

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 14, 2025 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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
frnugent@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

Shelley Locke, Director of Youth Ministry & Religious Education
571-640-9938 | slocke@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 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 Shelley Locke, 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 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

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

Shelley Locke, Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
571-640-9938 | slocke@stambroseva.org

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA) stambroseva.org/OCIA

September - May | Mondays | 7 - 8 pm | Parish Hall

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
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

June - December 2025 | A Walk Through the Creed
Lee Cena, Facilitator

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
stambroseva.org/BibleStudy
Wednesdays | 10 am - Noon | Parish Hall
September - April | 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/stambrosmensgroup

Second & Fourth Saturdays | 7 - 8:30 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.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT stambroseva.org/WSA

Fourth Wednesdays | 6:30 pm | Parish Library

Cat Chunn, Coordinator

Open to all women of the parish. Join us for a pot luck supper and religious book study. Sponsored by the Women of St. Ambrose.



St. Ambrose Youth Ministry	
Fall 2025	
SEPTEMBER	
Sun 7	God Squad Kickoff Dinner, s'mores, & team capture the flag!
Sun 14	God Squad Movie Night! Carlo Acutis Documentary
Sun 21	Faith in Action Volunteering at Sunrise on Rte 50, 3-4pm
Sun 28	God Squad Guest Speaker
OCTOBER	
Sun 5	Parish Picnic, 1-4pm No God Squad
Sun 19	Faith in Action Volunteering at Sunrise on Rte 50, 3-4pm
Sun 26	RALLY Bishop O'Connell High School, 12-8pm
NOVEMBER	
Sun 9	God Squad Trivia Night
Sun 16	Faith in Action Volunteering at Sunrise on Rte 50, 3-4pm
Sun 23	God Squad Game Night & Friendsgiving
DECEMBER	
Sun 7	Faith in Action Volunteering at Sunrise on Rte 50, 3-4pm
Sun 14	God Squad Christmas Party

Keep in touch with our flocknote emails and texts



Jesus is looking for a few good men...

Young men in grades 4-12 are invited to train as altar servers to assist at St. Ambrose Masses.

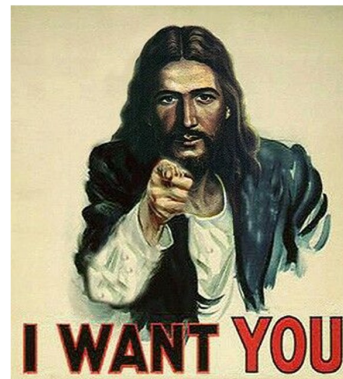
Attendance at **one** of the upcoming training sessions is required for new servers.

Sign-up with the QR code below to reserve a slot and to complete the registration form.

Training Session Dates:

- October 4 | 1100-1215
- November 8 | 1100-1215
- December 6 | 1100-1215

Email Fr. Mike Nugent with any questions:
frnugent@stambroseschool.org



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
7:00 a.m.	Henry Jackson †
9:00 a.m.	Margaret Dominguez †
Tuesday	September 16: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
7:00 a.m.	Micheal Hurly †
9:00 a.m.	Kevin J. McIntyre †
Wednesday	September 17: Wkdy; St. Robert Bellamine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
7:00 a.m.	Fr. Townsend
9:00 a.m.	Margaret Dominguez †
Thursday	September 18: Weekday
7:00 a.m.	Diane Nguyen
9:00 a.m.	Paul Bao Duong †
Friday	September 19: Wkdy; St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
7:00 a.m.	Robert Larsen †
9:00 a.m.	John R. McIntyre, Jr. †
Saturday	September 20: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gin, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs
9:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory †
5:00 p.m.	Donna Vasilakos
Sunday	September 21: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:00 a.m.	Carol Breck Albers †
12:00 noon	Michael Healy †
5:00 p.m.	Magdalena Pinzon †

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Friday, October 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, Marianne Haley, Amy Hobbs, Larry Holmes, George Hughes, Kathleen Johnson, Lauren Elizabeth Kasydar, Robert Koldys, Helen (Dolly) LaViolette, Thomas LaViolette, John Maskeny, Lois LeFebvre, Lou Osborn, Liz Post, Joyce Concepcion Pueblo, Amor Regala, 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

Sep 15	Rev. Paul L. Dudzinski
Sep 16	Rev. Michael R. Duesterhaus
Sep 17	Rev. David A. DuFresne
Sep 18	Rev. Luke R. Dundon
Sep 19	Rev. Richard E. Dyer
Sep 20	Rev. Frederick H. Edlefsen
Sep 21	Rev. Ronald S. Escalante

For the repose of the souls of

Alberto Ramirez Samperio
Vivienne Michele Samperio
Isabella Samperio Rios



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

ELPI

Celebrate!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Priesthood Sunday, celebrated on September 28, is a day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. It's a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of priests, without whom the Mass could not be offered and Sacraments could not be celebrated. Don't wait until a priest retires or is transferred to celebrate their service. Like Father's Day, let Priesthood Sunday be the one day a year when we make it a point to make priests feel truly appreciated and special. One of the best ways to honor and take care of our priests, Father Fisher, Father Nugent and Father Appiah (in residence), is to PRAY for them, perhaps with a rosary, designated Mass, prayer candle, or an extra daily prayer. Let's say thank you for all they do for all of us.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year?

If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact the parish office to register no later than October 3rd. For more info, www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/marriagejubilee/

Adult Bible Study

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 - APRIL 29, 2026
WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 AM - SNACK | 10 - 11:30 AM - STUDY



FOUNDATIONS of FAITH

A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the ultimate way for you to encounter the wisdom of the Catechism and deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith.

This dynamic, video-based program is filmed across 40 locations in 11 countries on 4 continents—taking you to the places where our faith was explained and clarified by Church councils, the Church doctors, and the saints.

Led by renowned educators such as Dr. Edward Sri, Jeff Cavins, Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and others, this comprehensive study walks you through the Catechism from beginning to end, unpacking its rich insights and showing you how to apply them to your daily life. Over 20 powerful sessions, you'll explore the core beliefs of the Catholic Faith, discover the historic ecumenical councils, unfold the biblical context of the Catechism, and deepen your understanding of God's plan for your life.



For more information, contact

- Mary DeSantis
- Mary.t.desantis@verizon.net

Order program study materials at

- stambroseva.org/BibleStudy



CYO CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



All 3rd through 8th graders who are a part of our RE, RE Homeschooled, or St Ambrose School are invited to join our CYO Cross Country/Track team. For more information and to register, please visit stambroseva.org/CYO

Wine Tasting Event

St. Ambrose Council #8403 is hosting a Wine Tasting on Saturday, September 27 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Proceeds from the Wine Tasting will go to the Knights of Columbus to help them fund projects and charitable events.

The cost for the Wine Tasting is \$25.00 per person. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Keith Morrison at mwcrkm@aol.com by September 21.



Knights of Columbus

ST. AMBROSE PARISH PICNIC

**OCTOBER 5
1 - 4 PM**

Food & Activities!

Pizza, Ice Cream, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Moon Bounce, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo and more!

KofC Youth Soccer Challenge during the Picnic

St. Ambrose Choirs



Adult Choir

- Adults and high school age children
- Sings at Sunday 10am Mass
- Rehearsals Thursday 7:30-9pm

Youth Choir

- Children in grades 4-8
- Sings at St. Ambrose School Masses and select parish Masses (including Christmas and Easter)
- Rehearsals Monday afternoon

INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION?

Go to <https://bit.ly/stamchoir25> or scan this code



St. Ambrose School's Annual Coat Drive will be held Monday, October 13 through Friday, November 7. The Coat Drive is the school's project for the diocesan-wide Week of Service organized by Bishop Burbidge.

- There will be two collection boxes in the vestibule of the school.
- We accept ONLY washed and/or dry-cleaned and in good condition coats. NEW coats are most welcome!
- The donations go to Catholic Charities and the INOVA Mental Health Institute which helps get adults get back into the workforce.





**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

Upcoming Council Events

All men are welcome!

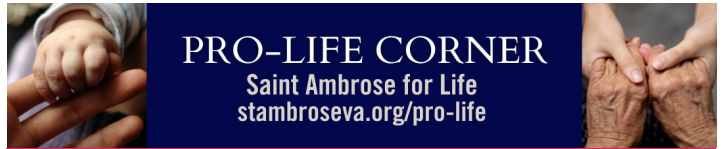
- September 23: Social Meeting | 7 pm, Dinner
- October 5: Q&A Table | After 8 + 10 am Masses
- October 5: Parish Picnic Beer Tent | 1 - 4 pm
- October 14: Grilling while Grilling the Priest | 7 pm

WSA

WOMEN OF ST. AMBROSE

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

DATE CHANGE: WSA will meet on Friday, October 17.



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Saint Ambrose for Life
stambroseva.org/pro-life

Diaper Drive Weekend: October 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 (newborn - 6), fall/winter clothing (newborn - 6), 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

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

Stewardship Reflection

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."
JOHN 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

St. Ambrose Men's Group Fall Schedule 2025

13 September

27 September

11 October

25 October

8 November

22 November

13 December

27 December

- Coffee, conversation & formation in the parish hall, 7:00 - 8:30 AM
- Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, each month of the year
- Grow in your knowledge and practice of the faith



I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world. For our part, we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world.

We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles!

- Pope Leo XIV, *Homily for the Inauguration of his Pontificate*



Sign up here to stay connected!