

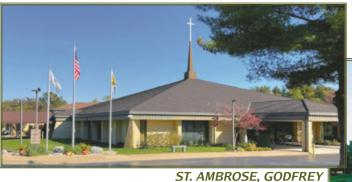
www.saintambroseparish.org | Church Office 618-466-2921 | office saintambroseparish.org

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. MICHAEL, BELTREES



SI. AMBROSE, GODI RE

On behalf of the Parish Staff, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Holy New Year!

FR. STEVEN JANOSKI, Page 2

PASTOR

Fr. Steven Janoski sjanoski@dio.org

DEACONS Bill Kessler deaconbillk@gmail.com

Tom Wilkinson twilkinson@dio.org

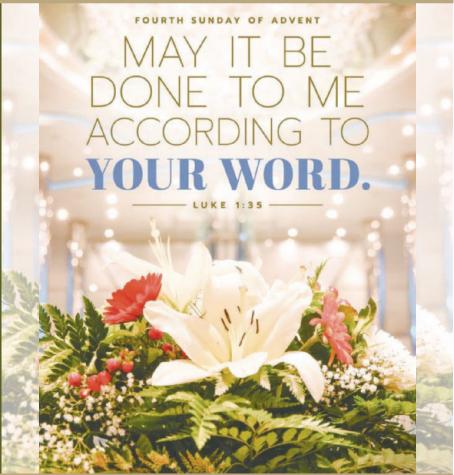
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Dear Parishioner and Friends of St. Ambrose Parish Family,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. With Mass at 4:30 p.m. on December 23, the Fourth Sunday of Advent begins. With Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, we celebrate Christmas. The Fourth WEEK of Advent lasts all of 23.5 hours.

I am grateful to **Fr. Frank** and **Fr. Louie** from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate for celebrating Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent so I can celebrate the **Christmas Masses**.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me:

your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages

but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,

according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear

and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

Come celebrate Christmas Mass

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. St. Ambrose 6:00 p.m. St. Michael 8:00 p.m. St. Ambrose

Monday, December 25

9:00 a.m. St. Ambrose



On behalf of the Parish Staff, I wish you and your families a very **Merry Christmas and Happy and Holy New Year**! Thank you for being an important part of the life of the parish.

May God bless you! If you are traveling, be assured of the prayers of the parish for your safety.

Thank you to Mrs. Preston, volunteers, and our talented Saint performers who put on a wonderful Christmas show, "The Promise of Christmas".

We had a packed house, which made the night extra special!



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.



T 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

🚹 DAILY MASS AT ST. AMBROSE

Tuesday - Friday at 8:15 a.m.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

III 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 St. Ambrose Parishioners

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Tuesday, December 26 at 8:15 a.m.

Joanne Kuebrich

Wednesday, December 27 at 8:15 a.m.

Dennis Olston

Thursday, December 28 at 8:15 a.m.

Anita Wenzel

Friday, December 29 at 8:15 a.m.

Bill & Emma Wunderlich Family, Frank & Mary Bechtold Family, Elmer, Steve, Tim & Laura Bechtold, and Pat Wheeler

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

Lucy Roderfeld, Kenny Roderfeld, Joseph Certa, Sr., and

William Pelot II

Sunday, December 31 at 8:00 a.m.

Joan Y. Keller and Nicholas Runtz

Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 a.m.



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** QUIRY 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.

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 30/31	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Saturday at 4:30 p.m.	Nancy Blair David Eckhouse Mary Eckhouse Lisa Heffington Richard Lucido Leanne Ridolfi Genevieve Roberts Susan Schmidt	Alexis Brown Holly Franklin Trenton Wilson	A. Wayne Hensley Cathy McCune James Stephan Henry Vize Sandra Willings VOLUNTEER NOW	Steve Blair
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.	Tammie Lynn Daniel Paige Dawdy Mary Erwin Drew Joehl Jo Ann Krueger Michelle Pulaski Carmen Serio Joseph Stephan	Christian Monroe Finn Stephan Lucas Stephan	Terry Croxford Allan Daniel Clarence Davenport Paul Krueger Stephen Mikoff Joseph Monroe	Sandra Willings
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.	Daniel Bennett Monica Ellebracht Lisa Hayes Yvonne Mossman Joyce Park Julie Schranck Carla Totten Noal Wilkinson	Elijah Baird Karina Chew Isabela Passig	Robert Baird Stephen Hieke William Horn David Stafford Samuel Wilkinson VOLUNTEER NOW	Patrick King



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.



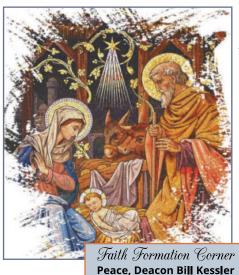
WEEK #14 WINNERS

1st Place \$100 CSWYZ Dave Phelps 157 pts.
2nd Place \$50 JQWYZ Patricia Rivera 155 pts.
3rd & 4th Place three-way tie \$23.50 Each
6OTWZ James Chomko, 6CTYZ Marcy Fessler,
BOTWY Martha Schroeder 154 pts.
Last Place \$25 AEIPR Stacey Eccles 49 pts.

WEEK #15 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



Christmas, the time when The Son of God became man so we might have everlasting life. Years ago, I heard this meditation on the radio . . . it is titled *Keeping Christmas by Henry VanDyke*. Rev Van Dyke was active from 1852-1933. Please take a moment and read and reflect on this timeless gem:

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than

evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ The Lord . . .

Join us for our next Women's Group Meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 9 a.m. in the Community Center.

Cara Paschal, Executive Director from ThriVe Metro East. Discussions on Hope Clinic; What is Personal PAC?; Plan C; Satanic Temple; Illinois Legislation; tax dollars paying for abortions?

You don't want to miss this important gathering!





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.

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)
- Active Shooter Security Equipment for the School & Classrooms (message Mr. Baird directly)
- New Carpeting/Flooring in some of the 1st-4th grade wing (5 rooms x \$3,000-5,000 per room)

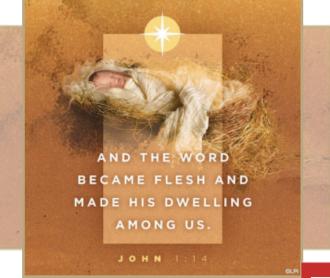
Updates on Past Wish List Items - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- 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)
- Some of the new Carpeting/Flooring in 1st-4th grade wing (5 rooms x \$3,000-5,000 per room)
- A/C for the Faculty Lounge \$6,600



The link to our **Pushpay** page is on the home page of our

website or scan the QR code.



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

Kate Baird Ashlock **Brianne Barry**

Steven Blair, Jr., Navy

Rick Boyer

Carissa Burke

Cliff Cooper

Doris Cress

Steve Daniel

Steve Darr

Ann Dooling

Ursula Dwyer

Michelle Eberlin

Terry Eberlin

Patti Freeman

Nina Giardina

Natalie Gordon

Walt Gregory

Ruth Guntren

(a) Haley Haar, Air Force Jody Hagen

Rachel Kirchner Robert Klaus, Ir. Pat Klasner

Kraig Kline, Army 🚳

Cindy Klunk

Rachel Kuithe

lames Manns

Noel Merkle

Christopher Moore

Beverly Mosbarger

Joyce Nichols

Marsha Norris

loe P.

Dr. Janis Robinson

Dr. William Robinson

Danny Selby, Air Force

Anthony Serio, Army

Nicholas Smith, Navy 🕼

Sarah Stirton

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 Sick 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.



Ladies, Looking for a way to enrich your Lenten Season?

> 2024 Catholic Women's Breakfast

February 10, 2024 - 8:00 AM to Noon at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville.

Mass followed by catered breakfast and talk by Sister M. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM entitled 'Living Lent for a Change'.

> Download the registration form at www.st-boniface.com or email Womensbreakfast24@gmail.com

Pre-Registered is Required and space is limited. Mail registration by January 31st.

Kings House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows | Men's Retreat

I Want to See You | 3 different weekends

- January 5th 7th
- January 12th 14th
- January 19th 21st

This Men's Retreat centers on the story of the man born blind. Cost is \$200 per person and includes lodging & meals.

> **Register at** *kh.snows.org/events/* or call 618-397-0584.

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.



The Promise of Christmas























ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

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School Office 618-466-4216

HELLO ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY!

Merry Christmas to All | From all the faculty, staff, and students at St. Ambrose Catholic School, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank You To Generous Donors To St. Ambrose Catholic School

Recently, our Parish and School has continued to receive blessings and generosity from supporters of St. Ambrose. Recent support has provided for the following:

- completion of door and camera projects in the school
- Giving Tuesday donations for a new English-Language Arts curriculum to be implemented next school year.
- a new AC system for our faculty lounge
- funding to replace worn carpeting in some of the 1st-4th grade wing of the school

Thank you to all for your continued support!

St. Ambrose Students Perform at Christmas Program | Last week our students presented the annual Christmas program. Thank you to all that participated and thank you to Mrs. Preston for her continued presentation of the program!

St. Ambrose Catholic School Excels on Recent MAP Testing

Individual results for our recent Fall MAP were sent home. 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.

Christmas Feast Hosted By SAPA | Again this year, SAPA hosted a Christmas feast with a special meal for our students. The feast was hosted on Wednesday Dec. 20. The students enjoyed the meal, thank you all that coordinated and volunteered at the lunch.

ROM THE DESK



ROBERT BAIRD. **PRINCIPAL**

> HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

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

Marquette Catholic HS Seeks Track and Field Coach | MCHS in Alton is

SANT ANBROSE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Robert Baird rbaird@stambrosegodfrey.org

SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF

Jean Connoyer jconnoyer@stambrosegodfrey.org

> **Emily Kribs** ekribs@stambrosegodfrey.org

IT ADMINISTRATOR

Eli Hawkins ehawkins@stambrosegodfrey.org

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org

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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this bulletin. Thank you!

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