

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 31, 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & 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 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.

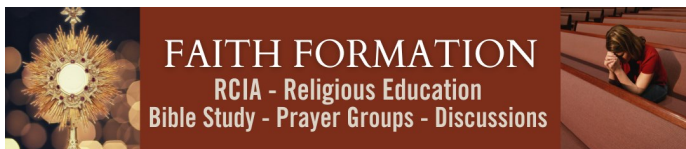
FAITH DIRECT

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

Stewardship Reflection

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone -- a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

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? Contact Claire Jackson, Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry, cjackson@stambroseva.org.

We live our lives according to the stories we believe...

What if there is a different story?

The Story is the gospel.

the
RESCUE
project

DINNER | VIDEO | DISCUSSION
stambroseva.org/rescue-project

All adults & teens are welcome!

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	January 1: The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Soleminity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
12:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners of St. Ambrose
9:00 a.m.	Cindy Laird
Tuesday	January 2: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors
7:00 a.m.	Michael Ramada
9:00 a.m.	Christina Ely
Wednesday	January 3: Christmas Wkdy; The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7:00 a.m.	Pat & Bob Snook †
9:00 a.m.	Steven Wu†
Thursday	January 4: USA: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
7:00 a.m.	Gerald W. Francis†
9:00 a.m.	Hazel Lychak
Friday	January 5: USA: St. John Neumann, Bishop—First Friday
7:00 a.m.	Patricia Burke †
9:00 a.m.	For victims of abuse, for Healing of the Church, and for Holiness of Clergy
Saturday	January 6: Christmas Wkdy; St. Andre Bessette, Religious
9:00 a.m.	Alberto Maza Ana Masias
5:00 p.m.	Steven Wu†
Sunday	January 7: The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:00 a.m.	Robert Murray †
12:00 noon	Brian Glover†
5:00 p.m.	Sean P. Weide†

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

For Our Diocesan Priests

Jan 1	Rev. Kevin J. Dansereau
Jan 2	Rev. John C. DeCelles
Jan 3	Rev. Francis DeRosa VF
Jan 4	Rev. Matthew J. DeForest
Jan 5	Rev. Paul F. DeLadurantaye
Jan 6	Rev. Robert J. DeMartino
Jan 7	Rev. Alexander Diaz

† For the Deceased of St. Ambrose †



Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Public Domain Image. Nicolas Loir. Sainte Famille. Circa 1650.

MASS SCHEDULE

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



FEAST DAY | JANUARY 4

FIRST NATIVE-BORN AMERICAN CANONIZED

“OH MY GOD,
FORGIVE WHAT
I HAVE BEEN,
CORRECT WHAT
I AM, AND DIRECT
WHAT I SHALL BE.”

- ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Pray for us!

This week we also celebrate the Feast Days of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint John Neumann. A relic of each saint rests in the altar of the church.

— S A I N T —

JOHN NEUMANN

FEAST DAY | JANUARY 5

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,

We hope your Christmas was joyful and merry!
We wish you a very Happy New Year with many blessings, too.



The students return to school on Wednesday, January 3. We're looking forward to a great 2024!

Yours in Christ,

Maria Teresa Tejada, Principal | principal@stambroseschool.org

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

**COVER US
WITH YOUR
MANTLE OF LOVE**

FORMED®

stambroseva.org/formed

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](#)



DONUT SUNDAY!

JANUARY 7
AFTER 8 + 10 AM MASSES
PARISH HALL
Hosted by
Pro-Life Ministries



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



**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

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 Faith Direct.



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, formula and wipes to 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.ccda.net

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

Save the Dates

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
Virginia Right to Life March | February 21 | Richmond

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer and Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry, 703-841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.



HumbleBee Highlights

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



In this week's Gospel, we see a beautiful example of the rewards of being patient and trusting in God's plan and God's timing. Simeon foretold that this Savior would be a light for the whole world - for Israel and for the Gentiles. God planned to offer salvation for all!

FAMILY DISCUSSION

- In what ways can I be more patient?
- In what ways can I trust God's plan and God's timing more?

Simeon also foretold much turmoil for the Jewish people and much pain for Mary as God's plan for salvation unfolded.

- What are some examples in our lives where suffering and sacrifice are sometimes necessary to bring about good news?
- How might we be called to sacrifice for the Kingdom of God?

See The Bee for more faith + fun!