



ST. AMBROSE PARISH

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

www.saintambroseparish.org | Church Office ☎ 618-466-2921 | office@saintambroseparish.org

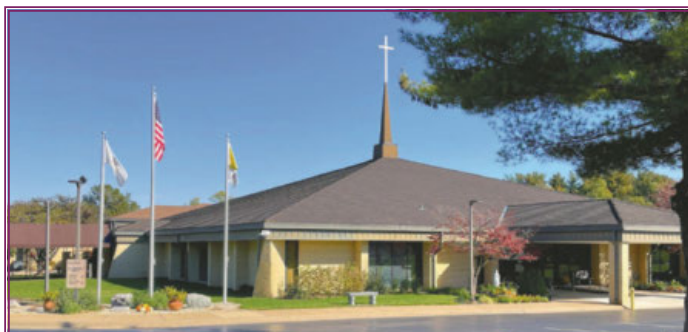
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:30 A.M. - NOON and
1:00 - 4:30 P.M.

FRIDAY

8:30 A.M. - NOON and
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.



ST. AMBROSE, GODFREY

ST. MICHAEL, BELTREES



Make the best use of this abbreviated Advent by remembering what really matters ...
our relationship with Jesus.

FR. STEVEN JANOSKI, Page 2

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1st Sunday
OF ADVENT



820 WEST HOMER ADAMS PARKWAY, GODFREY, IL 62035 | [@StAmbroseParishGodfreyIL](https://www.facebook.com/StAmbroseParishGodfreyIL)

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ambrose Parish Family,

This weekend the Church begins a new liturgical year with the beginning of the **Advent Season**. The Advent Season consists of the four Sundays before Christmas and the weekdays between. Because Christmas falls on a Monday this year, the fourth week of Advent is less than 24 hours. We finish Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24) in the morning and celebrate the first Mass of Christmas that same afternoon.

Make the best use of this abbreviated Advent by remembering what really matters ... our relationship with Jesus. Take time away from the busy-ness of the season to pray and reflect.

To that end, St. Ambrose will offer a time of **reflection and prayer** on the first three **Sundays of Advent (December 3, 10 and 17)**. We have moved the time to **4:00 p.m.** to accommodate those who do not drive in the dark. The services will last no longer than 30 minutes and will include music, readings and quiet time.

This past Sunday we welcomed several parishioners into the **Order of Catechumens**. Please pray for these men, women and children as they prepare for the Easter Sacraments: **Brenna Grant, Hunter Johnson, Matthew Mayer, Rachel McCloud, Nolan Nixon and Scott Nixon.**



Thursday, December 7 is the feast of our patron **Saint Ambrose**. Please join us for Mass at 8:15 a.m. to celebrate this important day for our Parish.

Friday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States:

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Masses at St. Ambrose will be celebrated on:

- **Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and on**
- **Friday at 8:15 a.m. (School Mass) and 7:00 p.m.**



May God bless you as we begin this new Church year!

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel:

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming," (Mk 13:35)

LOOKING AHEAD

Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Masses for Christmas

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. (St. Ambrose)

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. (St. Michael)

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. (St. Ambrose)

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m. (St. Ambrose)

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Parish community of St. Ambrose and St. Michael Catholic Churches strive to live by God's Word. By sharing our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, we grow in our faith and in our love of God and one another. It is in Jesus Christ that we are one family in our homes and broader community through the sacraments, outreach, faith formation for all ages, and our sister parish San Juan Baptista In Guatemala.

JOIN US FOR MASS

DAILY MASS AT ST. AMBROSE

Monday at 5:30 p.m. followed by the
Praying of the Rosary

Tuesday - Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | HOLY DAY

Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Friday at 8:15 a.m. (School Mass) and 7:00 p.m.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays beginning at 3:30 in the Daily Chapel

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m.

*Jim Lewis, Jim Clark, Leonard & Rene Pohlman, John Keshner,
and Donald & Richard Davenport*

Sunday, December 3 at 8:00 a.m.

Pat Wheeler, Terry & Ann Keshner, and Anthony Geisen

Sunday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Monday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Gillespie

Tuesday, December 5 at 8:15 a.m.

Jack & Carol Roach

Wednesday, December 6 at 8:15 a.m.

Sydney & Dee Gent

Thursday, December 7 at 8:15 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parish Families

Thursday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Friday, December 8 at 8:15 a.m.

St. Ambrose School Families

Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Saturday, December 9 at 4:30 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 a.m.

Lee & Alice Baalman, Joe Haar, Sr., Laura Bechtold

Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m.

*Fred Pierantoni, Henry Senz, Carl & Lillian Fensterman, and
Heather & Joseph Thompson*

The CHOSEN



Watch | Discuss | Reflect

Join us for the last 2 weeks of *The Chosen*

December 5 & December 12th



Our next Baptism Preparation session
will be this **Sunday, December 3rd at
11:30 a.m.** Please contact Deacon Jay
with any questions at jwackerly@dio.org or call the
Parish Office at 618-466-2921, ext. 8



Bible Study on **Saturdays** in the Pastoral Center
**Men's 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. &
Women's at 9:30 a.m.**

Questions? Contact Greg Mattingly at
618-466-2911 or email him at grgrymt1@icloud.com



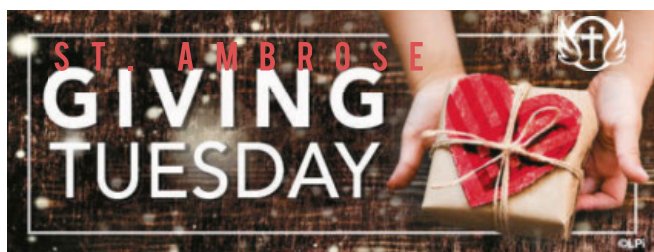
Join us for weekly **Inquiry Sessions** each
Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. **Questions?**
Contact Deacon Bill at 618-466-2921 x6 or
email him at deaconbillk@gmail.com

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 9/10	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Saturday at 4:30 p.m.	Diane Adams Delaine Dressman Stacey Eccles David Eckhouse Mary Eckhouse Richard Lucido Andrew Narup Kathleen Wittich	Sabrina Eccles Joey Schwank Trenton Wilson	A. Wayne Hensley Cathy McCune James Stephan Henry Vize Sandra Willings VOLUNTEER NOW	Sandra Willings
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.	Tammie Lynn Daniel Mary Erwin Patricia Kimbro Joseph Miller Patrick Miller Laurie Milnor Carmen Serio Mary Lou Sutton	Maxwell King Aly Kochan Cam Weirich	Terry Croxford Allan Daniel Clarence Davenport Paul Krueger Stephen Mikoff Joseph Monroe	Stephen Noss
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.	Jennifer Baird David Dornes Delfina Dornes Arlene Mathus Yvonne Mossman Ella Osborn Julia Osborn Page Selby	Benjamin Osborn Jackson Osborn Sophia Osborn	Robert Baird Stephen Hieke William Horn David Stafford Samuel Wilkinson VOLUNTEER NOW	Mark Ellebracht



WE DID IT!

Actually, **YOU** did it! With everyone's donations, and the generous gift match from an anonymous donor, **we raised over \$23,000 ... IN ONE DAY!**

We are completely humbled by your generosity and commitment to the success of our young Saints.

Again, **THANK YOU!**



Most people spend Advent stuck in an endless cycle of stress and busyness. Is it any wonder why we get to Christmas and struggle to find any real peace? Don't let that be your story this year.

Sign up for **BEST ADVENT EVER** now...and spend a few minutes each day immersed in the radical and relevant wisdom of Jesus in the Gospels. It's a simple decision—but one that will invite you to experience the joy, peace, and life-changing message of Christmas like never before.

Get **FREE** daily Gospel reflections right to your inbox when you sign-up here www.dynamiccatholic.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Ambrose Parish & School Wish List

At St. Ambrose, we are blessed to be financially stable, with parishioners and friends of the parish that continue to generously give of their time, talent, and treasure. Despite this stability, year in and year out our parish and school face increasing expenses and financial challenges, while continuously striving to improve in the many ministries for our parish and school families. Typically, our annual budget is very conservative, and it is only through the generosity of so many that we continue to stay financially stable and will remain viable for the future. This new area of the bulletin is here to provide parishioners and friends of the parish our current needs and estimated expenses. These are expenses that St. Ambrose will have to absorb and any support for these costs is greatly appreciated.



New Wish List Items

- Repairs on Church roof to address multiple serious leaks (*additional estimates are being obtained, but the repairs will be in the 10's of thousands of dollars*)
- New Carpeting/Flooring in 1-3 grade wing (5 rooms x \$3,000-5,000 per room)
- Active Shooter Security Equipment for the School & Classrooms (message Mr. Baird directly)
- A/C for the Faculty Lounge - \$6,600

Updates on Past Wish List Items & Funds Remaining

- Camera Expansion for School – The work was recently completed.
- Additional Door Single Door Replacements in the School – The doors were ordered and we are awaiting arrival for installation.
- Double Doors into Sanctuary from the Church lobby - The work is currently being scheduled.
- Will be able to purchase a new English Language Arts Curriculum for the 2024-25 school year



WEEK #11 WINNERS

1st Place \$100 6CIOU Dave Eckhouse 156 pts.
2nd Place \$50 4IJOY Deacon Tom Wilkinson 141 pts.
3rd & 4th Place Tie \$35 Each AIJUY Debra Hagen and
5GMOU Sue Stirnaman 140 pts.
Last Place \$25 GKPRV Brian Clarkin 53 pts.

WEEK #12 WINNERS

1st Place \$100 4CIOQ Trent Labrenz 156 pts.
2nd Place \$50 5CENO Dave Phelps 154 pts.
3rd & 4th Place Tie \$35 Each CFLX Michael Lehman
and CILOR Theresa Roberts 153 pts.
Last Place Tie \$12.50 Each 13FMU Mary Ann Tickner
and 13BFM Pat King 53 pts.

CHECKS ARE IN THE MAIL! Visit the Parish Office or
the website for tickets SAFootball23.givesmart.com

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish School of Religion (PSR) is on Holiday Break until

January 14th. There will be no weekly classes during the holidays. Please enjoy the time with your family.

There will be a special "Family Gathering" on **Sunday, December 3rd from 9 - 10 a.m. in the Community Center.** This will be open to all families in the parish. We will be making Advent Wreaths.

If you are interested in attending please RSVP by texting Kathy Wittich at 618-560-9592.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



What an amazing day at Krueger's Orchard! Thanks to everyone for braving the weather and joining us for a day filled with fun and supporting Toys for Tots. A huge thank you to the volunteers, SAPA, and Krueger's for making this day so special for everyone.



St. Ambrose will be accepting donations for Toys for Tots through December 10th at the Parish Office.



Visit the Cathedral in Springfield or Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton, receive an indulgence!

One must also partake in the other usual conditions to receive this indulgence by going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, and saying prayers for the intention of the Pope.

An indulgence a gift and grace that remits the temporal punishment due to a sin.

Now through December 8th



Faith Formation Corner
Peace, Deacon Bill Kessler

Today marks the Season of Longing for Jesus to come on Christmas. I am always amazed that our society rushes the Season to both start and to conclude. I have come to two understandings on why . . . as a society, we are consumerism oriented, and our culture tries to give us a false sense about our singular role in granting all of our gifts; not God. Yet amid all of our 'stuff', there is a longing for the peace and joy that uniquely comes with Christmas.

Thanks to artificial trees, the Christmas season begins earlier and earlier every year. On November 1, Christmas Music is being played and Christmas Movies are on TV. What is that all about? Could it be that rushing the season comes from our need as humans to be both to love and be loved? That is where community comes from. Isn't it awful that we are preparing for the birth of Jesus but yet for some, He is nowhere to be found in the various celebrations.

Let us gain our peace in our relationship with The Prince of Peace whose birthday we anticipate. Being women and men with the Peace of Jesus allows us to be more for others. How can St. Ambrose help us? We have a series of materials with Advent reflections. *Father Nouwen's booklet: A Child Shall Lead Them* and *The Little Blue Book* with daily reflections. Father has added the Sunday quiet time at 4 PM for Reflection and Prayer for each of us be in the presence of Our Lord.

May each of us join with our Catholic Community and celebrate Jesus' Birth until His Baptism which is celebrated on January 8th.

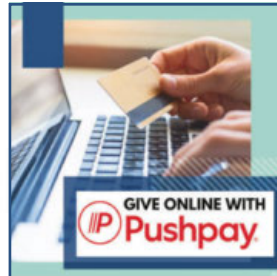
ANNOUNCEMENTS



During the month of November, **St. Ambrose's Giving Tree campaign** will collect monetary donations that will be divided between six local organizations:

- Beverly Farms
- Caritas Family Services (Foster Children)
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Children's Home
- Community Hope Center
- Oasis Women's Center

Please place your donation in an envelope marked "**Giving Tree 2023**" and place in the collection basket.
Thank you for your generosity!



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Ambrose's stewardship & mission using **Pushpay**

Donate to the different campaigns in our Parish

including Capital Improvement, Sunday Collection, St. Ambrose Outreach Community (SACO), our school, & many more!

The link to our **Pushpay** page is on the home page of our website or scan the QR code.



November 11, 2023

Dear Fr. Steve and Parishioners,

We received a check of \$9,080.15 from the Diocese of Springfield as proceeds from last summer's Mission Appeal from your parish. On behalf of the Missionaries of St. Theresa, I would like to thank you for your generosity. Your generous collection during the Mission Appeal will help us feed and educate the children at STYDEC. It will also help us provide potable drinking water for people in different communities in rural parts of northern Ghana.

Indeed, you have extended your love for the missions beyond boundaries and we thank you for your generosity. We simply have no words that can possibly express our gratitude to you. All we can say is, thank you, thank you, thank you and may the Good Lord continue to bless you all.



Office of the Founder

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Rev. Paul Kala.

Rev. Paul Kala, SSTLF

Founder & Superior.


US Office: 512 S. Prairie St. P. O. Box 401. Greenville, IL 62246. Tel.: +1 618 919 2285/224 715 5927

Ghana Office: P. O. Box 579, Wa, Upper West Region, Ghana. +233 503819064/552107640

E-mail: theresianfathers@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for the Sick, For those in our Military, for Caretakers of the Sick, and for all who are struggling ...

Kate Baird Ashlock	Rachel Kirchner
Brianne Barry	Robert Klaus, Jr.
 Steven Blair, Jr., Navy	Pat Klasner
Rick Boyer	Kraig Kline, Army 
Carissa Burke	Cindy Klunk
Cliff Cooper	Rachel Kuithe
Doris Cress	James Manns
Steve Daniel	Noel Merkle
Steve Darr	Christopher Moore
Ann Dooling	Beverly Mosbarger
Ursula Dwyer	Joyce Nichols
Michelle Eberlin	Marsha Norris
Terry Eberlin	Joe P.
Patti Freeman	Dr. Janis Robinson
Nina Giardina	Dr. William Robinson
Natalie Gordon	Danny Selby, Air Force 
Walt Gregory	Anthony Serio, Army 
Ruth Guntren	Nicholas Smith, Navy 
 Haley Haar, Air Force	Sarah Stirton
Jody Hagen	Liz Stockhausen
	Angie Wiener

To be added to the *Prayer List*, please contact the Parish Office at (618) 466-2921 x2 or email Mary Jo at mzykan@saintambroseparish.org



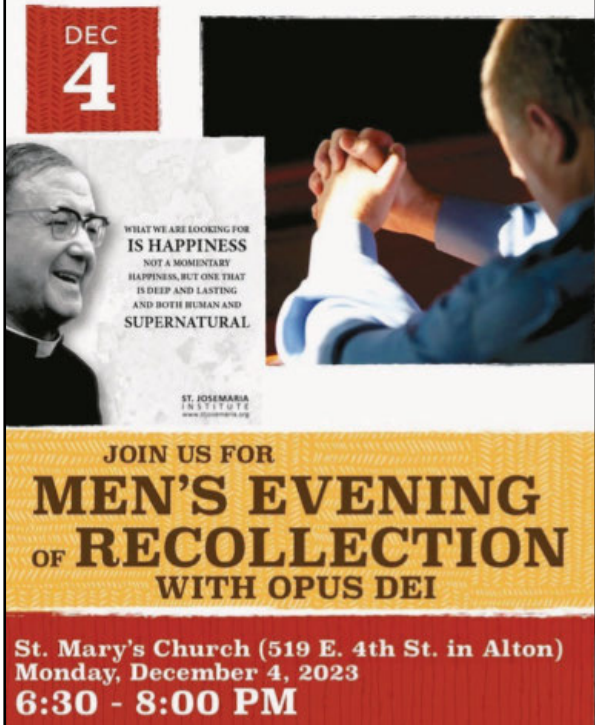
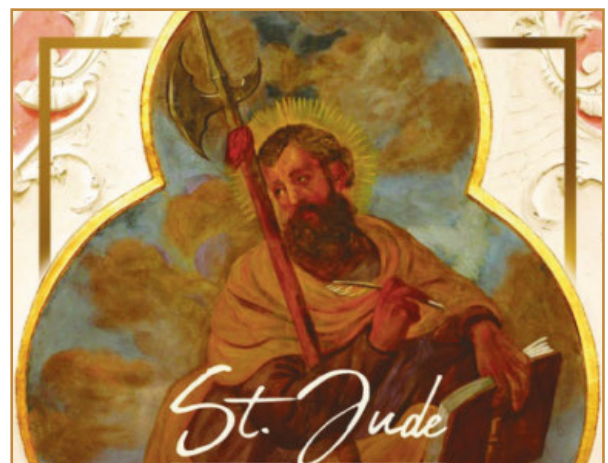
If you have a friend or loved one sick or in hospital please let the parish know. If someone needs anointing of the sick please contact the Parish office at 618-466-2921.



Please contact Tom Schmidt (retired grief and trauma counselor) at 618-219-0612 to discuss your options.

Grief Share, support for the loss of a spouse, parent, child, sibling, friend, pet, etc. meets every Monday at St. Ambrose from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

The Compassionate Friends, support for the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling meets the last Friday of the month at St. Ambrose from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Prayer to St. Jude for Difficult Situations

Jude, friend of Jesus, I place myself in your care at this difficult time. Pray for me; help me remember that I need not face my troubles alone. Please join me in my need, asking God to send me consolation in my sorrow, courage in my fear, and healing in the midst of my suffering.

Amen.



ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

www.stambrosegodfrey.org

School Office ☎ 618-466-4216

HELLO ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY!

#GivingTuesday, 11-28-23 A Major Success! Tuesday, Nov. 28th was designated as "Giving Tuesday". St. Ambrose Catholic School was fortunate to have a generous donor provide a "matching gift" opportunity, in which donations given on Tuesday from family and friends of St. Ambrose Catholic School would be matched. The gifts and matching donation were to provide for a new English-Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. The goal was \$15,000 and with the support of family, friends, and our generous donor, we were able to reach our goal! **Thank you all!**

Thank You to Madison County SERRA Club! A special thank you to the SERRA Club of Madison County for hosting our recent Vocations Day for 6th graders on Nov. 7 at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Wood River. The mission of the SERRA club is that Serrans are lay Catholics and are men and women of all ages and from all walks of life: lawyers, doctors, accountants, business people, educators, nurses, engineers, sales people, clerks, retirees etc. All members are dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations. *Did you know that the St. Serra Club of Madison County is the only SERRA Club in our Diocese?* Our St. Ambrose Parish is strongly represented with the Madison County SERRA Club, but new members are always welcome! For questions or inquiries, contact Deacon Bill or Mr. Baird in the school office or see the SERRA website at: <https://serraus.org/>

Marquette Catholic HS Principal Tim Harmon Talks To St. Ambrose Students | On Wednesday, Nov. 29, St. Ambrose held our monthly Character Counts Assembly. At the assembly, MCHS Principal, Tim Harmon, talked to our student body about the theme for November - TRUSTWORTHINESS. Mr. Harmon is also a volunteer fireman in Jersey County. He talked to the students about fire safety and encouraged all of them to talk with their families at home about a fire safety plan specific to their home. He also showed off common equipment used by firefighters. Thank you Mr. Harmon for your leadership in Catholic education and for your volunteer efforts to keep our area safe!

FROM THE DESK OF



**ROBERT BAIRD,
PRINCIPAL**

**HAVE A
GREAT
WEEKEND!**

Willy Wonka Jr. | Come prepare for your Wonka audition! Students interested in being a part of our Spring play will learn about the show, practice some cold readings, prepare musical sections, and do some creative movement at our upcoming **AUDITION WORKSHOP** on December 4th from 3 - 4:30 p.m.

**Students DO NOT need to attend the workshop to audition.*



PRINCIPAL

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rbaird@stambrosegodfrey.org

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Emily Kribs
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IT ADMINISTRATOR

Eli Hawkins
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PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SAPA
sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org

December 4 | Wonka Jr. Audition
Workshop 3-4:30 p.m.

December 6 | SAPA Meeting at 6 p.m.

December 8 | Spirit Wear or SAPA Pass
Dress Down Day

December 13 | 1:30 Early Dismissal

December 14 | Christmas Program at
6 p.m. in Gym

December 15 | Student Council
Theme Spirit Dress Down Day

December 18 & 20 | Wonka Jr. Auditions

December 20 | Christmas Feast hosted
by SAPA

December 21 | End of 2nd Quarter |
Wonka Jr. Callbacks

December 22 - January 2 | NO SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS BREAK

SCHOOL NEWS



Jeff Lauritzen of Country Company presenting Mr. Baird with a check for his gift of \$1000 | The donation will help obtain future books to be used in our student book vending machine and to encourage students to be excited about reading. Thank you to Jeff and to Country Company!

Safety and Security Committee Met | This past week, our St. Ambrose Safety and Security Committee met to discuss updates for ongoing projects and to target future improvements. Many ideas were discussed and several were identified to focus upon. If you are interested in financially supporting future security updates/projects,

please contact Mr. Baird in the school office or Mrs. Pulaski in the Church office. The majority of the recommended improvements do come with significant expense.

MCHS Choir Performs Christmas Songs | This past week, Mr. Brett Klaus and choir students from Marquette Catholic High School performed Christmas songs for our students. The group was singing to spread Christmas cheer, to advertise their Theater Program Dinner Fundraiser set for Saturday, 12/9, and also to recruit St. Ambrose students who would be interested in auditioning for the MCHS Spring Musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on Jan 5.

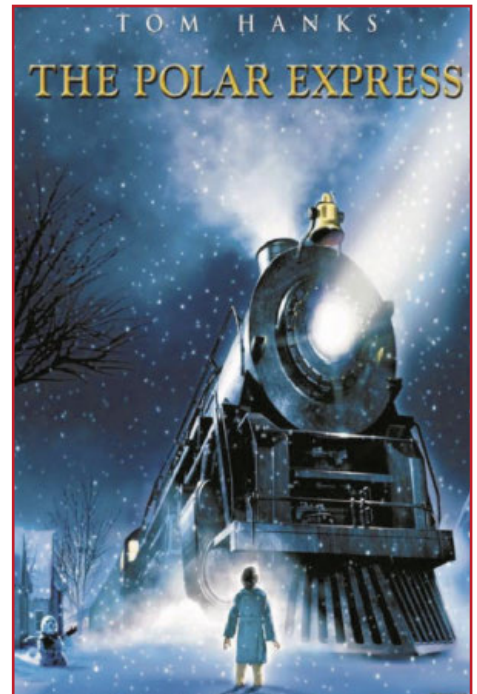
St. Ambrose Student Council Sponsors Christmas Tree at the Rock Spring Park Light Display | Our St. Ambrose Student Council sponsored and decorated a Christmas tree at the Rock Spring Park light display in Alton. Please check out and consider voting for our students when driving through the light display.

MAP Testing Results To Be Sent Home | Individual results for our recent Fall MAP test will be sent home as soon as possible. Group results and summaries will be available and posted in December.

PreK and Kindergarten Students at Dismissal | Please remember that at PreK and Kindergarten dismissal time we need the parents, guardians, and designated adults for pickup to ensure the students are safe and are not running into traffic or doing other things they should not be doing. We need these parents to monitor their children and prepare to move off the lot in a timely fashion. We ask PreK and K parents not picking up an older child to be gone by 2:44, so at 2:45 no cars are moving when the 1st-8th grades are dismissed.



Coach Hoefert and Assistant Coach McCormick kick off cheer practices!
LET'S GO SAINTS!



Polar Express movie night!
Saturday, December 16th in the St. Ambrose Gymnasium
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.
Come dressed in your favorite pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal and/or blanket and your favorite movie snacks.
Popcorn, treats and hot chocolate will be provided.

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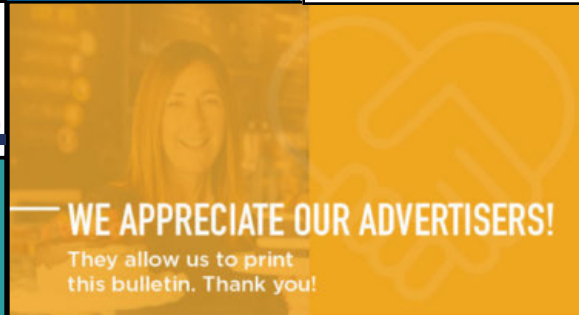
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