

Saint Ambrose Parish Mission

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

MASSSES:
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

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

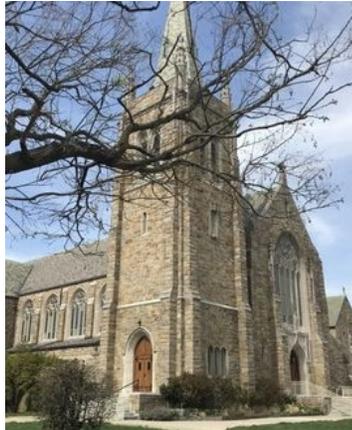
4502 Park Heights Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21215

(410) 367-9918

www.saintambrose.com

info@saintambrose.com

 Saint Ambrose Baltimore



Fr. W. David Nestler, OFM Cap, pastor
pastor@saintambrose.com

Ms. Faye Augins, receptionist
receptionist@saintambrose.com

Rev. Mr. Seigfried Presberry, deacon
spresberry@verizon.net

Rev. Mr. Steve Rubio, deacon
srubio530@icloud.com

Mr. Deitrick Goodwin, director of music
deitrickgoodwin@gmail.com

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08 February 2026

THE CROSS WE BEAR AN INVITATION FOR LENT

Sharing the weight of our crosses is a blessing we share in the Body of Christ. Helping others bear their crosses is a responsibility of members of the Body. As we embark on the journey of Lent, we invite each member of our church community to participate in what we hope will be a powerful communal sign of our common faith.

On Ash Wednesday, please bring two simple sticks with you to church. With a length of ribbon, you will have the opportunity in church to join these sticks in the form of a cross. Let them represent every cross you carry — your sacrifices, struggles, doubts, infirmities and sins — and your desire to help others under the weight of theirs, supporting brothers and sisters in hope.

We will place the crosses in the dry baptismal font, where they will serve to remind us that through our

baptism we are united with Christ in his suffering and therefore his promise of new life.

This shared act invites us to reflect on Jesus' call: *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me"* (Luke 9: 23). Everyone is encouraged to participate — children, families, and individuals — as we prepare our hearts for Easter through prayer, fasting, and giving alms.



ANTICIPATING LENT

What spiritual disciplines are you planning to add to your daily routine to allow God to draw you closer to his heart? Here are a few things that will be offered here. Please consider:

- ◆ attending Mass on Thursdays at 6:00 pm;
- ◆ celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation between 4:30 and 5:30 pm on any Thursday;
- ◆ praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:00 pm;
 - an abridged version of the Stations of the Cross will be prayed in church at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in lieu of the rosary;
- ◆ attend one or more of the Saturday noontime sessions on the Liturgy to be held in church from February 21st to March 14th;
- ◆ the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during the Thursday evening Mass on March 12th;
- ◆ a Wednesday evening Bible Study will begin on March 4th.

In the second century Saint Ignatius of Antioch wrote to Christians in the city of Ephesus: *“Try to gather together more frequently to give thanks to God and to praise him. For when you come together frequently, Satan’s powers are undermined, and the destruction that he threatens is done away with in the unanimity of your faith.”*

As you plan Lent for yourself, don’t forget the communal nature of our church, our faith, and our journey to God’s kingdom.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE LITURGY

The Sunday Mass is the single most important thing we do in our lives. Church teaching calls it a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy.

Join us in church on four consecutive Saturdays to take a deep dive into the spirituality of the Sunday Mass. It won’t be just a description of what we do, but an exploration of why we do it, the profound meaning embedded in the words and actions, how God is acting, and how a faithful people are called to respond.

February 21 February 28
March 7 March 14

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

Please take home a small brochure about this and the beginning of a Bible Study Group.

SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FEAST DAY — FEBRUARY 8



The story of Saint Josephine Bakhita remains a very moving testament to God’s providential hand on all who are called to do God’s great work. Although God’s work is often found in what some may call menial tasks, all work done in the name of the Lord is work of great magnitude in the eyes of God. With this perspective, we can embrace the life of Bakhita who performed tasks that may not have been great. She did not begin a religious congregation, serve as a missionary to the world or hold high office. She was, according to one of her biographers, simply “a sister, a slave, sold, bought, resold, unknown in the world, coming from nowhere.” Freedom and the knowledge of the good Lord allowed Bakhita to understand that although she did not know God during slavery, God was still there, preparing her for himself.

When our parish celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation last Pentecost Sunday, McKenzie Rubio chose Josephine Bakhita as her patron. During Mass today, after the homily, she will share a reflection with us on this holy woman, the inspiration she still provides, and the example of her life worth imitating.



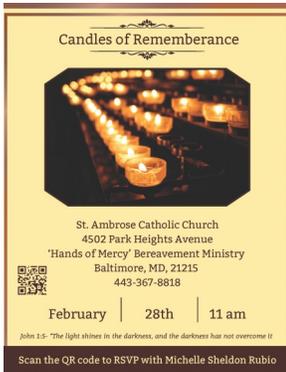
With McKenzie we celebrate her patron today. Are you aware of the statue of Saint Josephine Bakhita in our church?



LAST CHANCE — RETURN YOUR PALM

Please return old palm branches by next Sunday. There is a basket at the front door of the church to collect them.

CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE



While Lent turns our attention to the price Jesus paid to be faithful to his Father to the end, it also calls us to reflect on the cost of being a disciple of Jesus in this world and the eternal reward that is our reason for hope in the kingdom to come.

To deepen our journey with Christ it is helpful to remember those of our family and friends who now rest in eternal peace and the faithful ways they carried their crosses through the agony of the garden to the joy of resurrection in the Lord's embrace.

On Saturday, February 28th we will have a special prayer service in church — a time of remembrance. In the service we will call our deceased loved ones by name and remember the blessings God bestowed on them and us in this life. The service will be approximately 40 minutes. See the flyer on the Welcome table. Use its QR code to register or contact the parish office to leave your loved one's name. May the peace of Christ continue to bear you up!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

All women of the parish are invited to the next Women's Ministry gathering. Join them next Sunday, February 15th, after Mass for meaningful conversations, connections, and encouragement. This is an open and welcoming space for all women of our parish. They'd love to see you there. New faces are always welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS

- 02/08: Joseph H. Garner, Jr., requested by his sister, Patricia;
- 02/12: the people of Saint Ambrose Church;
- 02/15: Joyce Ann Roberts on the 13th anniversary of her passing, requested by her sister, Myra Clinton;
- 02/18: the people of Saint Ambrose Church;
- 02/22: Joseph and Mary Ann Garner, requested by the Garner siblings;
- 02/26: the people of Saint Ambrose Church.

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

February 18th is Ash Wednesday. Mass that day is at 6:00 pm. There is no Mass on Thursday that week.

COLLECTION FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The second collection next weekend is for the future of the church in Central and Eastern Europe. There is a flyer on the Welcome table and opportunities to contribute in your envelope packet and at the online giving tab of our website.

TITHES AND COLLECTIONS	
<i>01 February 2026 — online contributions</i>	\$2,793.60
<i>01 February 2026 — envelope contributions</i>	\$4,825.00
<i>Sunday collection total</i>	\$7,618.60
<i>Thank you so much for your continuous support!</i>	



Use this QR code to make a donation or to sign up for online giving.

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

If you or members of your family are admitted to the hospital and would like to be visited and remembered in prayer, please notify the parish office. If you are unable to attend Mass and want to receive a visit from the pastor, a deacon, or a eucharistic minister, please contact the parish office.

Let us always pray for our sick and shut-in parishioners. In particular, please remember in prayer:

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

SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL BUILDING

St. Ambrose is planning an adaptive reuse of its former school building into a community resource facility. St. Ambrose requests support for a community engagement process and feasibility analysis to determine what uses in an adapted school building best serve Park Heights and pathways to funding and executing the project.

These two sentences introduced our parish's request for a grant of \$45,000 from funds set aside to support and strengthen the Pimlico - Park Heights area beyond the rebuilding of a track for horse racing.

Since February last year the Parish Mission Council and the Finance Council have been actively discerning a plan to make the best use of our vacant school building. We recognize that we need some space for larger parish gatherings. We want to make space available to our neighborhood for the benefit of local residents and programs that may be of particular service in our area. To make sure we develop plans that respond to real needs, we plan to engage in a broad study with various stakeholders. In short, what does our neighborhood need? Is our school building a place from which that need can be addressed?

Last Sunday's meeting of the Parish Mission Council nominated several people to serve on an Advisory Council for the project. Their first meeting will be this week. One of the council's first goals is to keep our parish community fully informed and consulted throughout the process. To this end, we will have a town hall type meeting immediately after Mass in the church on Sunday, March 1st. Please plan on staying for a short while right in church after Mass that day if you can. We'll be sure to use your time wisely.

The members of the Saint Ambrose School Building Advisory Council, facilitated by Patrick Jordan of Heron Consulting, are:

Erica Nelson	Carlton Gordon
Antoinette Williams	Ken Townsend, Jr.
Dennis Carter	Trina Jones-Brown
Father David	



“WE NEED TO SAY, ‘NO.’”

“We mourn for a world, a country that allows 5-year-olds to be legally kidnapped and protesters to be slaughtered.”

These are the words of Cardinal Joseph Tobin of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey at an inter-faith call to prayer on January 25th. Cardinal Tobin called on people of faith to counter violence with love — in it he referred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a “lawless organization.” The full text of an article published by *Our Sunday Visitor* about Cardinal Tobin's appeal is available on the Welcome table. It is worth your time to read it thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Contact information for our elected representatives is also on the Welcome table. Please consider contacting them and advocating for justice.

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

In addition to this encouragement to lobby our representatives to act on behalf of human dignity and decency, we will take up the call of the U.S. bishops to pray together for peace. At the request of Archbishop Coakley who is the current President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and repeated by our bishop, Archbishop William Lori, we will pray a Holy Hour for Peace. We will do so in church on Friday, February 20th at 6:00 pm. This holy hour will take the place of praying the Stations of the Cross that night.

Please try to clear your calendar and come to church that evening. Archbishop Paul Coakley wrote:

“Many people today feel powerless in the face of violence, injustice, and social unrest. To those who feel this way, I wish to say clearly: your faithfulness matters. Your prayers matter. Your acts of love and works of justice matter. The current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel. As a step toward healing, I invite my brother bishops and priests across the United States to offer a Holy Hour for Peace in the days ahead. Let us pray for reconciliation where there is division, for justice where there are violations of fundamental rights, and for consolation for all who feel overwhelmed by fear or loss. I encourage Catholics everywhere to participate”

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08 February 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58: 7 - 10

Thus says the LORD:

Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 112: 4 - 9

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Light shines through the darkness for the upright; he is gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.

He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he shall not fear; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear. Lavishly he gives to the poor; His justice shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in glory.



*traditional site of the
Sermon on the Mount,
overlooking the Sea of
Galilee.*

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5: 13 - 16

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

