

22 December 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

# St. Ambrose Catholic Church



## 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, 21 December

JoAnn Payne  
Kelli Bush

### Sunday, 22 December

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

### Tuesday, 24 December 6:30 pm

Deceased of the Joe & Gertrude Thompson and the Joe & Florence Brown Families

### Wednesday, 25 December 8:00 am

Edith Brown Finch

### St. Clare 10:30 am (Intentions Announced at Mass)

### Thursday, 26 December

Jimmy V. Myers

### Saturday, 28 December

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

### Sunday, 29 December

Mary Ellen Bryan

*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.*

### 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**

**Priest Administrator  
Reverend Benedict J. F.  
Brown**

**Church Website  
[saintambrosechurchcecilia.com](http://saintambrosechurchcecilia.com)**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C; 22 December, 2024

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:38; Luke 1:39-45

*“I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Your Word.”*

**Collect or Opening Prayer:** Pour forth we beseech You O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, He lives and reigns forever and ever .....

**Prayer Over the Offerings:** May the Holy Spirit O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon Your altar, just as He filled with His Power, the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through Christ our Lord.....

**Prayer after Communion:** Having received this pledge of eternal redemption we pray Almighty God that as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of Your Son’s Nativity, He lives and reigns forever and ever.....

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### MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

We have come to the final week of Advent, the final days of Mary’s wondrous pregnancy. All four banners are in place; all four candles are lit. And this year, the final week is closer to a half-week. It begins at 4:00 pm on Saturday, 21 December and ends at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, 24 December. That is when the Season of Christmas actually begins. Let’s review the Mass Schedule which was announced on the Second Sunday of Advent:

#### Christmas Eve

6:30 pm    Saint Ambrose  
9:30 pm    Saint Ignatius

#### Christmas Day

8:00 am    Saint. Ambrose  
10:30 am    Saint Clare

The Season of Christmas then, beginning with the Mass of the Vigil, will be highlighted by four more solemn days, stretching from the evening of 24 December through the evening of 11 January. As the four weeks of Advent represented four millennia before the Birth of Jesus, we can consider these two weeks as representative of the two millennia since His Birth. The mysteries to be highlighted include: The Nativity (25 December); the fact that He was born into a family (29 December); the wondrous role played out by His mother (1 January); and, the truth that His message is meant for all cultures (5 January). We will celebrate these solemnities as we have the weeks of Advent.

We have carefully noted the progressive weeks of the pregnancy of the Mother of Jesus, also our Blessed Mother of the Church. With all her faith and generosity of spirit, we can imagine how she might feel with this full final week: ‘Oh Joseph, is this Baby ever going to come!’ Her example has been for us an inspiration during Advent as we have examined our lives for evidence of the Birth of Jesus. Since the beginning of Advent, we have asked the questions: Can we find evidence that the Birth of Christ has made a difference in our lives? Is it Christmas? If we can answer ‘Yes’ to the first question, we can answer ‘Yes’ to the second question; and, we can celebrate. Merry Christmas, to all.

## 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](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 years 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

*“First he says, ‘Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.’ ....He takes away the first (covenant) to establish the second.”*  
Hebrews 10:8-9

### St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

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

Previous Total	\$76,231.53
In-Pew Collection (12/15)	\$3,709.00
Online (12/10-12/16)	\$770.00
<b>FYTD Total:</b>	<b>\$80,710.53</b>

The first covenant emphasized giving as a duty or obligation under the law. The new covenant emphasizes thanksgiving, gratitude, and cheerfulness – the qualities of a Christian steward.

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### 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



### Did you know?

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. Visit [cclou.org/hope2024/](http://cclou.org/hope2024/) to give or scan the QR code (scan the code with your phone's camera and click the link that pops up).

### *The Joy of Giving*

*Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.*

*~John Greenleaf Whittier*



*Merry  
Christmas*