

DEAR PARISH FAMILY



*May the gift of His Love bring you
joy this Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year.*

*Rev. Benjamin Smaistrla
Rev. Juan Pineda
Dcn. Denis Smaistrla
And Parish Staff*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 24
8:00AM Juanita and Joe Robles

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24
5:00PM Eva Montalbano
7:00PM Por el Pueblo

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25
8:00AM Shirley Camarata
10:00AM: Toni Cali
12:00NOON Souls In Purgatory

Wednesday, December 26
8:00AM Tammy Babineck
7:00PM (Spanish) Souls In Purgatory
Thursday, December 27
8:00AM Mary Cecelia Moriarty Dostal
Friday, December 28
8:00AM Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, December 29
8:00AM Shirley Camarata
5:00PM Paula Garza
Sunday December 30
8:00AM Dinh Do
10:00AM Richard Farris
12:00Noon Grecia Gonzalez
5:00PM(Life Teen Mass (Bilingual) Enrique Marquez

LET US PRAY

Please remember the following who have asked for our prayers:
Alcidiades Angleas, Gerry Barbeau, Gaby Beckstrom, Maria Bedoya, Laverne Bonora, Jesus Calvillo Jr., Marie Campos, Clay Cameron, James Duplessis, Jose Carmen Eguia, Juan Pedro Eguia, Pederwsdei Enguia, Paul Farek, Carroll Gohmert, John Culver, John Culver, Russell Forrest, Albina Diehl, Carolyn Gonzalez, Antoine Hicks, Henry Kopycinski,, Bernie Lenahan, Jose Adolfo Loreda, Robert McCullough, Jr., Jack Moore, Richerd Palumbo, Peter and Nina Peropoulous, Frank Petronella, Ora Nell Petrash, Jimmy Richard, Margaret Richardson, Araceli Rocha, Anthony Ruffino, Sr., Kimberly Ruffino, Sammy Romano, Sophia Romano, David Russell, Landon Seeberger, Marie Seeberger, Theodore and Joan Thoede, Nathan Thompson, Donald Weaver, Mary Williams, Brian Wisnoski, Mary Ann Wooten, and David Zaborow.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SCHEDULE 2018

Christmas Vigil, December 24, 2018
4:00PM Children's Christmas Concert
5:00PM (English) Children's Liturgy
7:00PM (Spanish) Mass

9:30PM Adult Christmas Concert
10:00PM (English) Mass

Christmas Day, December 25
8:00AM (English) and 10:00(English)
12:00 Noon (Spanish)

NEW YEAR EVE, DECEMBER 31
7:00PM (Spanish)

NEW YEAR DAY, JANUARY 1

8:00AM (English)
12:00Noon (Spanish)
7:00PM (English)



Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday Saint John of Kanty, Priest
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5, Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25,
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Thursday The Nativity of the Lord
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 105;
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8; 11-12,
17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



O COME LET US ADORE HIM

Prayer and meditation before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament are great ways to spend some special time with Him. You can ask Him for graces for yourself or loved ones and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

St. Ambrose has adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday in the chapel after the 8:00AM Mass until 6:00. Come and spend some time with the Lord.

Our goal is to have two or more people scheduled per hour. I need adorers for 12:00Noon to 1:00PM, 2:00PM to 3:00PM and 5:00PM to 6:00PM. Please call Barbara Steinhardt at 713-688-0154 if you are able to help.



ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Come and sing or play an instrument with the Children's Choir at our Christmas Eve Concert Mass. Join the fun in singing some of our favorite Christmas Carols. Ages 9 to 18 years are invited to participate. Also, parents are welcomed to join their children. Soloist opportunities for singers and instrumentalists also available.

This is your opportunity to be a part of our Children's Christmas Choir. We are taking extra youth and families to participate for Christmas music.

For more information about rehearsal schedule, please contact St. Ambrose Music Director, Mrs. Stevens, at 281-440-4445 or talk with her after any weekend Mass.

December 24

4:00PM Scripture Reading and Concert

5:00PM Holy Mass



Let us pray for all those our military at home and abroad and especially the following: Victor J. Broussard, Peter Zachary Carroll, Samuel Castillo, Brandon Cook, Matthew Cook, Master Sgt., Dean Crawford, Robert Freedman, Olivia Garza, Matthew Grissom, Timothy Groh, Lee Anthony Guerrero, Andrew S. Gutierrez, Christopher Hernandez, Lucas Hernandez, Matthew Hernandez, Mia Hernandez, Sean Dietrich Hrcir, Samuel Dylan Hrcir, Captain Mary Hrynyk, Captain Jason Hrynyk, Anthony Handy, Ivan Ibabao, Elizabeth Grassmann Ibabao, Robert Marquez, Jr., Captain Andrew Locke, Daniel Martinez, Captain Jonathan Reed, Casey Rogers, and Daniel Salinas.

GIFTS TO GOD

December 16, 2018

Envelopes	\$ 7,768.00
Loose Checks	\$ 4,994.00
Mail Ins	\$ 4,792.00
On Line	\$ 465.00
Total	\$18,019.00

Thank you for your support.

Finance Council

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

It takes much effort just to make ends meet in our world today. Do you wish you could talk about something besides all the stresses in your life? Jesus said: "I will put my spirit in you that you may live." Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and experience Jesus's love through your spouse in a unique way. Marriage Encounter gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. For upcoming dates, visit www.houstonme.org or call 713-482-1791.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION – The Sacrament of Reconciliation is every Saturday from 3:30PM until 4:30PM.

FROM THE CHANCERY

In a continuing effort to provide pastoral care to victims of sexual abuse by clergy or Church personnel, Daniel Cardinal Di Nardo would like to remind the faithful of the Archdiocese of the availability of the Victims Assistance Coordinator. "Anyone who has been the victim of sexual abuse by clergy or Church personnel is encouraged to call Sr. Maureen O'Connell, OP at 713-654-5799.

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Dear Parishioners,
The St. Vincent De Paul Society needs your assistance. Please bring your nonperishable food donations to help us restock our pantry.

Bring your donations to Mass on the Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 6, 2019. There will be collection boxes in the narthex.

As the Three Kings (Magi) brought gifts to the Baby Jesus, let us share our blessings with our less fortunate brothers.

We appreciate your Kindness and Cooperation!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - The Parish Office will close at 12:00 Noon on December 24 and be closed on December 25 and 26 for the Christmas holidays. We will open on Thursday, December 27 at our regular time.



The Season of Giving

The blessing of the Advent season is upon us and soon it will be Christmas! St. Ambrose Parish is grateful for your continued generosity. The season of giving is the perfect time to set up a one-time or recurring gift to benefit our mission. Donate online by visiting <https://stambrosehouston.org/regular-parish-collections>.

ST. AMBROSE YOUTH NEWS

St. Ambrose Confirmation Candidates will attend "Journey of Faith" Retreat, on Saturday, January 29, 2019. Candidates will depart the church at 8:00AM and visit Our Lady of Lourdes and pray the Stations of the Cross, on a walk through the outside gardens. They will recite the Rosary in the chapel and reflect on their Catholic Spiritual Journey with a talk by Terry Macias.

They will also tour the Holocaust Museum of Houston; where docents will guide the Confirmation Candidates through the museum and discuss the events surrounding the Holocaust. They will also visit the Convent of Villa de Mattel, of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

Starry Nights will be on Saturday, February 23, 2019 and Confirmation is presently scheduled for May 19, 2019. For more information please call the Religious Education Ministry.



Greetings St. Ambrose Friends and Family,

I pray your Advent is going well. As we enter into the third week, we light the pink candle. It's a reminder to be filled with joy. It's perfectly timed as the hustle and bustle

I pray your Advent is going well. As we enter into the third week, we light the pink candle. It's a reminder to be filled with joy. It's perfectly timed as the hustle and bustle of the year's end may be cause us to lose focus on the season's purpose. The students at St. Ambrose have indeed been filled with that joy this Advent season.

Please keep our Junior High students in your prayers as they take their exams this week!

The School Board is hard at work updating our Strategic Plan and on Wednesday, December 19th we'll come together as a community to discuss where we stand currently, some of our plans moving forward, and highlight many of the fantastic things St. Ambrose Catholic School has to offer. You, as supports of St. Ambrose Catholic School, are invited to attend. Join us on December 19th at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium for the first "All for Ambrose: Information Meeting."

Be sure to also join us on Christmas Eve for Mass. Our children's choir will be sharing their joyfulness and gifts of song as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Arrive at 4:00 to get a good seat!

Sincerely,

Sarah McDonald, Principal
smcdonald@sashornets.org

BINGO will not be held on Tuesday, December 25 or Tuesday, January 1. We will resume our normal Tuesday of Bingo on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. We will be calling two Bonus Ball Numbers.

Domingo, 23 de Diciembre, 2018
4to. Domingo de Adviento Ciclo C
Miqueas 5, 1-4^a: De ti saldrá el jefe de Israel
Salmo 79: ¡Oh Dios, restáuranos; que brille tu rostro y nos salve!

Hebreos 10, 5-10: Aquí estoy para hacer tu voluntad

Lucas 1, 39-45: ¿Quién soy yo para que me visite la madre de mi Señor

La **segunda lectura** está tomada de la carta a los Hebreos. Supuestamente Pablo compara la obra cultural de Cristo con la del Antiguo Testamento, y el sacrificio de Cristo con los antiguos “sacrificios” religiosos. A través de esta comparación se nos muestra con profundidad la naturaleza y finalidad de la encarnación. El sacrificio de Cristo tiene lugar de una vez para siempre y no consiste tanto en la inmolación de una víctima, cuanto en la comunión con el Padre, a la que todos somos invitados. En lo sucesivo no habrá una religión de ceremonias y de ritos, sino una religión “en Espíritu y en Verdad”. La voluntad de Dios no ha sido la muerte del Hijo, sino el hacer partícipe a su Hijo de la condición humana con el suficiente amor para que todo lo humano quedara transformado. La sangre del Hijo, más que ofrenda para aplacar a un Dios justiciero, es don a los seres humanos de un Dios lleno de amor. Nuestra santificación consiste en vivir “en Espíritu y en Verdad” esa amistad con Dios. Aquí radica la esencia del Espíritu religioso.

Acercarnos a celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús conlleva recordar la condición de mujer y la fe de María. El episodio llamado de la visitación, del **evangelio de Lucas** nos relata el encuentro de dos mujeres madres. María, la galilea, va a Judá, la región en la que un día el hijo que lleva dentro de ella será rechazado y condenado a muerte (Lc 1,39). Ante el saludo de la joven, el niño que Isabel está a punto de dar a luz “salta de gozo” (vv. 41 y 44). La madre alude poco después a lo que siente dentro de sí; se trata de la alegría del niño –el futuro Juan Bautista– alrededor de quien habían girado hasta el momento los acontecimientos narrados en este primer capítulo de Lucas. Juan cede ahora el paso a Jesús. El gozo es la primera respuesta a la venida del Mesías. Experimentar alegría porque nos sabemos amados por Dios es prepararnos para la navidad.

Isabel pronuncia entonces una doble bendición. Como ocurre siempre en manifestaciones importantes, Lucas subraya que lo hace “llena del Espíritu Santo” (v. 41). María es declarada “Bendita entre las mujeres” (v. 42), su condición de mujer es destacada; en tanto que tal es considerada amada y privilegiada por Dios. Esto es ratificado por el segundo motivo del elogio: “Bendito el fruto de tu vientre” (v. 42). Este fruto es Jesús, pero el texto subraya el hecho de que por ahora está en el cuerpo de una mujer, en sus entrañas, tejido de su tejido. El cuerpo de María deviene así el arca santa donde se alberga el Espíritu y manifiesta la grandeza de su condición femenina. En su visitante, Isabel reconoce a la “madre del Señor” (v. 43), aquella que dará a luz a quien debe liberar a su pueblo, según lo anunciaba el profeta Miqueas.

Bendecir (*bene-dícere*) significa decir el bien, ensalzar, glorificar. Con anterioridad al nacimiento de Jesús, aparecen en los evangelios bendiciones por parte de Zacarías, Simeón, Isabel y María. Todos bendicen a Dios por lo que hace. Pero, al mismo tiempo, Jesús bendice a los niños, a los enfermos, a los discípulos, al Padre. Toda bendición va dirigida a Dios. La oración de bendición es, sobre todo, alabanza de acción de gracias. De este modo celebramos la Eucaristía. Pero también la bendición se extiende a todas las criaturas incluso a las inanimadas: ramos, ceniza, pan y vino. Son bienaventurados los santos y especialmente “bendita” es María, la madre de Jesús.

El Espíritu Santo ayuda a Isabel a pronunciar una bendición: “¡Bendita eres entre todas las mujeres y bendito sea el fruto de tu vientre!”. Desde entonces, millones de veces lo hemos dicho todos los cristianos en el “Ave María”. Son benditos, bienaventurados o dichosos los que creen en Dios, los que practican la Palabra, los que dan frutos, los pobres con los que se identifica Jesús.

María creyó. Ésta fue su grandeza y el fundamento de su felicidad: su fe. María se convierte en maestra de la fe, aceptando cuanto se le anuncia de parte de Dios, aunque ella no se pudiera explicar el modo como se realizaría aquel plan. Toda la vida de María se fundamenta en su fe, en la adhesión que ha prestado desde el primer momento a la revelación que llegó hasta ella.

Horario de Servicios

Lunes a Sábado

8:00 a.m. Misa en Ingles

Miércoles

7:00 p.m. Misa en Español

1er. Viernes

7:00 p.m. Misa en Español

Sábado

5:00 p.m. Misa en Ingles

Domingo

8:00 y 10:00 a.m. Misa en Ingles

12:00 p.m. Misa en Español

5:00 p.m. 1er y 3er Español

2do y 4to Ingles

Miércoles y 1er.Viernes del Mes

Exposición del Santísimo 8:30 a.m. a 6:45 p.m.

Rosario en Español 10:00 a.m.

Oración de la Divina Misericordia 3:00 p.m.

Confesiones

Miércoles y 1er Viernes del mes 6:00 a 6:45 p.m.

Sábados 3:30 a 4:30 p.m.



Misa de Jóvenes

La misa es a las 5:00 p.m.

1er y 3er domingo en español

2do y 4to domingo en Inglés

5to domingo del mes será bilingüe

Horario de Servicios de Navidad y Año Nuevo

Diciembre 24, 2018 Vigilia de Navidad

4:00 p.m. Concierto de Niños de Navidad

5:00 p.m. Liturgia de Niños en Ingles

7:00 p.m. Misa en Español

9:30 p.m. Concierto de Adultos de Navidad

10:00 p.m. Misa en Ingles

Diciembre 25, 2018 Navidad

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Misas en Ingles

12:00 p.m. Misa en Español

Diciembre 31, 2018 Vigilia de Año Nuevo

7:00 p.m. Español

Enero 1, 2019 Misa de Año Nuevo

8:00 a.m. Ingles

12:00 p.m. Español

7:00 p.m. Ingles

OFICINA CERRADA – La oficina estará cerrada a partir de las 12:00PM el 24 de Diciembre, y el 25 y 26 de Diciembre por las fiestas de Navidad. Se abrirá el Jueves, 27 de Diciembre en su horario normal.

RTH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Anyone with an interest in Music or Singing is encouraged to join one of the choirs briefly outlined below.

For more information, please contact **Veronica Stevens, Music Director**, at 281-440-4445, or visit with her after any weekend Mass.

CHORALE, Saturday evening Mass at 5:00PM

Contact Veronica Stevens at 281-440-4445

FAMILY CHOIR, Sunday Mass at 8:00AM

Contact Robert Korst at 713-688-0046

LITURGICAL CHOIR, Sunday Mass at 10:00AM

Contact Veronica Stevens at 281-440-4445

SPANISH CHOIR, Sunday Mass at 12:00Noon

Contact Alpha Omega Cruz – 281-808-3430

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM –

Register your Kroger Plus Card online today at www.Kroger.com. Once you create an account using your plus card number, select the savings and rewards program and enter St. Ambrose Altar Society. Every time you shop and use your plus card, St. Ambrose Altar Society will receive a % of the sale. It is that simple! You will also receive great weekly savings from Kroger.

In a certain village in Mexico, many years ago, it was customary on Christmas Eve to take gifts to the church and place them before the manger. One evening there was a small boy standing outside the church door. How he wished he could enter the church and present a gift to Jesus but he was poor. He had nothing to give

He knelt silently outside the church window and listened to the voices raised in song. When he rose to his feet again, he was amazed as what he saw in the spot where he had knelt. It was a beautiful plant with scarlet leaves and a yellow flower in the center. He placed the beautiful flower before the manger and whispered that this was his gift to the Christ Child.

PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED PERSONS

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our LORD Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever Amen.
