

Saint Ambrose Parish Mission

is to live and fulfill the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our acts of love, kindness and hospitality.

MASSES:
Sunday, 10:00 am
Thursday, 6:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Thursday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm



Staffed by the
Capuchin friars of the
Province of Saint Augustine
www.capuchin.com

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Saint Ambrose Baltimore



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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

09 March 2025



URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT THE PERSECUTED

The letters addressed to our congressional leaders went in the mail this past week. Each letter had 78 signatures and was sent to the Washington, D.C. offices of:

Senator Chris Von Hollen
United States Senator for Maryland

Senator Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator for Maryland

Representative Kweisi Mfume
United States Representative for the 7th District of Maryland

Representative Mike Johnson Speaker of the House

Representative Hakeem Jeffries House Minority Leader

Senator John Thune

Senate Majority Leader

Senator Chuck Schumer

Senate Minority Leader

Thank you for your participation in this initiative. If, and when, we receive replies to our letters, we will publish them here for you to see.

Politicians can be influenced by the electorate whose votes put them in office. So, let's not hesitate to tell them what we think and that we expect them to act according to the dictates of human dignity, social justice and God's mercy.

A LIGHT BRIGHTLY VISIBLE 3.0

On Ash Wednesday, Archbishop Lori released his third pastoral letter related to the *Seek the City to Come* process. This letter turns our attention to the missionary goal of that entire process ¹to make the church all over the archdiocese revitalized centers of evangelization and mission. ²Copies of his letter are available on the welcome table.

FROM MY HEART

You have touched my heart and overwhelmed me with the warmth and strength of your love and the firmness of your embrace of me as your pastor. It is my privilege to have the honor to serve you, and I will rely on the help of God to give my all to my ministry here.

I am so grateful for everything all of you have done to make Baltimore, Park Heights, and Saint Ambrose Church home to me. I am at home here. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making our liturgy and celebration last Sunday as beautiful and heartfelt as it was. There are so many memorable events that have taken up permanent residence in my heart: from the overflowing choir, to a church attendance some 50 people greater than usual, to the beautifully written and presented history of our parish, even the archbishop's genuine surprise at receiving an applause.

I am holding one memory that might be easily overlooked especially close, which speaks to me of the genuineness of everything we celebrated from last weekend. It was when the archbishop invited a representative group of the parish to welcome me with a sign of peace. The archbishop expected a small group of four to six people of our leadership team or corporators or finance council whom I had identified. Instead, rather instinctively so many of you stood up and came forward to embrace me and welcome me; it went on for some minutes. In the mix of it all I didn't hear exactly everything everyone said to me, but I will never forget the love, the smiles, the spontaneous authenticity of that moment.

During Night Prayer on Thursdays, we friars pray Psalm 16. There is a verse there that has been ringing new in me of late: "He has put into my heart a marvelous love for the faithful ones who dwell in his land." Over these months I have been falling in love in a marvelous way for his faithful ones who call Saint Ambrose home.

I thank God for all of it, and I thank you too. Now, with our mutual mission formalized and blessed by our archbishop, let's continue to do all we are able to live the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus and share it as widely and generously as we can reach. God bless us in all that we do in his great name. God is good. All the time.

fr. David

THE BLESSING OF LENT

Saint Ambrose Church began its observance of Lent this past Wednesday evening with 88 people in church to celebrate Mass and sign ourselves with the ashes symbolizing our desire to turn our lives more completely to God and God's ways.

WEEKDAY MASS

Every Thursday of Lent, beginning this week, we will celebrate Mass in church at 6:00 pm. Consider it a midweek moment of rest.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Also, every Thursday before Mass, Father David will be in the church from 4:30 - 5:30 pm for anyone who wants to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come in the front doors of the church and Father David will be available in one of back pews.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday during Lent, also at 6:00 pm, we will pray together the Stations of the Cross. Join us in church. A shorter version of the Stations will be prayed on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in lieu of the rosary.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting and abstinence are ancient practices across many religions; they are honored penitential practices because of their power to connect us to God. Fasting is required of those who are of sufficient health from the age of 18 to 59. Additionally, Catholics are expected to refrain from eating meat on all Fridays during Lent.

Fasting allows for one full meal during the day, and two smaller meals can be consumed, provided their combined quantity does not equal the full meal. The rule of abstaining from eating meat applies to all Catholics aged 14 and older.

"The physically or mentally ill are excused from fast and abstinence, including those suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting" [statement of the USCCB, Questions and Answers about Lent].



ANOINTING OF THE SICK



During the Thursday evening Mass on April 3rd, we will celebrate the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. The power and the beauty of the ritual is even stronger when it is celebrated in a communal setting. The sacrament is not only for those who are in imminent danger of death, but for anyone battling serious illness, both chronic or acute.

LENTEN TREE

FOR THE WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER



The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are giving their attention and energy to the Women's Detention Center this Lent. The women are in need of items such as lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, prayer cards, socks, and the like. If you want to help, please take a ball from the Lenten tree in the back of the church and purchase the items named there. There is a box beside the tree to collect the items. Please bring what you have by Passion Sunday, April 13th. Thank you for your help.

RITE OF SENDING

Our brothers and sisters from Saint Frances Academy whom we have been accompanying on their journey into the Catholic Church celebrate a milestone today. This afternoon, in the cathedral with the archbishop, the catechumens will become *Elect* and the candidates for full communion in the church will be presented to the archbishop. After the homily today we celebrate a short ritual to pray with them and bless them as we send them to the archbishop.

TITHES AND COLLECTIONS

02 March 2025 — online contributions	\$3,127.20
02 March 2025 — envelope contributions	\$6,111.00
Sunday collection total	\$9,238.20
Continuing Our Mission — online contributions	\$500.00
Continuing Our Mission — envelope contributions	\$630.00
Continuing Our Mission total	\$1130.00
Thank you so much for your continuous support!	

MASS INTENTIONS

- 03/09: Beatrice Tuitt on the 5th year of her passing, requested by her daughter, Merle Perogo;
- 03/13: the people of Saint Ambrose Parish;
- 03/16: Carmen Tuitt on the 7th anniversary of her passing, requested by her friend, Reva Stephens;
- 03/20: the people of Saint Ambrose Parish;
- 03/23: Daniel Smith, Jr. on the 13th anniversary of his passing, requested by his father, Daniel Smith, Sr.;
- 03/27: the people of Saint Ambrose Parish;
- 03/30: Vernon Thomas Thornton on the 4th year of his passing, as requested by his sister, April and his father, Vernon Thornton.

Eternal rest grant unto the faithful departed, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

SISTER STELLA AVORTRIE, OSP



Sister Stella has begun her work in the parish office helping to clean up and update our parish database. She is learning the software quickly and has already started contacting some families. Her first edit was to teach us how to correctly spell her surname; it was misspelled in previous bulletins. If you're coming through the office, be sure to stop by her desk and introduce yourself.

- ♦ Next Sunday the Women's Ministry will be commissioned and then have its monthly meeting. It's never too late to join them.
- ♦ The Liturgy Committee also meets next Sunday after Mass.



Healing Prayer: Mary Adderly, E-Otree Allen, Helen Augins, Kimberley Barnes-Ohanwe, Jean Bennett, Parrish Boyd, Karen Brown-Berkley, Renee Bruce, Al Butler, Debbie Chase, Louis Cooper, Linda Davis, Kenneth Davis, Dante Davis, Dale Dyson, Earlene Forrest, William Ford III, Eric Frazier, Gloria B. Harris, Sarah Gamble, JoAnn Glenn, Angela Johnson, Cornell (Nelson) Johnson, Josie Johnson, Joseph Jones, Sheila Leary-Smith, Ernest Livers, Charles Manns, III, Sr., Kimberly Merrill, Charles Richardson Williams, Corey Richardson, Carl & Bernice Shrieves, Bryan Smith, Daniel Smith Sr., Archie Stith, Rosalita Stone, Gloria Tate, Ernest Thames, Jean Thomas, Rosalie Watkins, George Warfield, William Young, Sr., and Alice Zaborowski.

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

09 March 2025

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26: 4 - 10

Moses spoke to the people, saying: “The priest shall receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord, your God, ‘My father was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. But there he became a nation great, strong, and numerous. When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 91: 1 - 2, 10 - 15

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the LORD, “My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust.”

No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent, for to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways.

Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him.

SECOND READING

Romans 10: 8 - 13

Brothers and sisters:

What does Scripture say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*—that is, the word of faith that we preach—, for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the Scripture says, *No one who believes in him will be put to shame*. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

GOSPEL

Luke 4: 1 - 13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, *One does not live on bread alone*.” Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, “I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.” Jesus said to him in reply, “It is written *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve*.” Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and: With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone*.” Jesus said to him in reply, “It also says, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test*.” When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

