

15 December 2024  
Third 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: [stambrosececilia@gmail.com](mailto:stambrosececilia@gmail.com)

Priest Administrator  
Reverend Benedict J. F.  
Brown  
  
Church Website  
[saintambrosechurchcecilia.com](http://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, 14 December  
Leo & Bernadette Mudd

Sunday, 15 December  
People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius &  
St. Clare

Wednesday, 18 December  
Buddy & Susie Taylor

Thursday, 19 December

Saturday, 21 December  
JoAnn Payne  
Kelli Bush

Sunday, 22 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.*

### Third Sunday of Advent, Year C; 15 December, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Isaiah 61; Luke 3:10-18  
“*Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, Rejoice!*”

**Collect or Opening Prayer:** O God Who see how Your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing, through Christ our Lord .....

**Prayer Over the Offerings:** May the sacrifice of our worship Lord, be offered to You unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us Your saving work, through Christ our Lord.....

**Prayer after Communion:** We implore Your mercy Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts, through Christ our Lord.....

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#### MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

Again this week our Scriptural lessons highlight the mission of the prophets who proclaim to the world that the Birth of the Savior is near. Zephaniah, like Baruch from whom we heard last week, is listed as a “minor” prophet; still his theme of joy is especially appropriate. We also hear again from the Prophet whom Jesus called “the Greatest,” John the Baptist, actually a cousin to the Lord on His mother’s side. And even though his message is inserted in the line-up of readings in the place where we usually read the Psalm, we have today some lines from Isaiah, the most prolific writer of the Hebrew Scriptures. This is the one who eight hundred years prior to Jesus’ Birth, gives details of what is to come; he also writes movingly of Jesus’ suffering and death.

This Third of the four Sundays of Advent is called “Gaudete” Sunday, the Sunday (Week) of Joy. The first word of the first prayer in this week-end’s Mass is “Rejoice,” (cf., Entrance Antiphon, from Philippians 4:4-5). It is repeated as the Second Reading of the Mass. As kids, we were taught to be happy because we are half-way through Advent! On this year’s calendar we are just over half-way; there have been fifteen days so far, and there are ten to go. Surely the commercial world is aware as it proclaims, “Ten more shopping days till Christmas!” And in church, we light the third candle, the pink one; in some places the option of pink vestments is exercised.

There truly is cause for rejoicing.....whether for those contemporaries of Zephaniah, Isaiah, and John, who awaited the Messiah over those four thousand years of recorded history, or for us who light the candles. The Savior comes to the world as a person like ourselves, and His coming makes an incalculable difference. In Matthew’s account of the Gospel, there is a very remarkable conversation between the adult Jesus, newly arrived on the preaching circuit, and some followers of John the Baptist. John in prison has heard about the new preacher and wants to know if He is the One for Whom everybody has been looking? Jesus does not give them a straight answer. Rather He says, “Tell John what you have seen, the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers are being healed, and the poor have the good news preached to them,” (Matthew 11:2-6). We can add.....’We now have a God Who loves us in spite of our weak and sinful condition.’ We celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing at all the Masses this week-end.

## PARISH NEWS

### HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve	Saint Ambrose	6:30 PM
	Saint Ignatius	9:30 PM
Christmas Day	Saint Ambrose	8:00 AM
	Saint Clare	10:30 AM
New Year's Eve	Saint Ambrose	4:00 PM
	Saint John	5:30 PM
	Saint Clare	7:00 PM
New Year's Day	Saint Ambrose	8:00 AM
	Saint Ignatius	10:00 AM

### 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](mailto: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, 14 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, 17 January**. Please RSVP to **Sarah Fellows**.

Sarah Fellows contact information: 502.419.0681 or [sarahcfellows@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcfellows@gmail.com)

## ROOM IN THE INN

Room in the Inn winter shelter has started and runs through the end of February. As in year's past, we are teaming up with St. James every Wednesday and will once again be providing snacks for the guests.

We need donations of high protein snacks (jerky, nutrition bars, peanut butter crackers, trail mix, etc) and hydration drinks (Gatorade, etc) in either bottle form or individual powder packets. Please bring your donations to the parish hall when you come to Mass. We can also arrange pick up if needed.

The shelter is also in need of volunteers to stay during the day and overnight.

For Christmas Day, they need help in making a special dinner for the guests. If you can help decorate tables, drop off prepared food, serve the food/drink, play a keyboard or live music, or help with activities after dinner, please call or text **Paula Tymitz** at 270-312-2254.

For any non-Christmas Day related questions, please contact **Sarah Fellows** at 502-419-0681

### 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 **8 January 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**.

# 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](mailto:vahplans@live.com)

## STEWARDSHIP

*“The crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘What should we do?’ He said to them in reply, ‘Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.’” Luke 3:10-11*

### St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2024-2025 \$119,924.00  
Weekly Goal \$2,306.00

Previous Total	\$71,252.53
In-Pew Collection (12/8)	\$4,584.00
Online (12/3-12/9)	\$395.00
<b>FYTD Total:</b>	<b>\$76,231.53</b>

The answer to the question, “what should we do?” is simple – SHARE. Sharing from the abundances we are given from God is the bottom line for all good stewards.

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### THANK YOU

Knights of Columbus thank you for contributing to their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. Through your generosity, they were able to raise \$6,300 this year to help Hardin County citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities through Project LEARN, Inc.

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE KIDS

Santa will visit the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 312 East Main St, Vine Grove on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30-3:30 PM. Activities will include pictures with Santa, games, hot dogs and drinks and fun for all!

## 2024 COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Our parish will conduct the annual collection for Catholic Charities of Louisville on **December 21-22**.

**Catholic Charities of Louisville served over 52,000 people in need last year.** Jesus calls us to serve all that are in need and all that are vulnerable. At Catholic Charities of Louisville, we do our best to live out that call. From the unhoused and impoverished, to the fleeing refugees and immigrants, to the victims of discrimination and human trafficking, we reach out to help and lift up those that need help. We need your help to continue this work, to make our community a better place. Join us in helping even more people next year.

## CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL



**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](http://www.ArchLou.org/CSA) or using the camera on your phone to scan the QR code.