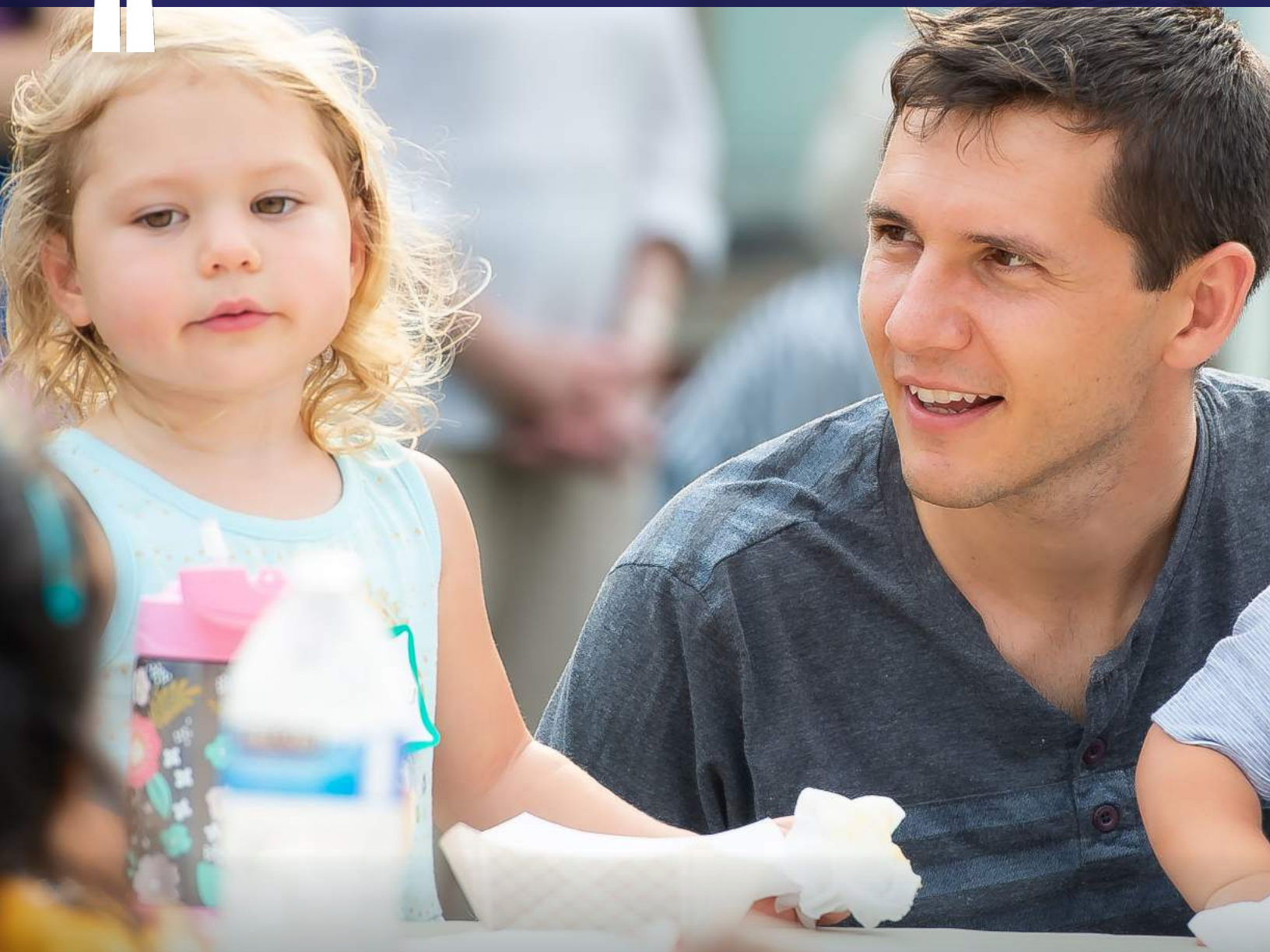


FALL 2021



The Way

Saint Ambrose Catholic Community, Woodbury, Minnesota



CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES
PARISH LIFE AND WHY WE GIVE
COMING SOON: PERPETUAL ADORATION
DYING AND RISING CHRIST



Parish Life is Life in Christ

Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Way, our new parish newsletter created to inform and inspire parishioners like you to grow in faith and service to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The inspiration behind this publication is all of you. The Saint Ambrose Catholic Community is filled with long-time parishioners and new members; newlyweds, young parents, established families, and seniors; on their own unique journeys of discipleship, but always in community with each other. As the archdiocese has emphasized with our return to Sunday Mass this summer, we are created for Communion, with each other and with God. With all the diversity of our backgrounds and talents, we are still one Body in Christ.

Indeed, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) teaches that our differences are part of God's plan and present opportunities to practice charity:

On coming into the world, man is not equipped with everything he needs for developing his bodily and spiritual life. He needs others. Differences appear tied to age, physical abilities, intellectual or moral aptitudes, the benefits derived from social commerce, and the distribution of wealth.... These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods; they foster the mutual enrichment of cultures (CCC 1936-1937).

This newsletter is meant to encourage everyone to engage in the life of the parish, because parish life is life in Christ. Strengthened by the Sacraments, we see each other made in God's image; therefore we cannot help but respond to the call to love as He loves. So take some time to be inspired by our parish as outlined in these pages, and I look forward to walking with you along The Way.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Peter Williams
Pastor

ON THE COVER: Father and daughter David and Nora Johnson enjoy the New Member Picnic in July. Photos from the front and back covers and these two pages courtesy of parishioner and professional photographer Michael Hamerlind, online at mhpho.com.

Life in Abundance: Why Your Support Matters

Why does Saint Ambrose need a newsletter? We have many ways to contact you directly, and the pandemic necessitated for us to become more creative in reaching out to our parishioners. What does this piece do to enhance our communications?

In short, this newsletter will help to broaden everyone's perspective. Our parish is a very active place as you see from the photos and content on these pages. We are a vibrant community, and most parishioners are involved in only a fraction of the ministries and activities we offer. Since I started working here, I am amazed by all the things that go on during any given day, even in the summer.

Vacation Bible School brings in kids of all ages for activities centered around our faith. I see Brianna St. Amour, our tremendous youth minister, sitting under the shade tree with groups of teens discussing God. I see the Ambrosians meeting to share faith and fellowship and having a great time. I see people at daily Mass and Confession; young couples stopping in for information on marriage preparation, and still other families preparing for a loved one's final Mass and burial.

This is what your involvement and contributions support: ministries, activities, and programs that build the Kingdom of

God in community. The sheer activity is amazing, as is your generosity.

In uncertain times, it is easy to look at the world and see scarcity, but that is not our way. Jesus calls us to a life of hope that sees the possibility of a better world. We give of ourselves, our time, our prayers, our gifts, and our money—all for the love of God, the good of our neighbor, and the joy of our hearts, because generosity is good for the soul.

Tom Schisler
Director of Stewardship and Advancement

Generosity Made Easy

Saint Ambrose relies on the prayers, volunteerism, and financial support of people like you. For more information on how you can help, email tschisler@saintambrosecatholic.org, call 651-768-3016, or click the donate button at saintambrosecatholic.org.





Kathryn and Jared Anderson and their three sons, Sam, Ben and Gabe, have benefited from Catholic education at Saint Ambrose for the past 14 years. Photo courtesy of the Andersons.

Faithful from the Start

Our early childhood center and parish school enable families to truly ‘grow up Catholic’

For first-time parents, childcare can be a stressful decision, especially when both work outside the home. Dropping an infant off for the day is never easy, but for Jared and Kathryn Anderson, Early Childhood at Saint Ambrose was the obvious choice.

“From the first time you walk in, you get the sense that they really love your kids,” says Kathryn, whose family was one of the first to join Saint Ambrose from East Saint Paul when the Woodbury parish was established in 1998.

“You know when you drop them off that they will be loved and cared for, with a Christian, Catholic thread that runs through everything they do,” she says.

“We checked out one or two other places as a barometer, but Saint Ambrose was definitely the first option,” Jared says. “Once we started, there was no thought of going anywhere else.”

The Andersons have three sons: Sam, age 14; Ben, age 11; and Gabe, age 9. Each began at Early Childhood at three months old and transitioned directly into Saint Ambrose Catholic School for kindergarten. As a ninth-grader, Sam is headed to Hill-Murray, a Catholic high school in Maplewood, this fall—after literally growing up at Saint Ambrose for the past 14 years.

“We really liked the idea of a religious-focused education,” says Jared. “Neither of us had that

experience; it just wasn’t an option. We knew we wanted that for our kids.”

“We knew the academics would be good. We have great schools in this area,” Kathryn says. “But these are the kind of people we wanted to entrust with our children: compassionate and caring. The teachers, staff, and administrators know you; every one of them is there for your kids. It’s a strong community feel. And when your child’s class leads the school Mass, it is a beautiful opportunity to see them growing in their faith together!”

“It was the intangible things that drew us here,” Jared says. “We wanted our children to not only be challenged academically but also spiritually. We wanted them to be in a place that would help them develop into compassionate and caring individuals. We found that here at Saint Ambrose.”

Catholic Education at Saint Ambrose

When it was completed in 2000, Saint Ambrose was the first new parish with a school to open in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in 30 years.

For more information on Early Childhood and our K-8 school, visit school.saintambrosecatholic.org and ec.saintambrosecatholic.org.



The Saint Ambrose Summer Program is offered through Saint Ambrose Catholic School and Early Childhood. Photos courtesy of parishioner and professional photographer Hilda Berdie, online at hildaberdi photography.com.

A Peaceful Place to Pray, Night or Day

As many of you know, Saint Ambrose hopes to break ground on a new addition to our church! This addition would create a secure entrance to our chapel to help us launch Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Catholics believe that the Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus: that Jesus is truly and really present. God is everywhere, but in the Eucharist, Jesus makes Himself present in a special way, a way in which we get to be in His risen, bodily presence. We can pray anywhere, but praying in His Eucharistic presence is hard to describe. It is so peaceful, so calming. There, we slow down and receive God’s love.

Valentina Pedevila, a student at the University of Saint Thomas and a Saint Ambrose parishioner, shares this about Adoration: “I started going [to Adoration] my senior year every Wednesday after school....Through Adoration I came to know Jesus as a friend; I got to hear Him tell me how much He loves me and learned about how to live out my primary identity, which is that I am His beloved daughter.”

We want all people to experience this anytime, night or day.

Fr. Ben Wittnebel
Parochial Vicar

Eyes of Faith: Dying and Rising Christ



One of the most striking features in the Saint Ambrose church is the seven-foot bronze sculpture of Jesus, suspended above and just behind the altar so that when communicants come forward to receive the Eucharist, He appears in front of the cross built into the stained-glass Rose Window. Entitled “That We May Live,” the sculpture was designed and created by St. Paul artist Robert Nicpon. This is not a limp or lifeless *corpus*, however: His pierced hands are grasping upward; his wrists and feet show holes, not nails, and His face appears to be drawing a breath before waking. The effect is of Christ crucified and risen, recalling, in the artist’s words, “the greatest act of love in history.”

Beautiful By Design

Like many Catholic churches, Saint Ambrose has been intentionally designed to invite us deeper into the life and mission of Jesus as revealed in scripture and the Mass. In future issues of The Way, watch for more articles on the art and architecture that encourage praise and worship here at Saint Ambrose.

Join Us for FALLFEST 2021!



Photos from the 2019 FALLFEST at Saint Ambrose courtesy of parishioner and professional photographer Michael Hamerlind, online at mhpho.com

We’re back! The annual FALLFEST at Saint Ambrose will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 24-25. Enjoy carnival rides, food, and games for all ages; a silent auction; several raffles including the Big Ticket, bucket raffles, and wine and alcohol raffle; live music on Friday and Saturday nights; a talent show; and so much more!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 24

5:30-10:00 pm Big Ticket, Bucket, and Wine/Alcohol Raffles; Bingo; Carnival and Games; Food and Beverages; Silent Auction

5:30-9:00 pm Young Kid’s Games

5:30-8:00 pm Cake Walk

6:00-10:00 pm Live music by **Rizer** (five-piece rock band from Hastings, playing hits from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s)

Volunteers are still needed!

Get details at saintambrosecatholic.org/parish-festival and sign up to help using the Volunteer tab. **See you there!**

Saturday, September 25

10:00 am-10:00 pm Carnival and Games; Food and Beverages

10:00 am-9:00 pm Bingo; Young Kid’s Games

10:00 am-8:00 pm Big Ticket, Bucket, and Wine/Alcohol Raffles; Cake Walk; Silent Auction

12:00-2:00 pm Talent Show

2:00-3:00 pm Live praise and worship music

6:00-10:00 PM Live music by **Good for Gary** (seven-piece Twin Cities cover band, playing current and classic dance hits)

Saint Ambrose



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SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am (livestream), 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday-Friday 8:00 am (livestream)

Saturday 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday 7:30-7:55 am

Tuesday 4:45-5:30 pm

Thursday 4:45-5:30 pm

Saturday 2:30-3:30 pm

Sunday 4:00-4:45 pm

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Stay Connected

The ability to minister to our community and keep you informed is only as good as our parishioner information. If you have moved, married, grown your family, or changed phones or emails, contact the parish office to update your information at 651-768-3030 or parishinfo@saintambrosecatholic.org.