



Everything.

## AS FAMILY WE HAVE IT ALL

The two great commandments, love God and love your neighbor are the lifeblood of Saint Ambrose Catholic School. Every day we have an opportunity to put our faith into action through our unique educational experiences and traditions that hold our school family and parish together and make us strong; by the love of God and with hope in Christ.

Carol Kurivial, from "Luminous Ministries," led catechists in retreat before Thanksgiving based on the "secret ingredient of joy." The evening was a perfect opportunity to slow down in peace and reflection gratitude – what she described as the secret ingredient of joy. There are so many opportunities to be grateful here at SAS.

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR:

- Students who persevere when days can be challenging, who serve others and are learning to keep God first, others second and themselves third.
- For teachers who give their hearts and souls to provide for each student as he/she learns best.
- For staff members who keep us organized and on track.
- For parents who recognize that the value of their investment in Catholic education is an investment in not only their children, but in their children's children and our communities.
- For our parish and community partners who provide the much needed support that keeps us ever moving forward.

There is not enough space here to list all of the prayer experiences, teaching and learning practices, events and more that keep us moving onward and upward as a strong family of faith and academics. I share overwhelming and heartfelt gratitude to our beloved and faithful families (who allow us to serve and partner with them in the formation of their precious children), our students, and to all of you (who provide prayerful and financial support for this great work we've been given).

To God be the glory! Let our lives be full of thanks and giving and joy during this Christmas Season and New Year!

Mrs. Cinadr  
Principal



## MISSION STATEMENT

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
WHERE JESUS CHRIST IS  
EVERYTHING TO US AND OUR  
STUDENTS ARE CHALLENGED  
TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.



TECHNOLOGY

Everything  
for every student.  
Every day. Everything.

SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL



# BEACONS OF LIGHT AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAINT.

## *A Saint Ambrose student's Advent reflection*

Certain things in life we tend take for granted. As a child that lives in a nice new house, I am blessed with many things like a plentiful thanksgiving dinner, a warm winter coat and a caring, supportive family. Coats for Kids is an outstanding outreach program to neighborhoods, like the one near St. Rocco's Parish, that are in dire need of assistance when it comes to safety and support.

Saint Ambrose has partnered with Coats for Kids, so that the people in poorer areas of Cleveland can have coats for the winter. God teaches us to love and protect our brothers and sisters, and one woman was a prime example of God's will.

Though we don't know her name, our group nicknamed her the Neighborhood Saint. She had three girls of her own but, she was taking care of many more. She lives in an area full of mothers who neglect their many children due to their dangerous habits.

Instead of taking for herself, she came back with a mom of three young boys and graciously helped the struggling mom gather coats for her kids. She then returned at least eight more times to accumulate more coats for her other neighbors.



"I wish I could open an orphanage and take care of all of them but at least I can give them coats," She explained to me with a smile on her face.

Being in the midst of such compassion and joy really puts in perspective the problems that seem so enormous in my life. I believe that this woman is the embodiment of what God means when he calls us to serve others, because, even though her situation isn't the best, she dropped everything that night to help other boys and girls.

Coats for Kids was a really life changing experience for me, because I was able to experience the blessing of directly affecting someone's life. Seeing the impact my work had on others is something that is unexplainable. God works in this world through his beacons of light. Helping young children, with no control over their situation, is something that is helping to mold me into one of his beacons. **I call you, now, to go out into our world and find some way to be a beacon of light to others!**

*Written By: Kylie, 8th grade, Saint Ambrose HSP*

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*

*- Matthew 5:14-15*



## LITTLE HANDS THAT GIVE



We know from the life and teaching of Jesus that we were made to love and serve others. Happiness comes from giving the best of ourselves. Using our gifts and talents from God to love and serve Him and others is a true blessing!

The Littlest Angels Preschool children were busy creating placemats for our friends who attended Thanksgiving meals around our community. We were all reminded to be thankful for our many blessings! God is so good to us and provides us all we need and more!

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

*- 1 Peter 4:10*

Our prayer is that our handprint placemats helped to bring our brothers and sisters in Christ some hope and love this holiday. Sharing a small part of ourselves with others can make a big difference!

Our little ones said, "My funny handprint made someone lonely smile!" and "It's good to make something for someone else, not just for me." A parent volunteer, who painted many hands, mentioned that she was so impressed that the children were learning to give at such a young age.

Our hope is to engage the children and families of Littlest Angels Preschool in meaningful, memorable, community building service projects that will benefit our parish and community. May we all teach and model to our children in this season of giving, that even our littlest angels can help provide others with help, love, compassion and kindness.

Stand on the promises of God, He will be our strength!

*Catherine Mitchell  
Littlest Angels Preschool Director*



## *“ Only a life lived in service to others is a life worth living” - Albert Einstein*

During the holiday season so many people take for granted what we are blessed with. As a child of a parent with lung cancer, giving back means the most to me right now. I want to help anybody who has been so loving and supportive to my family in our time of need.

Coats for Kids has raised millions of dollars to help families who cannot afford to buy coats, giving back to those in areas of poverty or distress. We take for granted the warm winter coat we have on our back, and the warm house we can come home to everyday. It really put into perspective how many people don't have those luxuries. Going down to St. Rocco's and seeing all the families in such need of coats, scarves, hats and gloves made me want to help and support much more.

One woman really stuck out to me. Although I did not catch her name she was such an amazing example of God's grace. She was walking along the street with her husband, I called her over to ask if she would like a warm winter coat considering hers was all torn and had many holes. Her only response to me was, I will be okay but do you have anything for a baby boy, because I just got custody of my 8 month old grandson. As we talked for about 15 minutes I learned his parents had

neglected and abused him. My heart went out to this grandma as all she wanted to do was everything she could to keep her grandson warm because she did not have a car and had to walk everywhere she went with him.

Coats for Kids is such an amazing and charitable organization. Especially during the winter season it is heartwarming to know you may have changed someone's life for the better with one simple act or word. I pray that I am able to support this wonderful organization in the future.

*Written By: Olivia, 8th grade, Saint Ambrose HSP*



## JESUS CHRIST IS THE REASON

As we are in the midst of the holiday season, we are constantly surrounded with advertisements, store displays, and messages on social media magnifying the hustle and bustle of this time of year. Life can be hectic, especially for those with young adolescent children during the holiday season. There is always the next practice, activity, and club to get to; couple that with the non-stop movement of this time of year and we have a recipe to forget why this season is so special.

Jesus Christ IS the reason for this season. We should be fostering discussion with our young people about how we can be more Christ-like during this time of year; to center ourselves on what is most important. While this will not take away the hectic nature of the season, it will help to enhance the importance of acting in Christ's image to provide a greater sense of meaning and peace.

While these discussions happen often at Saint Ambrose School, I would encourage you to continue this dialogue at home. How can we act in Christ's image? What can we do to put others first? Why should we think about "we" before "me"? We all can be servants of Christ all year round, but it seems appropriate that we make an extra special effort to foster that humble servanthood in this holy season!

*Written by: Chris Dzedzicki, Director, HSP*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**School Resumes**  
January 4th

**Catholic Schools Week**  
January 29th-February 3rd

**School Open House 11am-2pm**  
January 29th

**Civic Leadership Breakfast**  
January 30th

**State of the School**  
February 7th

**School Auction Gala**  
March 18th

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN COLUMBIA

Saint Ambrose School welcomed our first exchange student this fall from Columbia. We sat down with JUAN, 8th grade, to learn more about him and how his family in Columbia celebrates Christmas.

## 1. What are some Christmas traditions in Colombia?

**Answer:** "The nine days of Novena de Aguinaldos, is when most people in their houses sing some villancicos and share with the family to sing to God in the Christmas tree and in the manger. On the night of December 7 there is a display of lights, lighting almost all the houses of Medellin, Cali, and Bogota with lots of lighting and pyrotechnics. We also light up candles and lanterns all around their home to form a path."

## 2. What is Santa called in your country?

**Answer:** "His name is Santa, just as it is in the United States. In Colombia, he is a gentleman, has a beard, he is very kind, and listens to the children. The children tell him the gift they want."

## 3. What is your favorite Christmas meal?

**Answer:** "My favorite food is Lechona, which is made of rice, arepa, and meat."

## 4. Does it ever snow during Christmas? Is it common for it to snow during Christmas?

**Answer:** "It never snows during Christmas. In Colombia, there are no seasons because it is a tropical country. We always have a green Christmas."

## 5. Do you ever decorate a Christmas tree?

**Answer:** "Yes, of course. In Colombia, you buy a tree and decorate it however you like."

## 6. Does Santa ride on a sled and go down the chimney or does he arrive to your house differently?

**Answer:** "In Columbia, Santa does not give them the gifts, it is God who leaves them for the children."

## 7. Do people go to Mass on Christmas? What is Mass like there?

**Answer:** "Yes, people go to Christmas on the 24. We also donate gifts to the church and they give it to the homeless."

## 8. On what day do you celebrate Christmas?

**Answer:** "We celebrate Christmas on the 24, and we receive our presents at 12 a.m. in the morning on the 25th."

## Interview Questions:

### 1. Who was your hero or your role model as a child?

**Answer:** "My role model is my mom because she supports me in what I do."

### 2. Did your family ever go on vacations? Where did you go?

**Answer:** "Yes, I did go on vacations. I travelled to Panama, Venezuela, Aruba, Curacao, Miami, Orlando, New York, Spain, Italy, France, and Manhattan. My favorite place to visit is Italy."

### 3. Did you play any sports? If you did, what was your favorite sport?

**Answer:** "Yes, I play basketball, soccer, swimming, and golf. My favorite sport is soccer."

### 4. What is your favorite subject in school?

**Answer:** "Math."

## FALL SPORTS RECAP

Over the past couple months our Saint Ambrose Angels have competed in three different fall sports. Volleyball ended successfully in multiple championships and championship appearances! We had a total of over a dozen volleyball team all which had fun seasons.

In cross country, we also had a very successful season with most of our athletes competing for wins and breaking personal records.

Last and certainly not least football this year we added a flag football program to teach younger kids the way to play competitive football we had a total of three flag football teams. In tackle football we had three different teams each of which had great seasons the best of which our 6th grade football team won the city championship.





## “MY SERVICE PROMISE”



Written By: Kylie, 8th grade, Saint Ambrose HSP

At this time of year, people are normally frolicking around buying Christmas gifts and roasting turkeys, but for my family this time of year is a time for service and thanks. During the holiday season, my family usually volunteers at: Coats for Kids, Saint Ambrose Thanksgiving Luncheon, and many of the other zealous service projects that Saint Ambrose has to offer. I, as a Saint Ambrose 8th grader, am exposed to all different types of service experiences. For example, on November 21st, I went to St. Augustine Hunger Center with my classmates. As a member of Saint Ambrose’s Chapter of National Junior Honors Society, the amount of service is especially prominent to me. I have been very blessed to have been raised in such a loving and generous family, despite all the challenges God has thrown our way.

On October 8th, 2012, my father ran his first marathon. He was in the best condition of his life. Then on December, 18, 2012, he was rushed to the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, with flu-like symptoms. He was later diagnosed with strep-B infecting all of his major organs. After a long hard battle, an open-heart surgery, and lots of prayers and blessings, he was finally back to his good old self! Every year we go back to the ICU unit, which he stayed in, to deliver Christmas cookies and gift cards for all the doctors and nurses. This is by far the most rewarding service project that I’ve ever done, because it’s a very surreal experience. Every time I go to the hospital to visit I am reminded of the marvelous, loving people, who turned our sadness into a blessing. That is my greatest motivation to serve God, the thought that I might be able to turn someone else’s sadness into a blessing.

I made a PROMISE to myself at the beginning of the school year that I would perform an act of kindness EVERY DAY until graduating 8th grade. This is to ensure that even throughout the pressures and stress of my 8th grade year; I may still remain on my journey with God in daily life. It can be as simple as helping an elderly woman put her cart back in the grocery store, to disturbing coats to homeless children on the streets of Cleveland. I believe that God is helping me to make the right decisions through the Holy Spirit. If we perform acts of service in the community we are also helping the Holy Spirit to flourish inside us. Now I call you, the next time an opportunity presents itself, to reach out and turn someone else’s sadness into a blessing!

## SAINT AMBROSE STUDENTS ARTWORK FEATURED ON DISPLAY AT CLEVELAND AIRPORT GALLERY

Congratulations to our very own Dominic K and recent Alumnus Mary Grace Y, who both have their artwork on display at the Cleveland International Airport! Their pieces were selected and are featured in a temporary Endangered and Threatened Species Exhibit located in the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gallery on the lower terminal level inside the airport.

A reception was held to honor the artists and their work on Friday, September 30th. Principal Lisa Cinadr and Saint Ambrose Art Teacher Julia Kinley attended, along with the young artists and their families to celebrate and open the new exhibit. We could not be more proud of Dominic and Alumnus Mary Grace on their talent and fine work.

The CLE Temporary Art Exhibition Youth Art Gallery Mission is : “To provide youth in Northeast Ohio an opportunity to showcase their artwork in an exhibit that receives thousands of visitors daily.”

If travel is in your near future, please stop by and check out the talent of our Saint Ambrose Artists who shine!



# SAINT AMBROSE STUDENTS SHINE!



The first grade students had a special visit from a Vietnam veteran. The students learned about the importance and significance of Veterans Day. The students made cards to honor the veteran and thank him for keeping our country safe.

The second grade students created cards treat bags for the St. Ignatius Labre Group to distribute to the homeless. The students were also able to learn about the homeless in Cleveland and Akron through stories and pictures shared by Mr. Ed Plaspohl. It was a great experience for all!

In fifth grade students started Genius Hour. Genius Hour is based on a principle started by Google, where students are given one hour a week to research a topic they are passionate about. The topic cannot be answered in one google search, and must be centered on their gifts and talents.

Fifth grade students also made prayer cards depicting patron saints of hardships; they wrote a special prayer and drew beautiful pictures. The prayer cards will be distributed via the parish angel giving trees.

Students in grades 4 and 5 social studies have engaged in project-based learning so far this year, honing their critical-thinking skills and tapping into their creativity. They have researched a variety of topics, analyzed information, created presentations using the Chromebooks, written interesting scripts and skits, designed posters, debated with their peers, and many other tasks!

“The sixth grade had the wonderful opportunity to spend time together as peers and classmates on the Camp Christopher overnight retreat in October. The students enjoyed the outdoors completing team-building obstacle courses, sitting around a bonfire and exploring the natural wonders of the area. The retreat included a Scripture reflection, prayer service, God’s Eye craft and Mass with a variety of follow-up activities in religion class. We were so blessed to have the time together as a class in God’s beautiful creation!”

Every HSP student serves in a liturgical ministry for school and parish masses. Current ministries include: music ministry, cantors, lectors, altar servers, greeters, ushers, and

sacristans.

Eighth grade students visited St. Augustine Hunger Center and served our community by preparing meals and helping with the day to day operations of the center.

National Junior Honor Society students are in the planning stages of our yearly Christmas Collection in which we visit thousands of houses in the Brunswick area to collect food and supplies for the Saint Ambrose food pantry.



NJHS also planned Saint Ambrose School’s “Red Ribbon Week” activities to show that the school community is Drug-Free and to raise awareness of the current drug issues in our community.

## JOYFUL SERVICE BY OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS IN ACTION



The Student Ambassadors in Action have been plenty busy servicing their school, parish, and their community. We had 20 Ambassadors helping with greeting, cookie decorating, tours, and chromebook sign-ins at our fall Open House! What a great representation for prospective families-

to see our Saint Ambrose students in action and sharing the joyful excellence they feel for our school! They truly demonstrated how Saint Ambrose shines!

On November 16th, God gave us a warm, dry, beautiful afternoon and our Student Ambassadors took advantage by taking action to clean out the community garden! What a blessing to see so many young hands hard at work getting the entire garden cleaned out before the snow falls! We finished the afternoon with wheelbarrow races from the garden to the dumpsters....doing God’s work with joy!

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

*- Matthew 5:16*



# KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS

A kindergartener's reflection on the true meaning of the holidays.

## What does Christmas mean to you?

*"It is Jesus's Birthday; it is soooooo special!!!"* – Lilly

*"It means going to the farm and making cookies for Santa."* – Maddie

*"We give and we get."* – Dante

*"JESUS and PRESENTS."* – Joshua

## What does Jesus do on His birthday?

*"He was born! He sings happy birthday to himself!"* – Maddie

*"He blows out a candle on His birthday cake and celebrates."* – Joshua

## What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

*"It means FAMILY...even my cousins in Italy!"* – Dante

*"It means to be nice to all and think of God"* – Audrey

*"It means we are thankful for family, make a thankful tree, and the turkey has to die."* – Connor



## SAINT AMBROSE SHINES!

### Saint Ambrose Eighth Grade team Takes First Place at NASA Glenn Research for Young Astronaut Day!

Mrs. Hamzik and Principal Cinadr had the privilege of taking our 7-person team of Eighth Grade Young Astronauts Team to NASA Glenn Research for Young Astronaut Day November 5th. Our teams were able to learn from Astronaut Michael T Good! While we are very proud of our young team and the awards they brought home - 1st Place Team Overall, a 2nd Place and an Honorable Mention, we are far prouder of the way the students worked together and communicated with respect, creativity and critical thinking skills. Let's all pledge to help each of our young people learn competitiveness, find the good in each other and celebrate their unique gifts and talents as children of God.

**Congratulations to Mrs Hanzik and our Young Astronauts!**

## GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY AT WORK: THE HOMELESS PROJECT

Students in grades kindergarten through 7th grade worked on The Homeless Project makerspace. This is one of several impact projects our school is working on that could directly impact our community through our students' ideas and inventions. Students began with watching a video to learn more about homelessness in Cleveland including the living conditions of the homeless on Cleveland's streets. Students worked on different prototypes that fit within one of the following categories: portable housing, food storage, and clothing/sleeping gear. They used cloth material/felt and space blankets and tested these during science class. Results displayed the temperature increasing while testing the use of the space blankets and material! Students are discovering solutions for real world problems and learning how to implement their ideas into positive change for others!







**SAINT AMBROSE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

923 Pearl Road  
Brunswick, OH 44212

# Everything.



## OPEN HOUSE

For All Prospective Students  
Preschool and Day School Pre K-8

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017**

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Everything  
for every student.  
Every day. *Everything.*

SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL



[www.SaintAmbroseSchool.us](http://www.SaintAmbroseSchool.us)

Saint Ambrose School offers a complete program...

**EVERYTHING** a child needs:

### Angels in Training

#### 2 Year Old Program

Weekday & Saturday Sessions Offered

A social, safe, fun learning experience that is an introduction to preschool for children and parents.

### Littlest Angels Preschool

#### Ages 3, 4, & Pre-K

Littlest Angels Early Childhood Program safely introduces three, four and five-year old children to independent thinking through a variety of multi-sensory activities that enhance their total development. Space is limited!

### Elementary Education Program

Our program introduces Catholic values and nurtures independent thinking through academic inquiry and self discipline. Students are challenged through Science, Technology, Reading and Language Arts, Math, Engineering, Art and Music programs that exceed today's educational standards. We believe in educating the whole child: *mind, body and spirit.*

### High School Prep Program

Our high school prep program prepares students to succeed and exceed. We incorporate STEM and project based learning with core curriculum essentials combined with cutting edge technology to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to learning. Students continue their journey in faith formation, building life skills and serving one another. Students graduate our program ready to thrive and lead by example in their communities.

DISCIPLIN  
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SCIENCE

*Everything.*

For more information including application, enrollment, financial assistance or to schedule a personal tour, please contact the Admissions Office at 330-460-7318 or [admissions@StASchool.us](mailto:admissions@StASchool.us)