

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 3, 2023 | First 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, 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.

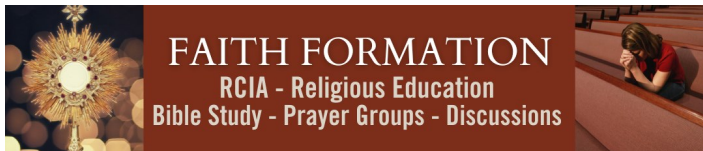
FAITH DIRECT

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	



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

Stay tuned for our 2024 events!

Bring a friend - see you there!

Advent Days of Recollection for Discerners

Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood or religious life? Take a step to find out and enjoy some quiet prayer time this Advent. Men's Day of Recollection is Saturday, December 16, with diocesan seminarians and priests; the Women's Day of Recollection is Sunday, December 17 with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. These events are for those 18-35 years old interested in deepening their prayer life and exploring their vocation. Deadline to register is Monday, December 11. For more information and to register contact the Office of Vocations, 703-841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 16 | 9 AM

hosted by the knights of columbus

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



Stewardship Reflection

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We're generous when we have the time or the money. But, real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 4: Advent Wkdy; St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:00 a.m.	Gary Fields
9:00 a.m.	Matt & Gina Miller
Tuesday	December 5: Advent Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Hoban
9:00 a.m.	Cora Jones ✝
Wednesday	December 6: Advent Wkdy; St. Nicholas, Bishop
7:00 a.m.	Cecilia Tchong
9:00 a.m.	Katherine Kem
Thursday	December 7: St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
7:00 a.m.	Martin
9:00 a.m.	Robert Kem
7:30 p.m.	Art Carlson
Friday	December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00 a.m.	Faith Dussman
9:00 a.m.	Robert Scott Elder II ✝
7:30 a.m.	Vannessa
Saturday	December 9: Advent Weekday
9:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory ✝
5:00 p.m.	Margaret Dominguez ✝
Sunday	December 10: Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	A. Edwin Wilson ✝
10:00 a.m.	Getulio & Julieta Fuster, Sr. ✝
12:00 noon	People of the Parish
5:00 p.m.	Brian Houston ✝

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 Respuerto, Lisa Rhoads, Lewis Rhodes,
Jean Reed Saylor, Joseph Schechtel, Fr. Spychala,
Jim Smith, Irene Symm, Nicole A. Tramonte, Lilian Yetman

For Our Diocesan Priests

Dec 4	Rev. Brian G. Bashista
Dec 5	Rev. Michael J. Bazan
Dec 6	Rev. Bryan W. Belli
Dec 7	Rev. Jonathan A. Bennett
Dec 8	Rev. Kevin J. Beres
Dec 9	Rev. Paul A. Berghout
Dec 10	Rev. Joseph D. Bergida

✝ For the Deceased of St. Ambrose ✝



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

God of love, may this wreath and its light remind us that Jesus came to save us from our sin. Bless this wreath and all who gather around it as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope, faith, and life to our world. Amen.

First Week of Advent | Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**OH MARY,
CONCEIVED
WITHOUT SIN,
PRAY FOR US
WHO HAVE
RECOURSE
TO THEE.**



HOLY DAY MASSES

Thursday | December 7 | 7:30 pm (Vigil)
Friday | December 8 | 7 & 9 am, 7:30 pm

THREE KINGS KLEARANCE SALE!



Parishioners – are you still proceeding to look for Christmas gifts? Stop by the Parish Hall on Wednesday, December 6, 8:30am until Noon for the St. Ambrose School PTO Three Kings Klearance Sale!



DONUT SUNDAY!

DECEMBER 3
AFTER 8 + 10 AM MASSES
PARISH HALL

Hosted by
St. Ambrose Adult Choir

2023 Annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) will take place next weekend, December 9 & 10. The CCDA personal mission is to serve the poor with Christ's love and compassion - and your support of this collection is vital. Prayerfully consider supporting those cared for across our large diocese. Please place your gift in next week's collection and note Catholic Charities on the memo line of your check. You may also make an online gift at bit.ly/ccdachristmas or add this second collection to your FaithDirect account.



KNOW THE STORY

The Rescue Project ...COMING IN JANUARY

MEAL | EPISODE | DISCUSSION
All adults and teens welcome!

SAVE THE DATES!

New Discussion Series | January 23 - March 12
Meets weekly on Tuesdays | 6:30 pm | Location TBA

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 first week of Advent finds us preparing for a holy Christmas - with a dash of festive fun!

Monday, December 4

- Weekly school-wide Advent Prayer Service
- Christmas Tree Lighting, 4:30 pm.
- Three Kings Gift Shop for students through Tuesday, December 5.



Thursday, December 7

- Mass, Feast of St. Ambrose, our parish patron, 9 am.

Friday, December 8

- Mass, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 9 am.

St. Ambrose has some 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

FEAST DAY | DECEMBER 7

“

OPEN YOUR
HEART AND
RUN TO MEET
THE SUN OF
ETERNAL LIGHT
THAT ILLUMINATES
ALL MEN.

”

- ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, COMPOSER





**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

Knights of Columbus Events December 2023

Christmas Card Sales

After Weekend Masses

December 2 & 3 | 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

- Pre-Sale: Child: \$6, Adult: \$8, Family: \$25
- Day of: Child: \$8, Adult: \$10, Family: \$30
- Children under 3 are free!
- Pre-Sale Online at ambrosecouncil.org/pancake_breakfast or after weekend Masses on December 2 & 3.



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 December 2 + 3 at All Masses

St. Ambrose Parish supports The MaRiH Center by providing diapers, formula and wipes to moms & their babies. Collected at Masses on the first weekend of each month, the most urgently needed items 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	Diocese of Arlington	Project Rachel
helpforpregnantwomen.org	Catholic Charities	helpafterabortion.org
703-841-3810	703-841-3830	703-841-2504
info@h4pw.org	www.ccda.net	info@helpafterabortion.org

2023 Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge in a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, offered for the intentions of couples struggling with infertility, miscarriage or early infant death. The Novena starts on Monday, December 4 and concludes on Tuesday, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A private Mass will be offered by Bishop Michael Burbidge for this intention during the Novena. To receive the Novena and submit your intentions, visit OurFruitfulLove.com/Novena.



Mass & Rosary in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life

Join Bishop Burbidge for Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life on Saturday, December 9 at 8 am., St. Philip Catholic Church, Falls Church. Mass will be followed by a rosary at the abortion facility at 900 S. Washington St., Falls Church.



HumbleBee Highlights

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



In this week's Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples to be watchful. During Advent, we watch in hopeful anticipation of the Lord's birth at Christmas, but this passage also reminds us to watch in hopeful anticipation of when we'll meet Jesus after our life on earth.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Jesus says "Be watchful. Be alert!" He warns "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

- What does it mean to be watchful during Advent? In what ways does Jesus want us to be awake and watchful?
- As we look forward to meeting Jesus after our life on earth, how can we be watchful? In what ways should we be cautious not to 'fall asleep' while we're waiting?

See The Bee for more faith + fun!