

29 December 2024
Solemnity of the Holy Family

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, 28 December

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

Sunday, 29 December

Mary Ellen Bryan

Tuesday, 31 December 4:00 pm

Robert Brown & Edith Brown Finch

St. Clare 7:00 pm (Intentions Announced at Mass)

Wednesday, 1 January 8:00 am

Recovery of Health - W T

Thursday, 2 January

Modell Wise & Alma Hinton

Saturday, 4 January

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

Sunday, 5 January

Eddie Thompson

St. Clare 5:00 pm (Intentions Announced at Mass)

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.

Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Year C; 29 December, 2024

1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 84; 1 John 3:1-24; Acts of the Apostles 16:14; Luke 2:41-52

“The Child Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and man.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: O God, Who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of Your house, delight one day in eternal rewards, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: We offer You, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, You may establish our families firmly in Your grace and power, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: Bring those You refresh with this heavenly sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company forever; through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

The mystery of the Incarnation, God coming to live on earth as a person like ourselves, is so wondrous that its celebration cannot be limited to a day, or even two. The Season of Christmas (often spoken of as “twelve days”) stretches from the evening of 24 December through the Solemnity of Epiphany and the days following up to (this year) 12 January. And just as we highlighted the Season of Advent with candles, so we mark the Season of Christmas. Our white candles mark the passing of the Season as we begin to extinguish them after the Nativity (25 December), Holy Family (29 December), Mary our Mother (1 January), and Epiphany (5 January).

As with 25 December, the Solemnity of Mary’s Motherhood, one week later is a Holy Day, when attendance at Mass is expected of all able-bodied Catholics. The opportunities in our community are as follows:

31 December; Tuesday, the Eve of the Holy Day

4:00 PM	Saint Ambrose
5:30 PM	Saint John
7:00 PM	Saint Clare

1 January; Wednesday, the Holy Day itself

8:00 AM	Saint Ambrose
10:00 AM	Saint Ignatius

The Christmas Season is always a time of giving, and our congregations are second-to-none in this regard. I am very grateful as Priest/Administrator for your generosity which helps us annually to support two causes especially appropriate to Christmas giving: the Retired Religious Social Security Supplement Fund and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Louisville. The amounts of those donations as well as the totals-to-date for the Catholic Services Appeal will be published in the first bulletin of the New Year.

This is our ninth Christmas together and you continue to overwhelm me with your gracious generosity to me personally. Cards, monetary gifts, amazing food items, liquid libations, gift cards, clothing all come showering down on me at this (and other) times of the year. Please know of my gratitude. I will try to thank you personally or in the mail; but know too, that I thank God for you.

Finally, on this Solemnity of the Holy Family, I want to share with you all the joy of welcoming, through the Sacrament of Baptism, HAZEL RAE AKERS. Baby Hazel, the daughter of Michael and Cassie (nee, Lindsey) Akers and sister of Everett Ray Akers, was born on 24 October and baptized at Saint Ambrose on 27 December. We welcome her and congratulate her family.

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, 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

ROOM IN THE INN

Room in the Inn winter shelter runs through the end of February. We are teaming up with St. James every Wednesday and will provide 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.

Please contact **Sarah Fellows** at 502-419-0681 with any questions.

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: Carol Cetta – 12/28; Marcella Brangers and Charlie A. Brown – 12/30

December Anniversaries: Bill & Mauhee Edmondson – 12/27; Jim & Sandy Jones – 12/30

January Birthdays:

Emma Fellows - 01/02; Raymond Ellis & Belinda Stuecker – 01/06; Charles Thompson – 01/13; Alex Hadden – 01/19; Anna Mattingly – 01/20; Ginny Bowling and Everett Akers (3 yrs. Old) – 01/21; Connor Crutcher – 01/27; Anna Nichols & Laurita Goodrich – 01/28

January Anniversaries: Larry & Lisa Ellis – 01/02; Walker & Byrle Thomas – 01/11

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

STEWARDSHIP

“....Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Luke 2:49

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2024-2025 \$119,924.00

Weekly Goal \$2,306.00

Previous Total	\$80,710.53
In-Pew Collection (12/22)	\$3,688.00
Christmas Collection	\$3,182.00
Online (12/17-12/23)	\$275.00
FYTD Total:	\$87,855.53

Even at a young age, Jesus understood that he was to be a steward of his Father’s will. Christian stewards seek to live their lives in God’s will.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Now that we are back in the church, Service and Outreach is resuming! During January, we will collect new or gently used eyeglasses for Lions Club. They accept readers which can be purchased at Dollar Tree for \$1.25.

No broken glasses and no cases, please. There is a collection box in the annex.

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

The Door is open, it is wide open! Come! Let us

be reconciled with God, and then we will be reconciled with ourselves and able to be reconciled with one another, even our enemies. #Christmas #Jubilee2025



Archbishop Shelton Fabre
@ArchbishopFabre

The shepherds said to one

another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger (Lk 2:15–20). A blessed Christmas to all!

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



Welcome
Strengthen
Empower



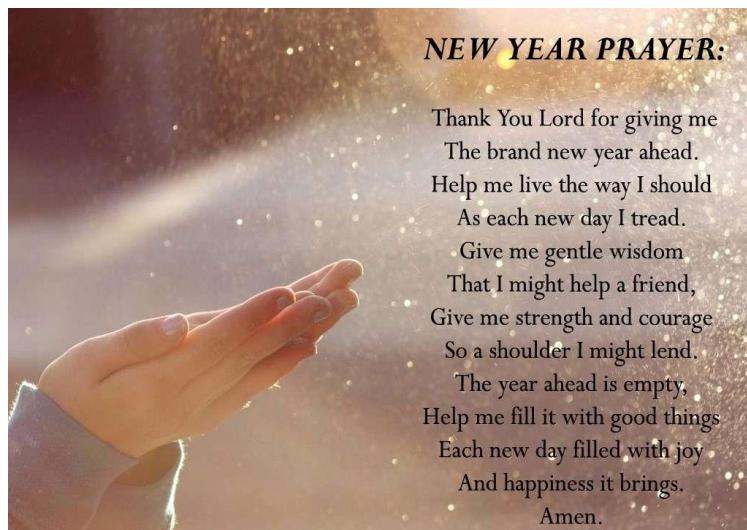
Catholic Charities of Louisville: Immigration Legal Services team opened 1,245 new cases in FY24, providing essential immigration relief and documentation services to people in need.

Support is so important in our complicated immigration system. With your support we can provide thousands with a legal pathway to immigration and citizenship.

To support this mission, please consider giving. Visit cclou.org/hope2024/ to give or scan the QR code.

SPECIAL DISCIPLES OF JESUS MASS

All are welcome! We hope your family will join us for the Special Disciples of Jesus Mass. We invite all Special Needs family and friends to St. Margaret Mary on Sunday, January 19 at 3PM. We know Mass can be a struggle for many families, so we hope to have a beautiful, unique celebration together where all feel welcome. Just come as you are! Your family will be welcomed with open arms and will hopefully meet other families in similar situations. The Mass will be shorter and geared towards our children. We hope to foster a Catholic community here with fellowship following Mass, so stick around to meet other families and kids. A light reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. For questions, more information or if you would like to help in this ministry, please contact Tara Mattingly at 502-690-2851 or tmattingly@stmm.org



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.