

3 November 2024

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, 2 November

Rick Miles

Sunday, 3 November

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

St. Clare 5 PM (Intentions
Announced at Mass)

Wednesday, 6 November

Micah Taylor

Thursday, 7 November

Edith Brown Finch

Saturday, 9 November

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

Sunday, 10 November

Charles & Lucille Mattingly

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.

XXXIst Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B; 3 November, 2024

Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Psalms 18; Hebrews 7:23-28; John 14:23; Mark 12:28-34

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, by Whose gift Your faithful offer You right and praiseworthy service, grant we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things You have promised, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for You a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of Your mercy, through Christ our Lord

Prayer after Communion: May the working of Your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by Your gift for receiving what they promise, through Christ our Lord



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

The verse captioned in italics at the top of this page is known to Jewish people as the Shemah Prayer, and is as familiar to them as the Doxology is to Christians and the Sign of the Cross is to Catholics. It is typically the first prayer one learns to recite as a child and the last one recited as an adult. And, just as the Jewish community celebrates its most important religious tradition with Passover in the spring-time, so we celebrate Holy Week. But, both traditions observe another religious event, during the autumn. For Jews it is High Holy Days with the Day of Atonement as the most solemn day. For us, it is the Autumn Triduum with the Feast of All Saints as the centerpiece.

You might be asking, as some have done, “Why does Father Brown pay so much attention to 31 October, 1 and 2 November? Or, as others have asked: “What does Father have against Halloween?” Well, I do not have anything against Halloween; I enjoy harmless pranks, tricks, and treats as well as anybody. I do not like the violent, sinister, and terroristic elements that we see too much of in reality; we need not bring it into our recreational activity. It is also a distortion of the real meaning of the tradition and feeds the commercial aspects of the season. Most importantly the emphasis on Halloween by separating it from 1 and 2 November (all Saints/All Souls) causes us to miss a valuable opportunity for spiritual and emotional growth. I will repeat from last week the sentences about linking the days:

**All Hallows’ Eve
31 October**

**All Hallows’ (Saints’) Day
1 November**

**All Souls Day
2 November**

This period of 72 hours on our Calendar of Worship, invites our reflection on a central element of our lives as Catholics, as Christians, as humans..... the very meaning of life and death. All human beings die and their lives in this world give meaning to their lives in the next. This fall triduum (3 days) has 1 November as the centerpiece, because sainthood/holiness is what we all strive for. The previous day, with all its secular and commercial distortions, recognizes the fact that we don’t measure up to our calling to holiness; we pretend to be less than holy and sometimes we are in reality. The third, 2 November, suggests that even after we have physically left this world, the memories we have made and which live on after us, can contribute to the achievement of our ultimate goal.

I am absolutely convinced that I am spiritually and emotionally more successful at coping with the loss of loved ones in their deaths, and in preparing for my own, by the annual observance, prayerfully of these three days, by finding and keeping Jesus as the focus and source of meaning for this time of the year.

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

A new Confirmation prep class is beginning this year for high school age youth. Catechist Rita French leads this two-year program that happens during the school year in classes that meet twice a month. Any youth interested in joining the St. Ambrose/ St. Ignatius class to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Rita French at Rljfrench@gmail.com or Sarah Fellows at 502-419-0681.

Prayer Requests

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

Father God, Your Word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to You today in faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name amen.

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

Celebrate!

November Birthdays: George Tymitz – 11/04; Carol Johnson – 11/06; Terry Priest – 11/16; Richard Foreman – 11/22; Nikki Cetta – 11/23; Nick Kennedy – 11/24; Michelle Foreman – 11/27

November Anniversaries: Gary & Debbie Lewis and Jonathan & Emilee Rivera – 11/19; Michael & Cassie Akers – 11/23

STEWARDSHIP

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2024-2025 \$119,924.00

Weekly Goal \$2,306.00

Previous Total	\$52,531.53
In-Pew Collection (10/27)	\$1,997.00
Online (10/22-10/28)	\$585.00
FYTD Total:	\$55,113.53

True stewardship is other-directed. The question a steward always tries to answer is: “What is the best way I can show my love for this neighbor?”

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

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 **\$6,715 (37% of goal)** toward our goal through the support of **14 (20% of goal) households**. There is still plenty of time to respond with a gift to this year's Appeal. 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.

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, 12 November 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, 8 November**. 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

VOCATIONS



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

Without joy, faith becomes a rigorous and oppressive exercise, and runs the risk of ailing with sadness. There is no holiness without joy!

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



We represent and serve over 11,000 long-term residents across Kentucky, and we need your help to do it. Please consider applying for the open Lincoln Trail District Long-Term Care Ombudsman position on our Long-Term Care Ombudsmen team. This position is perfect for someone with an advocate's heart, functions well in a self-directed, time sensitive environment who thrives on both the human interaction component of our work as well as the behind-the-scenes monitoring and advocacy work to ensure residents living in long-term care settings continue to have their quality of care and quality of life needs met or exceeded. To apply visit www.cclou.org/employment/.

USCCB Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen