

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 24, 2023 | Fourth 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 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, 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.

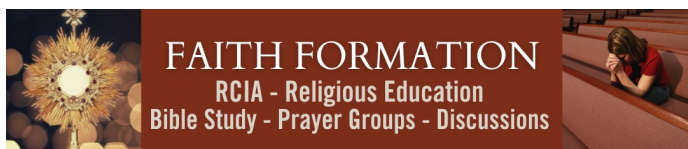
FAITH DIRECT

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 - 3:15 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!



FORMED

catholic content online
stambroseva.org/formed

Stewardship Reflection

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



THE 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, 703-280-1122, cjackson@stambroseva.org.





MASS INTENTIONS

Monday

December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00 a.m. Mr. Huang ✝
10:00 a.m. Charles Homer Johnson ✝
12:00 Noon Peter Coniglio

There will be no 5:00 pm Mass Today

Tuesday

December 26: St. Stephen, The First Martyr

7:00 a.m. Mrs. Huang ✝
9:00 a.m. Josephine G. Bourgeois ✝

Wednesday

December 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

7:00 a.m. Mike & Maddy Laird
9:00 a.m. Viola Coniglio ✝

Thursday

December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 a.m. Mr. Huang ✝
9:00 a.m. Isabel Matea ✝

Friday

December 29: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 a.m. Mrs. Huang ✝
9:00 a.m. Margaret Dominguez ✝

Saturday

December 30: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Bernice Marian Elder ✝
5:00 p.m. Laura Ruiz & Joseph Fierman

Sunday

December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Liang Lii Huang ✝
10:00 a.m. Conrado & Cora Dimatulac ✝
12:00 noon Rev. Michael Craig Kelly ✝

There will be no 5:00 pm Mass Today

11:00 p.m. Holy Hour followed by Midnight Mass

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

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec. 18 Rev. Andrew W. Clark
Dec. 19 Rev. Peter J. Clem
Dec. 20 Rev. Msgr. R. Roy Cosby (Ret.)
Dec. 21 Rev. Phillip M. Cozzi
Dec. 22 Rev. Timothy A. Courtney
Dec. 23 Rev. Msgr. John C. Cregan (Ret.)
Dec. 24 Rev. Keith D. Cummings

✝ For the Deceased of St. Ambrose ✝

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. To donate online, visit arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife



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 is 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 our 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

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*

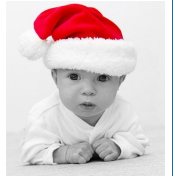


PRO-LIFE CORNER

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.ccda.net

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

Looking ahead: 2024

Right to Life March | January 19 | Washington, DC

WSA March for Life Rally Watch Party, Potluck & Prayer | January 19

WSA MaRiH Center Baby Shower | February 4 | Parish Hall

Virginia Right to Life March | February 21 | Richmond



DONUT SUNDAY!

JANUARY 7
AFTER 8 + 10 AM MASSES
PARISH HALL

Hosted by
Pro-Life Ministries



HumbleBee Highlights

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



In this week's Gospel, the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her of God's plan for her to give birth to the Son of Man so that the Kingdom of God can be renewed and endure forever!

FAMILY DISCUSSION & PRAYER

Mary is "greatly troubled" but she agrees to God's plan: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Notice the Archangel Gabriel's words of greeting: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

Discuss a time when it was challenging or even frightening to do God's will. How were you able to find the courage you needed? As a family, pray a decade of the Rosary. Ask Mary to intercede for your family by always giving you the courage to follow God's will, even when it's challenging or frightening.

See The Bee for more faith + fun!



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 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: “*For unto us a Savior is born who is Christ and Lord.*” This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God’s holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and grace we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: *holy families*. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington