

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES



Blessings to all our Partner Parish family members who are celebrating a birthday this week:
Rachel Garzone, Anita Eckenrode, Brandon Fink, Carly Hall, Gregory Ulisse, Jordyn Williams, Jessica Baker, Andrew Cup, Jr., Erika Graf, John Kempka, Victoria Kempka, Tammy Shusko, Lisa Zbikowski

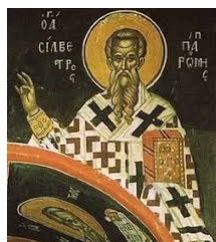
Happy Anniversary to all couples celebrating an anniversary this week:

Frank & Jennifer Ziemianski, Paul & Brenda Sieczkowski, Carl & Dorothy Fontana, Ronnie & Alice Orvosh, John & Diana Galo



CONTRIBUTIONS: Envelopes or contributions for the year 2018 will be credited only for the 2018 year if received by December 31st. Any contributions received after that will be credited to the year 2019.

FEAST OF ST. SYLVESTER - The Feast of St. Sylvester is December 31st. St. Sylvester Parish will celebrate a day early with Coffee, Juice and Donuts after the 8:30 AM Mass on Sunday, December 30th. ALL ARE WELCOME!



PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

It is time to prepare our children in 8th Grade or older who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation for our parishes is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th at St. Margaret Mary Church in Lower Burrell. We will have the first Sacramental Prep Session on Sunday, January 13th at 6:00 PM at St. Matthew Parish Social Hall. We are sending letters to the families that we know have children in 8th Grade. Any families that do not receive a letter and has a child that has not been Confirmed and is at least in 8th grade is asked to call the parish office to register for the classes.



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. EXTRA FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF THE CHURCHES!

	St. Ambrose	St. Matthew	St. Sylvester
Time & Talent Form	24	25	36
New Liturgical Ministers		1	1
Financial Commitment	22	18	35

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.

We are in desperate need of NEW Liturgical Ministers in all three Churches: Altar Servers, Lectors, Choir Members, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ushers! Please think about it and volunteer! If interested, please submit the slip below to the parish office.

I would like to become a:

Name _____

Altar Server Lector Choir Member

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Usher Phone _____

Please let us know by the end of the year. Training will be in January!

St. Ambrose

Avonmore

St. Matthew

Saltsburg

St. Sylvester

Slickville

PARTNER PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

December 23, 2018

Website: partnerparishesmas.org

4th Sunday of Advent

A Warm Welcome to All

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 22	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	For the Parishioners	
Sunday	December 23	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+John (Wallio) Perfetta	(Martha Valore)
	December 23	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	+Helen Kochanowski	(John & Florence Ziemianski)
Monday	December 24	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Theresa Pisoni	(Joe & Martha Ulisse)
Christmas Vigil	December 24	St. Matthew	4:00 PM	+Mary Kulick	(David & Jennie Busi)
Christmas	December 25	St. Sylvester	Midnight	+Bernard Buczak	(Brian & Nicky Heinack)
Christmas	December 25	St. Ambrose	9:00 AM	+Angelini, Markitell, & Garzone	(Family)
Friday	December 28	St. Ambrose	8:30 AM	+John Cicala	(MaryAnn Varga)
Saturday	December 29	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Evelyna Aliyetti	(Jennie Townsend)
Sunday	December 30	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Jennifer Ulisse	(Mom & Dad)
	30	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	For the Parishioners	

PARTNER PARISHES STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offertory: December 15-16

Weekly collection:	<u>St. Ambrose</u>	<u>St. Matthew</u>	<u>St. Sylvester</u>
	\$ 1,581.18	\$ 1,039.25	\$ 2,658.00

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: Jim Bosco, Helen Bozo, Kip DeGlau, Mary Fontana, Donald Gabor,

George Hollick, Wayne Jones, Sr., Valerie Leda, Mary Musial, Val Palmer, Ludwig Sharek, Natalie Trawinsky, and all who need our prayers.

St. Matthew's Altar Rosary Society would like to thank everyone that helped with our holiday pierogie fund raiser.

We made a profit of \$1,682.27. We truly appreciate all who helped make, and all who ordered pierogie. We look forward to seeing you all in February when we start making pierogie for St. Matthew's fish fry dinners.



Annual Children and Family Services Appeal collection to be taken at Christmas Masses

The annual Children and Family Services Appeal collection to support the work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg will be taken at all Christmas Masses in the diocese Dec. 24 & 25. Christmas reminds us of the gift of God's own Son, Jesus Christ, given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility. You are asked to support this appeal and make your contribution to help change the future of an individual, family or child through the good work of our diocesan Catholic Charities.

PARTNER PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 24, 2018

4:00 PM Christmas Vigil, St. Matthew

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Midnight (12:00 AM) Christmas Mass, St. Sylvester

9:00 AM Christmas Mass, St. Ambrose



Your gift to St. Vincent de Paul Society shines the "Light" to bring real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places.

PARISH CENSUS UPDATES AND PICTURES - We are still waiting for **40 - 48% of households from all three of our parishes** to turn in a Parish Census Update. We are still waiting for **about 80% of you** to give us a picture to put in your parish records. We will put Census Update form in the bulletins the weekends before and after Christmas for people to fill out who have not yet done so. This is to try and cut the cost of mailing these forms to people. We will do this in January to any households we have not heard from yet. Pictures may be turned in with your names on the back to Fr. John or you can submit him a digital copy at jharrold@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

To date, we have received: 88 forms from St. Ambrose parishioners (175 families/individuals) 51%
88 forms from St. Matthew parishioners (166 families/individuals) 53%
90 forms from St. Sylvester parishioners (159 families/individuals) 57%

We will also be asking people to submit a picture that can be attached to your records. This can either be a digital picture (preferably jpeg file) or regular picture that we will be able to scan.

To date, we have received: 17 pictures from St. Ambrose parishioners
25 pictures from St. Matthew parishioners
25 pictures from St. Sylvester parishioners

Are you an "active" member of your Parish?

Requirements for being a Sponsor for Confirmation or a Godparent for Baptism

To be a sponsor for Confirmation or a Godparent for Baptism you need to be actively practicing your faith. The parish has a responsibility to verify this. This is done with a sponsor certificate that says you are practicing your faith. Here are some basic requirements that the church gives us to consider a person to be an "ACTIVE MEMBER":

- 1 - practice your faith by celebrating the Sacraments on a regular basis (goes to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation and goes to confession at least once a year.)**
- 2 - provide the opportunity for religious education for your children and pursue an understanding of the faith for yourselves.**
- 3 - Follow the teachings and the law of the Church. If married, were you married in the Catholic Church?**
- 4 - support the parish both through contributing to the parish financially (recordable offertory donations with parish envelopes, your own envelopes, or a check) and help in the work of the parish by being involved in ministries, organizations, and projects.**

Just because you were baptized in a Catholic Church does not make you an Active Member. We need to take responsibility for ourselves and live our faith personally and communally to be truly Catholic. The parish also needs its members to financially support it. Stewardship is spoken about throughout the Scriptures. We are called to share what God has blessed us with. Your generosity helps our parish grow and fulfill our Mission and responsibilities.