

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

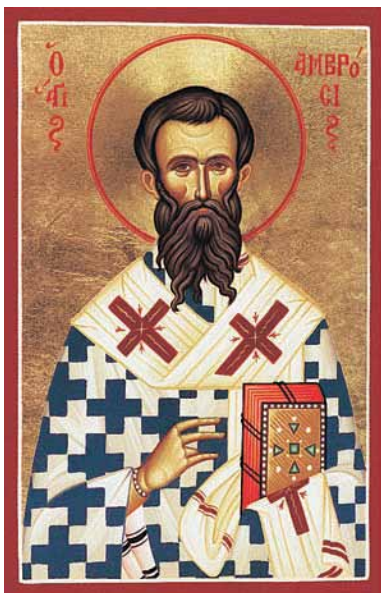


Focus on Faith

A Catholic Home

A Catholic church is easy to identify. When we enter, we often see statues of Mary and Joseph on each side of the altar. We can then find the familiar light near the tabernacle that indicates the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. When people enter your home, would they recognize it as a Catholic home? What is on your walls that would indicate a special devotion to Jesus or Mary? Are the palms received on Palm Sunday on the wall? Is there a special place for the Bible that shows reverence to God's Word? When people look at your bookshelves, will they find literature that tells readers about the lives of the saints or explores Catholic teaching? The atmosphere you create in your home can reinforce what your children experience at church.

Our Catholic Heritage



Saint Ambrose Icon, Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Ambrose of Milan (339–397) was elected bishop of Milan, in Italy, while he was still a catechumen and planning to be baptized. As a Roman government official, he was called to restore order among the different factions of the Milanese population during their attempt to elect a new bishop. They

soon realized that Ambrose was the perfect choice. As bishop, Ambrose devoted himself to preaching and teaching. In his book *Confessions*, Saint Augustine wrote that he was so inspired by Ambrose's sermons that he asked Ambrose to baptize him. Saint Ambrose made important theological contributions to the early Church's understanding of how Jesus Christ is both God and man. He is a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is December 7.

www.findinggod.com

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

A Christian atmosphere is created by environment in the home but also by the spirit of family members. What special Christian qualities does your family reflect—joy? generosity? sacrifice? constancy?



Spirituality in Action

Acting on behalf of justice is part of the Church's mission. Identify an activity that family members can do to support social justice. For example, you might

boycott items produced by a company that does not treat its workers fairly.

Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed the Morning Offering, a prayer that helps him or her prepare for the coming day. Help your child memorize the prayer by praying it aloud as a family. You can find the words to the Morning Offering at www.FindingGod.org.