



ST. AMBROSE PARISH

DECEMBER 10, 2023 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

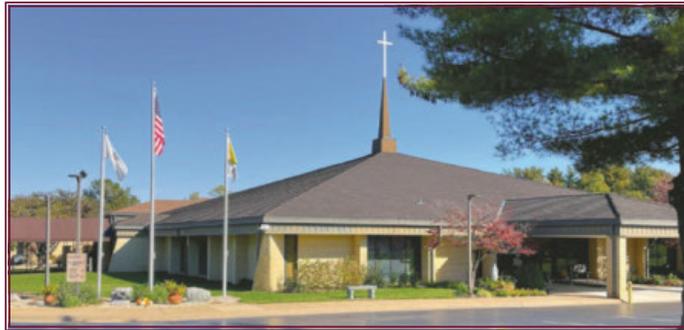
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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



As Christians, we are indebted to our Jewish brothers and sisters for many of our traditions and styles of worship.

FR. STEVEN JANOSKI, Page 2

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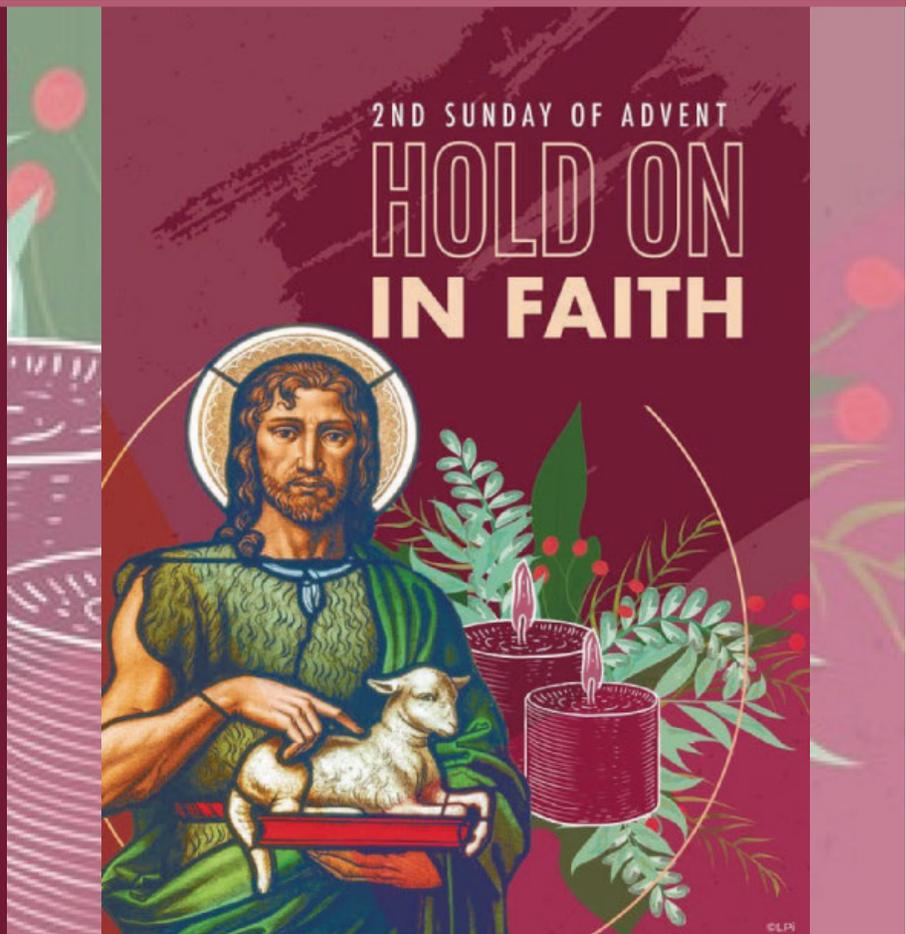
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ambrose Parish Family.

From the prophet Isaiah:

“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

The people of Israel, God’s chosen people, were awaiting the coming of the Messiah. The arrival of this Messiah appeared on earth as a newborn baby, Jesus. Not all people of the Jewish tradition accepted Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and continue to wait for this “first” coming.

Many Jewish people did embrace Jesus as the Messiah and followed him as “the Way” and here we are, thousands of years later, awaiting his “second” coming at the end of time. As Christians, we are indebted to our Jewish brothers and sisters for many of our traditions and styles of worship.

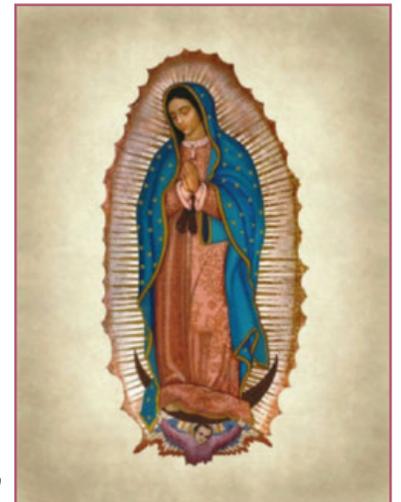
St. Peter encourages us to await this second coming with hope and courage, as he writes: *“Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.”*

Please join us for our **Sunday afternoon time of reflection, prayer and music** at 4:00 p.m. The attendance last Sunday was very encouraging and is evidence that a brief respite from the busy-ness of the holiday season is a welcome opportunity.

On December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we recall the appearance of Mary before Saint Juan Diego, a poor Aztec Indian peasant, on Tepeyac hill in Mexico.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with the venerated image enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world.

There is much to the story, but what should capture our attention is the way Mary speaks to Juan Diego in his own language as well as her expressed desire to show “love, compassion, help, and protection” for all people. Mary’s kindness and respect toward Juan Diego and sensitivity to his culture are powerful reminders to respect the dignity of others, especially those who are poor or “different” from us.



~Allie Johnston



May God bless you as we continue our Advent journey and always!

Sunday’s Readings
First Reading:
A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
(Is 40:3)
Psalm:
Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your
salvation. (Ps 85)
Second Reading:
We await new heavens and a new earth
in which righteousness dwells. (1 Pt 1:13)
Gospel:
John the Baptist appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. (Mk 16:4)

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 - Friday at 8:15 a.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 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

Monday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Schwager

Tuesday, December 12 at 8:15 a.m.

Harry Schwab and Patty Morrissey

Wednesday, December 13 at 8:15 a.m.

Stephen Kennedy and Clarence Davenport

Thursday, December 14 at 8:15 a.m.

Nancy Weaver

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

Martha Wyss Cordes

Saturday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Jon Staub, Toni Darr, Joe Certa, Sr., Patti Freeman, and Becky Davis

Sunday, December 17 at 8:00 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Marva Bachman, Nancy Weaver, John Vogelsang, Lorriane Benze, Duane Mossman, and Stephen Kennedy

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)



Watch | Discuss | Reflect

Join us for the last week of *The Chosen* on **Tuesday, December 12** at 9 a.m. & 6:30



Bible Study on **Saturdays** in the Pastoral Center

Men's 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. &

Women's at 9:30 a.m.

NOTE: No Bible Study on December 23rd

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16/17	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Saturday at 4:30 p.m.	Julie Gorsage Maxwell Gorsage Lisa Heffington Leanne Ridolfi Genevieve Roberts Susan Schmidt Thomas Schmidt John Von Ah	Piper Adams Conner Jockisch Dakotah Kelly	A. Wayne Hensley Cathy McCune James Stephan Henry Vize Sandra Willings VOLUNTEER NOW	David Craig
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.	Paige Dawdy Carol French Anthony Joehl Jo Ann Krueger Joseph Miller Laurie Milnor Michelle Pulaski VOLUNTEER NOW	James Erwin Hunter Horton Leon Kerkemeyer	Terry Croxford Allan Daniel Clarence Davenport Paul Krueger Stephen Mikoff Joseph Monroe	Patty Rhodes
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.	Daniel Bennett Michael Bruns Mary Grant Lisa Hayes Joyce Park Julie Schranck Charles Sethaler Carla Totten	Collin Cruse Kayli Jacobs Miles Schroeder	Robert Baird Stephen Hieke William Horn David Stafford Samuel Wilkinson VOLUNTEER NOW	Arlene Mathus



Join the Women's Group on **Wednesday, December 13th at 9 a.m. in the Community Center** for our annual Christmas Brunch celebration. Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will also be collecting canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Crisis Food Center.

The December Military Mass will be **Thursday, December 14th at 6 p.m. at St. Peter and Paul Church in Alton.** Please join us to pray for our active Military, Veterans, both living and deceased, their families and our nation.



Jesus was a radical. His life was radical. His death was radical. His teachings were radical. And he has a radical invitation for you. Discover what the radical and relevant wisdom of Jesus can mean for your Christmas...and the rest of your life.

It's not too late to sign up for **BEST ADVENT EVER** and spend a few minutes each day immersed in the radical and relevant wisdom of Jesus in the Gospels. Get **FREE** daily Gospel reflections right to your inbox when you sign-up here www.dynamiccatholic.com

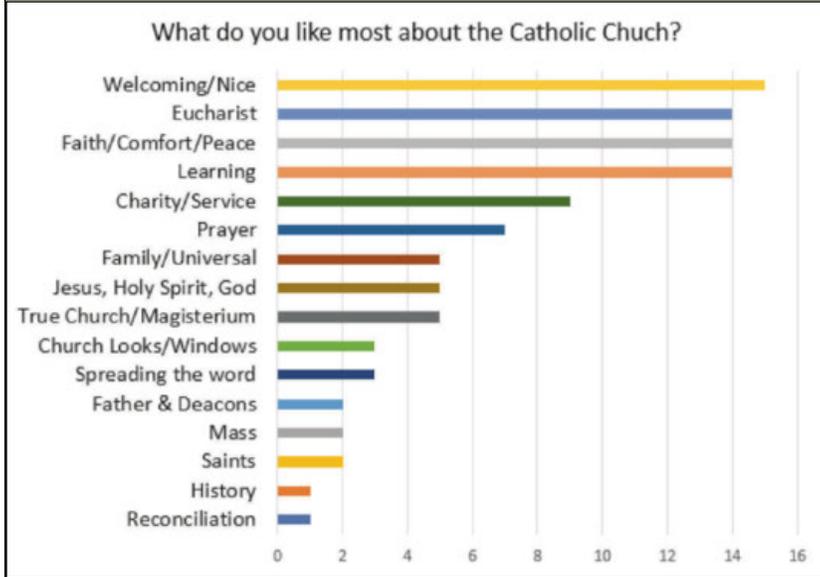
PLEASE NOTE: The Parish School of Religion (PSR) is on Holiday Break until January 14th.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At a recent All School Mass, the question was asked, "What one reason makes you proud to be a Catholic and for our non-Catholic friends, what do you admire most about the Catholic Church?"

102 students wrote down their one reason.
Here's what they said ...



WEEK #13 WINNERS

- 1st Place \$100 HMPUX Erin Pichee 185 pts.
- 2nd Place \$50 HKPTY Lisa Heffington 182 pts.
- 3rd Place \$40 BMQTU Shirley Hanzelka 176 pts.
- 4th Place \$30 BGMRT Christine Brown 172 pts.
- Last Place \$25 AESWZ Martha Schroeder 53 pts.

CHECKS ARE IN THE MAIL!

Visit the Parish Office or the website for tickets
SAFootball23.givesmart.com

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 (approximately \$15,000)

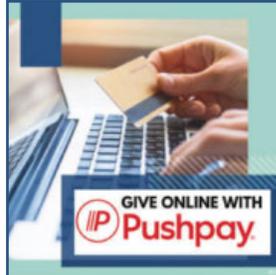
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Give to **St. Ambrose's Giving Tree** campaign. All monetary donations will be divided between six local organizations: *Beverly Farms, Caritas Family Services (Foster Children), Catholic Charities, Catholic Children's Home, Community Hope Center, and 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!



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.

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Helping St. Ambrose's stewardship & mission using
Pushpay

Donate to the different campaigns in our Parish including Capital



Faith Formation Corner
Peace, Deacon Bill Kessler

A prayerful Advent makes for a joyous, peace-filled and a more aware and Blessed Christmas season . . .

Here we are in the Second Week of Advent. What is the Season all about? Quite simply, it is about preparing a way for The Lord. I have lived my life with lists of things to do. This might sound simplistic, but I try and begin my Advent list with "Pray", and about halfway down I add "Pray", and then end with the same encouragement ... "Pray".

Here is a prayer we prayed, as kids and still do, from November 30th until Christmas. It says it all.

Advent Prayer

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the eternal Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Jesus came not for Himself, but for love of us . . . at midnight, in a stable and the freezing cold. Really, the Son of God . . . for us? Yes, that is but a small glimpse of what Jesus will do for love of His Father and for each one of us in His public ministry. The key: ***Christmas is about relationships and not stuff!***

I find that when I prepare in this way, and meditate on the way Jesus came to serve and not to be served, I have the proper appreciation of the gift of the Son of God, and that makes for me to be others focused and thus:

A prayerful Advent makes for a joyous, peace-filled and a more aware and Blessed Christmas season . . .

Eucharistic Miracle of **TIXTLA**



The Eucharistic Miracle that occurred at Tixtla, Mexico, on October 21, 2006.

In a Pastoral letter written by H.E. Most Rev. Alejo Zavala Castro, Bishop of the Diocese of Chilpancingo-Chilapa, he said,

"This manifestation brings to us a marvelous sign of the love of God that confirms the Real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist... In my role as Bishop of the Diocese I recognize the supernatural character of the series of events relating to the Bleeding Host of Tixtla... I declare the case as a "Divine Sign ...".

To learn more about this and other Eucharistic Miracles, check out the posters in the front vestibule of the church or visit our website. Learn what aspects are reviewed and how these events distinguish themselves as Eucharist Miracles in the Catholic context.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oh what an adventure! Thanks so much to Linda Jun for planning the most amazing trip to the Gaylord Opryland Country Christmas in Nashville. We can't begin to tell you what we did in a short amount of time, BUT we did it. It was so much fun!!



Christmas in Nashville



ADVENT MISSION | *Fill the Void: Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist*

The Season of Advent is a time to "Begin Again." Liturgically, Advent marks the beginning of a new calendar year in the life of the Church. Spiritually, Advent is a period of preparation as we patiently await the birth of Jesus Christ. Hence, as we both prepare and wait, the Season of Advent reminds us that as men and women, we have a longing, a void for Jesus. For three nights, I invite you to make both time and space so that Christ can fill your void with three of the greatest gifts God has given to humanity: *Mary, Mercy, and the Eucharist*. **Please join us each evening at St. Mary's Church from December 12 - 14 beginning at 7:00 p.m.**



~Fr. Paul Kallal, OMV

- ▶ Tuesday, December 12: *Mary*
- ▶ Wednesday, December 13: *Mercy*
 - *Confessions after talk*
- ▶ Thursday, December 14: *Eucharist*

Bethalto Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner

**Sunday, December 17th
11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

Dine In, All-You-Care-to-Eat: \$12
Adults, \$6 Children (ages 5-10)

Drive Thru or Carry Out: \$12 for
half chicken or five (5) chicken
strips, and choice of three (3) sides

No custom orders available for
drive thru | Public Welcome

Proceeds go to Bethalto K of C
Charities and OLQP Parish

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



National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center

Now through December 31st
from 5 to 9 p.m.

Indoor activities closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!

Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at

<https://snows.org/wayoflights>



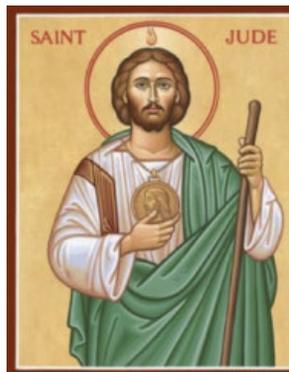
If you have a friend or loved one sick or in hospital please let the parish know. If someone needs anointing of the sick please contact the Parish office at 618-466-2921.



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

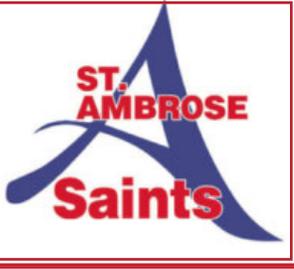
Grief Share, support for the loss of a spouse, parent, child, sibling, friend, pet, etc. meets every Monday at St. Ambrose from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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

St. Jude, you are known for answering lost causes, pray for my most impossible needs. O St. Jude, pray for me that I may grow in faith, hope and love and in the grace of Jesus Christ. Pray for these intentions, but most of all pray that I may join you in heaven with God for all eternity.
Amen.



ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

www.stambrosegodfrey.org | School Office ☎ 618-466-4216

HELLO ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY!

St. Nicholas Day, the Feast of St. Ambrose, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Celebrated | This past week, our students celebrated three different special days connected to our Catholic faith. Wednesday, Dec. 6, the students celebrated St. Nicholas Day and the students were even provided a treat by a special visitor. On Thursday, Dec. 7, we recognized the Feast of our Patron Saint, St. Ambrose. We celebrated his life and example and prayed for his continued intercession in our lives. On Friday, Dec. 8, we celebrated our weekly school Mass, honoring Mary and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Christmas Program Scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in the gym | Doors to the gym will open at 5:30. Students should arrive between 5:30-5:45 and head straight to their class. Students should dress nicely with no jeans that evening.

PreK Christmas Program Thursday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. in Community Center | All family and friends are invited to attend.

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/>

FROM THE DESK OF



**ROBERT BAIRD,
PRINCIPAL**

**HAVE A
GREAT
WEEKEND!**



PRINCIPAL

Mr. Robert Baird
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SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF

Jean Connoyer
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Emily Kribs
ekribs@stambrosegodfrey.org

IT ADMINISTRATOR

Eli Hawkins
ehawkins@stambrosegodfrey.org

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SAPA
sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org

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 | PreK Christmas
Program at 1 p.m. in Community
Center | End of 2nd Quarter |
Wonka Jr. Callbacks

December 22 - January 2 | NO
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 3 | School resumes

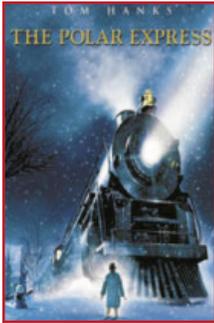
January 12 | 2nd Quarter Report
Cards Open

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Ambrose Student Council Sponsors Christmas Tree at the Rock Spring Park Light Display |

Please check out the St. Ambrose Student Council Christmas tree 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.



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.

REMINDER

Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots toy drive and drop off at the Parish Office thru December 10th



Santa's 7th Grade helpers joined our Kindergarten class to help make Advent chains



Thank you Mr. Harmon, MCHS Principal and fireman, for speaking at November's Character Counts assembly on Trustworthiness!



**Saint Cheerleaders rally fans at their first game ... and the boys brought home a win!
LET'S GO SAINTS!**

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