

23 March 2025
Third 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: stambrosececilia@gmail.com**

**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, 22 March

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

Sunday, 23 March

Opal Ellis

Wednesday, 26 March

Maurice & Rose M. Smith

Thursday, 27 March

Billy Mattingly

Saturday, 29 March

Deceased of the John Locklin, Jr. Family

Sunday, 30 March

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 Lent, Year C; 23 March, 2025

“C” Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:1-9

“A” Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:42; John 4:5-42

“Lord, You are truly the Savior of the World; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: O God, Author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer, and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by Your mercy, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbor, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat You, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

As with most weeks, I prepare to write these paragraphs by reviewing what was written for this Sunday in previous years. On more than one occasion I have noted a considerable amount of precipitation, which we might quickly note, is not all that uncommon in mid-late March in Kentucky. I have, however, made a personal notice of 15 March, a day on which I hung bed sheets to dry outside, and only a few hours later experienced the beginning of what would become a 4-inch rain accumulation in Hardin County. Now to our worship; we find on this third weekend of Lent, as we do each year, the theme of water. Exercising our option to study the readings from Year A, we have the stories of the water-from- the rock (Exodus 17:3-7) and the Woman-at-the well (John 4:5-42).

It is of course the saving water of Baptism, which begins our life in Christ, which is celebrated through the sacramental system of our faith. I have been happy in recent years to provide lessons for a dozen families whose 7 – 8-year-old children wish to prepare for First Holy Communion. When those children were baptized as Catholics, their parents were encouraged to be “the first and best teachers” of their children in the life of faith. I ask the parents (as well as godparents and grandparents), to study the material and teach the children. I tell them too, that at any point in the lesson they feel they need assistance, they can call on me, to meet with them at home or at church. Last week, I met with Lynn McDaniel, Director of Faith Formation for the Archdiocese, and received encouragement from her in this approach.

The sacramental system is the central element of our lives as Roman Catholics because it brings us into direct contact with Jesus Christ, the Central Person in our lives as Christians. Lent is a wonderful time to enrich our thinking about the sacraments. Two of them which we celebrate quarterly and will during this holy season, are what I refer to as Sacraments of Weakness. Here is our schedule:

Sacrament of Anointing

29-30 March

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5-6 April

PARISH NEWS

EASTER LILIES

We are once again inviting parishioners to join in creating a beautiful and joyful environment for celebrating the blessed Easter liturgy. A member of the Art and Environment Committee will be taking orders before and after the masses on Saturday, 3/29 and Sunday, 3/30, for lilies to be placed in the church in memory of loved ones or to honor a living person or family.

A list of all who contributed and the names of their loved one(s) or living person(s) commemorated will be published in our Easter Bulletin. The lilies will be tagged with the names of those remembered and honored. For anyone wishing to keep their lily, we will announce when they can be taken from the church. For anyone wishing to donate their lily, these will be planted in our new prayer garden beside the church.

We have two sizes available: Large (\$25) and Medium (\$12). Please make checks payable to Saint Ambrose Catholic Church. Thank you so much for being a part of our Easter Masses Celebration!

BENEDICTION AND WAY OF THE CROSS

Saint Ambrose: Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 PM

Saint Ignatius: Fridays during Lent at 5:30 PM

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) 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.

HELP NEEDED

This Sunday, 23 March, we will be moving tables and chairs back into the parish hall after the 8AM mass, weather permitting. If you are able, we would welcome additional hands!

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Attention graduating seniors! Anyone graduating from high school, college, etc who is interested in having a Baccalaureate Mass, please contact **Sarah Fellows** 502-419-0681

Prayer Requests

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

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, 8 April 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, 11 April**. Please RSVP to **Sarah Fellows**.

Sarah Fellows contact information: 502-419-0681 or sarahcfellows@gmail.com

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

MARCH PROJECT

Active Day Adult Daycare will be making papier mâché Derby hats in April. They'll need artificial flowers (used are fine), feathers (bought), ribbons and bows. Please place in boxes in the annex.

STEWARSHIP

“And he told them this parable: There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener.... ‘cut it down.’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.’” Luke 13:6-9

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

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

Previous Total	\$123,629.49
In-Pew Collection (3/16)	\$3,534.00
Online (3/11 – 3/17)	\$700.00
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FYTD Total:	\$127,863.49
 Feeding America: \$31.00	

As the gardener cultivated the fig tree, stewards are also called to cultivate the talents of one another. The truth is that talents not used are lost to us and others.

RECENT AND CURRENT PARISH OFFERINGS

2025 Black and Indian Missions

In the name of the parish, a donation was made to the Black and Indian Missions in the amount of \$267.30, which represents 7.5% of an average weekend offering. This collection has been received on the First Sunday of Lent, every year since 1884. It exists to help diocesan communities preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native people of God. The donations help fund parish-based catechetical programs, support teacher and catechist professional development, encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and create diocesan structures, such as our own archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, that support ministry and evangelization in these diverse ethnic communities.

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 **9 April at 6:15 PM**. All are welcome to attend.

Celebrate!

March Birthdays: Jerome Skees – 03/04; Ron Bryan – 03/07; Myrna Priest – 03/08; Bob Sennott – 03/10; Karen Graycarek – 03/17; Nicki Flores – 03/18; Gary Lewis & Deannie Thompson – 03/20; Eric Kennedy & Jimmy Stuecker – 03/25; Adilyn Miles – 03/26; Kate Graycarek – 03/30

March Anniversaries: Rick & Karen Graycarek – 03/16

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TESTIFY LENTEN PROGRAM

The singing group, Testify, will hold a musical Lenten program focusing on the five sorrowful mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Please join us on **Sunday, March 23, at 4 PM**, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic church near Rineyville. St John is located at 657 St John Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY.

LOCAL LENTEN FISH FRIES

ST. BRIGID (KC) & RINEYVILLE COMMUNITY PARK (RCP) FISH FRY

Dates: 3/28 (KC), 4/4 (RCP), 4/11 (KC), 5:00-7:00PM

Menu:

Battered Fried Fish Portion \$12.00
Jumbo Fried Shrimp (6 piece) \$15.00
Fried Fish & 3 Shrimp \$18.00
Extra portion of fish with full meal \$3.00
Grilled cheese sandwich kids' meal \$6.00

Meals include: french fries, coleslaw, hush puppies, green beans, roll, dessert, drink