



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Blessings to all our Partner Parish family members who are celebrating a birthday this week:  
Sara Fricke, Kristina Pastor, Earl Dwyer, David Lescinsky, Michael McKnight, Lilian Turpen, Michelle Dunlap, Carter DeForno, Catherine Kochanowski, Calvin Kulik, Judy Valore



Congratulations to Dan and Anita Bafik, parishioners of St. Matthews, on their 50th Wedding anniversary! May God bless you with many more years of good health and happiness together!



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	23	22	35
New Liturgical Ministers		1	1
Financial Commitment	21	18	33

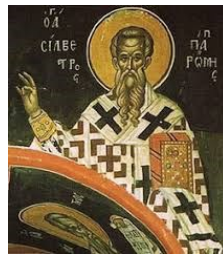
All 3 parishes have at least 150 households - For our parishes to thrive, we need a lot more commitment!  
Additional forms and boxes to put completed forms into are at the front entrances of all three churches.

Special thanks to Kathy Jamison, owner of Great Pines Nursery, for decorating the Advent Wreath for St. Ambrose. Your time, talent, and treasure are greatly appreciated!



We will be decorating the churches for Christmas after each Mass the weekend of December 22nd & 23rd. If you have time, your help would be much appreciated!

**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!



### AROUND THE DIOCESE

**Slickville Civic Center**—soup and chili sale, December 13th from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin boards at St. Sylvester.

**CPR/First Aid/AED Training**—Saturday, January 5, 2019 at the Slickville Firehall from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.



Second Sunday of Advent

**St. Ambrose**  
Avonmore

**St. Matthew**  
Saltsburg

**St. Sylvester**  
Slickville

PARTNER PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG  
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

December 9, 2018

Website: [partnerparishesmas.org](http://partnerparishesmas.org)  
A Warm Welcome to All

2nd 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](mailto:jharrold@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Deacon Dan Frescura**  
[dfrescura@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dfrescura@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Virginia Long**, Partner Parish Financial Secretary  
[vlong@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:vlong@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Angela Palmiscno**, Partner Parish Secretary  
[apalmiscno@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:apalmiscno@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Kristin Andree**, Partner Parish Web Coordinator  
[krisandree@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 8	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Patty Sharek	(Family)
Sunday	December 9	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Living & Deceased Members of SVDP	(SVDP Society)
	December 9	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	For the Parishioners	
Monday	December 10	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	+Dan Miller	(John Kempka)
Tuesday	December 11	St. Matthew	8:30 AM	+Barbara Belice	(Don Lucia, & Bob & MaryAnn)
Friday	December 14	St. Ambrose	8:30 AM	+Christina Filippini	(Lou & Judy Gais)
Saturday	December 15	St. Ambrose	5:00 PM	+Bonnie Shaffer	(Andy Cup Family)
Sunday	December 16	St. Sylvester	8:30 AM	For the Parishioners	
	16	St. Matthew	11:00 AM	+Jennie Kopchick	(Gilda Pistinzi)

### PARTNER PARISHES STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offertory: December 1-2

Weekly collection:	<u>St. Ambrose</u>	<u>St. Matthew</u>	<u>St. Sylvester</u>
	\$ 2,252.50	\$ 3,664.30	\$ 3,156.00

### **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:** Ally Anderson, Jim Bosco, Helen Bozo, Shirley Brejda, Kip DeGlaun, Ronnie Edwards, Donald Gabor, Crysta Hixson, George Hollick, Wayne Jones, Sr., 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.



Through the cleansing waters of baptism, we welcome **Natalie Rossi, daughter of Justin and Cheyenne Rossi, parishioners of St. Matthews,** to our parish family. We share your joy and excitement. Your child is a gift to all of us. With you we celebrate the beginning of your child's faith. May God bless your family as you journey together in faith and love.

### PARTNER PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, December 10, 2018**

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

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

6:00 PM Legion of Mary, St. Matthew

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

6:30 PM Baptismal Classes, St. Sylvester

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

1:30 PM Choir Practice, St. Ambrose

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus, St. Sylvester

**Friday, December 14, 2018**

5:30 PM Choir Practice, St. Sylvester

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

9:30 AM Choir Practice, St. Sylvester

If you know someone in need for the Christmas holiday season, please contact **St. Vincent de Paul Society** through the church office.

**Our 3rd Saturday Parish Confessions are cancelled this week, since there is a Regional Advent Penance Service on Saturday, at 1:00 PM in Indiana.**

## REGIONAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Plan now to attend one of our Regional Advent Penance Services to prepare yourself for the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

December 10, 7:00 PM—St. Thomas Moore, Indiana

December 12, 7:00 PM—Church of the Resurrection, Clymer

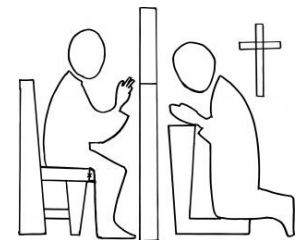
December 13, 7:00 PM—Church of the Good Shepherd, Kent

December 15, 1:00 PM—St. Bernard, Indiana

December 17, 7:00 PM—Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucernemines

**December 18, 7:00 PM—St. Sylvester, Slickville**

December 19, 7:00 PM—Saints Simon & Jude, Blairsville



**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 it to Fr. John or you can submit him at digital copy at [jharrold@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jharrold@dioceseofgreensburg.org).

### 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 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.

