



ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Very Rev. Andrew J. Fisher, V.F., Pastor
 Rev. Christopher Hayes, Parochial Vicar

December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent

Sacramental Information

Baptism: First-time, expectant parents must attend a prior instruction on the Sacrament of Baptism. Call the Parish Office to make the necessary arrangements. Baptisms are normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month following the 12:00 pm 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.

Initiation of Adults and Children: The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is a process by 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 contact Mrs. Laura Mead in the Office of Religious Education. 703-280-1122

Sick Calls: Contact the parish office to schedule visits to the sick or homebound, for the Sacraments of Penance, the Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick.

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 are happy to help you come back home to the Catholic Church.

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 office of any changes on your registration form, telephone number, address, temporary absence, etc. Registration forms are available in the parish office or the vestibule of the Church.

Parish Office

3901 Woodburn Road
 Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-280-4400

Website: www.stambroseva.org

E-mail Address:

dvasilakos@stambroseva.org

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Donna Vasilakos, Parish Secretary
 Laura Cameron, Receptionist

Religious Education

Laura Mead 703-280-1122
lmead@stambroseva.org

Business Manager

Carla Yaglou 703-280-4400
businessmanager@stambroseva.org

Director of Music

Don Cotton 703-698-0374
dcotton@stambroseva.org

Parish School

3827 Woodburn Road
 Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-698-7171

Website: www.stambroseschool.org

E-mail Address:

info@stambroseschool.org

Principal:

Angela Rowley
principal@stambroseschool.org

Youth Ministry

Therese Ryan 703-280-4400
cym@stambroseva.org

Plant & Facilities Manager

Paul Moeller 703-280-4400
facilities@stambroseva.org

Mass Schedule

Sunday Vigil: 5:00 pm, Saturday

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Weekdays:

Monday - Friday..... 7:00 & 9:00 am

Saturday 9:00 am

Holy Days:.....as announced

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 9:30 am & 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Miraculous Medal Novena

After 9:00 am Saturday Mass

Adoration

Following 9:00 am Mass First Fridays until 7:00 pm **Benediction**

This Week's Masses and Intentions

Monday	December 10: Weekday
7:00am	Albert Edwin Wilson †
9:00am	Janet & Herman Bushman
Tuesday	December 11: Weekday;
	St. Damasus I, Pope
7:00am	Rose Roberts †
9:00am	A. Edwin Wilson †
Wednesday	December 12: Our Lady of
	Guadalupe
7:00am	Keith E. Weide †
9:00am	Katherine Mary Bushman †
7:00pm	Renate Nicewicz †
Thursday	December 13: St. Lucy, Virgin
	& Martyr
7:00am	Irena Woziwodzka †
9:00am	Thu D. Tran †
Friday	December 14: St. John of the
	Cross, Priest & Doctor of the
	Church
7:00am	Patricia Burke †
9:00am	Dr. Juan J. (Pepe) Blanco †
Saturday	December 15: Weekday
9:00am	Amando de la Cruz, Jr.
5:00pm Vigil	Joseph Domzalski †
Sunday	December 16: Third Sunday
	of Advent
8:00am	Frank Slevin †
10:00am	Frank Nicewicz †
12:00Noon	People of the Parish

Parish Schedule of Events
 CH- Church, PH-Parish Hall,
 PL-Parish Library, SCH-School

Monday	December 10
9:45am	Legion of Mary (PL)
3:00pm	Kolby's Kids (PL)
7:00pm	RCIA Classes (PH)
6:30am	RCIC Classes (PL)
Tuesday	December 11
No scheduled events	
Wednesday	December 12
10:00am	Bible Study (PH)
7:00pm	Bible Study (PL)
Thursday	December 13
7:00pm	Lightworks (PL)
Friday	December 14
9:30am	WSA Coffee (PH)
10:30am	Bible Group (PL)
Saturday	December 15
9:00am	Mass and Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (CH)
9:30am/3-4pm	Confessions (CH)
Sunday	December 16
No scheduled events	

*December 15-16 is our Food Collection.
 January 5-6 is our Diaper Drive.
 Thank you for your generosity and support.*

Please Pray For The Ill Of The Parish

Irene Anderson, Nancy Blanco, David Carothers, Terry Castro-Perez, Josephine Crosby, Michael Everard, Greg Farrell, Therese Fruet, Janet Gaydos, Amy Hobbs, Robert Koldys, John Rivoire, Laura Sutherland

We are updating our sick list. If you would like to continue being on the list to receive prayers, please contact the Parish Office this week at 703-280-4400. Or email Donna Vasilakos at dvasilakos@stambroseva.org

Second Week of Advent—Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...”
 (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

Please Pray For Your Priests

December 10	Rev. Donald J. Rooney
December 11	Very Rev. Lee R. Roos, V.F.
December 12	Rev. Robert L. Ruskamp
December 13	Very Rev. William P. Saunders, V.F.
December 14	Rev. Paul D. Scalia
December 15	Rev. William B. Schardt
December 16	Rev. William B. Schierer

Please Pray For The Deceased Of The Parish and the Souls in Purgatory

Saint Ambrose Catholic School

Mission Statement

"Fostering a faith-filled and academically strong environment, Saint Ambrose Catholic School works with families and the faith community to encourage the formation of the whole child through the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ."



December already, and that brings us the Three Kings Shop, which our students enjoyed visiting this week. Next Wednesday is our annual Christmas concert where we showcase the musical talents of our students. On Wednesday we will also have the privilege of visiting the traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in honor of her feast day. We are always very proud of our school choir, but they out-did themselves this week in joining with the school choir of St. Andrews School to sing at a recorded Christmas Mass. This was held in the crypt chapel of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It will be televised on Christmas morning on DC 50 at 8:00 am. Thanks to our choir director, Mr. Don Cotton for his hard work with our students.

Last Friday we celebrated the Memorial of Saint Ambrose. Our students enjoyed a day dedicated to our patron, and were treated to donuts (honey-dipped, of course). On behalf of the St. Ambrose School community, and in this season of Advent, I want to thank our wonderful parishioners for your spirit of giving, through treasure, prayer, and talent. You make a difference in the lives of our students.



Life is a sacred gift

PRO LIFE CORNER

Holy Hour on Tuesday, December 11 from 7:30-8:30 sponsored by Project Rachel. St. Mary of Sorrow's Historic Church in Fairfax Station. Come join this beautiful service in the chapel for a reverent and awe-inspiring hour of worship and prayer.

There was a notice in the pro-life section of the bulletin several weeks ago about a study in Virginia on Assisted Suicide. The notice asked parishioners to respond to the Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care to vote against them doing a study on having Assisted Suicide come to the state. The response by Virginians was overwhelmingly against assisted suicide by an 8 to 1 margin! Thank you to those who responded and helped to defeat this action in Virginia.

St. Ambrose YOUTH MINISTRY

For information on all youth ministry events, check our website at www.stambroseva.org
It takes a Church....Interested in participating/volunteering?

Contact Director of Youth Ministry:
Therese Ryan cym@stambroseva.org



Walking humbly with our God...

- *Please pray for our young Church who are:**
- Practicing the gift of presence this Advent!
- Confirmed last month, that they may be open to the power of the Holy Spirit at Work in their lives!
- Seeking a deeper relationship with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
- Preparing for their summer Mission Trip to WorkCamp and summer pilgrimage to Rome w/ Fr. Fisher!

This is...THE POWER of
YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST in action!

Weekend WorkCamp Sat. Jan.12th

Works of Mercy & donuts!

7th-12th graders 8:45-12:30pm Parish Hall

*****High School Youth Ministry*****

***FRIDAYS-7am Mass and Breakfast!

God Squad Sunday Evenings 5:45- 8pm gym!

Sunday, Dec 9th- *4:30 gym- 1st WorkCamp**

interest/info Meeting for parents and teens.

5:45-8pm GS-Jesus Time!

Sunday, Dec 16th-Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec 23rd-Pasta Bar & Stable Deco

Monday, Dec 24th-LIVE NATIVITY

***** Junior High Youth Ministry*****

*****Christmas Caroling**

Friday Dec. 14th 6-8pm PH

***7th and 8th Grade small groups forming**

Contact Mrs. Ryan for more info on how to join!

***Kolbe's Kids*- Our Lady's Little Army**

Mondays 3:15-4:45 pm PHL 9/17-5/20

***Faith*Fun*Friendship*Service*With Our Lady!**

Rosary Making!

***New Date* Thurs. Dec. 13th 4-6pm**

in the Parish Hall

Students in grades 5-12 are welcome!

\$10 includes materials and pizza

Religious Education



"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth."

Religious Education News

Do you need a way to get involved in our parish? Then **consider becoming a religious education volunteer catechist or aide!** Catechists and aides are people who love their Catholic faith, can work with children, and are willing to dedicate a few hours each week to their faith formation.

We are currently in need of the following volunteer positions for the **2018-2019 Religious Education Calendar:**

- Sunday (8:45 – 9:45)**
- Catechists for Kindergarten
- Aides for K, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Hall Monitors

All volunteers MUST become VIRTUS compliant. REGISTRATION for Religious Education.

- Grades K-HS:** Sunday 8:45am-9:45am
- Grade 7:** Monday 6:30pm-7:30pm

For information, please contact:
Lmead@stambroseva.org

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?

Join us for RCIA classes
Monday evenings from
7pm-8pm
in the Parish Hall

To inquire about the life, beliefs, and teachings of the Catholic Church or to register for RCIA you are invited to contact:

Laura Mead, Director of Religious Education
703-280-1122; **Lmead@stambroseva.org**

The Annual Winter Wear/Coat Drive was another tremendous success and that correlates to a lot of people in need being warmer this winter. Nearly all the items were in excellent condition and washed or dry cleaned which we so appreciated. We collected nearly 130 coats in addition to lots of jackets, vests, scarves, gloves, and snow suits! WOW! We do want to send a special thank you to whomever donated a large plastic bag with hand knitted mittens – they are simply wonderful! A big thank you to Mary Gaziano who works every year helping pick up the items, washing and dry cleaning if necessary, and organizing for delivery – she is the best! The donations this year are being delivered to both Christ House and the majority to St. James Parish in WV where the need is greater. Thank you for your generosity in this season of giving. Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year!



ACTS

The Spread of the Kingdom

JOIN US for the Study of the Book of Acts

The Acts of the Apostles provides us more than a history of the First Christians - it is the story about the Early Church with the Holy Spirit as the protagonist. Christ did not leave His Apostles alone - He sent the Holy Spirit to guide, instruct and equip them. Enrich and deepen your faith as you learn how the Apostles continued Christ's mission on earth through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Join us for **Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom**
There will be two sessions :

- The morning session is 10 am—noon**
- The evening session is 7 pm—8:30 pm**

There are **20 sessions**, so the study will run until sometime in March.

If you are interested the preferred method of registration is by using the link below to order your binder of material. If you prefer, you may register with me. The cost is \$35.00.

<https://ascensionpress.com/studies/30862/registrations/new>

Contact: **Laura Mead at 703-280-1122 or Lmead@stambroseva.org**

FORMED.org

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



Experience Advent with Dr. Tim Gray

Enrich your Advent preparation with daily videos from Dr. Tim Gray that will ready your heart for the coming of Christ.

Add on children's reflections with Brother Francis to get the whole family spiritually prepped for Christmas!

Looking for an easy way to educate yourself and explore your faith? **Formed** is a website designed for you – movies, presentations, podcasts, audiobooks, etc. Sign up now! **www.stambroseva.formed.org**



Five hundred yards from where Jesus Christ was born, Holy Family Hospital, a maternity and neonatal hospital, offers state-of-the-art services to all women, children, and families in Bethlehem. This makes Holy Family Hospital a modern-day manger—always embracing families and helping them bring new life into the world.

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In the words of Catholic convert Dorothy Day, “It is no use to say that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts...asking us to find room for Him exactly as He did at the first Christmas.”

To learn more about Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, visit birthplaceofhope.org.

At St Ambrose we will be collecting donations to benefit The Family Hospital of Bethlehem throughout Advent. Special envelopes may be found in the vestibule. They may be returned in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office. For more information contact Laura Mead at LMead@stambroseva.org

Pancake Breakfast with Santa. Ambrose Council Knights are hosting a Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Sunday, December 9th, in the school gym after the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses. All proceeds go to the Paul Stefan Foundation (paulstefanhome.org) “in its 12th year of housing, educating, feeding, mentoring and spiritually saving mothers and their babies.

Women of St. Ambrose Coffee. Please join the Women of St. Ambrose on Friday, December 14 for Coffee and Fellowship in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 am Mass. Feel free to bring a friend.

Gift for Life “Giving Tree” As you prepare for Christmas, include a *Gift for Life* on your shopping list by supporting the diocesan pregnancy assistance and post-abortion healing ministries. Your tax-deductible contribution will make a big difference in the life of an expectant mother or a woman who is suffering from the after effects of an abortion. ***It’s easy to give: Just take a gift tag from the giving tree located in the vestibule beginning this weekend and follow the directions.*** For more information, call the Family Life Office at (703) 841-2755 or visit us online at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

Volunteers are needed to decorate our Church for Christmas! On Sunday, December 23, after the noon mass, we will be setting up the Nativity Scene, Christmas trees, fresh flowers, along with other decorations that make our Church so beautiful for the Christmas Season. Your help is needed and so appreciated. No experience necessary! Questions? Please email Nicki Coss at nbcoss@gmail.co

WorkCamp 2019

Interest/Information Meeting

Sun. Dec. 9th
4:30pm in the gym!



All interested 9th-12 grade high school students, parents and adult volunteers are invited to join us in the gym! No initial commitment required.

Check out: <http://www.stambroseva.org/diocesan-workcamp> for more information about Diocesan WorkCamp and <http://www.stambroseva.org/youth-for> the St. Ambrose WorkCamp application! Questions? Contact Andy Stoss, our 2019 WC Stakeholder at SAStakeholder@stambroseva.org or (703) 383-3429.

Celebrate the Birth of Christ Christmas TV Mass with Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA and the St. Andrew The Apostle & **St. Ambrose School Children’s Choirs** Christmas morning, December 25, 2018, 8:00-9:00 am on WDCW Channel 50, Washington DC metro area.

SEEKING SINGERS FOR THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON. If you have considered singing with the St. Ambrose Adult Choir, but find it difficult to make a commitment for the entire year, here is your opportunity to celebrate the season in a very special way. The Adult Choir is welcoming any singers, high school and above, that would like to rehearse and sing with us throughout Advent and the Christmas season. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 and sings at the 10:00AM Sunday Mass. Please contact Mr. Don Cotton at dcotton@stambroseva.org if you might be interested. We would enjoy having more singers with us to celebrate the season.

2018 Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection. This weekend marks the Annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. Their mission is central to the Church’s fundamental mission to serve the poor with Christ’s love and compassion – and your support of this collection is vital. Please prayerfully consider supporting those in need through Catholic Charities’ mission to ease the suffering of people across the diocese. If you are not able to make a gift today, please make your gift in next week’s collection and note Christmas Collection/ Catholic Charities on the memo line of your check. Or visit www.cdda.net to learn more and make a year-end gift.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Venerated Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego: Am I, your mother, not here? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my Arms? Do you need anything more?



The beautiful, 6'x4' pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that travels around the world will be in the area. The image was exposed at the Immaculate Conception Basilica of D.C., Franciscan Monastery and churches around the area. Many who touch the Tilma of Our Blessed Mother are able to hear the heartbeat of Our Blessed Mother and the heartbeat of baby Jesus. There have been instances when Our Blessed Mother wept tears of oil and her hands felt warm to the touch. Still others have smelled the heavenly scent of roses. Please join us for this special event at St. Ambrose.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

2:30p.m. until 8:00p.m.

Recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.



ADVENT AT ST. AMBROSE ***2018***

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY ADVENT ACTIVITIES AWAITING YOU AT ST. AMBROSE PARISH

JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.
Contact Mr. Don Cotton at dcotton@stambroseva.org if you are interested.

PILGRIM IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Wednesday, December 12th, at St. Ambrose Church from 2:30pm – 8:00pm
Rosary at 6:30pm. Mass at 7:00pm.

TIME FOR BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 9 in the school cafeteria after 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses. This is sure to put you in the holiday spirit!

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30 pm in the School Gym

LIVE NATIVITY ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24th, AFTER 5:00 PM MASS.

THERE WILL BE EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION

the week before Christmas.

“THE GIVING TREE”

Please take a tag off the tree in the church vestibule and donate to Project Gabriel and Project Rachel.

CHRISTMAS SACRAMENT SCHEDULE

2018

SPECIAL HOURS FOR CONFESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 20: 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm

Friday, December 21: After 9:00 am Mass / 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm

Saturday, December 22: After 9:00 am Mass / 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 23: 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES (Monday, December 24th)

5:00 pm: Children's Mass with Children's Choir

10:30 pm: Solemn Mass with Adult Choir/Brass Ensemble
(Carols begin at 10:00 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Tuesday, December 25th)

8:00 am

10:00 am Adult Choir and Brass Ensemble

12:00 Noon

NEW YEARS EVE (Monday, December 31, 2018)

7:30 pm Vigil Mass

11:00 pm Holy Hour followed by Midnight Mass

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Tuesday, January 1st, 2019)

Midnight Mass (12:00 am)

Masses: 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (Sunday, January 6th, 2019)

5:00 pm (Vigil) (Saturday, January 5th, 2019)

8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 12:00 Noon (Sunday, January 6th, 2019)

