

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES**

**Blessings to all our Partner Parish family members who are celebrating a birthday this week:**



Harold Stonebraker, Ross Ziemanski, Reed Ziemanski, Marianne Bonnoni, Frank Gaito, Anthony Koslosky, Lidia Todarello, Shelley Riggle, Ashley Winkler, Christian Cornman, John Minda, Karen Pacelli, Courtney Battistelli, Jordan Cornman, Anthony DiLascio, Gregory Grimplin, Mariah Simpson, Michael Bartolini, Victoria Busi, Denise Pierce, Marissa Veneziani, Charles Catania, Gianna Cornman, Kevin McElhinny, David Hancock, Carol Baldauf, Jill Laquindanum, Mary Ann Brown

**Happy Anniversary to all couples celebrating an anniversary this week:**  
Brian & Nicole Heinack



Thank you to all who helped make the annual Evening with Santa at St. Ambrose a great success! To those who donated cash, baskets, food, or your time to help with the evening—thank you! The response was truly overwhelming. The evening was a perfect example of stewardship—giving of your time, talent and treasure AND a great time was had by all!

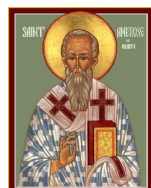


**Please turn in your “Time and Talent Forms” and “Reflecting on my Financial Commitment Form” by the collection basket, mail or by dropping it in the designated box in the back of church.**

	St. Ambrose	St. Matthew	St. Sylvester
Time & Talent Form	22	22	35
Financial Commitment	21	18	33

All 3 parishes have at least 150 households - For our parishes to thrive, we need a lot more commitment!

Additional forms and boxes to put completed forms into are at the front entrances of all three churches.



**FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE** - St. Ambrose will hold their annual Patron Feast Day Dinner, Friday, December 7th after the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass. The Altar Rosary Society will provide a **FREE** dinner consisting of roasted pork, with or without sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad and dessert. Sign up sheets are at the church entrances so we know how many to prepare for. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**St. Sylvester Altar Rosary Christmas Party**— Tuesday, December 4th at 6:00 PM , at the Old Route 66 Grill.



**St. Matthew Altar Rosary Christmas Party** - will be held on Sunday, December 9th at 1:00 PM in the Social Hall. It will be catered by Long’s Catering. **Today is the last day to sign up.** A sign-up sheet is located in the side entrance of the church. Money due at time of sign-up to Fran or Elvia.

**Slickville Centennial Committee:** The Centennial Committee and Fire Department are planning the 2nd annual Christmas in the Park on December 7, 2018. The firemen will “Kick off” the event with a parade. The parade will start at 6:30 PM and will bring Santa to the Fireman’s Grounds. Children can visit with Santa and enjoy hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate provided by the Salvation Army. As we did last year, we will be providing a treat bag for Santa to give the children. We plan on preparing 100 bags. We are also preparing bags, an additional (approximately) 80, for our local shut-ins and residents of the ARC in Delmont. Santa will also deliver these. We are asking churches and organizations within the community to assist in supplying items for the treat bags. We are accepting monetary donations or actual items. For children: coloring books, pencils/crayons, craft items, candy, fruit, etc. For shut-in/residents at the ARC: personal hygiene products, socks, Kleenex, candy, snacks, crackers, etc. We will be filling the bags on Wednesday, December 5th if anyone is interested in helping. Items can be dropped off at the Civic Center or brought that evening. Thank you in advance for supporting our community activity. We hope to see you there.

**St. Ambrose** Avonmore  
**St. Matthew** Saltsburg  
**St. Sylvester** Slickville  
**PARTNER PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG**  
*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

**December 2, 2018**

**Website: partnerparishesmas.org**  
**A Warm Welcome to All**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Vigil:**  
5:00 PM—St. Ambrose

**Sunday Masses**  
8:30 AM—St. Sylvester  
11:00 AM—St. Matthew

**Weekday Masses:**  
Mon.—8:30 AM, St. Sylvester  
Tues.— 8:30 AM, St. Matthew  
Fri.— 8:30 AM, St. Ambrose

**PARISH OFFICES & HOURS**

**St. Ambrose, St. Matthew & St. Sylvester**  
**P. O. Box 617**  
**Avonmore, PA 15618**

Monday—Friday  
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Phone: 724-697-4129  
Fax: 724-697-4484

St. Matthew Church Hall:  
724-639-9338

St. Sylvester Rectory  
Phone: 724-468-5794  
Fax and church hall:  
724-468-5765

**Our Mission Statement**

*The Partner Parishes of St. Ambrose, St. Matthew & St. Sylvester, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are committed to be witnesses of Christ in our local and faith communities . We invite one another to grow in a spirit of friendship and unity through the Word and the Eucharist. While striving to nourish our faith families, we encourage Evangelization, Service, Worship, Stewardship, and Leadership.*

**PASTORAL STAFF**

- Reverend John Harrold**, Pastor  
jharrold@dioceseofgreensburg.org
- Deacon Dan Frescura**  
dfrescura@dioceseofgreensburg.org
- Virginia Long**, Partner Parish Financial Secretary  
vlong@dioceseofgreensburg.org
- Angela Palmiscno**, Partner Parish Secretary  
apalmiscno@dioceseofgreensburg.org
- Kristin Andree**, Partner Parish Web Coordinator  
krisandree@comcast.net
- Grace Sikora**, Coordinator of Faith Formation, St. Ambrose  
724-697-5112 or Parish Office 724-697-4129
- Jessica Clawson**, Coordinator of Faith Formation, St. Matthew  
jgallek@gmail.com
- Knights of Columbus**—Council #15373



**Confessions:** First Saturday of the month, 11:00-11:30 AM at St. Ambrose or by appointment with the Pastor.

**Baptisms:** Please contact the parish office to schedule a date and formation session..

**Marriage:** Please contact the office at least six months before the wedding date to schedule marriage preparation sessions..

**Pastoral Care to the Homebound:** Please contact the parish office..

**Eucharistic Adoration:** First Thursday of the month, 6-8:00 PM. All are welcome.

**RCIA:** If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Roman Catholic, please contact the parish office.

**St. Vincent de Paul Hotline:** Please contact the parish office. St. Vincent dePaul poor boxes are at entrances of all partner parishes.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Please submit bulletin information via email or in written form to Angela Palmiscno at the parish office by Wednesday noon.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

	DATE	PLACE	TIME	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Saturday	December 1	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	For the Parishioners	
Sunday	December 2	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Aaron Ulisse	(Nono & Nona)
	December 2	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	+Jean Kokladas	(Jim & Cathy DeFavero)
Monday	December 3	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Andrew Zupancic	(Wife, Rose & Daughter, Kathy)
Tuesday	December 4	St. Matthew	8:30 AM	+Mary Ashbaugh	(Nancy Lezark)
Friday	December 7	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Dorothy Franzi	(Aunt Catherine & Rosie)
Saturday	December 8	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Ed Novak	(Celine Steinmiller)
Saturday	December 8	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Patty Sharek	(Family)
Sunday	December 9	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Living & Deceased Members of SVDP	(SVDP Society)
		St. Matthew	11:00 AM	For the Parishioners	

### PARTNER PARISHES STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offertory: November 24-25

Weekly collection:	<u>St. Ambrose</u>	<u>St. Matthew</u>	<u>St. Sylvester</u>
	\$ 1,652.00	\$ 1,445.00	\$ 2,347.00

### July, 2018—November, 2018 Actual Offertory and Budgeted Offertory Report

Offertory Actual:	\$ 32,003.31	\$ 30,673.85	\$ 39,932.28
Offertory Budget:	\$ 34,975.50	\$ 35,381.68	\$ 44,610.80
Over / (Under):	<b>\$ (2,972.19)</b>	<b>\$ (4,707.83)</b>	<b>\$ (4,678.52)</b>
Offertory Actual Last Year:	\$ 30,917.50	\$ 32,806.48	\$ 41,772.50

### **SERVING OUR COUNTRY. Please pray for our men and women in the military:**

TSGT Matthew Leightner, Maj. Matthew Starsnic, Ryan McCauley, Col. Ross Monta, James Crusan, John Newcomb, Daniel Henderson, Ryan Nagg, Master Sgt. Jeremy Morgan, Tech. Sgt. Justin Morgan, Tyler Carnahan, Bartholomew Marsh-Slavin, Charles M. Angell II, Cpt. Jacob Berg, SRA Phillip Berg, Brandon May, Tyler Kunkle (Afghanistan), Martin Novak, Jr.



**OUR PRAYER LIST—FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Ally Anderson, Jim Bosco, Helen Bozo, Shirley Brejda, Kip DeGlaue, Ronnie Edwards, Donald Gabor, Crysta Hixson, Wayne Jones, Sr., George Hollick, Valerie Leda, Gary Lemmon, Mary Musial, Patti Otwell, Val Palmer, Eleanor Pishko, Emery Polochko, Ludwig Sharek, Natalie Trawinsky, and all who need our prayers.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION:** If you are planning to have a baby baptized and have not attended a Baptismal Preparation Session, please call the office to register for the next session, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 PM at St. Sylvester.** We need to know how many are attending to have materials prepared. These sessions are offered every three months.



### PARTNER PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **Monday, December 3, 2018**

6:30-7:30 PM RCIA, St. Sylvester

#### **Tuesday, December 4, 2018**

6:00 PM Legion of Mary, St. Matthew

6:30-8 PM Bible Study, St. Ambrose

6:00 PM St. Sylvester ARS Christmas Party

#### **Wednesday, December 5, 2018**

6:30 PM Journey Together, St. Sylvester

#### **Thursday, December 6, 2018**

6:00-8:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration, St. Ambrose

#### **Friday, December 7, 2018**

5:00 PM Vigil Mass, St. A. w/dinner to follow

#### **Saturday, December 8, 2018**

8:30 AM Mass Feast of Immaculate Conception, SS

#### **Sunday, December 9, 2018**

1:00 PM St. Matthew ARS Christmas Party

5:30 PM Reconciliation Sacramental Prep, St. M.



**Giving Tree:** The St. Vincent de Paul Society Slickville Conference extends a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the 31st Annual Giving Tree! Your generosity is greatly appreciated in fulfilling the needs of the poor during the Christmas Season.

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

According to *the Catholic Encyclopedia*: This liturgical season begins the Church year. It includes the four weeks opening on the Sunday after the solemnity of Christ the King. It is a time of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity and is observed with some fasting, prayers, and meditation to dispose all to welcome Christ. The time was observed in the Church as early as the fourth century; it is mentioned in A.D. 380 at the Council of Saragossa. The season, although penitential, is not without a spirit of joy, hope, and anticipation. On the third Sunday, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, a special note of joy is introduced into the liturgy, indicating the assurance of everyone in the redemption of mankind by Christ. The Sundays of Advent take precedence over all solemnities and feasts of the Lord (as do those of Lent and the Easter season) in the modern liturgical calendar, which went into effect December 1, 1974.



### **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

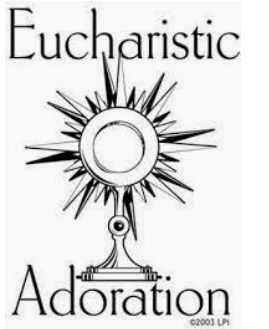
Today is the Patronal Feastday of the United States of America. Although our Gospel reading narrates the story of Jesus' conception, today's solemnity celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary, as she was conceived in her mother's womb. Prepared by God from the very first moment of her life to receive Jesus Christ, God's grace preserved Mary from sin from the womb to the end of her life because of her role in the mystery of salvation as the Mother of God. Today's solemnity praises God for the hope and possibility that Mary embodies as we turn to our Blessed Mother to learn from the first and most important relationship Jesus Christ experienced among us. Mary's freedom from the sin of Adam and Eve is shown in today's Gospel. In Mary's response to the angel, she shows her willingness to place herself in God's hands, even when it promises to be difficult and requires great faith and trust.



### **HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Friday, December 7th 5:00 PM, St. Ambrose**  
**Saturday, December 8th 8:30 AM, St. Sylvester**

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**will be held on**  
**Thursday from**  
**6:00-8:00 PM at**  
**St. Ambrose**



**Your gift in the**  
**St. Vincent de Paul poor box**  
**will help the poor celebrate the grace**  
**of God's love this Christmas.**