

24 December 2023  
Fourth 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](mailto: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, 23 December

Rick Miles

### Sunday, 24 December

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

6:30 PM Jimmy Myers

### Monday 25 December

Mike Wheatley  
Special Intention: PT

### Wednesday, 27 December

Micah Taylor

### Thursday, 28 December

Randy Mudd

### Saturday, 30 December

Mary Ellen Bryan

### Sunday, 31 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.*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B; 24 December, 2023

2 Samuel 7:1-16; Psalms 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:38; Luke 1:26-38

*"I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Your Word."*

**Collect or Opening Prayer:** Pour forth we beseech You O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, Who lives and reigns forever and ever .....

**Prayer Over the Offerings:** May the Holy Spirit O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon Your altar, just as He filled with His Power, the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through Christ our Lord.....

**Prayer after Communion:** Having received this pledge of eternal redemption we pray Almighty God that as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of Your Son's Nativity, Who lives and reigns forever and ever.....



### MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

We light the fourth candle of our Advent wreaths this weekend, symbolizing the fourth millennium of recorded history before the Birth of Christ, our God entering history. That beautiful word "Incarnation," is used in the Opening Prayer of today, an oration which will sound familiar to us from the recitation of the Rosary, highlighting Mary's essential role in this turning point of human history. Throughout Advent we have noted the progress of her pregnancy, as she through faith becomes Mother of our Savior and Mother of the Church. Her example has been for us an inspiration, as we have examined our lives for evidence that the Birth of her Son has truly made a difference in our lives.

The Season of Advent ends and the Season of Christmas begins with the Mass of the Vigil. This second season of our Year of Worship, will be highlighted by four more solemn days, stretching from the evening of 24 December through the evening of 7 January. As the four weeks of Advent represented four millennia before the Birth of Jesus, we can consider these two weeks as representative of the two millennia since His Birth. The mysteries to be highlighted include: The Nativity (25 December); the fact that He was born into a family (31 December); the wondrous role played out by His mother (1 January); and, the truth that His message is meant for all cultures (7 January). We will celebrate these solemnities as we have the weeks of Advent, with the candles on our wreaths. Here is the schedule of Masses:

Mass	Date	Location	Time
Vigil of Christmas	Sun., 24 December	St. Ambrose	6:30 PM
		St. Ignatius	9:30 PM
Christmas Day	Mon., 25 December	St. Ambrose	8:00 AM
		St. Ignatius	10:00 AM
		St. Clare Oratory	10:30 AM
Solemnity of the Holy Family	Sat., 30 December	St. Ambrose	5:30 PM
	Sun., 31 December	St. Ambrose	8:00 AM
		St. Ignatius	10:00 AM
Vigil of Mary, Mother of God	Sun., 31 December	St. Clare Oratory	5:00 PM
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Mon., 1 January	St. Ambrose	8:00 AM
		St. Ignatius	10:00 AM
Solemnity of the Epiphany	Sat., 6 January	St. Ambrose	5:30 PM
	Sun., 7 January	St. Ambrose	8:00 AM
		St. Ignatius	10:00 AM
		St. Clare Oratory	5:00 PM

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.



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

STEWARDSHIP - 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.

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.



**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

*Please send Prayer Requests or Birthday/Anniversary dates to Virginia Hart at [vahplans@live.com](mailto:vahplans@live.com)*



*"Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her." Luke 1:38*

### St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Weekend of 18 December: \$5,185.00  
 Yearly Collection Budget 2023-2024: \$106,855.00  
 Weekly Goal: \$2,055.00  
 FYTD Total: \$89,487.20

It is through Mary's "YES" that the promise of the prophets finds fulfillment. Mary serves as a role model for all stewards.

### VOCATIONS



**Pope Francis** ✨  
 @Pontifex

*In these final days of #Advent, I invite you to prepare to welcome the Child Jesus in joy and simplicity of heart, through prayer, participation in the sacraments, and charitable deeds. #GeneralAudience*



**Archbishop Shelton Fabre**  
 @ArchbishopFabre

*Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Let us join Mary in saying an unqualified "Yes" to God's will for us.*

### MARRIAGE MOMENTS

("By Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net) ")

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree." What's the silliest, most creative, or most romantic gift your true love has given you? Be a humble human today. That's what Jesus did by becoming human

### PARENTING POINTERS

("By Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net) ")

Christmas is almost here. If your child is old enough to remember past Christmases, talk about favorite customs and perhaps even a snafu that might have happened. Remember and laugh together.



**Saint James School will sell raffle tickets after all Masses the weekend of December 30-31 in the vestibule of the church. Tickets are also available in the parish and school offices.** The grand prize is an EZ-GO Valor golf cart (sponsored by Extreme Sports) or \$10,000 cash option. **Tickets are \$20.00 each** and only a maximum of 2,000 will be sold. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to sell additional tickets (businesses welcome) contact the Raffle Chair, Courtney Fleck at [courtneyrfleck@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyrfleck@gmail.com).

### Prayer for Christmas Dinner

