

1 December 2024
First 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

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, 30 November

Bob & Lillian Hill
Janet Taylor

Sunday, 1 December

People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius & St. Clare
Deceased Members of the Crutcher Family

St. Clare 5 PM (Intentions Announced at Mass)

Wednesday, 4 December

Edith Brown Finch

Thursday, 5 December

Patrick Karle

Saturday, 7 December

Micah Taylor

Sunday, 8 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.

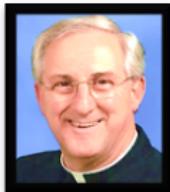
First Sunday of Advent, Year C; 1 December, 2024

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Psalm 85:8; Luke 21:25-36
"Show us Lord Your Love and grant us Your salvation."

Collect or Opening Prayer: Grant Your faithful, Almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet Your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming, so that gathered at His right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Accept we pray O Lord these offerings we make, gathered from from Your gifts to us; and may what You grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: May these mysteries O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us we pray, for even now as we walk amid passing things, You teach us by them to love the things of Heaven and to hold fast to what endures, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

If we greet each other with “Happy New Year” today, people unfamiliar with our calendar of worship might be confused to say the least. But, that greeting is not completely inappropriate.....the First Sunday of Advent is the first day of our new year on the liturgical calendar. All around us people are speaking of, and making preparations for the Christmas Season, and we all feel a bit of excitement, even frenzy. However, it is always a well-placed pastoral caution to suggest that we not over-look this beautiful and grace-filled season which leads up to Christmas. This is why, as Catholics, we tend to not sing the actual “Christmas” songs until after the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The four weeks of Advent, represented by four candles on a wreath, stand for the four thousand years of recorded history before the birth of Christ. We light each of the candles as we mark the arrival of each of the four weeks. With Christmas Day falling on Wednesday this year, we have nearly the maximum duration of the Advent Season – two days short of four full weeks. So, let’s resolve today to make the most of this beautiful season, with our readings, prayers, hymns, and various devotions. Please take advantage too, of the Little Blue Book of personal daily prayers.

**Our quarterly celebration of the Sacraments of Weakness, will be on the next two weekends:
Dec 7 & 8 – Reconciliation; 14 & 15 – Anointing. Saint Clare will have both today with Mass at 5:00 pm.**

You will note too that the Missalette and Hymnal Book have changed. With Advent – Christmas 2024 – 2025, we move to Year C of our three-year cycle of Scripture Readings. This shift does not so much change the theme of our reflection, as it makes a richer selection of Bible passages become familiar to us. The Gospel which we read for most Sundays of this new year is the third one, According to Saint Luke. Advent will also contain some important saints’ days such as the Bishops Nicholas and Ambrose in the Second Week, and two feasts of Our Lady in the First and Second Weeks (Immaculate Conception and Guadalupe). The Blessed Mother is the real “star” player in the drama of this season and she will have much to teach us. For now, let’s just remind ourselves that the First Week of Advent for us is the 36-37th week of this wondrous but very human, pregnancy for her.

PARISH NEWS

FAMILY-CENTERED FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

St. Ambrose faith formation is a family-centered program that provides families with age-appropriate materials for your children to learn about their faith at home on your own schedule. There are no class times (with the exception of Confirmation) and families can choose to participate in service activities that are offered through the parish twice a month if they choose. If your child is in need of a Sacrament, Father Ben will work one-on-one with your family (except Confirmation - see details below) in addition to the materials you work on at home. To sign up to get faith formation materials for the 2024-25 school year, contact Sarah Fellows at sarahcfellows@gmail.com or 502-419-0681.

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, 10 December 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, 13 December**. 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 and Jason Crutcher

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **4 December at 6:15 PM**. All are welcome to attend.

Prayer Requests

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

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

STEWARSHIP

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you." I Thessalonians 3:12

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2024-2025	\$119,924.00
Weekly Goal	\$2,306.00
Previous Total	\$64,870.53
In-Pew Collection (11/24)	\$2,590.00
Online (11/19-11/25)	\$275.00
FYTD Total:	\$67,735.53
Feeding America (Nov)	\$81.25

Love is contagious. Joy, gratitude, generosity, and service flow from love. So it is with stewardship. The U.S. Bishops teach us: "Christian stewards receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, and share them lovingly with others...."

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

The word "Gospel" means glad tidings, and it cannot be communicated with a long face and sombre countenance. We must share the Gospel with the joy of those who have unearthed a hidden treasure and precious pearl. #GeneralAudience



Archbishop Shelton Fabre
@ArchbishopFabre

"Someday we will thank God not only for what He gave us but also for that which He refused." Archbishop Fulton Sheen

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

Send Prayer Requests or Birthday/Anniversary dates to Virginia Hart at vahplans@live.com

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TESTIFY MUSICAL PROGRAM



You are invited to wrap up your Thanksgiving weekend by joining Testify for its annual Advent/Christmas program, **today**, Sunday, Dec. 1st 4 PM at St. John. This year we will be sharing *"Christmas Favorites."* Immediately after, stay for some delicious desserts in the St. John Parish Hall.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PORK CHOP DINNER

December 8, 2024, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Drive thru behind K of C Hall
312 East Main St., Vine Grove, Ky.

Grilled Pork Chop, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes Roll, Soda, \$11.00 Per meal.

*** All proceeds and donations will benefit Kim Poe Memorial**

 CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LOUISVILLE, INC. | Welcome Strengthen Empower

It's not too late to give someone in need a Christmas to Remember!



We need your help to serve almost 1,000 kids in need this Christmas season. Between now and December 9th, please use the following QR code - Amazon link to stock up our inventory to provide the best Christmas possible for the vulnerable kids in our community (scan the code with your phone's camera and click the link that pops up). For any questions, please contact Peyton at prhea@archlou.org.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL



 SCAN ME

Our Parish Goal: \$18,200

Our Parish Participation Goal: 71 households

Thanks to those who have already responded with a gift to the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal. To date we have raised **\$16,585 (91% of goal)** toward our goal through the support of **49 (69% of goal) households**. During this season of Advent, please consider making a gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. All gifts are tax deductible. Gifts may be made through our parish office or online at www.ArchLou.org/CSA or using the camera on your phone to scan the QR code.

PARENTING POINTERS

By Susan Vogt, www.susanvogt.net



On Dec. 6, St. Nick's day, children may get a small treat like candy in their shoe. But what about adding a note of appreciation; recognizing one of their talents.