

17 December 2023

Third 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*

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sunday:</b>    | <b>8:00 a.m.</b> |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | <b>5:30 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | <b>5:30 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | <b>5:30 p.m.</b> |

## *Mass Intentions*

### Saturday, 16 December

James H. Brown  
Barbara Brown Castle  
Harl Brown  
Jessie Brown

### Sunday, 17 December

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

### Wednesday, 20 December

Jimmy V. Myers  
Florence B. Brown

### Thursday, 21 December

Eddie Thompson

### Saturday, 23 December

Rick Miles

### Sunday, 24 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.*

### Third Sunday of Advent, Year B; 17 December, 2023

Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:46-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Isaiah 61:1; John 1:6-28

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”*

**Collect or Opening Prayer:** O God Who see how Your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing, through Christ our Lord .....

**Prayer Over the Offerings:** May the sacrifice of our worship Lord, be offered to You unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us Your saving work, through Christ our Lord.....

**Prayer after Communion:** We implore Your mercy Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts, through Christ our Lord.....

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#### MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

For the second weekend in a row, we hear from two real superstars among the prophets, the greatest from the Hebrew Scriptures (Isaiah) and the greatest from the Christian Scriptures (John the Baptist). This is arguably Isaiah’s most well-known selection (61:1-2); it is certainly true, that in the only episode where we see Jesus read the Bible (Luke 4:16:21), He reads this passage from Isaiah. As for John the Baptist, this week’s episode finds him also quoting Isaiah; but he is doing precisely the task he was born to do, pointing people away from himself.

This Third of the four Sundays of Advent is called “Gaudete” Sunday, the Sunday (Week) of Joy. The first word of the first prayer in this weekend’s Mass is “Rejoice,” (cf., Entrance Antiphon, from Philippians 4:4-5). We light the third candle, the pink one; in some places, the option of pink vestments is exercised. There is truly cause for rejoicing....whether for those contemporaries of Isaiah and John, who awaited the Messiah over those four thousand years of recorded history, or for us who light the candles. The Savior comes to the world as a person like ourselves, and His coming makes an incalculable difference. In Saint Matthew’s account of the Gospel, there is a very remarkable conversation between Jesus newly arrived on the preaching circuit, and some followers of John the Baptist. John in prison has heard about the new preacher and wants to know if He is the One for Whom everybody has been looking? Jesus does not give them a straight answer. Rather He says, “Tell John what you have seen;” “the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers are being healed; and the poor have the good news preached to them,” (Matthew 11:2-6). We can add....’We now have a God Who loves us in spite of our sinful condition.’ We celebrate Reconciliation at all Masses this weekend.

Our Catholic community in Hardin County was bruised in recent weeks by the accidental death of James V. “Jimmy” Myers as he performed farming chores near Colesburg. His 62nd birthday is being celebrated today here as well as in heaven. Four members of his extended family are keeping his memory in their Baptisms today at Saint Ambrose. They are daughter Donya Walters, grand-daughters Madesyn Walters and Emerson Kate Alvey, and grandson Oakley Alvey. We welcome them all, and thank them for the beautiful way in which they remember Jimmy and bring Joy to this Advent Season.



### SEASONAL MASS TIMES

#### Masses of Christmas Eve

6:30 PM at Saint Ambrose

9:30 PM at Saint Ignatius

#### Mass of New Year's Eve

5:00 PM St. Clare Oratory

#### 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)

#### Masses of New Year's Day

8:00 AM at Saint Ambrose

10:00 AM at Saint Ignatius

### ROOM IN THE INN

Room in the Inn winter shelter is going on now and St. Ambrose is helping with snacks. If you would like to provide any of the following items, please bring them to the parish hall and leave them on a bench in the hallway. We will take donations through February 1, 2024.

Needed items: individually wrapped protein-rich snacks including beef jerky, protein bars and peanut butter crackers. They can also use bottled water, individual Gatorade flavor packets, string cheese and granola bars.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Prayer Requests

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

## 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](mailto:sarahcfellows@gmail.com) for a copy) and return it to Father Ben or a parish council member.

### 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, 9 January 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](mailto:sarahcfellows@gmail.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL



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

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **3 January at 6:15 PM**. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

## STEWARDSHIP

*“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Weekend of 10 December: \$5,075.00  
Yearly Collection Budget 2023-2024: \$106,855.00  
Weekly Goal: \$2,055.00  
FYTD Total: \$84,302.20

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

## 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

## 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.

## VOCATIONS



**Pope Francis**   
@Pontifex

*To proceed on the journey of life, we need to be stripped of the “more”, because to live well does not mean being filled with useless things, but being freed from the superfluous, to dig deeply within ourselves so as to hold on to what is truly important before God. #Angelus*



**Archbishop Shelton Fabre**  
@ArchbishopFabre

*“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rv 12:1). Our Lady of Guadalupe, intercede for all the peoples of the Americas. Teach us to love one another as sisters and brothers in Christ.*

## CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL



**FINAL UPDATE:** Thanks to all who generously responded with a gift to the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal. As of 12/8, we raised **\$17,652 (103%)** toward our goal through the support of **65 households (92%)**.

## Sending Love To

People who feel lonely during Christmas, the caregivers who can't be with their families, the ones who are battling depression, those who are struggling to afford a holiday celebration, those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, and those who are spending their Christmas with people who aren't supportive.

