

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 29, 2024 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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

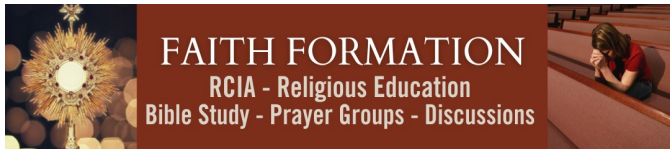
Plan your recurring Offertory donations through Faith Direct. Visit bit.ly/StAmbroseFaithDirect or scan the QR code.



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
January - April Topic: Opposing Faith Alone
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

Break: December 22, 2024 - January 12, 2025. Resume January 19.
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

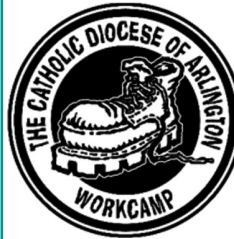
Sundays | 6 - 8 pm

School Gym

Open to everyone in Grades 9-12

Bring a friend - see you there!

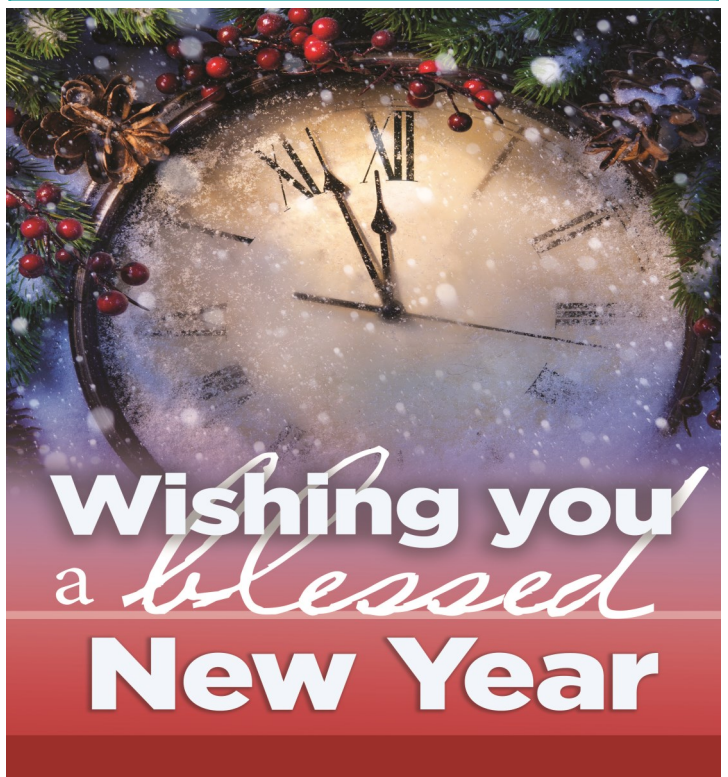
WorkCamp 2025



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

WorkCamp 2025 is currently scheduled for June 21-27 in Shenandoah County, VA.

Open to all high school students, St. Ambrose Youth Ministry will be attending WorkCamp next summer, and 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 contact Claire Cieplak, Director of Youth Ministry, cjackson@stambroseva.org.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 30: Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Rev. Michael Craig Kelly † Bernice Marian Elder †
7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	
Tuesday	December 31: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, St. Sylvester I, Pope Peggy Susan B. Conrad & Cora Dimatulac † Holy Hour followed by Midnight Mass
7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	January 1: The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> People of the Parish Vasilakos Family Fortunato (Patrick) Merullo † <i>There will be no 5:00 pm Mass today</i>
12:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon	
Thursday	January 2: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church Mr. & Mrs. James Quinn Bernice Nicewicz †
7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	
Friday	January 3: Wkdy; Holy Name of Jesus <i>First Friday</i> Patricia Burke † For Victims of abuse, for Healing of the Church, and for Holiness of Clergy
7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	January 4: USA; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious Emma Youhon † Janice Jackson †
9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	
Sunday	January 5: Epiphany of the Lord People of the Parish Jan Witter † Chiappetta Family Nicogossian Family
8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 5:00 p.m.	

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Friday, January 3, 2025

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

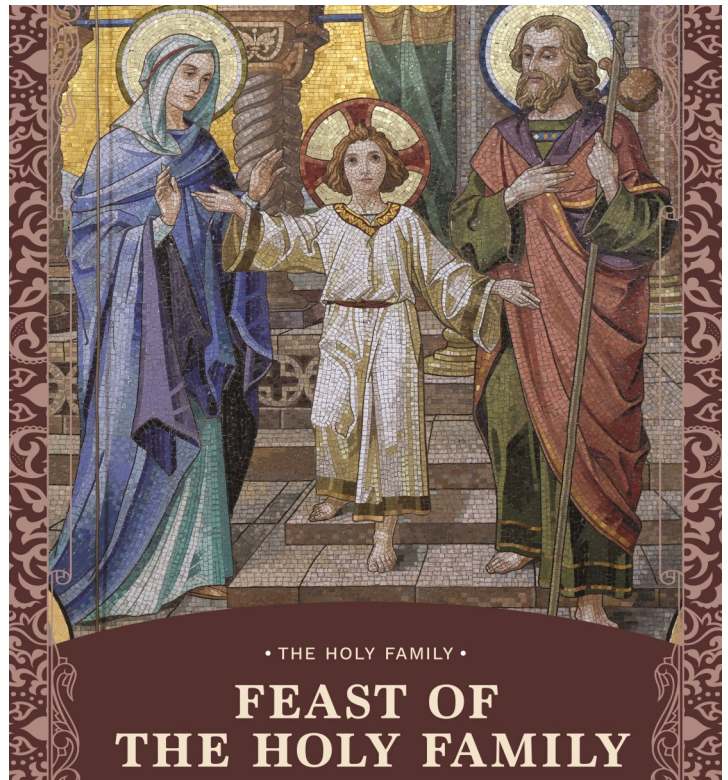
For the Sick

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. Sychala, Jim Smith, Irene Symm, Nicole A. Tramonte, Donella Wright, Lilian Yetman

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec 30	Rev. John A. Ziegler
Dec 31	Rev. Matthew H. Zuberbueler
Jan 1	Rev. William M. Aitcheson (Ret.)
Jan 2	CH (COL) Eric J. Albertson
Jan 3	Rev. Ramon A. Baez
Jan 4	Very Rev. James S. Barkett, VF
Jan 5	Rev. Nicholas R. Barnes

† For the Deceased of St. Ambrose †



GABRIEL TREE

Ends January 5, 2025 | Church Narthex

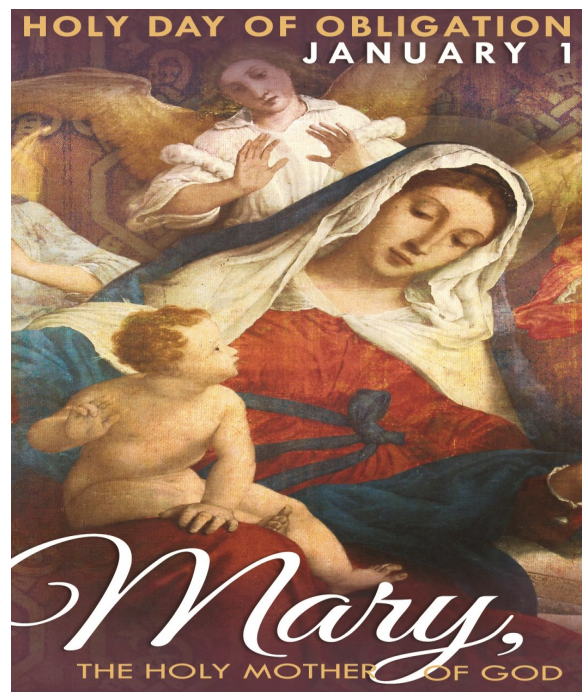
Give a Gift for Life this season to help the Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. Please take a donor gift card and envelope from the Gabriel Tree. Mail the card along with your donation or take them to the Parish Office during office hours. May God bless you for your generosity. Visit arlington-diocese.org/giftforlife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



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Midnight Mass (12 am), 10 am & Noon

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION JANUARY 1





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 on the Portuguese Route of the centuries-old Catholic tradition called the Camino de Santiago. Visit Fatima, Portugal as well as Santiago de Compostela and the tomb of St. James in Spain. Please email Bill Williams at journeys@medseas.com for detailed information and pricing options. The Pilgrimage is operated by MedSeas Catholic Journeys, www.medseas.com



PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1

Stewardship Reflection

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)

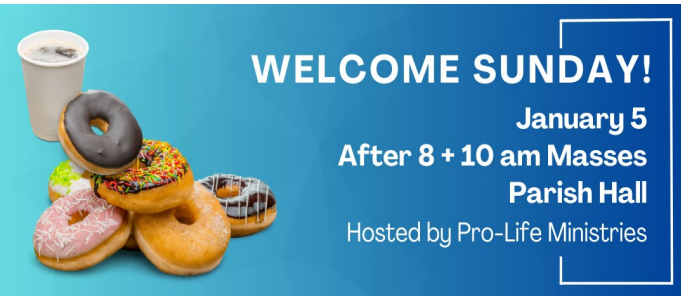
During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

EVENTS CALENDAR

ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/ALL-EVENTS



WELCOME SUNDAY!

January 5
After 8 + 10 am Masses
Parish Hall

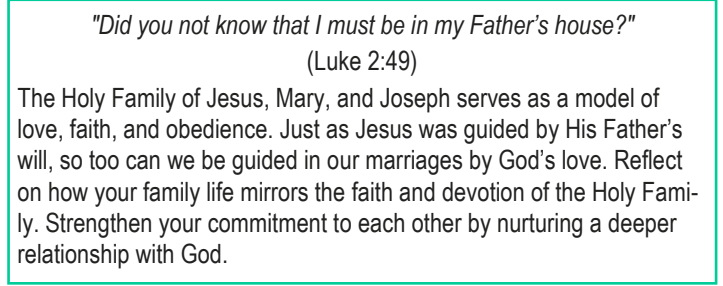
Hosted by Pro-Life Ministries

Bilingual Holy Hour for Hispanic Vocations: join the Serra



Club of Arlington to pray for vocations from our Hispanic communities, as well as for the priesthood, consecrated life, and the perseverance of all vocations. Saturday, January 25, at 11:15 am, at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 46833 Leesburg Pike, Sterling. The

Serra Club of Arlington are lay Catholics of all ages and from all walks of life who promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, support priests in their sacred ministry, and assist fellow members to recognize and respond in their own lives, to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. We invite you to join us! More information at serraclubarlington.org.



"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

(Luke 2:49)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as a model of love, faith, and obedience. Just as Jesus was guided by His Father's will, so too can we be guided in our marriages by God's love. Reflect on how your family life mirrors the faith and devotion of the Holy Family. Strengthen your commitment to each other by nurturing a deeper relationship with God.

Saint Ambrose School PTO Notes

Restaurant Fund Raisers

- Tuesday, January 14, 4 - 8 pm at Chipotle in Mosaic, 8191 Strawberry Lane, Falls Church, VA. The school will receive 33% of sales.



KNITTING GROUP

Fourth Tuesday of the Month
After 9 am Mass | Parish Library
bit.ly/knittinggroup

Make a resolution to join us in January!! Find fun and fellowship with our Knitting Group. Newcomers are welcome - no experience necessary. See you there! bit.ly/knittinggroup



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

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

2024-25 Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest



What's the question?

In an original essay of 500-750 words reflect this theme: what are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if the leader has these virtues?

Who can enter?

Young Catholics in grades 8 to 12 in public, private, parochial or home schools during the current school year.

How is my essay judged?

Entrants are judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

Prizes

First = \$50 | Second = \$40 | Third = \$30

Entry Deadline | January 25, 2025

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Complete the Entry Form at bit.ly/KCEssayContestForm or scan the code



Email your essay and the completed Entry Form to stambrosekocessaycontest@gmail.com



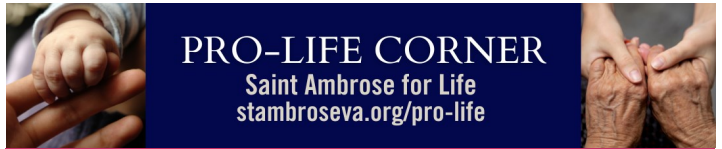
WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE
Second Fridays | 9:30 am | Parish Hall
stambroseva.org/WSA
WSA@stambroseva.org

Save the Dates!

March for Life Rally Watch Party
January 24 | 11 am - 1 pm | Parish Hall
Baby Shower to support the MaRiH Center
February 9 | 2 - 4 pm | Parish Hall



2 MINUTES 2 VIRTUE PODCAST
ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/2MINUTES2VIRTUE



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Saint Ambrose for Life
stambroseva.org/pro-life

Diaper Drive Weekend: January 4 & 5

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

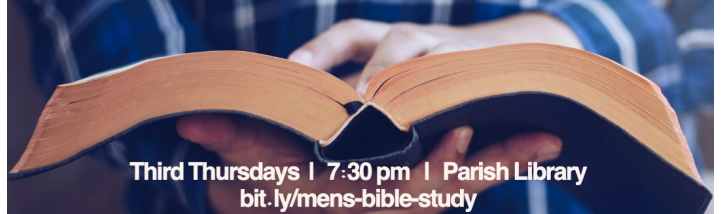
Project Rachel
helpafterabortion.org
703-841-2504
Info@helpafterabortion.org

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

LIFE FEST January 23 - 24, 2025

This January, all are invited to Life Fest at EagleBank Arena in Fairfax to prayerfully prepare for the March for Life! The Diocese of Arlington's Life is VERY Good is joining forces with the Sisters of Life and Knights of Columbus to offer two new events with one united vision. The Night of Praise will be on Thursday, January 23, from 7-9:45 pm and the Morning Rally and Mass will be on Friday, January 24 from 8-11 am. Tickets on sale now! For more information, please visit www.lifefestrally.com

MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY



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

Garden + Grounds Club

BIT.LY/STAMBROSEGGC
2ND SATURDAY EACH MONTH
9:45 AM SCHOOL GYM ENTRANCE



USHERS NEEDED

email ushers@stambroseva.org