

Christmas shopping made easy!!!

Think about all the exhausting hours you spend trying to figure out the perfect gift for the people in your life. This year, I would like to make it 'easy' for you. There is one gift everyone wants and needs this Christmas (and always). *Only Jesus!!!*

Only Jesus can satisfy the longings of our heart. *Only Jesus* can bless us with everything we need. *Only Jesus* can bring us the peace we seek in our homes and in our world. *Only Jesus* is always the right size, shape and color. He is everything you and all of us need. *Only Jesus.*

So don't laugh or be dismissive of this 'perfect gift'. It truly is what our world, our loved ones, and each of us need.

Jesus is our wisdom, strength, hope and peace. He is the one who can solve our problems and show us the way. *Only Jesus* can mend broken hearts, renew marriages, and fill the empty spot for those who have lost loves ones.

Here are a few ways that you can 'share' this perfect gift:

- **Write your loved ones a letter** sharing from your heart stories of God's action and presence in your life; how you found Jesus and how Jesus has helped you.
- **Look for religious items, songs and jewelry** that can remind your special people of God in their lives.
- **Make a coupon book offering 'prayers'** for others. Pray for them. Pray with them.
- **Invite others to join you for Christmas Mass** and/or some of the special music events this Advent/Christmas at Saint Ambrose.
- **Take one of the Christmas books home** and give one to a loved one who needs Jesus.

He is the reason for the season. He is the perfect gift. *Only Jesus* is what we need. This Christmas we are blessed with a new Christmas sign on the front lawn which reads, "He is the Reason" to remind us to stay focused this Christmas on "Only Jesus." **This sign comes as a gift from one of our members.** Even more, it reminds us that He is the gift we need now and always.

God bless you and your loved ones this Advent and Christmas. Please take some time to look through this newsletter and find a 'something' for yourself this Advent to help you focus, reflect and find Jesus more fully in your heart, life and home.



Father Bob Stec



P.S. Speaking of gifts!!! Father Andrew has been a great blessing to our parish community. After three and one-half years of generous, faithful, faith-filled, fun-loving ministry at Saint Ambrose, he will be leaving us on December 31 and taking on the role of Administrator at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Parma. He will be greatly missed. I know that I will miss him greatly. He's such a good spirit and hard worker for the Lord and our parish. *See page 3 for information on his farewell!*



Finding Peace

**Evening Prayer on Sunday
Nights during Advent at 7 pm**

Music – Scripture – Quiet – Peace

A gentle, peaceful time to reflect and find the Lord's peace. Prepare our hearts and our families for the coming of the Christ Child. It will be the best part of your Advent Season and Christmas preparation.

December 3 – Advent Prayer Service with all Liturgical Ministers and their families. All are welcome as we begin our Advent season – *Only Jesus!*

December 10 – Advent Rorate Caeli Candle Light Prayer Service

December 17 – Advent XLT (Exalt!) Night – Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music

A Thoughtful Invitation

The Advent and Christmas seasons provide many opportunities to extend a sincere invitation for someone to join you. Many are alone this season or searching for hope. Invite them to join you for Mass, especially at Christmas. Reconnect with family, bond with friends, spread cheer with neighbors. It's as easy as saying "join me."

We are a Catholic community of faith, centered on Jesus Christ who is everything for us!



Advent & Christmas SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent December 3
Advent Prayer Service – 7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our monthly Reconciliation will be held on
Wednesday, December 6, 4:30 - 6:00 pm.
Additionally, weekly Confession is back and
takes place every **Thursday at 6:00 pm.**

Second Sunday of Advent December 10
Rorate Caeli Prayer Service: join us for this
peaceful candlelit Advent Service at 7:00 pm.

Advent Communal Penance

December 12, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

December 15, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Many priests will be available for the
celebration of the Sacrament of Penance
to hear individual confessions.

Bambinelli Blessing

Bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity scene
to one of our weekend Masses on **December
16-17** for a special blessing.

Third Sunday of Advent December 17

Donut Sunday with coffee, juice & fellowship.
Advent Prayers and XLT at 7:00pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday Advent

Saturday, December 23 - 4:30 pm, 6:00pm

Sunday, December 24 - 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Angels' Choir Christmas Eve Concert

New this year, held **before the 4:00 pm**
Christmas Eve Mass in the **church.**

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Church and Hilkert Hall

6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon



Advent Tea

GUEST SPEAKER
Emily Jaminet

Come and let the love of God strengthen and deepen our hearts and minds this Advent Season. Join us for our Advent Tea as we welcome our guest speaker Emily Jaminet as she shares how to "Encounter the Heart of Jesus: Discover the True Meaning of Christmas through the Love of Christ" which is based on the Sacred Heart Devotion.

Saturday
DECEMBER 9, 2023

10:00 am – 1:00 pm in Hilkert Hall

Take some time for yourself, invite your family and friends, and spend a morning celebrating the true meaning of Christmas... the blessings of Loved Ones, our Parish Family, and the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tickets **\$25 / PERSON**



Tickets & Info at StAmbrose.us/Advent-Tea

COMFORT & JOY

ADVENT CONCERT
WITH SARAH HART
AND STEVE ANGRISANO

FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2023, 7 PM

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH
929 PEARL ROAD
BRUNSWICK, OH

INFO:
[STAMBROSE.US](https://StAmbrose.us)
330.460.7300



Friday, December 15 at 7:00 pm

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that
will cause great joy for all the people." - LUKE 2:10*

Brats, Beers & Buhhh-Bye!

A Farewell Celebration for Father Andrew

Friday, December 29
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Please join us on for a fun-filled night with brats, craft beer (his hobby), wonderful food, live music, and a chance for all of us to celebrate his life, goodness and ministry. The evening starts at 6:30 pm. Come at the beginning or stop in for a while.

Please RSVP to make sure we have plenty of food for everyone (www.StAmbrose.us/event/father-andrew). He will also be saying farewell at all the weekend Masses on December 30/31 followed by coffee and donuts. Please join us in thanking him and praying for him as he begins his new assignment.



Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC PARISH

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Make a difference by doing something truly meaningful this Advent Season!

Our 12 Days of Christmas Ministry shares a little extra of God's love, care and kindness with individuals & families.

During the 12 days leading up to Christmas, we need volunteers to "adopt a family" and help deliver random acts of kindness. It's simple... it's fun... and most importantly, it's significant in the life of someone in need!

We provide the gifts, the address, everything you need, you simply deliver a daily gift to the family. It's a wonderful opportunity to give back and be reminded of the TRUE reason for this Christmas season.

Interested in helping or know of anyone that could use a little extra joy and hope this Christmas season? Please email Lisa at LHomady@StAmbrose.us.

Funded by the generous #WeGiveCatholic donations on November 28!



Advent Kindness Pines

It's that time of year again when giving is the reason for the season. During the Advent season, please look for a **Kindness Pine situated at the doors of the church**. These trees are filled with tags that indicate a small need that will make a great difference to someone. **Take a tag, or, two!** Please attach the tag to the unwrapped gift so we can get it to the correct person. **All gift items are due by Sunday, December 10.**

You can also donate online at StAmbrose.us/Advent.

"Whatever you do for one of these least of Mine, you did for Me."
- MATTHEW 25:40

Upcoming Events

December 1
Bingo Night, 5:00 pm

December 2
Advent Mini VBS, 9:00 am
Music Ministry Concert, 7:30 pm

December 6
Feast of Saint Nicholas

December 7
Feast of Saint Ambrose
Christmas Bus Trip

December 8-10
Metanoia X Retreat

December 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Masses at 8:15 am, noon, 5:30 pm,
(Vigil on December 7, 7:00 pm)

December 9
Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am
Advent Tea, 10:00 am
Encountering Jesus, 5:30 pm

December 10
Breakfast with Santa, 8:00-11:30 am

December 11
Young Adults' Caroling, 6:30 pm

December 13
If My People Pray, 12:00 pm
PSR Advent Prayer Service, 5:30 pm

December 15
Bingo Night, 5:00 pm
Advent Concert with Steve Angrisano
& Sarah Hart, 7:00 pm

December 16
Advent Reflection with Sarah Hart,
9:30 am

Singing Angels Concert &
Living Nativity, 5:30 pm

December 17
Advent XLT Night, 7:00 pm

December 18
PSR Advent Prayer Service, 7:00 pm

December 24
Christmas Eve

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day

December 27
Ladies First, 6:45 pm

December 29
Father Andrew's
Farewell Celebration

Metanoia X Retreat

December 8-10

All high school teens are invited to join us for our tenth annual Metanoia retreat!

Bring your friends and join us for a chance to get away from the chaos and stress, make new friends, talk about meaningful topics, grow in your relationship with God, and so much more.

"Metanoia" is a Greek word meaning "change of heart" – and our high school retreat team is eager to share how they've encountered God and had their own "change of heart." **Spots are limited – sign up today at StAmbrose.us/fiat!**

Advent at Home

A Family Prayer at Advent

Heavenly Father, Your son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us, a great sign of Your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to Your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in You. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to You. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of Your love. Amen.

Advent MINI VBS

Saturday, December 2

9:00am - 11:00am

Journey to the Manger

Come for music, activities and fun as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Sign up at StAmbrose.us/Advent!

Volunteers are needed if you can spare a couple of hours.

**FREE
EVENT!
Children
ages 4-11!**



Breakfast with Santa

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 8:00-11:30 AM

Pictures
with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

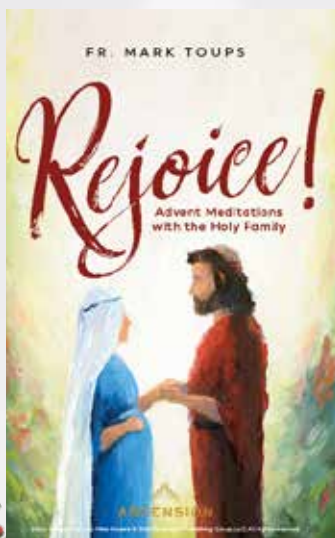
Pancake &
Sausage Breakfast



Childrens Crafts



\$8.00 Tickets (2 & under free)
Purchase your tickets online at:
www.StAmbrose.us/Christmas



Advent Meditations with the Holy Family

Our parish is seeking to prepare for Jesus' birth and experience true transformation in this powerful season by engaging in a new program called **Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family**.

This Advent Mission consists of only 4 one-hour meeting times during the Advent season and in order to accommodate as many schedules as possible, we're offering three different meeting options.

Learn more about the Rejoice Mission, see the meeting options, and register at StAmbrose.us/Advent.

Join us to hear our Angels sing in a Mini Christmas Eve Concert!

Angel voices glorify the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023

at 3:30 pm in the church

right before the start of 4:00 pm Mass



FOLLOW THE LEADER!

From Littlest Angels Preschool through 8th Grade we are flourishing and continue to grow! We look to our Leader, Jesus Christ as our faculty and staff members work together for each Angel and raise them in greater wisdom, hope, strength and peace. So many wonderful things have happened in the first quarter of school. Many thanks to our very special faculty and staff, our parish family and all who support us prayerfully, financially and/or by volunteering time and talents - God bless you!! All this helps us help each precious child of God find his/her unique gifts and talents, develop them and share them for God and neighbor.

WHAT SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL MEANS TO ME...

"We were talking about this change that we made last night at dinner, and both my husband and I agree the move to Saint Ambrose School has been one of the best decisions we have made."

- The Daum Family. Saint Ambrose School Transfer Family

LITTLEST ANGELS PRESCHOOL

Advent is a time to wait...try telling that to a preschool child waiting for Christmas! We teach the children that during this waiting time, we can grow closer as a family of God by sharing what we have, spending time together and serving others through our actions and words. Many exciting events and opportunities to grow closer as a family are available at our parish. Take some time together, slow down and enjoy this upcoming season of Advent! - *Advent Blessings, Mrs. Mitchell, LAPS Director*

ALUMNI CORNER

Congratulations to SAS Alumna, Chelsea Kacinari - Finalist in the Shining Star CLE Competition (vocalist competition)! She represented Magnificat High School and was a top 5 finalist in the vocalist competition across Northeast Ohio! The event was held at Playhouse Square.

To stay connected and receive updates about alumni events, contact Michelle Dietrich at MDietrich@StASchool.us.

ONLY JESUS!

At Saint Ambrose School we are so blessed with the ability to pray together and have our students encourage one another in their faith. We participated in the National Week of Student Prayer led by our 8th Grade students. Students meet with their prayer buddies to pray and complete activities and adoration. Prayer walls remain as a fixture of faith around the school, allowing students to write an intention on the wall, and allowing other students the opportunity to pray for the intentions. We collected toiletries for St. Herman as part of Respect Life Month. Our Second Grade and Eighth Grade student saints reminded us about our call to live as saints beginning with All Saints Day Mass. During Advent, we love that we can even more intentionally focus on Jesus as we live, love and learn from Him in preparation for Christmas!

From our Saint Ambrose School Family to yours, may your hearts and homes be filled with the light and love of our Leader, Jesus Christ.

Joyfully blessed, Lisa Cinadr, Principal



Give to support our Angels!

November 29, 2023 - December 31, 2023

SaintAmbroseSchool.us/Donate



Angel Scholarship Fund

Turn your tax dollars into tuition!

Your participation in this Scholarship Fund strengthens our school – and our future – in countless ways; and best of all, your thoughtful generosity makes a big difference. Visit us online today at SaintAmbroseSchool.us/Angel-Fund.



**Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year begins
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 for Preschool - 8th Grade**

Saint Ambrose Parish and Littlest Angels Preschool families receive priority consideration for kindergarten, but early application is highly encouraged as enrollment is not guaranteed.



Music Ministry Advent Concert

Saturday, December 2, 2023
7:30 pm in the Church

Take a step closer to Jesus with songs about God's light, love, and hope and allow God to continue to draw you nearer to Him during this blessed season.


Learn more about music at Saint Ambrose at
StAmbrose.us/Music.

Couples Night Out

Dance Lesson by Dance d'Elegance
January 20th | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Grab your sweetie and let's shake off the cold winter blues on the dance floor! Come learn how to dance from the pros then enjoy food and company with other Saint Ambrose couples.

Save the Date for World Marriage Day, February 10!
Mass, Dinner & Entertainment



ENCOUNTER

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

DECEMBER 9TH | 5:30-7:00 PM
SAINT AMBROSE CHAPEL

Hear our Lord as He speaks to us in the
Divine Mercy chaplet and in
Eucharistic Adoration.



Advent Reflection with Sarah Hart

Saturday, December 16
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Hilkert Hall

Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today. Her songs of faith, spirit of joy, and love for teaching and leading workshops have touched the lives of thousands.

Cost \$15 to attend and includes breakfast. All are welcome!
Register at StAmbrose.us/Advent.



Cookies, Cocoa & Caroling!

December 11, 2023

6:30pm cookies & cocoa
7pm caroling

RSVP by December 8:
CArbogast@StAmbrose.us

SAINT AMBROSE
YOUNG ADULTS

SAINT AMBROSE PARISH FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

DECEMBER BINGO

14	29	38	52	74
4	18	33	46	62
7	16	★	60	71
2	11	51	67	
23	32	43	7	

December 1
Free small Early Bird with the purchase of a 2-on or larger package.
FREE Fresh Cut French Fries

December 15
Free Extra Coverall with the purchase of a Bonus Jackpot.
FREE Chicken Alfredo Dinner

Hope & Healing in the New Year

GriefShare - Navigating Life After Loss

If your heart is heavy with the memory of someone you love and lost, we welcome you to this Christ-centered program with a friendly group of people. **A new GriefShare series starts in January 2024!** For more information or to RSVP email Denise.GriefShare@gmail.com.

Divorce Care - A Christ-Centered Support Group

Are you facing the struggles of divorce or separation? There is help in Christ, and Saint Ambrose offers a group through the Diocesan approved, non-denominational Divorce Care. Contact Mary Beth Garrity at 937.645.9436 for more information on this group that will begin meeting again in **early January 2024**.

Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) - Support for Your Children

DC4K is a scripture-based program designed to help children (aged 6-13) of families experiencing divorce and separation. A new session is starting in early January 2024. Contact Jennie Porco at 330.460.7317 or JPorco@StAmbrose.us to RSVP and for more details.

Hearts of Hope - Widows Support Group

We always have hope and strength in the Lord! This ministry brings widows together in prayerful and casual ways. For more information, contact Lisa Cinadr at LCinadr@StASchool.us.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

- Luke 1:47

Mental Health Ministry

**The holidays are a difficult time for many people.
The struggles come from a wide variety of reasons.**

In our community, we have been offering many opportunities both for support and education about mental health. We live in challenging times, and it's even more difficult during the holidays and winter. Our Community CARES (Concerned + Alert + Responsive == Everyone Safe). We are here to help. Never hesitate to call the Parish Office to connect with our CARES Team and our Mental Health Ministry (330.460.7300 or jporco@StAmbrose.us).

Here's a good tip for all of us. It's called the 3 P's of Mental Health Care for Children and Adults:

PEOPLE – Someone to love; experience that I am lovable and that I am capable of loving others.

PLACE – Somewhere to live; a safe place where I belong in a caring environment – connections.

PURPOSE – Something to do; a sense of what I am getting well for; I hope to...

These are a good way to stir meaningful and helpful conversations with those you love and/or are concerned about. For more information, go to: www.StAmbrose.us/mental-health.

Stephen Ministry

Here for You

God works in and through our Stephen Ministers to bring hope and healing to those going through a difficult time, feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life.

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you to listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support confidentially on a weekly basis for as long as the need persists. Talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: Carol Maline at 330.460.7336 or CMaline@StAmbrose.us, or Lisa Homady at LHomady@StAmbrose.us or 330.460.7315.

Our Community
CARES
Concerned. Alert. Responsive. = Everyone. Safe.





DECEMBER 2023

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

WE ARE A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH CENTERED ON JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS EVERYTHING FOR US

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JOYFUL HOSPITALITY

GRATITUDE &
THANKFULNESS

SERVING
WITH THE
COMPASSION
OF CHRIST

ENGAGING &
EMPOWERING OTHERS

INSPIRING PRAYER &
WORSHIP



There is something for everyone!

- Advent Tea • Breakfast with Santa
- Sarah Hart & Steve Angrisano Concert
- Rhett Walker Concert
- Rejoice! Mission • Men's Breakfast • Donut Sunday
- Living Nativity & Singing Angels
- Music Ministry Advent Concert

Find details at StAmbrose.us/Advent.

Invite your family from near and far to join you!

Rhett Walker Christmas Concert



Join us for a Christmas Show with Rhett Walker, performing his hits and Christmas classics!



Monday, December 11, 2023

7:00 PM | \$10 GENERAL ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 6:15 PM

SAINT AMBROSE PARISH, 929 PEARL ROAD, BRUNSWICK

THE FEST Get Tickets at TheFEST.us

Singing Angels Concert & LIVING NATIVITY!

Saturday, December 16, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us this Christmas Season as we celebrate the Greatest Gift – the Gift of our Lord Jesus Christ!

5:30 pm Children's Christmas Play of "The Crippled Lamb", a beautiful live recreation of the night our Savior was born.

6:45 pm Singing Angels Performance

Evening ends with delicious refreshments in Hilkert Hall

Invite your entire family for this Christmas tradition!

RSVP in advance: StAmbrose.us/Christmas



Christmas lights and decorations will be displayed all December long to help us appreciate the beauty of the season. Please feel free to walk around our parish campus with your family to look at the lights and take pictures. You are always welcome at Saint Ambrose!