

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES



Blessings to all our Partner Parish family members who are celebrating a birthday this week: Pacifica Altman, Kimberly Condor, Brian Drobka, Jessica Fanelli, Alessandro Pampena, Joshua Schultheis, Michael Orvosh, Nathan Pastor, Jeff Gordon, Megan Andree, Sonya Schultheis, Edward Indiorio, Margaret Karp, Victor Versino, Sr., Nancy Kelly, Mark Begeman, Carol Skowronek

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!



Solemn Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



We are still in the midst of Christmas Time, and today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This solemnity is the most ancient liturgical observance of Mary in the Church's calendar. It honors Mary as *theotokos* or "Mother of God," the title accorded her at the Council of Ephesus in 431. Mary is not just the Mother of Jesus: she is the Mother of God, because Jesus is both God and man, divine and human. As other Marian feasts entered the calendar, January 1 acquired a different focus. The eighth day after birth was the traditional day for the circumcision & naming of a child, and so this became the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord (and the naming of Jesus). It was only in 1969 that the Marian character of this ancient feast was restored.

This is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics

Our masses will be:

Monday, December 31st, 5:00 PM at St. Ambrose
Tuesday, January 1st, 9:00 AM at St. Matthew



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:

Altar Server
 Lector
 Choir Member
 Name _____
 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 30, 2018

Website: partnerparishesmas.org
A Warm Welcome to All

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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 29	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Evelyna Aliyetti	(Jennie Townsend)
Sunday	December 30	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Jennifer Ulisse	(Mom & Dad)
	December 30	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	For the Parishioners	
Monday	December 31	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+John (Wallio) Perfetta	(Wayne Jones, Sr. Family)
New Year Vigil	December 31	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Remo Rudolph	(Pat McCaffrey)
New Years	January 1	St. Matthew	9:00 AM	+Jeff McGregor	(Guilda Pistininzi)
Friday	January 4	St. Ambrose	8:30 AM	+Rose Ferrero	(St. Ambrose Choir)
Saturday	January 5	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Sam Carnabuci	(Jim & Minnie)
Sunday	January 6	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	For the Parishioners	
	January 6	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	+Paul Jancay	(Matt Colaianni)

PARTNER PARISHES STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offertory: December 22-23

Weekly collection:	<u>St. Ambrose</u>	<u>St. Matthew</u>	<u>St. Sylvester</u>
	\$ 5,135.40	\$ 3,016.11	\$ 4,237.00



IN SYMPATHY: Our Partner Parish family extends their deepest sympathy to the family of Theresa DeLuca, parishioner of St. Matthew, who died recently. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

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

TSGT Matthew Lightner, Maj. Matthew Starsnic, Ryan McCauley, Col. Ross Monta, 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, Kip DeGlaue, Ronnie Edwards, Mary Fontana, Donald Gabor, Crysta Hixson, George Hollick, Wayne Jones, Sr., Valerie Leda, Gary Lemon, Marie Miller, Mary Musial, Val Palmer, Ludwig Sharek, Natalie Trawinsky, and all who need our prayers.



The Partner Parish Decorating Committees thanks everyone involved in decorating the churches so beautifully for Christmas. Your time and talent are greatly appreciated.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor. Thank you.

PARTNER PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 31, 2018

5:00 PM New Year’s Vigil, St. Ambrose

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

9:00 AM New Year’s Day Mass, St. Matthew

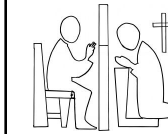
Thursday, January 3, 2019

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

Saturday, January 5, 2019

11:00 AM Confession, St. Ambrose

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



**Confessions will be heard on
Saturday at 11:00 AM at St. Ambrose**

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.