

7 January 2024

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

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, 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)

Wednesday, 10 January

Libby Ross

Thursday, 11 January

Randy Mudd

Saturday, 13 January

Mary Ellen Bryan

Sunday, 14 January

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.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord; Year B; 7 January, 2024

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-6; Matthew 2: 2; Matthew 2:1-12

“Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: O God, Who on this day revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in Your mercy that we, who know You already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of Your Church, in which are offered now, not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but He Who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns.....

Prayer after Communion: Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which You have willed to participate, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

With the Feast of the Epiphany, we bring the joyous season of Christmas to a close. There were four thousand years of recorded history before the Birth of Christ the Promised One, God Himself in human form. We marked that with the four weeks of Advent, which began our year of worship. The final week of the calendar year (25 December 2023) was the first half of our Season of Christmas; the first week of the calendar year (31 December 2023 – 7 January 2024), continues the second half of this holy season. Those two weeks represent the two thousand years since the Birth of our Redeemer.

I am intentional in writing the phrase our Redeemer, because that is precisely Who Jesus is for us as Christians and Roman Catholics. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated as a recognition of our belief that the redemption available to us in Christ is available to all people, of all cultures, for all time. The word *Epiphany* has a simple meaning: to make manifest. God Who is invisible, is made visible, that is, manifest, for all to see and receive. The “three Kings,” also known as ‘wise men,’ also known as ‘Magi,’ represent Gentiles that is non-Jewish peoples. (The Holy Family and all those associated with them were Jewish). In addition to the information in Saint Matthew’s account of the Gospel, there are significant Biblical references to characters like these, such as we have today in Isaiah and Psalms. Non-Biblical writers such as the historian Flavius Josephus, mention these types also. As a result, we have a bit of confusion as to just who they were.... Kings? Wise Men? Zoroastrian priests? The word Magi is linked to ‘magician’ and to ‘magnificent.’ Great ones or even celebrities, probably comes as close to accurate as we need.

That’s because the literal description is not as important as is the symbolic value of these three who take center stage as we bring down the curtain on another Christmas Season. It is not likely that these three were at the manger with the shepherds as we usually depict them; they may well have come to Nazareth, even after the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt? What became of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh? What is important is that they represent us, who for the most part, came from non-Jewish lineage. And when we say that faith in Jesus is available to all, we mean just that, available. It does not mean that all must accept, but that all may accept the gift of faith. And most important of all, this day reminds us to ask ourselves, why we do accept the gift of faith in Christ, and what that means for us.

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 **5:30 PM Mass** for sandwiches, sides and refreshments or after the **8 AM 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.

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.

Prayer Requests

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

Celebrate!

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 Virgina Hart at vahplans@live.com

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

PARISH COUNCIL



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

STEWARDSHIP

“On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They knelt down and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Weekend of 31 December: \$2,930.00
Yearly Collection Budget 2023-2024: \$106,855.00
Weekly Goal: \$2,055.00
FYTD Total: \$98,298.20

St. Clare Collection Totals

25 December: \$1,044.00
31 December: \$1,077.00 (\$577 maintenance, \$500 cemetery)
Separate Cemetery Donations: \$6,369.89

The wise men shared their treasures in thanksgiving for God's great gift to world. Are we willing share our treasures in praise and thanksgiving to God?

RECENT AND CURRENT PARISH OFFERINGS

2023 Retirement Fund for Religious

In the name of the parish, a donation was made to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the amount of \$262.50, which represents 7.5% of an average weekend offering. When the Federal Social Security System was established in 1933, Catholic Religious Orders and their members in monasteries and convents throughout the United States were not included. In 1983, the American Bishops created this Retirement Fund for Religious and authorized the annual nationwide collection to support it. Our gift to this collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Through it, we also show our gratitude for the prayerful service of elderly sisters, brothers, and priests of the Religious Orders.

2023 Collection for Catholic Charities

Also, in the name of the parish, a donation was made to Catholic Charities of Louisville in the amount of \$1,750.00, which represents 50% of an average weekend offering. This collection helps to fund many vital ministries and social services, including:

- The Sister Visitor Center and Father Jack Jones Food Pantries.
- Indigent Burial program
- Migration and Refugee Services.
- The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative combatting human trafficking.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, serving close to 15,000 residents in long term care homes.
- Community gardeners with Common Earth Gardens.

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

We entrust the new year to the #MotherOfGod. May we consecrate our lives to her. In her tenderness, she knows how to reveal its fullness, because she will lead us to Jesus, the fullness of time, of all ages. May this year be filled with the Lord's consolation.

Epiphany Prayer

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes go
home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock
The real work begins

To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoners
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among brothers
To make music in the heart.

~ Howard Thurman