

Underneath the stars  
Just a simple man and wife  
somewhere in the dark  
his words cut the silent night

Take my hand  
For the child  
That you carry is God's own  
And though it seems the road is long

We're not that far from Bethlehem  
Where all our hope and joy began  
For in our arms we'll cherish him  
We're not that far from Bethlehem



SAINT AMBROSE

GO TO BETHLEHEM



Sundays of Advent  
Prayer Services

GO ON ADVENT  
SUNDAYS

GO share the reason of our HOPE and JOY - Jesus Christ.

Join us for thirty minutes in the Church at 7:00 pm on the Sundays during Advent for a gentle, peaceful time to reflect on the reason for the season. It will be the best part of your Advent Season and the perfect way to prepare for Christmas.

**December 1** – Advent XLT (Exalt!) Night with Eucharistic Adoration, praise, and song.

**December 8** – Marian Prayer Service to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**December 15** – Gaudete Sunday Prayer Service with all Liturgical Ministers and their families. All are welcome!

Every Advent I listen to a song from Point of Grace called, **“Not that far from Bethlehem.”** (Scan the QR code below to listen to this song). On one hand, it tells the story of Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem. They are drawn forward in hope almost encouraging each other that **they can ‘do this’ that they can ‘get there’ – to Bethlehem.**

The other way to ‘hear’ the song is to **see Bethlehem as the vision of God’s Kingdom.** Jesus comes among us as Emmanuel – God with us to show us how to live and love – how to build a better world – and be stronger, more loving people and families. And, just like Mary and Joseph ‘encouraged’ each other – “we can do this...we can get there”, **Advent needs to, hopefully, draw us forward with a confidence that together, we can build that better world and be those more loving people.**

This year, we will hear the call to **“Go to Bethlehem”** for the four weeks of Advent, challenging us to keep **Jesus as the Reason for the Season** and be mindful that all we do, we need to do for the Lord, the **living out of His vision....His Kingdom.**

At Christmas, we will then **“GO and Tell It On the Mountain”** and **proclaim to everyone the hope and love we find in Jesus Christ.**

Take some time to look through our parish newsletter. It’s filled with wonderful community and family events. We are blessed to have great concerts and

music. Even more, **we will have many opportunities and ways to enter into prayer together.**

**Invite your family and friends to join you always, and especially this Advent and Christmas.** We’ve added an additional Christmas Day Mass (12 noon) to help make sure everyone is welcome and all can find a comfortable seat as we gather in prayer to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

We are not that far from Bethlehem. Listen to the song (StAmbrose.us/Advent and let it inspire you with the hope of the season and the promise of the Lord.

God bless you and your family.

Father Bob Stec

P.S. By the time you read this, we will be well on our way to feeding and providing for 9,000 people this Thanksgiving. God bless you - over and again - for your goodness. Together we are building a kinder, more loving and compassionate community for all of God’s people.

**What you do for the least, you do for the Lord.** May these Thanksgiving Days be blessed.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LISTEN TO OUR ADVENT SONG!



# Advent Season at Saint Ambrose

## WE GIVE CATHOLIC

**December 3** - Please consider supporting our Giving Tuesday campaign! Donate online at [StAmbrose.us/We-Give-Catholic](http://StAmbrose.us/We-Give-Catholic).

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**December 3** - 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the Church. Additionally, weekly Confession takes place **every Thursday** at 6:00 pm in the Church.

## MUSIC MINISTRY'S ADVENT CONCERT

**December 4** - 7:00 pm in the Church.

## SAINT AMBROSE FEAST DAY

**December 7** - Celebrate our Patron Saint's Feast Day with us at our 8:15 am and 4:30 pm Masses.

## ADVENT MINI VBS

**December 7** - Children ages 3-10 are invited to join us from 9:00 am - 11:00 am in Hilbert Hall. Register at [StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent).

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**December 8** - 8:00 am - 11:00 am in Hilbert Hall. RSVP is a must and can be done at [StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent).

## ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE

**December 10** - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm or

**December 13** - 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Many priests will be available in the Church to hear individual confessions.

## THE FEST CONCERT

**December 13** - Brandon Heath will perform right here at Saint Ambrose Parish! Buy your tickets online at [www.theFEST.us/Christmas](http://www.theFEST.us/Christmas).

## LIVING NATIVITY

**December 14** - Walk through the journey of Jesus' birth as told by our day school and PSR students. This outdoor show starts at 5:30 pm.

## BAMBINELLI BLESSING

**December 14 and 15** - Bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity to one of our weekend Masses for a special blessing.

**Stay up-to-date during the Advent Season at Saint Ambrose Parish by visiting [StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent).**



# Advent Faith & Fellowship Groups



## Beginning December 1 and 2

**Sundays**

**1:15 pm - 2:15 pm**

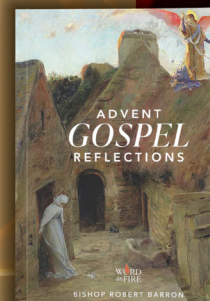
**Mondays**

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

| **Father McGivney Room** |

Enter more deeply into the prayerful nature of the Advent season.

Register at [StAmbrose.us/Advent-Faith-Groups](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent-Faith-Groups).  
Contact Gayle at [GOboy@StAmbrose.us](mailto:GOboy@StAmbrose.us)  
or 760.460.7322.



## MILAN SOCIETY NEWS

### We Give Thanks with Grateful Hearts

Over 15 years ago, several of our members saw the need to create a fund that would serve to benefit and secure the future needs of our Saint Ambrose Parish. **John Dogger, Bob Downs, and Kathy Plavecski** set out to create the Saint Ambrose Endowment Foundation. This foundation is dedicated to meeting the parish's capital and operational needs and supporting Catholic Education. **On Saturday, November 2, we honored John, Bob, and Kathy for their commitment to our parish and inducted them as the first members of the Saint Ambrose Endowment Foundation Milan Society.** The Milan Society recognizes and honors those who have made substantial contributions to the Endowment Foundation of time, effort, and resources.

**Thank you, John, Bob, and Kathy, for your years of dedication.**



SAINT AMBROSE  
**YOUNG ADULTS**



**Just for our Young Adult Members**

Young adults are invited to join us for our upcoming events which include **Advent Paint & Sip** and our second annual **Mystery Evening!**

Be sure to follow us on Instagram by scanning the QR code and check us out online at [StAmbrose.us/Young-Adults](http://StAmbrose.us/Young-Adults) regularly for many more opportunities!

*"And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will GO before the Lord to prepare His ways..."*

- LUKE 1:76



# Christmas Countdown

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, remember that there's something for everyone, **every day**, at our parish.

- DECEMBER 1: **fiat Mass & Night**, 5:00 pm
- DECEMBER 2: **Baby Bible Time**, 10:00 am
- DECEMBER 3: **Living Word Healing Prayer**, 7:00 pm
- DECEMBER 4: **Cancer Support Group**, 6:00 pm
- DECEMBER 5: **Blood Drive**, 3:00 pm
- DECEMBER 6 (FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS): **Bingo Night**, 5:00 pm
- DECEMBER 7 (FEAST OF SAINT AMBROSE): **Couples' Night Out**, 5:30 pm
- DECEMBER 8: **ABLAZE Mass & Night**, 5:00 pm
- DECEMBER 9 (FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION): **Book Club**, 6:30 pm
- DECEMBER 10: **Morning Prayer Service**, 8:15 am
- DECEMBER 11: **If My People Pray Service**, 12:00 pm
- DECEMBER 12: **Men's Fellowship Meeting**, 7:00 pm
- DECEMBER 13: **High School Prep Dance**, 7:30 pm
- DECEMBER 14: **Men's Breakfast**, 8:30 am
- DECEMBER 15: **Donut Sunday**, following all morning and noon Masses
- DECEMBER 16: **Quilting & Sewing**, 7:00 pm
- DECEMBER 17: **Boy Scout Meeting**, 7:30 pm
- DECEMBER 18: **CWM Food Distro**, 5:30 pm
- DECEMBER 19: **NAMI Meeting**, 6:30 pm
- DECEMBER 20: **Rosary for Vocations**, 9:00 am
- DECEMBER 21: **Route 66 Solstice Party**, 12:00 pm
- DECEMBER 22: **Men's Renewal Team**, 6:00 pm
- DECEMBER 23: **Eucharistic Adoration**, 9:00 am

See a complete schedule of events with all the details at [StAmbrose.us/Events](http://StAmbrose.us/Events).

**Music Ministry Advent Concert**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Church

GO to this concert to enjoy the Saint Ambrose Music Ministry as they perform Advent and Christmas songs that will stir your heart!

This is an excellent opportunity to take a step closer to Jesus as we prepare the way of the Lord.

**GO TO BETHLEHEM**

[Visit StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://VisitStAmbrose.us/Advent).

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC PARISH  
**GO TO BETHLEHEM at Home, Too**

Advent is a time of wonderful anticipation and a great chance for your family to come together to discuss the true reason for the season, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Saint Ambrose has many ways for everyone and anyone to take part in the Advent season.

We also know the time constraints with which our families are faced which is why we offer resources so that YOU have a meaningful Advent in your own home, too.

Visit [StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent) for activities and ways your family can celebrate together at home.

**Winter PA Camp**  
**Les Misérables**

Save the Dates for Live Performances!  
**January 4 & 5, 2024**

Stay tuned for ticket details to be announced soon!

**Les Misérables**

Contact Michelle Cha at [MCha@StASchool.us](mailto:MCha@StASchool.us) or 440.454.4048 for further questions.



# Opportunities for Our Youth to Go

# fiat

## METANOIA XI RETREAT December 6-8

SAINT AMBROSE PARISH

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 so sign up today at [StAmbrose.us/fiat](https://StAmbrose.us/fiat)!**

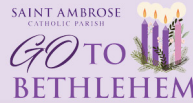
# Advent MINI VBS

## Saturday, December 7 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Hilkert Hall

### A Bethlehem Celebration

Children ages 3-10 are welcome to come for music, activities, and fun as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Sign up at [StAmbrose.us/Advent!](https://StAmbrose.us/Advent!)



Interested in volunteering at this year's Advent Mini VBS? Send an email to [BBizzi@StAmbrose.us](mailto:BBizzi@StAmbrose.us)!

**FREE EVENT!**



# Breakfast with Santa



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

8:00 AM-11:00 AM (choose your family's time slot at registration)  
SAINT AMBROSE PARISH (929 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, Ohio 44212)

Tickets ONLY \$8! Per person ticket includes a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast.

Plus, children 2 and under are FREE!

Children's crafts and activities  
+ visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

AVOID THE LONG MALL LINES!

FREE PHOTO OPP WITH SANTA!



BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE TODAY AT  
[STAMBROSE.US/CHRISTMAS](https://StAmbrose.us/CHRISTMAS)

All are welcome, all belong at Saint Ambrose Parish.



"Train the young in the way they should GO; even when old, they will not swerve from it." - PROVERB 22:6

# ablaze

SAINT AMBROSE PARISH • JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

## JUST FOR JUNIOR HIGH

### Service Opportunity - Breakfast with Santa

Students in junior high/middle school are invited to come help our parish at the annual **Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 8, from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.** There's lots to do to make this an extra special event for the littles such as crafting, clearing tables, serving breakfast, and more. Please consider coming, even for just an hour, to help! Sign up online at [StAmbrose.us/ABLAZE](https://StAmbrose.us/ABLAZE).

### ABLAZE Night - Christmas Party

Join us on **Sunday, December 22 for 5:00 pm Mass (we sit together) and stay for fun, food, and JESUS in the Mother Teresa Room.** Please bring a \$5 gift (something small but that you would want to receive) for our Gift Exchange Game and wear your ugliest Christmas sweater. More details and sign up is at [StAmbrose.us/ABLAZE](https://StAmbrose.us/ABLAZE).



# Go & Pray to the Lord

## MILITARY MESSAGES MINISTRY



### Gratitude from a Saint Ambrose Military Family

Kim Nemet is a member of Saint Ambrose as well as our parish's Family Life Ministry Coordinator. Her son, Deacon, is also a member in the United States Army. Below is a brief excerpt of an update on Deacon from **Kim shares an update about Deacon** and how appreciative she and her family are that our parish members keep Deacon and all of the members of the military in their prayers:

*We are very proud to be a military family. Deacon was promoted to Private First Class when he graduated from his most recent training as a Bradley Tank Maintainer. Deacon is currently overseas on training development and in October he was awarded "Soldier of the Week" for all of his hard work and dedication. Deacon is scheduled to be back stateside to his duty station in the beginning of December Most exciting for us is the prospect of Deacon being able to come home this Christmas since he has been away for an entire year. Our family is so grateful for your continued support and prayers for our soldier!*

### Other Updates on Members in the Military

In addition to the update on Deacon, here are more updates on some of our other members in the military:



**Air Force SrA Brandon Gazso** (pictured to the right), is currently stationed overseas and hopes to be home by Christmas. He currently works in cyber security and really enjoys his job and his time overseas.

**Navy LCDR Serena Gerfy** (pictured to the left), along with her family, will be returning stateside after six years overseas. She is currently finishing up her tour in Yokosuka Naval Hospital in Japan and will be heading to Raleigh, NC, to instruct at the Hospital Corpsman Trauma Training Center. Serena would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and packages.



Your prayers for all of those who serve in the armed forces make a difference. During this holiday season especially, we are keeping all soldiers and their families close to our hearts and top of our minds. Do you have a loved one that you'd like added to our prayer list or would you like to share an update on a soldier? Visit [StAmbrose.us/Military](http://StAmbrose.us/Military) to submit a name, update, and/or learn more about our Military Messages Ministry.

# The Perfect Gift

Give the perfect gift that will inspire and make a blessed difference in the lives of those who receive it and share it with others.

Purchase these pieces at  
[StAmbrose.us/Blessed-Gifts](http://StAmbrose.us/Blessed-Gifts).



**LIMITED EDITION!**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

**Our Ministers are Ready  
to Care for You!**

We all go through times in our life when we could benefit from a little extra care and attention. That's the mission of Stephen Ministers. Our Stephen Ministers have been trained to provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for you as long as your need persists.

To find out more, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: Carol Maline at [CMaline@StAmbrose.us](mailto:CMaline@StAmbrose.us) or 330.460.7336 or Lisa Homady at [LHomady@StAmbrose.us](mailto:LHomady@StAmbrose.us) or 330.460.7315. You can also visit us online at [StAmbrose.us/Stephen-Ministry](http://StAmbrose.us/Stephen-Ministry).



# Christmas at Saint Ambrose

**CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Children's Christmas Pageant** at 3:15 pm in the Church

**Christmas Eve Masses** in the Church and Hillkert Hall at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm; 8:00 pm in the Church only

**Christmas Midnight Mass** in the Church at 12:00 am

**CHRISTMAS DAY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**Christmas Day Masses** at 8:00 am and 10:00 am in the Church only and 12:00 pm in the Church and Hillkert Hall

Visit [StAmbrose.us/Christmas](http://StAmbrose.us/Christmas).



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**  
**3:15 pm - 3:45 pm | Church**

**GO to the Children's Christmas Pageant: "Joy to the World" presented by our Saint Ambrose Cherubs Choir.**

**They will retell the story of Christ's birth as told in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 2.**



## LIVE STREAM MINISTRY

**Making Masses Available to All**

Thank God for some of the wonderful technology that allows us to stay connected to the Lord and each other. **Streaming the Mass from our Church is a way to bring some of God's House into your home.** Masses and Prayer Services can be viewed online at [StAmbrose.us/WatchMass](http://StAmbrose.us/WatchMass).

A huge and special "thank you" goes to **Will Michaels, Ted Tyburski, Mike Badaczewski, Brian Travalik, and Ed Kilroy.** These dedicated parishioners have been part of our Live Stream Ministry, and continue to serve, since we started back during Covid days.

Our ministry is growing as we continue to bring our services to you! We welcome **Tina, Brian, and Mike** (pictured to the right) to our Live Stream Ministry. Please take a moment to stop by the music area in our Church to let them know what a great job they are doing!

Our ministry would love to have you be a part of the great work we do. To learn more or to sign up to serve in the Live Stream Ministry contact Helen Lanzarotta by emailing her at [HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us](mailto:HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us).



## A THOUGHTFUL INVITATION

Many people are alone or searching for hope at Christmastime. **Invite them to join you for Christmas Mass.** Reconnect with family, bond with friends, spread cheer with neighbors. It's as easy as saying "join me."

# Saint Ambrose School News



## WE GO WITH JESUS!

### Celebrating 65 Years of Joyful Excellence

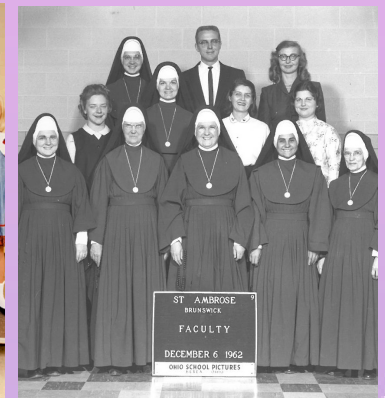
From our Littlest Angels Preschool through Eighth Grade students, teachers, staff and school families, we are beyond blessed and grateful for the gift we have to pray, learn, serve and GO together.

We can all be so grateful to God for 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!!

Together, we are building God's Kingdom here on Earth, one Angel at a time!

From our Saint Ambrose Catholic School Family to yours, may God bless you. Let us all GO toward Jesus and radiate His light and love!

With joyful blessings,  
*Lisa Cinadr, Head of Schools/Principal*



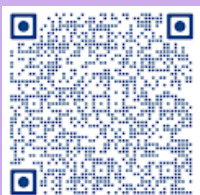
## WE GIVE CATHOLIC Donate on Giving Tuesday

Your monetary donations made on December 3 will support the Fine Arts programs at Saint Ambrose Catholic School. Scan the QR code to make a We Give Catholic donation on Tuesday, December 3. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.



### A Tax Credit for YOU that Supports Our Students

Your participation in this Angel Scholarship Fund strengthens our school – and our future – in countless ways; and best of all, your thoughtful generosity makes a big difference. **Enjoy a tax credit on your Ohio state taxes while providing tuition for Saint Ambrose Catholic School.** Scan the QR code for more details and to support the Angel Scholarship Fund.



### 2025-2026 Enrollement

Priority registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens on Friday, January 10, 2025 for preschool – grade 8.

Open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year opens on Friday, February 7, 2025 for preschool – grade 8.

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

# Go and Serve During Advent



## StA New Year's Tea Planning & Informational Night

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Mother Teresa Room

**Ladies... we need your help!**

We're planning our New Year's Tea (formerly known as the Advent Tea) and would love for you to join us!

A great way to start the new year off would be to fill the room for our tea with all of you and we'd love your help to invite guests and to help make this a beautiful and inspiring experience.



RSVP for the Planning & Info Night by emailing [LHomady@StAmbrose.us](mailto:LHomady@StAmbrose.us).

New Year's Tea will take place on Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 am.  
For more details and tickets, visit [StAmbrose.us/New-Years-Ladies-Tea](https://StAmbrose.us/New-Years-Ladies-Tea).

## Saint Ambrose Parish 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



### Sharing Really IS Caring

Over six years ago, one of our members lost her husband, and another parish member put her on the 12 Days of Christmas list. It touched her heart so deeply that one of our members cared so much to add her to the list. The first day or two, she was leery of the knock on the door, but soon, she began looking forward to it! **Every year since then, she has been one of the delivery drivers for the 12 Days of Christmas initiative**, spreading joy and hope – and praying for those receiving the gifts. It has become her Advent tradition – something she looks forward to each year as her way of giving back.

During the 12 days leading up to Christmas, we have volunteers "adopt a family" and help deliver these random acts of kindness. It's simple... it's fun... and most importantly, it's significant in the life of someone in need! Here are some ways YOU can help bring comfort and joy to others this holiday season:

- **Donate to We Give Catholic on Giving Tuesday, December 3.** Donations can be made online at [StAmbrose.us/We-Give-Catholic](https://StAmbrose.us/We-Give-Catholic).
- **Volunteer to be a 12 Days Christmas Elf!** Send an email to [LHomady@StAmbrose.us](mailto:LHomady@StAmbrose.us) to sign up.
- **Are you a past 12 Days of Christmas recipient and want to share your story?** Send your story by emailing [RKaaikaula@StAmbrose.us](mailto:RKaaikaula@StAmbrose.us).

Merry Christmas and God bless our parish community!

*"GO into the whole world and proclaim to every creature."*

- MARK 16:15

## KINDNESS PINES

### GO with the Compassion of Christ

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 8.**

You can also donate online at [StAmbrose.us/Advent](https://StAmbrose.us/Advent).







KOLER FINANCIAL GROUP

# END OF YEAR GIVING SEMINAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024  
6:00 - 8:00 PM | MOTHER TERESA ROOM

Please join our member Mike Koler as he entertains your questions and offers insights on end of year giving, Qualified Charitable Distribution, and how best to give to a charity (like Saint Ambrose).

Mike and his family have served our local community for over fifty years.

Come for a light supper at 6 pm. Mike will be eager to hear your questions and offer best guidance starting at 6:30 pm.

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 29 AT [STAMBROSE.US/ENDOWMENT](http://STAMBROSE.US/ENDOWMENT).

## 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	2	47	7	

**December 6**  
FREE Small Lightning with a package of \$25 or more.

FREE Fresh Cut French Fries

**December 20**

Purchase any Lightning, get one Extra Coverall for FREE.

FREE Chicken Fingers & French Fries

[StAmbrose.us/Bingo](http://StAmbrose.us/Bingo)

## CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE RECAP

### A Heartfelt "Thank You" & Beautiful Memories

Our Women's Guild hosted its annual Christmas Boutique on November 9-10 this year. Hundreds came to shop for beautifully handcrafted gifts, delicious homecooked food, and, of course, to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. According to Guild president Laurie Zarafoss, "Our Boutique was a success and we really want to thank the members of our parish community for making it possible again this year." Likewise, our parish members appreciate all of the Women's Guild members and their unwavering support for our parish. Until next year...God bless and Merry Christmas!



# Advent



## UPCOMING IN ADVENT

December 2: **Pickleball**, 7:00 pm in the Hilbert Gym

December 4: **Social with Coffee, Donuts, and BP Checks**, 8:45 am in the Mother Teresa Room

December 11: **Snacks & Bunco** in the Mother Teresa Room at 2:30 pm

December 17: **Lunch & Learn - Christmas Bingo**, 12:30 pm in the Mother Teresa Room

**Pickleball**, 7:00 pm in the Hilbert Gym

December 21: **Solstice Social** in the Mother Teresa Room at 4:00 pm

For more details about any of these events and our ministry, visit [StAmbrose.us/Route66](http://StAmbrose.us/Route66).

# Go and Grow in Faith & Love

*"GO up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of good news!"*

-ISAIAH 40:9

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Charity. Unity. Fraternity.**

The Brunswick Knights of Columbus are a blessing to our parish. As we enter this period of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, K of C shares this recap of some of their good work here at our parish and beyond and encourages other Christian men to consider answering the call to learning more about becoming a Knight yourself.



- In the last five months, the Knights have **gained eleven new members**. These men of faith decided to take the leap to become a Knight out of a desire to love and serve the Lord in a more active and engaged way.
- **Some charitable works** in the last year have included donating \$6,300 to assist those with developmental disabilities who reside in our community; giving \$2,500 to the Saint Ambrose Parish Building Fund; and adopting and supporting a member of our parish who is currently enrolled at the Seminary.
- The Knights **work behind the scenes** during many of our parish's events. They cook for the Breakfast with Santa, Bunny Brunch, and the Peace and Forgiveness Retreat for second graders; can be found directing traffic and even parking cars at The FEST; and lots more.

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact John O'Malley at 440.665.2752 or visit [StAmbrose.us/Knights-of-Columbus](http://StAmbrose.us/Knights-of-Columbus).

And remember this special message from the Knights of Columbus Brunswick Council #4847 and the Saint Ambrose Assembly #3105: **Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.**



## ALTAR SERVERS

**Grow in Faith While Serving During Mass**

Saint Ambrose School and our Saint Ambrose PSR program offers the youth of our parish an opportunity to **grow in their faith and become more active in the Mass** by serving as altar servers.

Altar Servers assist the priest and deacon during the weekend Masses and other liturgical celebrations. It is a great honor and privilege to serve at the Table of our Lord. The children of the parish who have already answered the call to become Altar Servers display their desire to have a more intimate union with our Lord and Jesus Christ. **All students in grades 5-8 are invited to become an Altar Server.** If you'd like to serve your parish community and the Lord in this way, contact Helen Lanzarotta at [HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us](mailto:HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us) for more information and to sign up for upcoming training.



**COUPLES' NIGHT OUT**

# Cookie Baking and White Elephant

**DECEMBER 7 | 6:30 - 9:00 PM**  
**HILKERT HALL**

Take home cookies from the amazing cookie baking class and enjoy a white elephant exchange followed by a pizza and cookie party.



Register online at [StAmbrose.us/Events](http://StAmbrose.us/Events).  
Questions? Contact Gayle at [GOboy@StAmbrose.us](mailto:GOboy@StAmbrose.us).

# Go with Hope & Healing



## MENTAL HEALTH TIPS

### Support During the Holiday Season

Although the holidays are joyful and exciting, they can also cause a variety of mental health symptoms... anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and just feeling overwhelmed. In order to prevent some of these symptoms, or lessen them if you have them, here are a few key points to remember:

- **Do not forget self-care.** Take time for yourself, even if it is 30 minutes in a quiet room with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, or a warm bath or shower with your favorite music playing. Make this a routine daily. Sitting in a quiet room and saying the Rosary - or talking to God - or listening to some spiritual music often helps as well.
- **Create a plan.** Write down what you want/need to accomplish and create a checklist with realistic time frames in which to do them. Crossing out tasks you've completed gives you a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Avoid substances.** Alcohol and other drugs may appear to give temporary relief of anxiety and numb unwanted feelings, but in actuality, these substances make depression and anxiety worse, as well as disinhibits you, causing you to say and do things you later may regret.
- **Recognize and acknowledge feelings.** Know that it is ok to feel a wide range of feelings during the holidays... do not force happiness... allow yourself to feel whatever you are feeling without feeling guilty.
- **Spend time with others.** Avoid isolation by being with family or friends... or, reach out to someone who you know is also alone. If you cannot find that, volunteer in a soup kitchen, food pantry, or a nursing home.
- **Check in with others.** A text or phone call can help.
- **Honor and celebrate a lost loved one.** Instead of avoiding thinking about, or be overcome with sadness and loss, honor and celebrate them with others by telling stories about their life and personality.
- **No need to overspend.** Focus on being with others, making others happy and not isolated, be supportive of others, make homemade gifts.
- **Get fresh air and sunshine.** Many studies have shown that mental health symptoms improve when you spend time in nature.
- **It is okay to say "NO."** Prioritize and simplify when you can. Stay away from situations that stress you out.
- **Take a break.** If a gathering gets stressful, take a break, go take a walk, leave the room, etc.

For more information and many other helpful resources, visit us online at [StAmbrose.us/Mental-Health](https://StAmbrose.us/Mental-Health).

## HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR

### GriefShare - Navigating Life after Loss

If your heart is heavy with the memory of someone you loved and lost, we welcome you to this Christ-centered program with a friendly group of people. **A new GriefShare series starts in January 2025!** For more information or to RSVP, email Denise. [GriefShare@gmail.com](mailto:GriefShare@gmail.com).

### Divorce Care - Christ-Centered 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 2025.**

### DC4K - Support for Your Children

Divorce Care for Kids 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 2025.** For more information, email [GYatson@StAmbrose.us](mailto:GYatson@StAmbrose.us).

*"When you pray, GO to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."* - MATTHEW 6:6



## In Loving Memory Christmas Collection

Contributions to our annual Christmas Collection, made in honor of your loved ones, are most welcome and can be made online now at [StAmbrose.us/Flowers](https://StAmbrose.us/Flowers).

*Your generous donation will go toward the cost of the beautiful flowers and decor that adorn our blessed parish and the Church during the Christmas season.*

SAINT AMBROSE  
CATHOLIC PARISH

GO TO  
BETHLEHEM





DECEMBER 2024

# ADVENT NEWSLETTER

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BRUNSWICK, OH  
PERMIT #67

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

JOYFUL HOSPITALITY  
GRATITUDE & SERVING  
THANKFULNESS WITH THE  
ENGAGING & COMPASSION  
EMPOWERING OTHERS OF CHRIST  
INSPIRING PRAYER & WORSHIP



SAINT AMBROSE

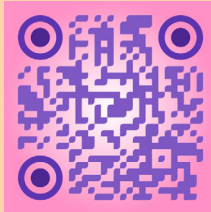
## GO TO BETHLEHEM



*There's something for everyone!*

- Prayer Services
- Holiday Concerts
- Breakfast with Santa
- Advent Mini VBS

Scan the QR code to find more opportunities!



**THEFEST**  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
featuring

**BRANDON HEATH**

DECEMBER 13

SAINT AMBROSE PARISH,  
BRUNSWICK, OH



Tickets on sale NOW at  
[www.theFEST.us/Christmas](http://www.theFEST.us/Christmas)



# GO TO BETHLEHEM Living Nativity

Saturday, December 14

5:30 pm: Living Nativity

6:15 pm - 8:00 pm: Food and Concert

**Visit [StAmbrose.us/Advent](http://StAmbrose.us/Advent).**

Come and join in this new and original Saint Ambrose musical recounting the amazing story of our salvation – the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph heard the command to **GO to Bethlehem**, we walk with them and remember the reason for the season – Jesus Christ.

*Christmas lights and decorations will be displayed all December at Saint Ambrose Parish. Please feel free to walk around our parish campus with your loved ones to look at the lights and even take the opportunity to take pictures together.*

