new companion to help you grow in faith by God's grace through digitally accessible, intellectually engaging, and spiritually fortifying courses. Porta Fidei is brought to you by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and produced by its Office of Communications. This initiative is a fruit of our Diocesan Strategic Plan, which emphasizes encouragement and growth in authentic discipleship among the faithful. Porta Fidei courses are anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes in length, segmented into easy to digest lessons. Membership is free. Visit <https://www.portafidei.com/about/>



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Saint Ambrose for Life
stambroseva.org/pro-life

Diaper Drive Weekend: January 3 & 4

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 (newborn - 6), fall/winter clothes/coats (newborn - 2T), Similac Advance formula, wipes, bibs.** 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

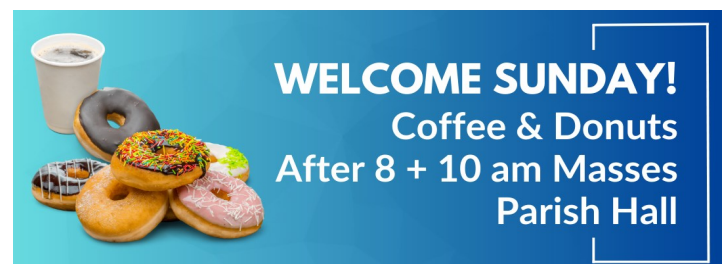
GIVING TREE

November 29, 2025 - January 4, 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 Giving 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.



CHRISTMAS
blessings



WELCOME SUNDAY!

Coffee & Donuts
After 8 + 10 am Masses
Parish Hall

Your Hosts

January 4 | St. Ambrose Pro-Life Groups
January 11 | Youth Ministry
February 1 | St. Ambrose School PTO - Gala
February 8 | Walking with Purpose
March 1 | Garden & Grounds Club
March 8 | St. Ambrose Men's Group
May 3 | Women of St. Ambrose
May 17 | Young Adults / Women's Group
& Young Professionals Holy Hour



DIocese of ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas shines as a season of joy, unity, and renewed hope. The Child of Bethlehem comes to draw us together as one family of faith, bridging every distance and healing every division. His radiant light pierces the darkness reminding us that in Christ love triumphs and peace endures.

As we gather once more around the manger of Bethlehem, our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for the gift of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—God made man, dwelling among us to share our humanity, joys, and sorrows. In Him, heaven and earth are united, and through Him, we are reconciled to our Creator. The birth of our Savior reveals that God's love knows no boundaries.

I invite you to celebrate this holy season with renewed thanks for the gift of one another. May we follow the example of the Holy Family, who in faith and love welcomed the will of God with trust and serenity.

May the joy of this Christmas strengthen the bonds of unity among us and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

BLESSED CHRISTMAS ~ JOYOUS NEW YEAR



IMAGE: ADORATION OF THE CHILD. FRA ANGELICO (CIRCA 1395-1455). WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.