

10 December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose Catholic Church



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Recitation Confessions will be heard on the first Sunday of each month, 7:15-7:45 a.m., or contact the parish office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & MARRIAGE:

Please contact the parish office in advance as preparation and arrangements for each sacrament are needed.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

RCIA is the process of initiating adults into the Catholic Church. It is for those desiring full membership through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact the parish office for information.

CARE OF THE COMMUNITY:

Please contact the parish office when pastoral care is needed or to request prayers.

St. Ambrose Catholic Church
609 East Main St.
Cecilia, KY 42724

Phone: (859) 481-8435
Email: stambrose@windstream.net

Priest Administrator
Reverend Benedict J. F. Brown

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, 9 December

Mary Mudd
Libby Ross

Sunday, 10 December

People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius & St. Clare

Wednesday, 13 December

Randy Mudd

Thursday, 14 December

Jimmy V. Myers

Saturday, 16 December

James H. Brown
Barbara Brown Castle
Harl Brown
Jessie Brown

Sunday, 17 December

People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius & St. Clare

Mass Intentions for deceased loved ones can be scheduled throughout the year through the Parish office. There are many Mass days still available for this calendar year. A minimum of \$10 per Mass Intention is encouraged.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B; 10 December, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Luke 3:4; Mark 1:1-8

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet Your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to His company, He lives and reigns forever and ever

Prayer Over the Offerings: Be pleased O Lord with our humble prayers and offerings and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come we pray, to our rescue with the protection of Your mercy, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment we humbly beseech You O Lord, that through our partaking in this mystery, You may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

This holy season of Advent introduces us to a very important group of Biblical characters known as Prophets. We will hear from many including: Anna, Elizabeth, Samuel (son of Hannah), the great Isaiah, and most important of all, John the Baptist. Today we will focus on Isaiah and John the Baptist in particular; actually, these two are center-stage this week and next week, the heart of this Advent Season.

Isaiah, whose life, and work took place about 750 years before the Birth of Jesus, has been compared to the great Englishman Saint Thomas More whose life and work took place about 1500 years after the Birth of Jesus. Both were counselors to their respective kings; both were gifted writers; and both were put to death by orders of kings and are venerated as martyrs. Exquisite as they are, the lines we have from Isaish this week and next provide a mere taste of all that he has to offer. John the Baptist is in many ways a contrast to Isaiah. He lives in the desert not a palace; he doesn't counsel a King so much, as he confronts one (Herod). He has been compared in some ways to modern-day prophets such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. John uses the power of words to change lives.

Just as last Friday, we had a Marian feast, (Immaculate Conception), this Tuesday we honor her under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Another of the titles in her Litany is Queen of Prophets. And let's not forget that this is the 38th week of her wondrous pregnancy.

The role which prophets play in our lives is really the role which Advent plays in our lives. We use them and the season as inspiration for examining our lives as human beings, and specifically how we understand our selves in terms of Christ, the God Who comes to us as a human. The Sacraments of our Church also help us to do this. Everything from birth to death and beyond, we understand in terms of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. Today we examine the occasional and the chronic limitations of our physical selves. Through the Anointing, we draw strength from our Redeemer, Who comes to us in the weakness of infancy, Who lives His earthly life among the needy, and Who gives us continuous companionship with Himself through His death on the Cross. Next week we celebrate Reconciliation, and we rejoice that Christ's humanity as well as His divinity, shows itself in mercy toward us.

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS***Sacrament of Anointing***

9 & 10 December at St. Ambrose & St. Ignatius

Sacrament of Reconciliation

16 & 17 December at St. Ambrose & St. Ignatius

**SEASONAL MASS TIMES****Masses of Christmas Eve**

6:30 PM at Saint Ambrose

9:30 PM at Saint Ignatius

Masses of Christmas Day

8:00 AM at Saint Ambrose

10:00 AM at Saint Ignatius

10:30 AM at St. Clare Oratory
(visiting priest)

Mass of New Year's Eve

5:00 PM St. Clare Oratory

Masses of New Year's Day

8:00 AM at Saint Ambrose

10:00 AM at Saint Ignatius

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

A member of the Art & Environmental Committee will be in the back of Church before and after each Mass this weekend to receive your donation and record your information to be placed on the tag and in the bulletin for your Poinsettias(s). They will be used to decorate the Altar and Sanctuary for Christmas and commemorate your loved ones, both living and deceased. Please make checks payable to Saint Ambrose Catholic Church.

FAITH FORMATION

Does your child/grandchild need religious education? We have materials for family-based faith formation for any child K through high school. Just email sarahcfellows@gmail.com or text/call 502-419-0681 with the names, ages and grades of each child and if any child needs to receive a Sacrament in the next year.

STEWARSHIP - TIME & TALENT

We need **YOU** to be involved in the parish! There are lots of ways each member of your family can be involved in Mass, parish activities, service projects and more! Please fill out a stewardship form in the back of church (or email sarahcfellows@gmail.com for a copy) and return it to Father Ben or a parish council member.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOOD DRIVE

For many years now, the Vine Grove Council of the Knights of Columbus (#3379), has distributed Christmas food boxes for the needy of Hardin and Meade Counties; distribution this year will be 16 December. Your contributions of non-perishable food items can be delivered to receptacles at St. Ambrose and St. Ignatius on 10 December.

Prayer Requests

Please keep our sick, recovering, and home-bound members in your prayers: **Dennis Arnold**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**FEEDING AMERICA**

The second Tuesday of the month is our parish night to help put together food bags for school children and area seniors. Volunteers must be 7 yrs. or older and wear closed-toe shoes. The next volunteer date is **Tuesday, 12 December 5:30-7**. Please RSVP to **Sarah Fellows**.

WARM BLESSINGS

The second Friday of the month is our parish night to pack to-go dinners for those in need. Our next date is **Friday, 12 January**. If you or your family would like to join, please RSVP to **Sarah Fellows**.

Sarah Fellows contact information: 502.419.0681 or sarahcfellows@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Weekend of 3 December: \$7,458.00

Yearly Collection Budget 2023-2024: \$106,855.00

Weekly Goal: \$2,055.00

FYTD Total: \$79,227.20

St. Clare Collection 12/3: Maintenance: \$5,987.00
Cemetery: \$5,000.00

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

Celebrate!

December Birthdays: Jim Bush – 12/06; Karen Williams – 12/11; Kelly Payton – 12/13; Sharon Higdon – 12/14; Marie Stuecker – 12/15; Joyce Solar – 12/18; Jeanie Thompson – 12/21; Carol Cetta – 12/28; Marcella Brangers and Charlie A. Brown – 12/30

December Anniversaries: Bill & Mauhee Edmondson – 12/27; Jim & Sandy Jones – 12/30

PARISH COUNCIL



Sarah Fellows, Rick Thomas, Rita French, Paul Stuecker, Marianne Sheroan, Charlie Wise, Jason Crutcher, and Joe House

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL



Our Parish Goal: **\$17,200.00**

Our Parish Participation Goal: **71 households**

Thanks to those who have already responded with a gift to the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal. To date we have raised **\$17,252 (100%)** toward our goal through the support of **64 households (90%)**. There is still plenty of time to respond with a gift to this year's Appeal. Gifts may be made through our parish office or online at www.ArchLou.org/CSA.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KIDS

Christmas With The Kids will feature a visit from Santa Claus, hot dog lunch and other refreshments provided by Knights of Columbus Council 3379 at Saint Brigid Church in Vine Grove, 1:30-3:30PM on Sunday, 12/17.



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)