



ST. AMBROSE PARISH

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

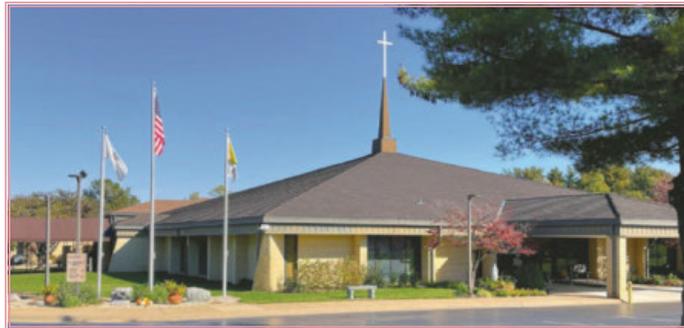
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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



This weekend, the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete" Sunday ... "Let us rejoice" Sunday.

FR. STEVEN JANOSKI, Page 2

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Third Sunday of
ADVENT



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[@StAmbroseParishGodfreyIL](https://www.facebook.com/StAmbroseParishGodfreyIL)

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ambrose Parish Family,

This weekend, the Church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete" Sunday ... "Let us rejoice" Sunday. We rejoice because we are at the half-way point of Advent, sort of. Advent consists of four Sundays before Christmas and the weekdays between. This year, Christmas falls on a Monday, so the Fourth Week of Advent lasts from the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 23, and concludes with the first Mass of Christmas on December 24 at 4:00 p.m. The Fourth WEEK of Advent lasts less than 24 hours! So, we are well past the "half-way" point of Advent as we celebrate this Sunday of rejoicing.

Sunday's Readings
First Reading:
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)
Psalm:
My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)
Second Reading:
May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)
Gospel:
"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
(Jn 1:23)

The Mass schedule for next weekend is as follows:

Masses for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

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

Masses for the **Solemnity of Christmas** (a holy day of obligation in the United States)

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. (St. Michael)

8:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25 9:00 a.m.

Therefore, as faithful Catholics we are expected to participate in Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent **AND** Christmas.



The third and final Sunday afternoon Advent reflection will be this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to take a respite from the busy-ness of the final week of Advent.

May God bless you as we prepare for the birth of our Savior!

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.



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.



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.

HOLY HOUR

Thursday immediately following morning Mass

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

 Saturday at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

 Sunday at 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose
Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Michael
 Monday at 9:00 a.m. at St. Ambrose

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays beginning at 3:30 in the Daily Chapel

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m.

E. Charlene Eck

Tuesday, December 19 at 8:15 a.m.

Helen Davis

Wednesday, December 20 at 8:15 a.m.

Harold Wayne Fisher

Thursday, December 21 at 8:15 a.m.

Father French

Friday, December 22 at 8:15 a.m.

Pat Wheeler

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

Joan McCrea, Cassella & Derwin Families, Milt Williams, Mary Beth Roberts, and Special Intention for Marsha Certa

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Rick French

Sunday, December 24 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners (in honor of Father Virgil Mank)

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

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

St. Michael Parishioners

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parishioners



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

INQUIRY

Join Us!

Join us for weekly **Inquiry Sessions** each **Sunday** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

NOTE: No Inquiry on December 24th or 31st

Questions? Contact Deacon Bill at 618-466-2921 x6 or email him at deaconbillk@gmail.com

REMINDER: 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

| WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 23/24 | Eucharistic Ministers | Servers | Ushers | Lector |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Saturday at 4:30 p.m. | Nancy Blair Eric Braundmeier Stacey Eccles Mary Eckhouse Andrew Narup Page Selby Sue Stirnaman Kathleen Wittch | Toby Eberlin Tucker Eberlin Joey Schwank | A. Wayne Hensley Cathy McCune James Stephan Henry Vize Sandra Willings VOLUNTEER NOW | Matt Darr |
| Sunday at 8:00 a.m. | Gwen Baalman Mary Bethel Anthony Joehl Patricia Kimbro Patrick Miller Alivia Noss Hailey Noss VOLUNTEER NOW | Maizy McCahill Max Noss Catherine Pulaski | Terry Croxford Allan Daniel Clarence Davenport Paul Krueger Stephen Mikoff Joseph Monroe | Minnie Stalker |
| Sunday at 10:30 a.m. | David Dornes Delfina Dornes Ben Droste Lena Droste Scott Droste Ella Osborn Julia Osborn Minnie Stalker | Charlotte Hendrickson Elizabeth King Joseph King | Robert Baird Stephen Hieke William Horn David Stafford Samuel Wilkinson VOLUNTEER NOW | Angie Nicholson |



Please join the **Empty Nesters** for dinner and conversation on **Saturday, January 20th at 6:00 p.m. at Bluff City Grill.**

This group aims to carve out time for adults to gather on a regular basis to share life's moments and to ask God to guide us as we continue His work on earth. We strive to assist with the needs of others and grow in our faith by doing so. **Questions?** Contact Rita Robertson via email 2teach_1@msn.com or call the Parish Office at 618-466-2921 if you would like to participate in our Empty Nesters group.



WEEK #14 WINNERS were not available at the time of this bulletin's publishing. Check the website for the list of winners! Visit the Parish Office or the website for tickets SAFootball23.givesmart.com



Our Women's Group had a great day hitting our local retail stores for some holiday shopping!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



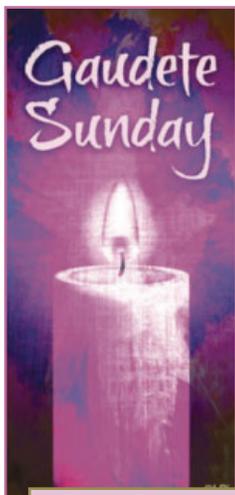
Herman L. Boren, 91, died on Sunday, November 26th. He was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy M. Mathews, a father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and friend. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of our Parish. He retired as a mold maker for Owens-Illinois. A Mass of Christian burial took place on December 5th officiated by Steven Janoski. Herman was laid to rest at St. Patrick's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Aaron Boren Trust Fund. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.



Helen Rose Davis, 92, passed away Thursday, November 30th. She was the beloved wife of Herbert L. Davis for 68 years and raised 5 children. Helen was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister (Tom Bechtold (Cindy Gelsthorpe)), sister-in-law, aunt (Matt Bechtold (Mel)), great-aunt, and friend. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 6th and Helen was laid to rest at St. Michael's Cemetery in Beltrees. Memorials may be given to St. Michael's Cemetery or to St. Francis/Holy Ghost Catholic School. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.crawfordfunerals.com



Dale E. Krepel, 68, passed away Friday, December 8th. He was the beloved husband of Jeanne Marie Winter. He was the son of Charles and the late Teresa "T. Ann" (Gibbons) Krepel. Dale was a father, grandfather, brother (Jeff (Esther) Krepel), uncle, and friend. He was a talented artist and singer and held the esteemed position of a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 11th, with Father Steven Janoski and Deacon Bill Kessler officiating. Inurnment will take place at a later date at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton. Memorials are suggested to Knights of Columbus or Catholic Charities. Online condolences and guestbook may be found at www.eliaskallalandschaaf.com



Halfway to the Great Feast of Christmas . . . What is the Gaudete Sunday all about? Our friends at Catholic Extension Society offer us some thoughts:

What does Gaudete mean? Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Why do we light a pink candle on Gaudete Sunday? The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday, another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, a priest will usually wear rose vestments.

As a practical matter, we have 8 Days til Christmas. For us, we will begin to see the mad dash about us but for our Church, we await the Second Most important day of our salvation behind Easter. It is the day where God becomes man and renews our direct link with God, lost with the sin of Adam and Eve.

Faith Formation Corner
Peace, Deacon Bill Kessler

Let's pray for each other and make the added push to make the way of Our Lord at Christmas . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas to our Saint Sponsors!

We are so grateful for your thoughtfulness and kindness in supporting St. Ambrose. Your gifts help us continue to make a positive impact on our St. Ambrose community and the lives of our young Saints.

Thank you for being a part of our mission and for helping to spread joy and hope year-round!



John & Sue Stirnaman



Deacon Bill & Pat Kessler



Deacon Jay & Kim Wackerly



J.A.D.

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 (approximately \$15,000)

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our school, & many more!
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website or scan the QR code.



Prayer to St. Jude

St. Jude, the Church honors you universally as the patron of hopeless and difficult cases. Pray for us in our needs. Help us to see the reflection of the suffering of Christ in the tribulations of our own lives. Let us see in a spirit of great faith and hope the part we even now share in the joy of Christ's resurrection, and which we long to share fully in heaven. St. Jude, we ask that all be accomplished according to the will of God, and thank you for your intercession in response to our prayers. Amen.

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.



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>

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Way of Lights Run will take place on January 1, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Join the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for our annual 5k run and 1.5-mile fun as you welcome in the New Year!

Cost: \$35.00 Run
\$25.00 for Walk

For more information, visit

<https://snows.org/wolrun/> or call 618-397-6700.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date!

Women's Pre-Lenten Prayer Breakfast 2024
Mass & catered breakfast followed by National speaker, Sister M. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM

Topic: Living Lent for a Change

When: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to about 11:30 AM

**Where: St Boniface Catholic Church
Edwardsville**

More information coming soon!
Space will be limited.



The mission of the Catholic Children's Home is to aid, protect and care for the needs, education and welfare of dependent, neglected, abused or otherwise hurting children and families without regard to poverty, riches, race, religion or national origin. Every year we depend on the Christmas Day collection as the most important part of our fundraising. What better day to remember the children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunate than our own. Your monetary donation to the Catholic Children's Home is a wonderful way to ensure that we will continue to bring help to the most needy children and ensure that they have a brighter hope for the future.

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



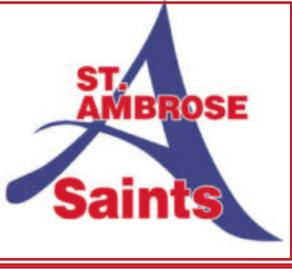
From Poland to Effingham to U.S. Citizen

Fr. Michal Rosa's unique story

Fr. Michal Rosa, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Effingham, became a U.S. citizen July 7. It's a journey he would have never imagined, growing up in Poland. So how did this all happen, how did Bishop Paprocki play a role, what does Fr. Rosa think of America, what does he miss the most about Poland (besides family), and what aspects of our faith does he wish America prioritized more? We Dive Deep with

Fr. Michal Rosa. Go to dio.org/podcast or youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.





ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

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

HELLO ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY!

St. Ambrose Catholic School Excels on Recent MAP Testing

Individual results for our recent Fall MAP were sent home last week. Group results and summaries were posted to the school website. As a whole, our students performed very well on all 4 areas assessed (Reading, Math, Science, & Language). Most importantly, we were able to bridge the gap in Math that had existed in past years. Combined with a more focused effort, our new Math curriculum is proving to be successful as we are well into our second year of implementation.



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PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SAPA
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St. Ambrose Toys for Tots Drive

| The boxes were overflowing with toy donations! Thank you for helping to spread Christmas joy to lots of children this year!

Marquette Catholic HS Seeks Track and Field Coach

MCHS in Alton, IL is seeking a qualified boys and girls

varsity track and field coach. The candidate should possess good communication skills, is organized, experienced in individual and team development, and places an emphasis on sportsmanship. Interested applicants should email cover letter and resume to Marquette Catholic AD, Brian Hoener, at bhoener@mymchs.org

Ca\$h Ba\$h Tickets Go On Sale January 1st

| Watch for tickets to go on sale January 1st for our annual Cash Bash Raffle. Complete details and links to purchase will be shared soon!

FROM THE DESK OF



**ROBERT BAIRD,
PRINCIPAL**

**HAVE A
GREAT
WEEKEND!**

Christmas Program

| Thank you to Mrs. Preston, the volunteers, and all our talented students for putting on a wonderful Christmas performance "The Promise of Christmas" for our families!

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 1 | Cash Bash Tickets go on sale

January 3 | School resumes | SAPA Meeting at 6 p.m.

January 12 | 2nd Quarter Report Cards Open

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