

5 January 2025

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

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, 4 January

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

Sunday, 5 January

Eddie Thompson

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

Wednesday, 8 January 8:00 am

Micah Taylor

Thursday, 9 January

Recovery of Health F.M.

Saturday, 11 January

Randy Mudd
Dale Taylor

Sunday, 12 January

Mary Ellen Bryan
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.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord; Year C; 5 January 2025

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalms 72; Ephesians 3:2-6; Matthew 2: 2; Matthew 2:1-12

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore You."

Collect or Opening Prayer: O God, Who on this day revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in Your mercy that we, who know You already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns.....

Prayer Over the Offerings: Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of Your Church, in which are offered now, not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but He Who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns.....

Prayer after Communion: Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which You have willed us to participate, through Christ our Lord.....



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BROWN

With the Feast of the Epiphany, we bring the joyous season of Christmas to a close. There were four thousand years of recorded history before the Birth of Christ the Promised One, God Himself in human form. We marked that with the four weeks of Advent, which began our year of worship; that was 30 November – 24 December, 2024. Then the fourth week of December 23-29 gave us two of the four highlights of the Season of Christmas: The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord and the Feast of the Holy Family. This week 30 December of 2024 – 5 January of 2025, gives us the other two highlights: The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God and the Feast of the Epiphany. I like to think that these celebrations, over about two weeks total, represent the two thousand years since the Birth of our Redeemer.

I am intentional in writing the phrase our Redeemer, because that is precisely Who Jesus is for us as Christians and Roman Catholics. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated as a recognition of our belief that the redemption available to us in Christ is available to all people, of all cultures, for all time. The word *Epiphanes* has a simple meaning: to make manifest. God Who is invisible, is made visible, that is, manifest, for all to see and receive. The "three Kings," also known as 'Wise Men,' also known as 'Magi,' represent Gentiles, that is, non-Jewish peoples. (The Holy Family and all those associated with them were Jewish). In addition to the information in Saint Matthew's account of the Gospel, there are significant Biblical references to characters like these, such as we have today in Isaiah and Psalms. Non-Biblical writers such as the historian Flavius Josephus, mention these types also. As a result we have a bit of confusion as to just who they were.....Kings? Wise Men? Zoroastrian priests? The word Magi is linked to 'magician' and to 'magnificent.' Great ones or even, celebrities, probably comes as close to accurate as we need.

That's because the literal description is not as important as is the symbolic value of these three who take center stage as we bring down the curtain on another Christmas Season. It is not likely that these three were at the manger with the shepherds as we usually depict them; they may well have come to Nazareth, even after the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt? What became of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh, is not an important question. What is important is that they represent us, who for the most part, came from non-Jewish lineage. And when we say that faith in Jesus is available to all, we mean just that, available. It does not mean that all must accept, but that all may accept the gift of faith. And most important of all, this day reminds us to ask ourselves, why we do accept the gift of faith in Christ, and what that means for us.

PRESIDENT JAMES EARL “JIMMY” CARTER

As this bulletin goes to press, the Nation and the World are receiving the news of the death of James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, 39th President of the United States, a few months after his 100th Birthday. His funeral ceremony is to take place in Washington’s National Cathedral on 9 January. Truly a citizen of the world, as expressed in the many humanitarian missions of the decades following his four years as President (1976 – 1980), this week of Epiphany seems a particularly appropriate time to honor President Carter’s legacy.

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 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**.



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

STEWARDSHIP

“....They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

St. Ambrose Weekend Collection Totals

Budget FY 2024-2025 \$119,924.00

Weekly Goal \$2,306.00

Previous Total	\$87,855.53
In-Pew Collection (12/29)	\$1,337.00
Online (12/24-12/30)	\$555.00
FYTD Total:	\$89,747.53
St. Clare Collection (12/25)	\$1,486.00
St. Clare Collection (12/29)	\$576.00
Feeding America:	\$1,074.00

The wise men spent their lives seeking God and when they finally found Him they opened their coffers in generosity. Stewardship is much easier when we seek God first in our lives.

2024 Retirement Fund for Religious

In the name of the parish, a donation was made to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the amount of \$337.50, which represents 7.5% of the average weekend offering. When the Federal Social Security System was established in 1935, Catholic Religious Orders and their members in monasteries and convents throughout the United States were not included. In 1988, the American Bishops created this Retirement Fund for Religious and authorized the annual nationwide collection to support it. Our gift to this collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Through it, we also show our gratitude for the prayerful service of elderly sisters, brothers, and priests of the Religious Orders.

2024 Collection for Catholic Charities

Also, in the name of the parish, a donation was made to Catholic Charities of Louisville in the amount of \$1,800.00, which represents 50% of the average weekend offering. This collection helps to fund many vital ministries and social services, including:

- The Sister Visitor Center and Father Jack Jones

Food Pantries.

- Indigent Burial program.
- Resettlement services for refugees.
- Bakhita Empowerment Initiative combatting human trafficking.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, serving close to 15,000 residents in long-term care homes.
- Community gardeners with Common Earth Gardens.

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.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PORK DINNER

When: 19 January, 10:00 am -2:00 pm

Where: 312 East Main St. Vine Grove (drive-thru behind K of C Hall

Cost: \$11.00

Meal: Pulled pork, baked beans, baked potato, roll and drink.

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 tmatingly@stmm.org