

18 February 2024
First Sunday of Lent

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

Church Website
saintambrosechurchcecilia.com

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, 17 February

James H. Brown
Barbara Brown Castle
Harl Brown
Jessie Brown

Sunday, 18 February

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

Wednesday, 21 February

Mary Mudd

Thursday, 22 February

Richard Helm

Saturday, 24 February

Randy Mudd

Sunday, 25 February

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.

First Sunday of Lent, Year B; 18 February, 2024

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalms 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Matthew 4:4; Mark 1:12-15

"I set my bow in the clouds to serve as the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." (Genesis 9:13)

Collect or Opening Prayer: Grant, Almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Give us the right dispositions, O Lord we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from Your mouth, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

With our acceptance of the blessed ash, something which we do at this time every year, we have begun the journey which is Lent. This annual period on the calendar (6 weeks/40days), is similar to Ramadan in the Islamic Tradition (1 month) and Rosh Hashanah in the Jewish tradition (10 days). They are all about repentance for failings and refinement of character. As Christians we see Lent as time to draw closer to Christ and find deeper meaning in our faith.

We can achieve these goals if we are engaged and intentional about our spiritual growth; and there are many strategies we can use. First and foremost is active participation in the Mass each week. The assigned Scripture readings for Year B will include selections from the first two books of the Bible: Genesis and Exodus. We will hear from the Hebrew Prophets, too; and although we do not hear from the great Isaiah (except on weekdays) until Holy Week, we do hear from Jeremiah and Ezekiel. We will also have ample instruction from those two great Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul. For the Gospel selections, we have the option to draw from Year A, which we will do for those dramatic episodes, beginning today with the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert.

Lent is also a time for charitable giving, and the parish will continue reporting to you about specific donations made in your name. The popular project known as Operation Rice Bowl will be in effect, and all are encouraged to pick up the symbolic container, an especially good teaching opportunity for children. You will enjoy too, the Little Black Books of daily devotionals which we distribute in the opening days of Lent, the ones for children are purple this year. We order more each season, but still seem to run out.

The other devotion is the Way of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which is being celebrated on Fridays at Saint Ignatius and Wednesdays at Saint Ambrose beginning at 5:30 pm. Services at Saint Ambrose are being held in the Howard-Osborne Parish Hall until further notice.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MESSAGING

Parish messaging has begun! If you are not receiving the weekly messages, please text or call **Marianne Sheroan** at 270-312-5587 with your name, phone number, and whether that number is a mobile or home number and you will be added immediately!

FAITH FORMATION

Does your child/grandchild need religious education? We have materials for family-based faith formation for any child K through high school. 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.

ONLINE GIVING

St. Ambrose is now offering online giving to all its parishioners! Please consider ParishSOFT, our online giving service, to support our parish. You can also support St. Clare Oratory (Maintenance and Cemetery) and St. Ambrose's Capital Campaign on the eGiving page. We are providing this option in addition to cash or check donations. You can still give through traditional methods, but now you can make recurring or one-time gifts online with a credit/debit card or electronic check.

Here are four ways to give:

1. Text 'Give' to 270-671-9324
2. Scan the QR Code below with your smartphone camera
3. Enroll Online:
giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stamb
4. Call Donor Support: 866-930-4774 ext. 8, option 2

Scan me!



Celebrate!

February Birthdays: Brenda Bush – 02/02; Allison Stuecker – 02/04; Sharon Kennedy & Jessica McGuffin – 02/05; Amy Hadden – 02/13; Kara Graycarek – 02/23; John Stuecker – 02/25

February Anniversaries: David O. & Virginia Hart (40 Years) – 02/11; Michael & Karen Williams – 02/15; James & Marie Stuecker – 02/26; Charles Dave & Donna Hart – 02/28

Prayer Requests

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

Please send Prayer Requests or Birthday/Anniversary dates to Virginia 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, 12 March 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, 8 March**. 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

"....he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited...." 1 Peter 3:19-20

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2023-2024 (\$106,855.00)

Weekly Goal (\$2,055.00)

Previous Total	\$111,318.20
In-Pew Collection 2/11	\$3,324.00
Online (2/1-2/13)	\$1485.00
FYTD Total:	\$118,736.20

St. Clare Collection (2/4/24): \$1418.00

St. Clare Collection (2/13/24): \$453.00

Regardless of whether one has been a good steward of gifts in the past, it is never too late to begin sharing with a generous heart. Decide how you will use your blessings of time, talent, and treasure in service to God, the source of all blessings. Begin small if necessary, but begin!

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 **6 March at 6:15 PM.**

January meeting notes inserted in this week's bulletin.

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

2/14/24: #Lent, which begins today, is an occasion for conversion and internal renewal through listening to the Word of God, caring for brothers and sisters who need our help, and prayer, especially to obtain the grace of peace in the world.



Archbishop Shelton Fabre
@ArchbishopFabre

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters: all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change" (Jas 1:12-18). Everything that is good comes to us from God's bounty.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHICKEN DINNER

Chicken Quarter, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Roll, Soda - \$11/meal

2/18/24 10AM – 2PM

Drive Thru Behind Knights of Columbus Hall

312 E Main St, Vine Grove, KY

POC John Pike 270-307-1499

ST JOHN PARISH FISH FRY

Every Friday during Lent

5PM - 7PM

ST BENEDICT PARISH FISH FRY

Fish Platter \$13; \$15 shrimp or oyster platters
Platters include onion rings or french fries, mac and cheese, green beans, hush puppies, and drink.

A la carte also available. Dine in or delivery.
502-264-0040

Every Friday during Lent, 2/16-3/22

11AM – 7PM

227 W Oak St, Lebanon Junction

TESTIFY LENTEN PROGRAM

Join Testify on Sunday, March 3rd at 5:30PM for musical reflections on the Stations of the Cross.

St John Catholic Church

657 St. John Church Rd, Etown (near Rineyville)

Refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall after the program.