

# The Hive

A St. Ambrose PTO Publication

March 2020

## Spring Happenings at St. Ambrose

Can you believe it? Spring is just around the corner and we are near the end of the second term! As always, there is never a dull moment in the St. Ambrose Hive.

As we enter the Lenten Season, let us give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon our St. Ambrose Community. We are thankful for our fabulous faculty and staff and the dedication they have to our students. We are thankful to our priests and seminarians, who are helping develop our children in their Catholic faith. We are thankful to our students for inspiring us with their creativity and vibrancy and affording us the opportunity to watch them grow. And we are thankful for YOU – the parents of St. Ambrose – for your support and generosity and for making this community a wonderful place to be! From service hours to confession times to Soup Suppers, read on for more info about Lenten Events at St. Ambrose.

And.....**IT'S GALA TIME!!!** The St. Ambrose 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala – “A Silver Knight” is coming up on Saturday, March 14!! It's all hands on deck in the Hive as we make final preparations for our most important fundraiser of the year. The Cuenco Family has been working 'round the clock to make this year's Gala amazing for our community! Don't worry – there's still time to: buy your gala tickets, buy tickets for the 50/50 raffle, signup for the dessert auction, book your babysitter and come on out to celebrate and support our school. Read on for more information about the Gala, including an auction preview, this year's auction fund-a-need and plans for gala proceeds, info about Super Day, what to wear and how YOU can help be a part of this epic event!

### IN THIS ISSUE

1	Spring Happenings
2	Straight Talk: Why we Gala
3	Worker Bees Please!
4	Party Like it's 1995!
5 -6	Gala Goods
7	Lenten Happenings & Soup Suppers

### Our Mission

Fostering a faith-filled and academically strong environment, Saint Ambrose Catholic School works with families and the faith community to encourage the formation of the whole child through the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ.

### 2019-2020 Motto

**“Open wide the doors for Christ.”**

~ Saint Pope John Paul II



# Straight Talk: Why we Gala



**New Bee:** I'm hearing lots of buzz around the Hive. What is the Gala?

**Gala Bee:** St. Ambrose School's Annual Gala is a fundraising event that includes both, live and silent auctions as well as opportunities to donate directly towards educational supplies identified by our staff and faculty. All funds raised are used to fund assemblies, field trips, technology, staff retention, technology upgrades, text books, social events and more.

**New Bee:** Why is it important? Where do the funds go?

**Gala Bee:** The Gala is our biggest fundraiser of the year that provides the **CRUCIAL funds** needed to provide these items to our students – items that are NOT covered by tuition, but that **each child in our school benefits from**. These costs total approximately \$40,000 per year! This includes...

## Annual Expenses Funded by PTO Fundraisers and Gala Proceeds Include:



Student Field Trips *including* admission and transportation costs (bus/fuel) for all grades. This usually includes two field trips per class each year. Cost per field trip ranges from \$700-\$1,200(Williamsburg, Gettysburg, Gunston Hall, Smithsonian, Reston Farm Market, Basilica of the National Shrine & more!



Schoolwide Assemblies featuring STEM themes and performing arts - 2 per yr



Teacher Christmas and Year-End Bonuses, Continuing Education Support



Faculty and Staff Giving Tree – materials and supplies for each classroom

## Last Year's Gala Fund-a-Need Purchased:



Learning Ally - an audiobook service that includes books for students and training for teachers to support students with academic challenges



15 New Kindles



10 New Laptops



A new LED SmartTV in the art and science room

## THIS YEAR's Gala Fund-a-Need Proceeds Will Purchase:



Textbooks! The PTO has been working with our teachers to identify critical needs, and Social Studies and Science textbooks rank at the top of the list. In order to continue to support our students and teachers, the PTO would like to supply as many new classroom sets as possible with the funds raised at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. **Textbooks will be used by all students** and will have a useful life of approximately 8 years, so the benefit is long lasting and far reaching.

**New Bee:** Oh my goodness! I had no idea! You can count on me to come to the Gala and lend my support so that I can help the student bees and teacher bees in the St. Ambrose Hive!



# Help Wanted! Worker Bees Please!



As the Gala approaches, we are calling on all members of the Hive to lend a helping hand. After all, it takes the teamwork of an entire HIVE for its bees to be successful and thrive!

PLEASE check out the signup genius link on our school website and signup to help however you can. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044eada82eaafc1-25th>. Below are some areas where we need help:

## MANpower!!



Calling all Daddy-Bees! We need your help on Thursday, March 12 and Sunday, March 15 to help us with some heavy lifting. Our task is to load a truck full of tables and chairs from a neighbor parish that is located less than 5 minutes away from St. Ambrose. We will meet at Epiphany of our Lord Church on Woodburn Road, load a truck with tables and chairs, and unload at St. Ambrose School Gym. We will reload and return the tables and chairs on March 15.

## Decorator Bees



The Decorating Committee needs your help decorating the school gym. We need some fearless bees to help transform the St. Ambrose gym the night before and day of the gala. We will be hanging and arranging balloons, drapery and more. Signup to help take us back to the 90's!

## Data Entry & Checkout Bees



Don't you just love sitting behind your computer at the office, furiously typing away all day? YAY! Well, what better way to spend an hour during the Gala than helping out with data entry?? We need data entry bees to help enter the winning bids into our Silent Auction software immediately after the auction the night of the gala. Sign up to help – we will even let you use our laptop!

## Bar Servers



Remember way back when you used to be a bartender? No? That's ok – you can still live out your dream of serving the party crowd at the Gala! Sign up for an hour shift to pour wine and serve beer and soda. No experience required and training on site! We will show you how to pour wine in a glass and serve your fellow parents and friends!

## Cleaning Crew



After we have partied the night away, there is the inevitable cleanup that happens *after* the party. Signup to come in the following morning and help wipe away the evidence of our parent party before the kids come back to school!

## Dessert Auction Donors



Can you bake a cake? Great!! If not, do you know where to buy one? Fantastic!! Donate a dessert or two to the Gala Dessert Auction. Instead of catering dessert, we auction off your sweet treats as an additional fundraiser! Part of the fun is checking out the fabulous array of baked goods and picking out what you and your table mates would like to bid on! Contact Dawn Do at [ddsr.301@gmail.com](mailto:ddsr.301@gmail.com) to donate!



# How to Party Like it's 1995!



That's Right! For our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are taking you back to when it all began.....1995!!! Here's how you can join the party PLUS a sneak peek at what you can look forward to at the Gala - A Silver Knight!

## **BUY YOUR TICKET**

Buy your ticket NOW to ensure that you have a seat at the biggest party of the year!! Buying your ticket is SUPER easy. Get yours before prices go up! Invite your friends, family and neighbors and show them what St. Ambrose is all about! Here's the link:

<https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=980>

## **BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS**

Who doesn't love the chance to win a jackpot?? Buy your 50/50 raffle tickets today. Sell them to your neighbors and friends. Better yet – have your kids ask the neighbors! Who can resist those cute little faces? And the best part, you get to keep half of the jackpot and the school gets the rest. It's a win/win for everyone! Contact Sharon Driscoll to purchase your tickets!

[shardriscoll@yahoo.com](mailto:shardriscoll@yahoo.com)

## **DRESS TO IMPRESS.....90's STYLE!**

Dig into your closet for your favorite 90's fashion! Think back to the days of Saved by the Bell, Friends, Fresh Prince and 90's rock for some inspiration. Find your flannel shirts, stonewashed jeans, Doc Martens and sneakers. Throwback to your high school prom, or come as you are!! There is no dress code, just come and have fun!

## **SEND US YOUR PLAYLIST**

This party is taking requests! Send us your throwback songs for the 90's so we can have our playlist ready for you to dance the night away!! Send your music requests to

[gala@stambroseschool.org](mailto:gala@stambroseschool.org) and we will pass along to the DJ!

## **COME HUNGRY.....AND THIRSTY**

This year's menu features catering from Maggiano's and includes a variety of Italian dishes sure to please. We will also have a cash bar with a variety of wines and beers to choose from. Come on out and enjoy a meal and drink with your fellow parents and teachers....without the kids around!

## **DO YOUR HOMEWORK..... CHECKOUT THE AUCTION GOODS IN ADVANCE!**

Shhhhhh....I'll tell you a secret. Did you know that all of the swag up for grabs in the silent auction is listed on the auction website? And there's a link on the school website?? Check out some of the amazing items up for grabs – from ski tickets, to sports memorabilia, a 5 night stay in Orlando, theater tickets, vineyard tastings, custom-made baskets and experiences provided by our teachers and staff, there is something for everyone. Take a look so that you'll be prepared to bid during the silent auction. Here's the secret link:

<https://www.silentauctionpro.com/publicdonationslist.php?group=980&event=2990>



# Gala Goods: A Sneak Peek!



## Class Baskets

These are themed one-of-a-kind gift baskets organized by the room parents of each class and made possible by the generous donations of our wonderful school parents! Basket values range from \$100-\$600. Checkout the Summer Water Fun Wagon in the school lobby for a sample!!

*PreK – Children's Books*

*K – LEGO Basket*

*2 – Let It Snow Basket*

*4 – Golfer's Delight*

*6 – Family Movie Night*

*PreK – Health & Wellness*

*1 – Summer Water Fun*

*3 – Ice Cream Outing*

*5 – Backyard Corn Hole*

*7 – Summer Nights BBQ*

*8 – "Cozy Fireside in your Backyard" Basket*

## Faculty Experiences

**PreK** – Assistant for a Day (open to  
1 student, grade 2-8)

**K** – King or Queen for a Day

**1** – Children's Science Center Trip  
with Ms. Gomes (6 students)

**2** – Movie & Popcorn with Mrs.  
Hutchison (1 student + 5 friends)

**3** – American Girl Outing with Ms.  
Beaulieu (3 students)

**4/5** – Bowling with Ms. LaPlace  
and Mrs. McCormack (8 students)

**Sip & Paint Duo**- Mrs. Moran and  
Mrs. Wise – painting &  
refreshments

**Principal Elliott**

Principal for a Day

Class Dress Down for a Week

Front Row Seats @ Spring Concert

Prime Parking @ Afternoon Carpool

**Fr. Fisher**

Dinner for 6 at the Parish Rectory  
with Father Fisher

**Fr. Bergida**

Trip to Museum of the Bible with Fr.  
Bergida (15 students)

**Seminarian Joe Townsend & Mrs.**

**Ryan**

Italian Dinner & Game Night (8  
students)



# Gala Goods: A Sneak Peek!



## SUPER DAY

Team up with fellow parents to bid on SUPER DAY, a super special day for your child's class. One of the featured items in the live auction, Super Day is a day jam packed full of fun. Snacks and treats, pizza lunch, special games and activities, a movie and no homework!! So talk amongst yourselves, decide how much to contribute, and pick a family to place a bid on behalf of your class to win this coveted item in the live auction!

## PIZZA DAY

Pizza Day....**HOORAY!!** If you can't win a Super Day, then team up with fellow parents to bid on PIZZA DAY and bid on a pizza party for your class. Another tradition in the St. Ambrose Gala live auction that is a student favorite!

## THE INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON

Thanks to the generosity of our amazing teachers, we continue to offer one of the most coveted items in the St. Ambrose Gala Auction: dinner for 2 at the Inn, with a complimentary glass of Champagne, Black Truffle Popcorn, Cheese Course, and a Private Tour of the Kitchen after dinner.

## SILENT AUCTION SWAG

The Gala Solicitations Team has spent the last four months hard at work approaching businesses, sports teams, theaters, vineyards and more for donations of amazing experiences, merchandise and awesome auction swag. Remember to check the website for full descriptions of items up for grabs. Donations continue to come in and our website is updated often. Here's a sneak peek at some of the items up for auction:

- 5 nights in Orlando or St Augustine
- Beginner Ski or Snowboard Package for Two at Liberty Mountain Resort
- Golf for Four at Burke Lake Golf Center
- Whale Watching Tour in Virginia Beach
- JMU Football Tickets
- Georgetown Basketball tickets
- Signature Theater Tickets
- Private Guided Tour and Tasting for Six at Ingleside Winery
- Complimentary Tasting at Creek's Edge Winery
- Wintergreen Resort Recreation Vouchers for 4
- One Free 8-person Game at Breakout (DC) Escape Room
- Jiffy Lube Live Concert Tickets for Two
- **AND MORE!!! We have so much in store for you at the Gala. Please join us for an unforgettable night!**



---

# Lenten Soup Suppers

---

Join us Friday evenings during Lent for a simple meatless meal in the school gym. In collaboration with the St. Ambrose Parish and Community, you are cordially invited to join us for a simple supper prior to Stations of the Cross. Each week during lent, a Soup Supper Potluck is hosted by various organizations within the St. Ambrose Community.

St. Ambrose School is hosting the Soup Supper on Friday, March 27. A signup genius is forthcoming. Please signup to provide a meatless dish: meatless soup, macaroni and cheese, salads, bread and butter, as well as setup, serving and cleanup. We look forward to your support and generosity during this holy season, and hope you will join us in hosting the St. Ambrose School and Parish Community for this annual tradition.

## ***Lenten Soup Supper Schedule***

*Fridays during Lent 6pm-7pm*

*St. Ambrose Gym*

*Followed by*

*Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm*

*St. Ambrose Church*

*Suppers Hosted by:*

*February 28 – St. Ambrose Parish*

*Choir*

*March 6 – CCD/Religious Ed*

*March 13 – CYO Youth/Teens*

*March 20 – Women of St.*

*Ambrose Parish*

***March 27 – St. Ambrose School***

*April 3 – Knights of Columbus*



For a full listing of parish events during the Lenten Season, please visit the St. Ambrose Parish website. Info is also available online at the parish Facebook page: St. Ambrose Catholic Church.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

(AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2020)

### **ST. AMBROSE GALA**

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL GYM

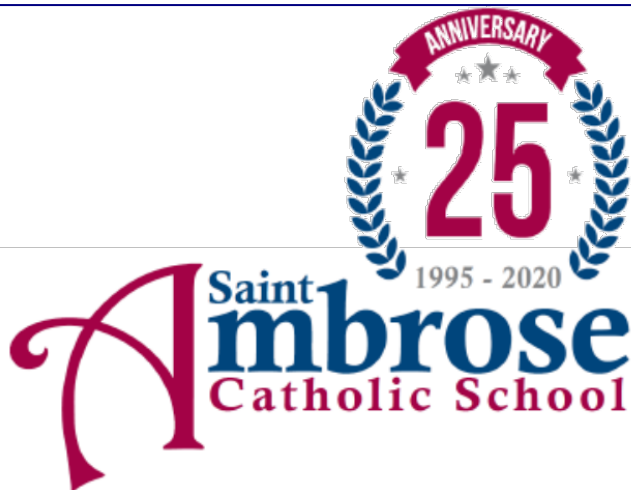
March 14, 2020 – 6pm

### **LENTEN SOUP SUPPER (HOSTED BY SCHOOL FAMILIES)**

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL GYM

March 27 – 6pm

OUR CALENDAR AND SCHOOL WEBSITE WILL BE  
UPDATED AS EVENTS ARE ADDED. STAY TUNED!!!



### **2019-2020 PTO Members**

Phil Coady, President

Mary Helou, Vice President

Vacant, Secretary

Pete Cuenco, Treasurer

Mallery Holleran, Staff  
Representative

George Elliott, Interim Principal

Fr. Andrew Fisher, Pastor

Questions? Comments?

Suggestions?

We would LOVE to hear from you!

Contact Us!!

[pto@stambroseschool.org](mailto:pto@stambroseschool.org)

School: [www.stambroseschool.org](http://www.stambroseschool.org)

Parish: [www.stambroseva.org](http://www.stambroseva.org)

You still have time to earn your 15 service hours, but time is running out! Upcoming opportunities include:



- **GALA Support** – check the signup genius and signup to help!
- **Soup Supper** – volunteer to setup, serve or cleanup
- **St. Ambrose Grounds & Gardening Club** – join the Knights of Columbus and other members of the Parish to maintain our campus grounds
- **First Communion** – volunteers to staff the May reception
- **Spring Field Trip Chaperones** – must be VIRTUS certified
- **Lunch and Recess Monitors** – must be VIRTUS certified
- **Field Day (spring)** – must be VIRTUS certified
- **CYO Sports Coaches for spring** – must be VIRTUS certified

Contact the school office or a member of the PTO to volunteer or to discuss other ways that you can help!