

31 December 2023

Solemnity of the Holy Family

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, 30 December

Mary Ellen Bryan

Sunday, 31 December

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

St. Clare 5 PM (Intentions
Announced at Mass)

Monday, 1 January

Mike Wheatley

Wednesday, 3 January

Deceased Members of the
Malone/Thomas Families

Thursday, 4 January

Randall Norris/Freddie Newton

Saturday, 6 January

Deceased Members of the Stuecker
Family

Sunday, 7 January

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

St. Clare 5 PM (Intentions
Announced at Mass)

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.

Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Year B; 31 December, 2023

Genesis 15:1-6 & 21:1-3; Psalms 105; Hebrews 11:8-19; Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 2:22-40

"They returned to Galilee; and the Child Jesus grew in Wisdom, and age, and grace." (Luke 2:52)

Collect or Opening Prayer: O God, Who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of Your house, delight one day in eternal rewards, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: We offer You, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, You may establish our families firmly in Your grace and peace, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: Bring those You refresh with this heavenly sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company forever; through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

The mystery of the Incarnation, God coming to live on earth as a person like ourselves, is so wondrous that its celebration cannot be limited to a day, or even two. The Season of Christmas (often spoken of as "twelve days") stretches from the evening of 24 December through the Solemnity of Epiphany, this year the 7th of January.

And just as we highlighted the season of Advent with candles, so we mark the Season of Christmas. Our candles mark the passing of the Season as we begin to extinguish them after the Nativity (25 December), Holy Family (31 December), Mary our Mother (1 January), and Epiphany (7 January).

As always, our Christmas this year is a season of gift-giving, both individually and collectively. Keeping with a long-standing tradition, a major portion (50%) of our parish collections on Christmas go to the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Charities. You will find those amounts, as well as the amount presented to the Retired Religious Fund in a later bulletin. The RRF collection has happened annually during Advent since 1983; it provides support for elderly monks and nuns for whom Social Security is inadequate.

I am personally very grateful for the many gifts and kindnesses that have come my way during the Season. Collective offering envelopes have come to me from the parishes of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius, the Oratory of St. Clare; I am very grateful. I have also received too many cards to count, all lovely, filled with beautiful messages, gift cards for restaurants and other businesses, and monetary gifts most generous. There have also been gifts of clothing, books, beverages, baked goods, farm fresh products, etc., etc. I hope to thank you individually and will have fun trying. However, if I don't get to everyone, know still that I am very grateful.

I would certainly be remiss if I failed to thank all those who had their hands full with an effort to prepare and deliver our worship experiences, from sanitizing and cleaning, to decorating, to providing music and readings to preparing and distributing parish bulletins, to filming, broadcasting, posting our services, etc. Readers, Communion Ministers, and Collection Counters help all year long and are most certainly appreciated. You are all a treasured gift to our community.

Mass	Date	Location	Time
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

PARISH NEWS

FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH KICKOFF

We will kick off our capital campaign, Forward Together in Faith, Epiphany weekend (1/6-1/7) with gatherings in the parish hall after both masses. Please join us after the **5:30PM Mass** for sandwiches, sides and refreshments or after the **8AM Mass** for Donut Sunday with donuts, fruit and refreshments. Committee members will be available to answer any questions you may have and to accept pledge cards from those who are ready.

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 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.

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 for a copy) and return it to Father Ben or a parish council member.

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, 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

STEWARDSHIP

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."
Colossians 3:13

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Weekend of 25 December: \$3,159.00
Yearly Collection Budget 2023-2024: \$106,855.00
Weekly Goal: \$2,055.00
FYTD Total: \$95,268.20

Christmas Collection: 2,622.00

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

The message of Bethlehem is indeed “good news of great joy”. What kind of joy? Not the passing happiness of this world, but the joy that consoles hearts, renews hope and bestows peace. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit: the joy born of being God’s beloved sons and daughters.



Archbishop Shelton Fabre
@ArchbishopFabre

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and from his fullness we have all received” (Jn 1:14,16). The Incarnate Word of God dwells among us. Let us welcome him into our hearts.



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

January Birthdays: Emma Fellows - 01/02; Raymond Ellis & Belinda Stuecker – 01/06; Freddy Thomas, Jr. – 01/10; Charles Thompson – 01/13; Alex Hadden – 01/19; Anna Mattingly – 01/20; Ginny Bowling – 01/21; Connor Crutcher – 01/27; Anna Nichols & Laurita Goodrich – 01/28

January Anniversaries: Larry & Lisa Ellis – 01/02; Walker & Byrle Thomas – 01/11 (60 years)

Please send Prayer Requests or Birthday/Anniversary dates to Virginia Hart at vahplans@live.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.**

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



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.

2024 Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
As we embrace 2024, guide our steps in this ever-changing world. Fill us with wisdom and strength, keeping our focus on Your eternal love.

We pray for global peace, healing where there's hurt, and unity in our communities. May our leaders act with justice and truth, reflecting Your heart.

Bless our young people with growth and purpose. Revitalize our church, letting the Gospel's message shine brightly. Deepen our bond with You, teaching us to love as Jesus did.

Lord, as we journey through 2024, we trust in Your plan and grace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

