

30 November 2025
First 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, 29 November
Randy Mudd

Sunday, 30 November
People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius &
St. Clare

Wednesday, 3 December
Buddy & Susie Taylor

Thursday, 4 December
Regina S. Brever

Saturday, 6 December
Janet Taylor

Sunday, 7 December
People of St. Ambrose, St. Ignatius &
St. Clare

St. Clare 5 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.

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
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Cecilia, KY 42724

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Email: stambrosececilia@gmail.com

Priest Administrator
Reverend Benedict J. F.
Brown

Church Website
saintambrosechurchcecilia.com

First Sunday of Advent, Year A; 30 November, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalms 122; Romans 13:11-14; Psalms 85:8; Matthew 24:37-44

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.”

Collect or Opening Prayer: Grant Your faithful, Almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet Your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming, so that gathered at His right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Accept we pray O Lord these offerings we make, gathered from Your gifts to us, and may what You grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption, through Christ our Lord.....

Prayer after Communion: May these mysteries O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us we pray, for even now as we walk amid passing things, You teach us by them to love the things of Heaven and to hold fast to what endures, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

If we greet each other with “Happy New Year” today, people unfamiliar with our calendar of worship might be confused to say the least. But, that greeting is not completely inappropriate.....the First Sunday of Advent is the first day of our new year on the liturgical calendar. All around us people are speaking of and making preparations for the Christmas Season, and we all feel a bit of excitement, even frenzy. However, it is always a well-placed pastoral caution to suggest that we not over-look this beautiful and grace-filled season which leads up to Christmas. This is why, as Catholics, we tend to not sing the actual “Christmas” songs until after the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The four weeks of Advent, represented by four candles on a wreath, stand for the four thousand years of recorded history before the birth of Christ. We light each of the candles as we mark the arrival of each of the four weeks. Solemnities of Our Lord and the Saints comprise two categories on our Calendar of Worship: these Feast Days are Moveable and Im-movable. Because it is celebrated on 25 December, no matter what day of the week it occurs, The Nativity of the Lord is in the latter category. That in turn means that the length of the Season of Advent can vary from year to year with a maximum of 28 days and a minimum of 21 days; this year Advent is 25 days long. These mental gyrations with the calendar are not so important. However, making the most of our celebrations of the Season truly is. And, since these days are filled with special readings, prayers, hymns, symbols, sacraments, and even musical concerts, we can certainly benefit.

You will note too that the Missalette and Hymnal Book have changed; with 2025, we move to Year A of our three-year cycle of readings from Scripture. This shift does not so much change the theme of our reflection, as it makes a richer selection of Bible passages become familiar to us. Advent will also contain some important saints’ days such as the Bishops Nicholas and Ambrose next Saturday and Sunday, and two feasts of Our Lady on the 8th and 12th (Immaculate Conception and Guadalupe). The Blessed Mother is the real “star” player of this season and she will have much to teach us. For now, let’s just remind ourselves that the First Week of Advent is the 36-37th week of this wondrous but very human, pregnancy!

Please avail yourselves of The Little Blue Books, free for the taking as long as they last. This is our seventh Advent to use the beautiful candle stand constructed of solid walnut by Tony and Paul Taylor; thanks, fellas.

PARISH NEWS

UPCOMING MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 29th 5:30 PM

Lector: Marianne Sheroan

Eucharistic Minister: Cindy Miles/Myrna Priest

Sunday, November 30th 8:00 AM

Lector: Gail Hunt

Eucharistic Minister: Virginia Hart/ Brenda Skees

Saturday, December 6th 5:30 PM

Lector: Katherine Underdonk

Eucharistic Minister: Marianne Sheroan/Nancy Kotarski

Sunday, December 7th 8:00 AM

Lector: Charles Thompson

Eucharistic Minister: Nicki & Ray Flores

PRAYER LIST

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

CHRISTMAS TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

New this year! The St. Ambrose Art & Environment Committee is inviting everyone to bring in an ornament in remembrance of a loved one. Beginning the second Sunday of Advent, there will be a basket in the back of the church with a sign that you can place the ornament in. Tags will be available to write your loved one's name. All ornaments will be placed on the tree on Christmas Eve.

DONUT SUNDAY

Coming up next week...Donut Sunday. Please join your fellow parishioners after the Sunday 8AM mass for coffee, juice, donuts and fellowship!

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, 9 December 5:30-7.** Please RSVP to **Sarah Fellows.**

WARM BLESSINGS

The second Friday of the month is our scheduled parish night to pack to-go dinners for those in need. The next volunteer date is **Friday, 12 December.** 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 starts at the beginning of December and runs through the end of February. As in years past, we are teaming up with St. James on their host night each 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. If you can help, please place your donation in the annex in the back of church.

St. James's schedule this year includes **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day**, where we will need lots of help.

To volunteer or for more information on training, contact **Mimi Pike**, 270-272-4952, or by email at mimi.pike35@gmail.com

2025 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

2025 Catholic Services Appeal - *Giving Hope to All*

Our Parish Goal: \$19,000

Our Parish Participation Goal: 71 households



Thanks to those who have already responded with a gift to the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal. To date, we have raised **\$18,827 (99% of goal)** toward our goal through the support of **52 (73% 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

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

CURRENT PROJECT

From now through December 14th, we will collect new or clean, gently used hats, earmuffs, scarves, gloves or mittens, and coats for men, women and children.

This winter wear will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Outreach and Helping Hand of Hope. Please place all donations in the annex.

STEWARDSHIP

“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2025-2026 \$130,924.00

Weekly Goal \$2,518.00

Previous Total	\$67,171.00
In-Pew Collection (11/23)	\$1,142.00
Online (11/18-11/24)	\$278.00
FYTD Total:	\$68,591.00

One of the key themes of the advent season is readiness. If God were to ask at this moment, could you provide an accounting of how you have used the personal and financial gifts that God has entrusted to you?

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TESTIFY CONCERT

The local group of church musicians known as “**Testify**” will present a concert of Advent music at Saint John Church on the third Sunday of Advent, December 14th @ 4PM. The concert is free and will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall.

That same evening, at 6:00 pm, a Cantata of sacred music will be presented by an ecumenical choir, at the Baptist Church in White Mills. Admission is free; this too will be followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall.

MID-KENTUCKY CHORUS SCHEDULE

The Mid-Kentucky Chorus schedule for “The Beautiful Music of Christmas” is as follows:

3:00 pm Saturday, 6 December; Saint Catherine Motherhouse – Springfield

3:00 pm Sunday, 7 December; Saint Augustine Catholic Church – Lebanon

7:30 pm Tuesday, 9 December; Fern Creek Baptist Church – Louisville

7:30 pm Friday, 12 December; Saint Joseph Protonotary Cathedral - Bardstown

3:00 pm Sunday, 14 December; Saint Catherine Motherhouse – Springfield

COPING WITH GRIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Join us for an evening with Dr. Renee Sartin on “Coping with Grief during the Holidays” on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Barth Hall, 2040 Buechel Bank Road, Louisville, KY 40218. This event is sponsored by St. Bartholomew Parish and is open to all. For more information, contact **Gina Priddy at 502-451-2929.**

PARISH COUNCIL



Sarah Fellows, Paul Stuecker, Marianne Sheroan, Charlie Wise, Jason Crutcher, Kena Cambron, Nikki Cetta, and Ray Flores

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 3 December 2025 after 5:30 Mass. All are welcome to join.



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: Bobby & Kathy Bright and Bill & Mauhee Edmondson – 12/27; Jim & Sandy Jones – 12/30